

**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: April 29, 2008

Subject: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement (CAL FIRE Contract) for Fiscal Year 2007/08.

ACTION REQUESTED

That your Board adopt a resolution approving the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement (CAL FIRE Contract) for Fiscal Year 2007/08 in the amount of **\$6,179,398** and authorize the Chairman to sign five copies of the Agreement.

BACKGROUND

Fire protection in unincorporated Placer County is provided by twelve independent fire protection districts or by the County through our contract with CAL FIRE. CAL FIRE, a state agency, provides fire protection services to local governments via contract for all-hazard fire and emergency response to wildland, structure and vehicle fires, accidents, hazardous materials incidents, and medical aid, as well as providing dispatching services.

History

Placer County has provided fire protection services to the unincorporated areas of the County since the late 1940's. At the outset, the County funded a single firefighter who operated and maintained a single fire truck while working with volunteers to respond to fires principally located in the Lincoln area. Between the early 1950's and late 1970's, County fire protection grew to the point that services were being provided from six stations in Lincoln, Penryn, Foresthill, Bowman, Colfax and Alta. By 1979 Placer County's contract with CAL FIRE had grown to \$368,136, of which the General Fund contributed \$203,136 or 55% of the total contract value.

In the twenty years between 1980 and 2000 Placer County continued fire protection services for those areas of the County not served by Fire Protection Districts. By 2000, fire protection services were being provided by four fully staffed stations in Lincoln, Bowman, Colfax and Alta and from five volunteer stations in Dutch Flat, Fowler, Paige, Thermalands and Sheridan. The value of the contract had likewise grown to \$986,886 of which, the General Fund contributed \$443,653 (45%) of the total contract value.

Placer County assumed fire protection services for Dry Creek (Zone of Benefit 165) in 2001, after voters approved dissolution of the Dry Creek Fire Protection District. But, as revenues accruing in Dry Creek were insufficient to fully fund fire protection, a loan from the General Fund was made to cover the difference between revenues and expenses for the period between 2001 and 2005. Happily, by FY 05/06 revenues began to exceed expenses, repayment of the loan began, and the Zone 165 budget for this year again includes a \$100,000 payment to loan principle and interest. The loan balance at the end of this fiscal year is projected to be approximately \$360,043.

In 2003, the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) solicited and ultimately entered into an agreement for the County to provide fire protection and advanced life support services for its Casino on Athens Avenue. Service was to be provided from a station UAIC would build at the Casino (ultimately completed in 2003). UAIC continues to fully fund annual operations and maintenance costs for the Station.

Finally, Placer County assumed fire protection for the former Placer Consolidated Fire Protection District area in April 2006 at the request of the District's Board of Directors. FY06/07 was the first full year of operations in the newly renamed *North Auburn/Ophir Fire* (or Zone of Benefit 193). The addition of stations in North Auburn and Ophir, and an engine company at CAL FIRE Station 10 in Bowman adds over \$2,000,000 to County contract costs. However, revenues accruing from the North Auburn, Ophir, and Lone Star communities are adequate to cover the additional contract costs.

Current System

Placer County currently provides year-round, all-hazards fire and emergency services over approximately 475 square miles of unincorporated county area, or nearly one third of the County. The area served has a population of approximately 45,000, and service is provided by 60 full time firefighters from eight fully staffed, 24-hour/day fire stations located in Alta, Colfax, Bowman, North Auburn, Ophir, Lincoln, the Sunset Industrial Area, and Dry Creek. In addition, the system supports community volunteer firefighters operating from stations in Dutch Flat, Fowler, Paige, Thermalands, Lone Star, and Sheridan. There are nearly 100 active or semi-active volunteers in the Placer County Fire system operating and maintaining 54 County-owned fire engines, support vehicles and apparatus. The estimated value of County-owned property and equipment is approximately \$20,000,000.

In addition to services listed above, CAL FIRE manages the City of Colfax Volunteer Fire Department and assists the city with fire inspection and land development functions. These services are fully funded by the City of Colfax in a separate agreement with the County.

FISCAL IMPACT

The \$6,179,398 contract value represents an approximate 5.6% increase over the FY 06/07 contract of \$5,851,482. The increase, \$327,916, is attributable to an increase in benefit rate from 51.98% to 56.11%, an increase in administrative rate from 9.92% to 10.65%, an increase in unplanned overtime charges, and normal longevity pay and salary increases for existing employees.

The General Fund contribution to this FY07/08 contract is \$420,469 or 6.8% of the total value. The FY06/07 General Fund contribution was \$419,823 or 7.2% of its total value.

Available for Public Review at the Office of the Clerk of the Board

Placer County / California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Contract FY 07/08

Attachments:

Resolution

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

In the matter of:

Resol. No: _____

A RESOLUTION RENEWING A COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT (CONTRACT) WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **APRIL 29, 2008** 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 said Board

WHEREAS all-hazard emergency response, including wildland fire response and structural fire protection, in the unincorporated areas of Placer County is provided by 14 fire departments and independent fire districts as well as by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) under terms of its contract with the County of Placer; and

WHEREAS your Board annually contracts with CAL FIRE to provide integrated, year-round fire protection and emergency medical response in approximately 475 square miles of unincorporated County area not protected by fire departments and independent fire protection districts; and

WHEREAS fire protection in the area covered by this contract is provided through an integrated system comprising eight fully staffed 24-hour/day fire stations and six community volunteer stations at which CAL FIRE also provides operational supervision and training; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the County of Placer, that the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between the County of Placer and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 in the amount of \$6,179,398 is hereby approved, and that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to sign five copies of the contract.

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Clerk of the County of Placer shall certify the adoption of this resolution, and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

