

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

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

DATE: October 21, 2014

SUBJECT: Final approval of re-appropriation of Title III discretionary funds from the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008.

ACTION REQUESTED

This item is returning to the Board for final approval after waiting the 45 day public noticing period required to give the public an opportunity for comments. Having received no public comment during the required noticing period, the Board is being asked to approve the following re-appropriations of these Title III discretionary funds:

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.

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

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.
Public Notice

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

**PUBLIC INPUT SOLICITED BY
PLACER COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

At its regular meeting on Tuesday, August 26, the Placer County Board of Supervisors announced that, after a 45-day public comment period, it intends to approve one project by re-appropriating \$18,750 of the Title III discretionary funds. However, before it can officially approve the projects, the Board is legally required to solicit input from the general population.

The funding was allocated to Placer County under Title III of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (PL 110-3430).

After review by the Office of Emergency Services and members of the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance, an organization comprising representatives of the Foresthill, Greater Auburn Area, Placer-Sierra and Rural Lincoln Fire Safe Councils, as well as by other local, state and federal agencies involved in land management and fire suppression, the funds were allocated as noted below.

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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.

In summary, funds are to be allocated as indicated:

- Placer Firewise Coordinator - \$18,750

Details concerning all projects are available in letter, email or fax form upon request of the office of the Assistant Director of Emergency Services at the address shown above.

Thank you,

Susie Reid

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