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TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer
By: Brett Storey, Woody Biomass Program Manager
DATE: July 24, 2006
SUBJECT: Woody Biomass Program Update

Action Requested

Informational Update Only

Background

In May 2005, the BOS approved a direction for an increase in funding for hazard mitigation and other fire safe related activities. Then again in April 2006 the BOS Authorized the CEO to hire a Biomass Manager to oversee and coordinate Placer County's efforts to determine the feasibility and options for removing flammable wood products from national forest lands and turning those products into economically sustainable forms of energy production or to other beneficial uses.

With the Biomass Manager and other pertinent County Staff now hired and working directly with the Biomass Technical Committee and the Wildfire Protection & Biomass Policy Advisory group consisting of Supervisor Bruce Kranz, Supervisor Jim Holmes and Assistant CEO Holly Heinzen, activities and issues are actively being accomplished in support of the BOS direction.

Several specific responsibilities and plans have been requested to ensure this valuable program has a positive effect on the protection of rural areas of Placer County from wildfire and improving the economic possibilities from the removal of the valuable woody biomass. These activities will culminate in the development and implementation of a 5-year biomass utilization strategic plan.

County BOS and staff will receive a summary of this program to date, provide some relevant milestones of projects, and describe some challenges we may face as we attempt to protect our national forest & private property in Placer County.

Fiscal Impact

There is no cost to the County for this informational item.

TM/BS

