

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Venable

SUBMITTAL DATE: June 11, 2003


SUBJECT: Allocation of \$5,000.00 in Countywide Developer Agreement Public Offset Funds to the San Bernardino National Forest Association, a non profit organization, to help sponsor a Forest Health Symposium, June 27 – 29, 2003.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board join with me to:

- 1) Approve the use of \$5,000 of Countywide Developer Agreement Public Offset Fund No. 30561 to the San Bernardino National Forest Association;
- 2) Direct the Executive Office to transfer \$5,000 from Countywide Developer Agreement Public Offset Fund No. 30561-110350000 to Mitigation Operations Fund No. 22550-1103500000;
- 3) Direct the Executive Office to process payment of \$5,000 from Mitigation Operations Fund No. 22550-1103500000 to the San Bernardino National Forest Association, c/o Kris Assel, Big Bear Ranger Station, Fawnskin, CA 92333.

BACKGROUND: On March 5, 2002, this Board supported my recommendation and declared a Local Emergency due to the drought and bark beetle infestation that was plaguing our mountain communities. The hundreds of trees that were dead or dying at that time have now expanded to the point where we are dealing with tens of thousands of dead trees and a truly unprecedented fire hazard. A companion Form 11 with that original Local Emergency declaration asked this Board to also support the allocation of \$200,000 of Countywide Developer Agreement Public Offset Funds to invest in the tree removal endeavor. The Board graciously supported that request, and also an additional request for another \$150,000 several months later. That money was used to help our residents on private land remove their trees on a cost-sharing basis, and has basically been depleted. We are now working on obtaining state and federal assistance for that ongoing problem.

Approximately \$5,000.00 remains unused in that tree removal fund. I am now asking that this Board reallocate that remaining money to the San Bernardino National Forest Association to help sponsor the "Mountain Summit – Creating a Positive Future for our Forests and Communities," slated to occur at the University of Redlands on June 27, 28 and 29, 2003. Stakeholders from throughout the mountain areas, including both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, are invited to invest those three days to design principals to guide current and future decisions and develop plans for a healthy future for our forests.


Jim Venable, Supervisor Third District

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