

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Fire Chief Brad Harris, CalFire/PC Fire
Rui Cunha, OES Program Manager
Brett Storey, Senior Management Analyst
By: Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer *MB*

DATE: July 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Receive Updates on the following fire related items:

- a. Fire Update by Fire Chief Brad Harris, CalFire/PC Fire
- b. Update on fire mitigation activities and results of the pilot ordinance for hazardous vegetation abatement in the Tahoe region
- c. Update on the County's Biomass Program

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive updates on the following fire related items: status of current state of fire activity; update on fire mitigation activities and results of the pilot ordinance for hazardous vegetation abatement; and, an update on the Placer County Biomass Program.

BACKGROUND

a. Fire Update

As your Board is also aware, statewide the fire situation is unprecedented. This fire season has begun with an unusual amount of activity. For this early in the fire season, lightning, dry conditions and winds have combined to make firefighting exceeding difficult and stretching resources. As has been presented to your Board in the past two Board meetings, again today, you will receive an update from Chief Brad Harris.

b. Fire Mitigation and Hazardous Vegetation Abatement Pilot Ordinance

With your Board's direction, among other efforts detailed more fully in the accompanying staff report, Placer County has implemented a variety of successful Fire Mitigation Programs including: Defensible Space Inspections; maintenance of the Chipper Program; Fuel Reduction work; and, residential signage. You will receive an update from Rui Cunha and Brett Story of Emergency Services.

c. Biomass Program

Your Board will receive an update on the Placer County Biomass Program from Brett Storey of Emergency Services.

FISCAL IMPACT

While these programs have associated and approved budgets, there is no fiscal impact from this presentation today.

Attachment:

Staff Report – Brett Story, OES

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer
By Brett Storey, Senior Management Analyst

DATE: July 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Update the Board on the Fire Mitigation and Biomass Programs to include implementation of the Hazardous Vegetation Abatement pilot ordinance.

ACTION REQUESTED

Provide the BOS and Management staff an update of the County's fire mitigation activities and an assessment of the biomass program with a midyear view of the results of the pilot ordinance for Hazardous Vegetation Abatement in the Tahoe region.

BACKGROUND

Placer County has implemented a variety of successful Fire Mitigation Programs to date including; Defensible Space Inspections; Maintenance of the Chipper Program; Fuel Reduction work in Foresthill, Tahoe, and the American River Canyon south of Auburn City; Improved residential signage; expanded Fire Safe Councils; added a Fire Mitigation Coordinator, provided public education materials, funding for a masticator purchase to assist with fuel reduction efforts at Hidden Falls and other county parks; use of Wide Area Rapid Notification (WARN) system to put out a reminder in the Granite Bay Community not to use fireworks; Development and approval of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP's) in Tahoe and West through Penryn.

An update on the progress of the Biomass program progress including our community slash removal, reductions in air pollution due to non-burning activities and plans for our potential biomass to green energy facility in the Tahoe region to date and future plans will also be presented.

Finally, Placer County in conjunction with CAL FIRE, North Tahoe Fire Protection District, Alpine Springs Water District, the Squaw Valley Public Services District, and the Northstar Community Services District have begun to inspect properties with unimproved lots that fall within the 100 foot Defensible Space Inspections program (Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291) for improved lots. An update as to how many failed inspections, citizens reactions and other factors will be presented.

FISCAL IMPACT

None, informational item only.

