

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: David Boesch, County Executive Officer
by: Rui Cunha, Assistant Director of Emergency Services

Date: April 9, 2013

Subject: Resolution approving the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement for FY 2013/14

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Adopt a resolution approving the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement (CAL FIRE Contract) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013/14 in the amount of \$8,752,503;
2. Authorize the Chairman to sign six copies of the Agreement.

BACKGROUND

Fire protection in unincorporated Placer County is provided by twelve independent fire protection districts and by the County itself through a contract with CAL FIRE. CAL FIRE provides fire protection; prevention; emergency medical; hazardous materials and all hazard incident response in addition to dispatch services.

History

Fire protection services in the unincorporated county have been provided by Placer County since the late 1940's. Initially, the County funded a single firefighter operating principally in the Lincoln area who, while maintaining and operating a single fire truck, responded to fires with local volunteers. Over the years the system has grown with the addition of fire service zones of benefit, adding both volunteer and fully staffed stations to the Placer County Fire system.

Current System

Residents of the Placer County Fire area contribute directly to year-round, all-hazard fire and emergency services over approximately 475 square miles of unincorporated county area, or nearly one third of the County. The area served has a population of approximately 44,400, and service is provided by both full time and volunteer firefighters. The CAL FIRE contract pays for 66 full time equivalent firefighters operating from eight fully staffed, 24-hour/day fire stations located in Alta, Colfax, Bowman, North Auburn, Ophir, Lincoln, the Sunset Industrial Area, and Dry Creek.

Approximately 100 volunteer firefighters operate out of the paid stations listed above and from six community volunteer stations located in Dutch Flat, Fowler, Paige, Thermalands, Dry Creek and Sheridan. Included in the estimated \$27,000,000 in County-owned property and equipment are 60 County-owned fire engines, support vehicles and trailers.

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2011/12, Placer County Fire responded to 5,109 calls for service including 3,809 calls for medical aid of which 405 involved vehicle accidents with vehicle extrication being required in 14 of the 405 accidents. Placer County Fire was called to 774 fire related calls including structure, commercial structure, wildland smoke checks and debris checks. There were 110 hazardous materials calls, 28 investigations and 338 other types of calls including rescues, and public assist as examples.

In addition, CAL FIRE manages the City of Colfax Volunteer Fire Department and assists the city with its fire inspection and land development functions. These services are fully funded by the City of Colfax in a separate agreement with the County.

FISCAL IMPACT

Overview

The FY 13/14 contract amount of \$8,752,503 is increased by just over \$147,000 compared to last year's contract amount. The increase is due to increased benefit rates as a result of higher PERS and Medical Benefit costs. The final FY 12/13 contract amount was \$8,605,211. Similar to the FY 12/13 contract the FY 13/14 contract reflects a charge to manage the Foresthill bridge fire mitigation fuel reduction project which significantly reduces the risk of fire starting under the bridge while the retrofit project is ongoing.

The projected General Fund contribution to the FY12/13 contract is \$675,626 or just under 7.9% of the total contract value. The projected General Fund contribution to the FY13/14 contract is \$602,815 or just under 6.9% of the total contract value.

The contract is fully funded in the Fire Control Fund and fire service zones of benefit. For Fiscal Year 2013/14 only the Dry Creek fire service zones of benefit will not fully meet its service level costs with ongoing revenues requiring the use of limited reserves to balance in FY 13/14.

CSA, Zone of Benefit Funding Shortfalls

The Dry Creek Fire zone of benefit is projected to have revenue shortfalls of \$222,308 in FY 2013/14. The Dry Creek budget is balanced for FY 13/14 using reserves that have been accumulated over several years for contingencies and for facilities, apparatus and equipment replacement. The North Auburn Ophir Fire zone of benefit is balanced with the use of a one-time SAAFR grant that runs through October 2014.

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Staff will continue to monitor and make recommendations aimed at ensuring the long term viability of both the Dry Creek and North Auburn Ophir Fire zones of benefit. As the CAL FIRE contract requires Placer County to notice CAL FIRE one year in advance of any service reductions, Placer County will likely have to deliver notice to CAL FIRE in January 2014, informing CAL FIRE that they are to reduce staffing in the North Auburn Ophir Fire zone of benefit effective January 1, 2015 if a new special tax measure is not successful.

Staff is not recommending any further action in Dry Creek through FY 13/14. Staff will continue to monitor fiscal challenges in Dry Creek Fire.

Available for Public Review at the Office of the Clerk of the Board

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement for Fiscal Year 2013/14 in the amount of \$8,752,503 – available for public review at the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

Attachment
Resolution

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:

Resol. No: _____

A RESOLUTION RENEWING THE COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 (CAL FIRE CONTRACT)

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **APRIL 9, 2013** by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:
Clerk of said Board _____

WHEREAS, all-hazard emergency response, including wildland fire response and structural fire protection in the unincorporated areas of Placer County is provided by twelve independent fire districts and fire departments and as well as by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) under terms of its contract with the County of Placer; and

WHEREAS, your Board annually contracts with CAL FIRE to provide integrated, year-round fire protection and emergency medical response in approximately 475 square miles of unincorporated County area not protected by fire departments and independent fire protection districts; and

WHEREAS, fire protection in the area covered by this contract is provided through an integrated system comprising eight fully staffed 24-hour/day fire stations and six community volunteer stations at which CAL FIRE also provides operational supervision and training.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, that the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between the County of Placer and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 in the amount of \$8,752,503 is hereby approved, and that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to sign five copies of the contract.

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Clerk of the Board of the County of Placer shall certify the adoption of this resolution, and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.