

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Thomas Miller, County Executive Officer
by Rui Cunha, Program Manager, Office of Emergency Services *RC*

Date: September 9, 2008

Subject: Preliminary American River Complex Burn Severity Analysis by the Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team.

ACTION REQUESTED

That your Board receives a preliminary burn severity and longer term impacts to values-at-risk analysis of the American River (fire) Complex by the American River Complex Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team.

BACKGROUND

Fires started on June 21, 2008 in the American River Complex burned 20,541 acres. The complex is now 100% contained, however the Forest Service continues mop-up and patrol of all burned areas.

A BAER Team was assigned to the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) in order to assess burn severity and is focusing on the fires' impact on soils as well as on any long-term impacts to values-at-risk. While the BAER Team's assessment remains underway, this update provides preliminary data analysis.

The TNF BAER Team comprises seven Forest Service employees. It includes co-team leaders and forest hydrologists Rick Weaver, with 20 years BAER team experience, and Tim Biddinger, with 14 years of BAER team experience. Each has served as a BAER team leader for over ten years. Other team members include TNF American River Ranger District employees MoTebbe, a resource officer, Matt Triggs, a wildlife biologist, Scott Husmann, an engineer, and Kalie Crews, an archeologist. Karen Wiese, the BAER Team botanist is from the TNF Yuba River Ranger District.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of this action.

