

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas Miller, County Executive Officer
by: Rui Cunha, Emergency Services Program Manager

DATE: March 21, 2006

SUBJECT: **Adopt a resolution creating an Advisory Committee, for Zone of Benefit 193, North Auburn/Ophir Fire.**

ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt a resolution creating an Advisory Committee, for County Service Area 28, Zone of Benefit No. 193, *North Auburn/Ophir Fire*.

BACKGROUND

History

The North Auburn, Ophir and Lone Star communities have a long history with a community-based fire department. Fire protection began in the area with the founding of Ophir in 1848, formerly known as "The Spanish Corral." In the 1850's Ophir, with the largest population in Placer County at 500 votes polled, and the surrounding communities did not have the benefit of organized fire protection. The community fought structure and grass/brush fires by organizing the community bucket brigade; using buckets, home implements, and backfires to stop the spread of a fire. Ophir was completely destroyed by fire in 1853, and again in 1905, resulting in Ophir becoming a scattered community. By 1946 enough money had been provided, through community dedication, to purchase some fire equipment, and a small truck. With this action the nine square mile Ophir Fire Protection District was officially formed.

In July of 1949, through voter petition, the Rock Creek Fire Protection District was established. In November, of that year, the district purchased a 1917 American La France pumper truck, from the City of Sacramento. Original members funded this accomplishment by a shared solicitation endeavor.

In 1984, the two fire districts responded to the enacted Proposition 13, and combined to form the Placer Foothills Consolidated Fire Protection District, later changed to the Placer Consolidated Fire Protection District (the District). The composition of the 65 square miles now protected by the District include growing commercial properties, and homes in the adjacent and outlying areas. Originally responding to slightly more than 500 Fire, EMS, and Hazardous Materials runs per year, twenty years later shows an

increase to over 2200 runs, and a population growth from under 5,000 to over 20,000 people. Through this period the Fire Department has continued its commitment to high standards, for fire and life safety protection, fire prevention and public education, and has continued to be a good neighbor in the community that it has served.

Recent Actions

After an exhaustive, unsuccessful effort to determine a service delivery option that would meet the needs of the community while maintaining long-term fiscal viability, Placer Consolidated Board of Directors, on January 9, 2006, directed its staff to initiate proceedings with the Placer Local Agency Formation Commission ("Placer LAFCo") to dissolve and cease doing business pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Government Code section 56000 et seq).

On February 7, 2006 the Board of Supervisors ("Board") of Placer County ("County") agreed to assume, upon dissolution of the District, fire protection responsibilities within the District territory, and integrate operations into those of Placer County Fire, based on a Board approved transition plan.

On February 8, 2006, LAFCo adopted Resolution 2006-02, which approved the District's request, for dissolution with conditions.

Your actions today to approve the creation of Zone of Benefit 193 within CSA 28, and your approval of the contract amendment with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection enables the fiscal transition between the Placer Consolidated Fire Protection Board and your Board.

Your approval of the North Auburn/Ophir Fire Advisory Council establishes the organization that will sustain community involvement in the fire service through a two year transition period, and will transition involvement to the Municipal Advisory Committees.

NORTH AUBURN/OPHIR FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Purpose

Your Board's approval of a resolution creating Zone 193, *North Auburn/Ophir Fire*, represents the next step in advancing the history of fire protection services within these communities. The *North Auburn/Ophir Fire Advisory Committee* will continue the long history of community involvement, in the fire protection service, dating back to the middle 1800's. This committee will assist in the community transition by advising the fire service leadership, county staff, the Municipal Advisory Committees, and selected County Board members.

The committee will meet quarterly over a two-year transition period. The committee will promote the fire service to the community, and will advise on community interests within the Zone 193, *North Auburn/Ophir Fire* area. The committee will promote volunteerism, and will support volunteer programs in the community. The committee will provide a

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forum, for public involvement and education, in fire prevention efforts. The *North Auburn/Ophir Fire Advisory Committee's* transition tasks will be complete at the end of two years.

Membership

The *North Auburn/Ophir Fire Advisory Committee* will have five members, all of whom will serve at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors, for a single two-year term. Based on the boundaries of the Zone overlapping the boundaries of Supervisory districts, three members are to be appointed from Supervisory District 3, and two from Supervisory District 5. Members receive no compensation, for their services.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of this action. This committee will not be in a position to make decisions on fire protection service levels. Your Board will have sole authority for setting and funding all aspects of fire protection services with Zone 193, *North Auburn/Ophir Fire*.

Attachment:

Resolution

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:

**CREATING AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR COUNTY SERVICE AREA NO. 28, ZONE OF
BENEFIT NO. 193, NORTH AUBURN/OPHIR FIRE**

Reso. No: _____

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the

County of Placer at a regular meeting held **MARCH 21, 2006,**

by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Clerk of the Board _____

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Placer County desires to receive community input regarding fire and emergency services provided by the County within County Service Area No. 28, Zone of Benefit No. 193, *North Auburn/Ophir Fire*; and

WHEREAS, the Board also desires to increase citizen participation in all aspects of governance within its communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that an Advisory Committee is hereby created for a period of two years for County Service Area No. 28, Zone of Benefit No. 193, *North Auburn/Ophir Fire*, consisting of five (5) members. Three (3) members shall be from within District 3 and recommended to the Board by the Supervisor from District 3, and two (2) members shall be from within Supervisory District 5 and recommended to the Board by the Supervisor from District 5. Members shall be residents of or conduct business within the territory of Zone of Benefit No. 193, shall serve a single term of two years, and shall receive no compensation for their services.