

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: David Boesch, County Executive Officer
By John McEldowney, Program Manager

DATE: August 26, 2014

SUBJECT: Project to be funded from the re-appropriation of BOS approved projects from the Title III discretionary funds from the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008.

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Re-appropriate \$14,000 of Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 Title III discretionary funds from the FY 2010-11 Defensible Space Inspection Project (project # 4) to fund the Firewise Coordinator/Grant Writer, herein after referred to as the Placer Firewise Coordinator.
2. Re-appropriate \$1,252 of Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 Title III discretionary funds from the FY 2011-12 Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (CWPP) Lincoln Fire Safe Council project (project # 5) to fund the Placer Firewise Coordinator.
3. Re-appropriate \$3,498 of Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 Title III discretionary funds from the FY 2012-13 Project Canyon Safe project (project # 6) to fund the Placer Firewise Coordinator.
4. Approve a project from the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Title III discretionary funds, in the amount of \$18,750 to fund the Placer Firewise Coordinator.
5. Authorize a 45 day public noticing of the planned use of these funds, and return to your Board October 21, 2014 with any input from the community and to request final approval of planned expenditures.

BACKGROUND

Public Laws:

The Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act HR 2389 aka Public Law (PL) 106-393, was enacted in October 2000 to offset the loss of revenues in rural counties due to declining timber harvests and the decrease of income generation on federal lands. It provided qualifying counties with predictable funding for rural schools and roads for federal fiscal years

(FFY) 2001 through 2006 and was extended by Congress through FFY 2007. Despite the extension, spending is limited to previously approved methods or projects.

In October, 2008, Congress enacted the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (PL 110-343) which included reauthorization of the "Secure Rural Schools" program. However, this law has a significantly lower level of funding and restricts the use of funds to supporting:

- Activities under the *Firewise Communities* program
- Reimbursement for search and rescue (SAR) on federal lands
- Development of community wildfire protection plans (CWPP)

Recommended use of funds:

PL 110-343: Request the re-obligation of funds to support the Placer Firewise Coordinator contract for FY 2014-15.

- Placer Firewise Coordinator - \$18,750

45 Day Public Notice Period

Upon approval by your Board, staff will commence the required 45-day public noticing period and return to your Board October 21, 2014 with any input from the community and to request final approval of planned expenditures.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of these actions. There is adequate fund balance in Placer County's Forest Reserve Title III fund to support these activities.

Attachment

Description of recommended projects to receive Title III discretionary funds support.

ATTACHMENT

Description of recommended projects to receive Title III discretionary funds support

PL 110-343:

PROJECT #4: PLACER FIREWISE COORDINATOR

Issue/Background: This project continues to fund the Placer Firewise Coordinator, a part time contract position, for FY 2014-15. The Placer Firewise Coordinator provides grant writing expertise to help implement the Placer County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). A list of proposed projects has been defined by each of the Fire Safe Councils and Fire Safe Alliance within the CWPP. The Coordinator works with the Fire Safe Councils and the Fire Safe Alliance to seek grant funding to complete said projects. Identified projects vary from fuel reduction, defensible space and public education. Grant funding is critical to achieve the project objectives of the CWPP.

Alternatives: Allow fire mitigation departments, districts, fire safe councils, etc. to seek grant funding alone. However, this method forfeits optimization of programming and scarce funding.

Responsible Office: Resource Conservation District

Funds to be Obligated: \$18,750

