



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

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors **DATE:** March 28, 2023
FROM: Bekki Riggan, Deputy County Executive Officer
BY: Melissa O'Neal, Management Analyst I
SUBJECT: Proposed Multi-Agency Model Within the Office of Emergency Services

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive a presentation and provide direction on a proposed multi-agency model within the Placer County Office of Emergency Services at a first-year cost anticipated at \$1.1 million.

BACKGROUND

Placer County, along with much of the state, has experienced a significant rise in the frequency and severity of disasters over the past several years. Since 2020, the County has experienced five disasters that have led to state or federal disaster declarations, including the Mosquito Fire, the largest wildfire in Placer County history.

Placer County strives to coordinate and integrate all activities necessary to sustain and improve community resiliency. With the rise in disasters within our region, there is a critical need to invest in enhanced coordination among the County-level agencies that have jurisdictional authority over aspects of FEMA's National Preparedness Goal Mission Areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery). The National Preparedness Goal defines what it means for the whole community to be prepared for all types of disasters and emergencies.

Given the long history of successful cooperation and collaboration among Placer County Sheriff's Office (PCSO), Placer County Fire (PCF), and Placer County Office of Emergency Services (OES) in emergency settings, staff proposes a new, innovative model to emergency management to allow PCSO, PCF and OES representatives to work together more closely. This integrated model would increase collaboration and allow for more effective advance planning, communication, and response. The proposed mission of a reformed OES is to foster a resilient and prepared Placer County through effective, efficient, and coordinated risk reduction efforts. This innovative approach would be the first known model of its kind in the state and would reinforce Placer County's strategic priorities and commitment to emergency management.

This proposed model would include OES staff, as well as a dedicated new Sheriff's Lieutenant allocation as well as a dedicated new contracted PCF Assistant Chief. The Lieutenant would manage and direct the law enforcement activities of the Emergency Operations Center, coordinate law enforcement mutual aid, provide jurisdictional leadership for evacuation planning, and manage special teams for the Sheriff's Office including Air Operations, Search and Rescue, and the Dive Team. The PCF Assistant Chief would manage and direct the fire

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rescue activities of the Emergency Operations Center and would provide administrative and operational management of the PCF/OES HazMat Response Team, jurisdictional collaboration in countywide evacuation planning, and oversight of Community Preparedness and Wildfire Mitigation programs mandated by state law (AB38).

Integrating these two new positions within OES will allow for enhanced incident support, incident management, and pre-incident and emergency planning, as the Board has seen in the multidisciplinary updates from our pilot PCSO/PCF embedded resources in recent months. During activations of the Emergency Operations Center, the team in the proposed model would provide enhanced countywide emergency response coordination. These two positions would also provide support to OES outside of emergencies including pursuit of grant opportunities, grant management, and other areas as needed.

The goals of the proposed model would be centered around three proposed focus areas:

- Planning – Update and improve the County’s emergency plan documents including the Emergency Operations Plan, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, and Stakeholder Preparedness Review.
- Public Information and Warning – Enhance community outreach for general emergency preparedness. Each member would provide information specific to their agency’s mission area. For example: evacuations and alert and warning (PCSO); wildfire preparedness, prevention, and mitigation (PCF); and flooding risk and insurance, and Fire Safe Council coordination (OES).
- Operational Coordination – Enhance training and joint exercises, engage and utilize volunteers, post-emergency coordination, disaster recovery, and local assistance centers.

Should your Board direct staff to proceed with this model, staff will return with a description of further actions needed to proceed with implementing this enhanced emergency service model. As proposed, the OES team would periodically report out on the progress on meeting the specific goals identified above.

FISCAL IMPACT

The first-year cost associated with this action is approximately \$1.1 million. This includes one-time expenditures associated with building renovations estimated at approximately \$120,000, and vehicles and equipment estimated at \$167,000. Ongoing staffing costs include approximately \$390,000 for the addition of a Sheriff’s Lieutenant and an increase to the CAL FIRE contract of \$378,000 for the addition of a PCF Assistant Chief. Budget amendments and/or individual requests related to this item and an amendment to the CAL Fire contract will be brought forward for your Board’s approval at a later date.

ATTACHMENTS

None.