



MEMORANDUM
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors DATE: May 5, 2020

FROM: Todd Leopold, County Executive Officer
By: Holly Powers, Assistant Director of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Presentation on Emergency Preparedness and Wildfire Mitigation Activities

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive a presentation from the Placer County Sheriff's Office, CAL FIRE/Placer County Fire, and the Placer County Office of Emergency Services on activities within the County pertaining to emergency preparedness and wildfire mitigation.

BACKGROUND

Keeping Placer County residents safe and prepared in the event of a wildfire is of paramount importance. In preparation for the coming fire season, many steps are underway to prepare and protect the county from devastating wildfire.

The Office of Emergency Services (OES) is engaged in multi-agency coordination to update priority emergency plans including the Emergency Operations Center Activation Standard Operating Guide, Operational All-Hazard Evacuation Coordination, and the Extended Power Outage Plan specific to responding to the investor owned utilities public safety power shutoffs.

Fire mitigation activities also continue on the North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break, which was identified in 2019 by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as one of the primary fuel reduction projects within the state of California. This fuel break will eventually span 17 miles, serving to protect Placer County communities from the City of Auburn to the City of Colfax as well as critical infrastructure such as the Union Pacific Rail Line, Interstate 80, and the Kinder Morgan Petroleum Pipeline from the effects of destructive wildfire.

Other countywide mitigation efforts include an updated Hazardous Vegetation Abatement ordinance, which your Board adopted on April 21, 2019. This repealed and replaced the previous ordinance and expanded ability to identify standards for both improved and unimproved parcels; establish fire hazard violations outside of the traditional one hundred (100) foot defensible space area; and update enforcement to allow for fines, cost recovery, and liens.

Preparing for wildfire remains crucial and the above measures represent a few of numerous countywide steps to aid in the protection of Placer County residents.

FISCAL IMPACT

No action is being requested as a result of this presentation, therefore there is no fiscal impact.

