

**PLACER COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Thomas Miller, County Executive Officer  
Rui Cunha, Emergency Services Program Manager

**Date:** January 22, 2008

**Subject:** Request the Board of Supervisors appoint Brad Harris, Chief, Nevada-Yuba- Placer Ranger Unit, CAL FIRE as the County Fire Warden.

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Request your Board appoint Brad Harris, Chief, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Ranger Unit, CAL FIRE to serve as the Placer County Fire Warden.

**BACKGROUND**

Your Board approved the County Hazardous Vegetation Abatement (HVA) Ordinance on October 23, 2007 which provides a program of hazardous vegetation abatement initially enacted and enforced in the fire protection districts on the eastern slope of Placer County. Contained within the Ordinance are responsibilities for a County Fire Warden for managing the program. Your Board therefore amended Placer County Code Article 2 on November 27, 2007 creating an unpaid County Fire Warden position that is to be filled by a serving fire chief officer. California Government Code §24008 delegates the appointing authority for a County Fire Warden to your Board.

Chief Brad Harris, Unit Chief of the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Ranger Unit of CAL FIRE is the most appropriate chief officer to assume the role of County Fire Warden. Chief Harris has leadership, management and oversight responsibilities for all CAL FIRE personnel, assets and operations in his unit, and specifically, oversees the Placer County contracted fire protection services, Placer County Fire (PCF). The area served by PCF is by far the largest within the unincorporated area of the County, and added to that are CAL FIRE responsibilities for State and Local Response Area wildland fire suppression which includes the areas comprising the eastern slope fire protection districts. Chief Harris is a well-respected chief officer with over 30 years of experience in all fire disciplines, and has the technical, staff and operational skills necessary to implement, oversee and manage this new program in Placer County. In addition, he has proven public relations skills and the tact required for a program sure to garner public scrutiny.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

This action has no impact on the General Fund.

