

**PLACER COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** David Boesch, County Executive Officer  
by Dick Simmons, Emergency Services Program Manager

**DATE:** July 10, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Final Approval of conforming projects to be funded from either the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 or the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 after close of a 45-day public comment period, during which no comments were received.

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

That your Board grant final approval for projects to be funded by previously allocated federal funds after the 45-day (May 22 - July 6) public comment period, during which no comments from the public were received. Funds are to be obligated, as shown:

- \$4,719 from Placer County's Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 Title III discretionary funds (hereinafter PL 106-393 funds) are to be added to the existing Title III project, "Biomass Strategic Plan Formulation" in order to complete a plan update
- \$100,972 of Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Title III discretionary funds (hereinafter PL 110-343 funds) to two previously approved projects and to four new PL 110-343 compliant projects

**BACKGROUND**

This is the second of a two-part action that required a 45-day public comment period. It was presented to your Board initially on May 22, 2012, but for clarity and continuity, much of the information presented in the May meeting is repeated herein.

**Public Laws:**

PL 106-393, was enacted in October 2000 to offset the loss of revenues in rural counties due to declining timber harvests on federal lands and the resultant decrease in income. It provided qualifying counties with predictable funding for rural schools and roads for federal fiscal years (FFY) 2001 through 2006 and was extended by Congress through FFY 2007. Spending is limited to previously approved methods or projects.

In October, 2008, Congress enacted the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (PL 110-343) in which the "Secure Rural Schools" program was reauthorized. However, this law has a significantly lower level of funding and restricts the use of funds to supporting three activities:

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- Activities under the *Firewise Communities* program
- Reimbursement for search and rescue (SAR) on federal lands
- Development of community wildfire protection plans (CWPP)

**Current Federal guidance:** Recently received federal guidance on the expenditure of Title III funds requires all funds remaining *unobligated* as of September 30, 2012 to be returned to the Treasury. That guidance affects a total of \$105,691 of Placer County's Title III funds: \$100,972 from PL 110-343 (includes recently received FY 2012/13 \$62,000 allocation) and \$4,719 from PL 106-393 funds.

**Use of unobligated funds:**

**PL 106-393:** The PL 106-393 County trust fund balance (\$4,917) will be added to \$5,000 already obligated in FY 2011/2012 to update the Placer County Biomass Strategic Plan, meaning that a total of \$9,719 is now available with which to support the plan update.

**PL 110-343:** As explained above, there is a \$100,972 unobligated fund balance the majority of which is the \$62,000 allocation for FY2012/2013. Due to the restrictions on the use of these funds, and recognizing that the CWPP for the Western Slope of the Sierras in Placer County is already in the process of being updated, staff recommended obligating these remaining funds as follows:

**Activities under the *Firewise Communities* program:**

- |                                           |          |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| • Fire Mitigation Coordinator             | \$40,000 |
| • Grant Writer                            | \$15,000 |
| • Project Canyon Safe support             | \$ 6,972 |
| • Public education initiatives            | \$14,000 |
| • <i>Firewise Communities</i> Coordinator | \$10,000 |

**Reimbursement for search and rescue on federal lands:**

- |                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| • To Placer County Sheriff's Office | \$15,000 |
|-------------------------------------|----------|

**45 Day Public Notice Period**

Having received your Board's authorization to proceed with a 45-day public noticing period at its May 22, 2012 meeting, a legal notice to that effect was published in the *Sacramento Bee* for 10 days beginning on May 24, 2012. Subsequent to the May 22 Board meeting date, no comments from the public were received by the Office of Emergency Services.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of these actions. The Forest Reserve Title III fund balance is adequate to support these activities.

**Attachment**

Proof of Publication of 45-Day Public Comment Period

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Placer County Board of Supervisors intends to use reauthorized Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act (HR 2389) (Public Law (PL) 106-393) Title III discretionary funds in FY 2012-2013 for activities totaling \$4,719. In addition, the Board intends to use \$100,972 of reauthorized discretionary funds from PL 110-343, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. Members of the public are invited to make comments on all or some of the intended uses of these funds. Comments, in writing, should be mailed to the Placer County Office of Emergency Services, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603 and must be post marked no later than July 6, 2012.

The funds from PL 106-393 (\$4,719) are to be combined with \$5,000 in funding already allocated and used to update the Placer County Biomass Strategic Plan.

The funds from PL 110-343 are to be used for:

- Reimbursement for Search & Rescue on Federal Lands (\$ 15,000)
- Fire Mitigation Coordinator (\$40,000)
- Grant Writer (\$ 15,000)
- Project Canyon Safe support (\$ 6,972)
- Public Education Initiatives (\$ 14,000)
- Firewise Communities Coordinator (\$ 10,000)

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