



**MEMORANDUM**  
**OFFICE OF THE**  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**COUNTY OF PLACER**

**To:** Placer County Board of Supervisors  
**From:** David Boesch, County Executive Officer   
**Date:** September 23, 2014  
**Subject:** Commendation honoring Rui Cunha, Assistant Director of Emergency Services, for his dedicated service to Placer County

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve and present a Commendation honoring Rui Cunha, Assistant Director of Emergency Services, for his dedicated service to Placer County.

**BACKGROUND**

Rui Cunha worked for Placer County in the Office of Emergency Services (OES) from October 2002 to September 5, 2014. His official retirement date is November 29, 2014.

Rui was originally hired as the Program Manager for OES and subsequently promoted to Assistant Director of Emergency Services. The Assistant Director of Emergency Services is responsible, among other things, for emergency preparedness planning and the coordination of all personnel and resources required for the protection of life and property during a declared local or state emergency and to keep the Director and Board of Supervisors apprised of all actions taken as a result of the emergency. The Assistant Director, under the supervision of the Director, develops, manages and updates all of the emergency plans and programs throughout the county.

In addition, the Assistant Director is responsible for management and oversight of Placer County Fire, including the agreement for County Service Areas and Wildland fire services provided through CalFire requiring a high degree of coordination and collaboration to ensure the safety of Placer County residents and businesses.

Rui dedicated his life to public service retiring after 22 years of service in the United States Army as a Lieutenant Colonel before coming to work for Placer County. The Board of Supervisors will recognize Rui for his lifelong commitment to our country, county and communities through this presentation of a Commendation in honor of his service.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 IN THE MATTER OF A COMMENDATION HONORING RUI CUNHA, FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR MORE THAN 12 YEARS**

**WHEREAS**, Rui was hired as the Program Manager for the Placer County Office of Emergency Services (OES) in October 2002 after retiring with 22 years of service from the United States Army as a Lieutenant Colonel; and

**WHEREAS**, Rui utilized his extensive leadership development and training experience from the military to elevate the standards of service expected of emergency services personnel in a manner that secured the public trust while protecting the integrity of Placer County; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of his performance as a leader, Rui was promoted to Assistant Director of Emergency Service with the full force and powers bestowed upon him in times of a declared local or state emergency to secure personnel, equipment and resources to effectively respond to the emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, Rui modeled his core values of selfless service, loyalty, honor and integrity in his daily activities; and

**WHEREAS**, Rui was born into a military family and moved extensively throughout his life, but has considered Placer County his home since 1970 when his family first moved here. Rui graduated from Roseville High School, enlisted in the Army in 1976 and was accepted into West Point in 1978. Rui graduated from West Point with a BA in Science and a minor in Business Management receiving his Commission in 1982 where he served as an Officer until his retirement in August, 2002; and

**WHEREAS**; described by many of his peers as "A voice of calm deliberation during the chaos of emergencies; always able to find the sublime, notwithstanding the circumstances. Under the most serious conditions, Rui would always find something positive or funny to focus on; and, no matter what others were doing or saying, Rui would maintain an objective place of perspective and resoluteness that brought calm to his co-workers and others"; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his tenure with Placer County, Rui helped to coordinate emergency relief and services to secure the public safety in multiple incidents ranging from flood to fire, sewage spills, propane explosions, a H1N1 influenza scare, a West Nile Virus outbreak, and a tanker fire that threatened the entire city of Lincoln. When asked what he is most proud of, Rui responded, "It has been an honor to be with people who live and work in a county that has a "roll up your sleeves" and get it done attitude to help one another."

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN THAT**, the Placer County Board of Supervisors congratulates Rui Cunha on his retirement with sincere thanks for his dedication and combined 34 years of public service to respond in emergencies for the welfare of our country, county and communities, and with best wishes for a long and healthy retirement.

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Jack Duran, Supervisor District 1,  
Chairman 2014

Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2  
Jim Holmes, Supervisor District 3  
Kirk Uhler, Supervisor District 4  
Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5