

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas Miller, County Executive Officer
By Brad Harris, Chief, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Ranger Unit, California
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and County Fire Warden and
Rui Cunha, Program Manager, Office of Emergency Services

DATE: Sep 23, 2008

SUBJECT: Information presentation on the Gladding Fire in rural Lincoln on September 1, 2008.

ACTION REQUESTED

That the Board of Supervisors receives a presentation on the Gladding Fire which occurred on September 1, 2008 (Labor Day) north and east of Lincoln. Presentation to include discussion of fuels and weather conditions in advance of the fire, its origin, fire agency response, extent of damage, and mitigation measures now being taken.

BACKGROUND

As Chief Harris warned in his presentation to your board on May 13, 2008, optimum wildfire conditions in the form of high temperatures, low moisture content in the air, extremely dry fuels and high winds made this fire extremely dangerous and difficult to control. As of the date this writing, its origin remains unknown, although an active investigation continues.

The fire broke out around 2:00 PM on the afternoon of Labor Day along the western side of Gladding Road north of Lincoln. It quickly spread to the southeast and was ultimately stopped south of Virginiatown Road east of the city. Response to the fire was made difficult by the wind which kept starting spot fires beyond the head of the fire. In all, the fire consumed some 960 acres, destroyed four residences, and destroyed or damaged structures on numerous other parcels. No one was injured in the fire or in the response.

DISCUSSION

As the Board is aware, the Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NYP) Ranger Unit of CAL FIRE serves under contract as Placer County Fire (PCF), the County's fire protection agency. PCF's area of responsibility comprises all areas of the unincorporated County not protected by an independent fire protection district or the US Forest Service. The NYP Unit Chief, in addition to leading and managing fire protection services, serves as the Placer County Fire Warden.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact from this presentation.

