



**MEMORANDUM**  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE**  
**ADMINISTRATION**  
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors DATE: September 13, 2022

FROM: Jane Christenson, Acting County Executive Officer  
By: Joel Joyce, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Coordinator

SUBJECT: Secure Rural Schools Self Determination Program Reauthorization

---

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve Placer County's payment allocation elections for Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act payment for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023.

**BACKGROUND**

The Secure Rural Schools (SRS) & Community Self-Determination Act (HR 2389) was enacted in October 2000 to provide rural counties with a predictable level of funding for schools and roads, in order to offset the effect of decreased revenues to counties from declining timber harvests and other income generating activities on federal lands. Since 2000, Congress has reauthorized the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act through other laws. Depending on the year, the reauthorizations extended or amended the program. In October 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) extended and fully funded the Secure Rural Schools program through FFY 2023. As part of the IIJA, counties are required to update their elected payment allocation to receive SRS funding. This is the first time that the federal government has allowed counties to change their election since 2013.

To participate in the program, the County must provide its payment election to the Governor. Counties that receive the SRS state payment must elect how to spend their allocation between Title I (county road fund/schools), Title II (Resource Advisory Councils), and Title III (fire-wise communities and county search and rescue). A county can choose to allocate 80-85% of funds to Title I. Of the remaining funds, at least 8% must be spent on Title II. In 2013, the County elected to receive 80% in Title I funds, 13% in Title II funds and 7% in Title III funds. This election was consistent with all previous elections.

***Title I - Roads & Schools***

Counties receive the majority of Secure Rural Schools funds under Title I, which is designated for the benefit of public schools and public roads. In years when the Secure Rural Schools Act is reauthorized by Congress, Title I payments are made from the USDA Forest Service to states. States then distribute the payment to all eligible counties. The funds must be passed through to local governmental entities for use at the county level (but not necessarily to county governments themselves).

### ***Title II - Special Projects on Federal Lands***

Counties typically receive 15% or less of Secure Rural Schools funds under Title II, which are used by willing Federal agencies, State and local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners for protection, restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resource objectives on Federal land and on non-Federal land where projects would benefit these resources on Federal land.

Rather than being distributed to the State, Title II funds are retained by the Forest Service and are allocated to specific projects that have been reviewed and recommended by a local Resource Advisory Committee.

Resource Advisory Committees must initiate (recommend) Title II projects by September 30, 2025. Project funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2026.

### ***Title III - County Projects***

Funds received under Title III are used to:

- carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program
- reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols
- cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to the emergency service
- develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans
- provide or expand access to broadband telecommunications services

In years when the Secure Rural Schools Act is reauthorized by Congress, Title III payments are made from the Forest Service to states. States then distribute the payment to all eligible counties.

In August 2022 the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) began the process of compiling county selections for SRS payments. After receiving all selections from all SRS counties, CSAC will transmit the documents to the Governor, who is responsible for forwarding them to U.S. Forest Service. The Governor must submit the state's payment elections to the US Forest Service by September 21, 2022.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The County share of the state payment is \$702,400 (Attachment A). Consistent with prior fiscal years, staff recommends no changes to the allocation of SRS.

1. 80% to Title I for schools and roads.
2. 13% to Title II for the County Resource Advisory Council.
3. 7% to Title III for discretionary projects which qualify under the terms of the Act.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no impact on the General Fund as a result of this action. The County uses SRS funding for one-time fire protection and transportation improvement projects countywide.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – FFY 2022 Placer County SRS Payment

County	Township	National Forest	Full Payment Base Amount	Title I %	Title I Amount	Title II %	Title II Amount	Title III %	Title III Amount
Placer (061)		TAHOE PNF (0073)	\$61,807.61	80	\$49,446.09	13	\$8,034.99	7	\$4,326.53
		TAHOE PNF (0073)	\$525,341.52	80	\$420,273.21	13	\$68,294.40	7	\$36,773.91
		ELDORADO PNF (0053)	\$115,251.51	80	\$92,201.20	13	\$14,982.70	7	\$8,067.61
	<b>Placer Total :</b>			<b>\$702,400.64</b>		<b>\$561,920.50</b>		<b>\$91,312.09</b>	