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TO:

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM:

Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer

By: Brett Storey, Woody Biomass Program Manager

DATE:

October 23, 2006

SUBJECT:

Woody Biomass Program Update

Action Requested

Informational Update Only

Background

During 2006 the Wildfire Protection & Biomass Policy team has been working to develop a program to enhance Placer County's ability to prevent catastrophic wildfire and to utilize our vast renewable biomass load. A draft strategic plan is currently under development and will be presented to the BOS later this year.

Several briefings and policy sessions at federal, state and local levels have taken place. Some programs have been initiated and are running as interagency success stories. Possible state and federal funding has been identified and is being pursued to align with the goals of what the BOS have already approved. In addition, information will be presented on air pollution effects of wildfire from a catastrophic event (Cedar Fire, San Diego 2003) and a non-catastrophic (Ralston Fire, Foresthill 2006) and the potential to derive social and economic benefits from our efforts. Data from the Placer County Air Pollution Control District and the Heath and Human Services Department will be included. An update of this pertinent information has been requested and we will provide this and answer questions regarding our efforts to date.

County BOS, staff and the public will receive an update of this program since July, provide some relevant information on projects, and describe some challenges and potential solutions we have determined.

Fiscal Impact

There is no cost to the County for this informational item.

TM/BS

X