

**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: John McEldowney, Program Manager of Emergency Services

**Date:** July 7, 2015

**Subject:** Review the 2015 Crude Oil and Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) By Rail Operational Response Guide

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Accept the 2015 Crude Oil and Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) By Rail Operational Response Guide

**BACKGROUND**

In 2014 Placer and Nevada County Offices of Emergency Services received a grant from the California Office of Emergency Services to develop a bi-county, focused, and first responder centric crude oil and Hazmat by rail response guide. Guide development involved the cooperation and collaboration of multiple public safety and first responder partners along the Interstate 80 rail corridor, including Union Pacific, Kinder Morgan, and Pacific Gas and Electric. This collaboration has resulted in the operational response guide presented to the Board today.

The need for this type of guide became clear on July 6, 2013, when a catastrophic crude oil by rail incident occurred in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, Canada resulted in 47 deaths, extensive damage to the town center, a hazardous materials release, and the evacuation of approximately 2,000 people from the surrounding area. Other similar incidents, though fortunately not as severe, recently impacted areas around the United States, causing great public concern. Placer and Nevada County combined to develop this operational response guide, which is specifically designed to aid first responder response for oil by rail incidents in our area and mitigate the impacts of an incident as fast as possible. While focused on oil incidents, it can also be used for hazardous material by rail incidents as well. This is the first operational response guide of its kind in the State of California and may well become a benchmark for Counties across the state. This guide both increases first responder readiness and better prepares us should an incident of this magnitude ever take place here.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no net County cost to the General Fund as a result of this action.

