



**MEMORANDUM**  
**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER &**  
**SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**  
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Josh Huntsinger, Agricultural Commissioner  
SUBJECT: Budget Amendment for Regional Forest Health for French Meadows Existing Vendor Contracts

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve budget amendment #AM-00664 transferring \$5,526,943.76 from CC10018 Community and Agency Support to CC02004 Regional Forest Health for FY 2022-23.

**BACKGROUND**

The Regional Forest Health (RFH) program was established in May 2021 in recognition of the Board's commitment to improving forest health and reducing the risk and negative impacts of large, damaging wildfires in Placer County (County). The County's commitment is rooted in work that began in 2006 with the creation of the Wildfire Protection and Biomass Utilization Program and strategic plan. It has continued with your Board's identification of forest health and wildfire management as top land use planning and legislative policy priorities in recent years. At its inception, the RFH program was housed under the County Executive Office (CEO) and budget but has since been moved to the Department of Agriculture to operate under the supervision and direction of the Agricultural Commissioner.

The French Meadows Project (FMP) is managed by the RFH program on behalf of the French Meadows Partnership, under the authority granted to the County as part of a 10-year Master Stewardship Agreement signed in 2018 between the County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service – Tahoe National Forest. The FMP works to implement wildfire risk reduction treatments to improve the health and resilience of the headwaters of the French Meadows Reservoir, one of two primary reservoirs feeding the County's Middle Fork Project, a multi-purpose water supply and hydroelectric power generation project providing drinking water to nearly 500,000 residents and hydropower energy to more than 160,000 homes in the greater Sacramento region. The FMP's various fuel management treatments are designed to improve forest health, reduce the risk of large, damaging wildfires, and protect critical water and other infrastructure in the FMP area.

A budget to support RFH was built into the Department of Agriculture starting FY 2022-23, but it did not include the transition of existing vendor contracts at the time since logistics and details were still being assessed. To provide consistency and streamline the County's ability to manage vendor payments and contracts associated with the RFH program, the RFH vendor contracts must be moved from the CEO budget into the newly developed RFH budget within the Department of Agriculture.

Encumbered vendor contracts will be moved from Community and Agency support to this newly developed budget totaling \$5,526,943.76.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The total cost of the French Meadows vendor contracts is \$5,526,943.76. A budget amendment (AM-00664) is required to move budget authority from CC10018 Community and Agency Support to CC02004 Regional Forest Health for FY 2022-23. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

