

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



FROM: Supervisor Jim Venable

SUBMITTAL DATE: February 3, 2004

SUBJECT: Resolution 2004 - 081 – Resolution in support of a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and League of Cities (League) collaborative planning effort to decrease impacts on public health and safety resulting from wildland urban interface fires.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board join me in adopting Resolution No. 2004-081 in support of a CSAC and League collaborative planning effort to decrease impacts on public health and safety resulting from wildland urban interface fires.

BACKGROUND: I am this Board's representative on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fire Commission. The Commission's task is to review the response efforts to the October 2003 Fire Siege and make recommendations to the Governor on what preparation, mitigation, response and recovery changes need to be made in order to reduce the impact of devastating wildland fires on the residents of the State of California. The report is due to the Governor in April. The Blue Ribbon Fire Commission has an important role, but once our report is complete and in the hands of the Governor, there needs to be some entity that will "pick up the ball" if there are to be any real solutions. I feel that the initial collaborative planning efforts begun by CSAC and the League of Cities in this regard are to be commended. Riverside County needs to be the first county in the state to get behind this planning effort and do all we can to validate, support and participate in this process. I urge the Board to begin that process by adopting the attached resolution. I further request that the Executive Office forward a copy of this resolution to CSAC, our state lobbyists, and our state elected officials.


Jim Venable, Supervisor
jv:msm

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RECEIVED RIVERSIDE COUNTY

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3 RESOLUTION 2004-081

4 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
5 AND LEAGUE OF CITIES COLLABORATIVE PLANNING EFFORT TO DECREASE
6 IMPACTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY RESULTING FROM WILDLAND URBAN
7 INTERFACE FIRES

8 **WHEREAS**, catastrophic wildfires are one of the most significant threats to
9 communities, forests, and wildlands in California today, and;

10 **WHEREAS**, California's population growth continues to migrate into highly
11 flammable areas and local government must ensure that growth is prudent,
12 responsible and limits risk, and that development meets Fire Safe standards for both
13 residents and the fire service, and;

14 **WHEREAS**, it is critical that all levels of government learn to cooperate,
15 collaborate, and communicate in the development of better land use policies and
16 wildland fuel management programs to resolve issues associated with wildland urban
17 interface fires, and;

18 **WHEREAS**, in the State of California, about 4 million acres of private land and
19 39 million acres of federal land are at risk and have the potential to burn
20 catastrophically, and;

21 **WHEREAS**, to comply with environmental and regulatory agency requirements,
22 fire professionals and land managers have increasing difficulty in conducting
23 vegetation, watershed and forest management activities, and it is critical that fire
24 service, local, state and federal agencies work together to create responsible and
25 effective vegetation management plans, and;

26 **WHEREAS**, the increasing cost of large, catastrophic wildland fires and the
27 ever-increasing suppression costs and damages caused by these fires must be
28 reduced by forging collaborative efforts in land use planning and aggressive
vegetation fuels management programs, and;

1 **WHEREAS**, to address this threat, the California State Association of Counties
2 (CSAC) and the League of Cities (League) are proposing the formation of a
3 partnership between both entities as well as the state and federal governments, and;

4 **WHEREAS**, CSAC and the League have recommended that this partnership
5 focus on multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency coordination to standardize and improve
6 pre-fire mitigation, prevention and response to any fire hazard in the forest, range
7 land, watershed, wildland urban interface and open space in the State of California,
8 and:

9 **WHEREAS**, Riverside County is heavily impacted by these fire management
10 issues and has many thousands of residents and properties located in high fire hazard
11 areas, and this County has always been at the forefront of addressing fire safety
12 issues;

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Riverside County Board of
14 Supervisors on the 10th day of February 2004, does hereby resolve to support CSAC
15 and the League in working toward a systematic solution to California wildland fires to
16 ensure that the devastation created by these past fires will remain a part of California's
17 history, rather than its future.

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