

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



FROM: Supervisor James Venable

SUBMITTAL DATE: June 3, 2004

SUBJECT: Resolution to Approve Submission of Grant Application to the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service for Southern California Drought Assistance Funds – Rural Development Program

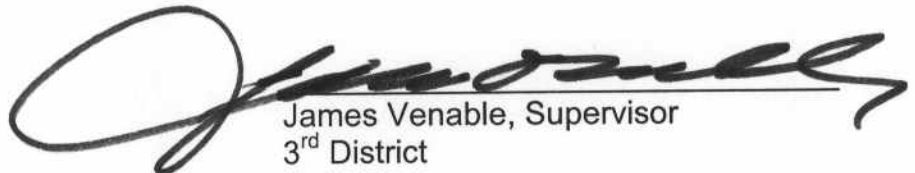
RECOMMENDED MOTION:

- 1) Adopt Resolution 2004-291 authorizing submittal of a grant application for the amount of \$2,000,000 to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service for Southern California Drought Assistance Funds – Rural Development Program to be used for the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) Dead Tree Utilization and Disposal Program.
- 2) Authorize the Assistant County Executive Officer/EDA to represent the County of Riverside in negotiations of the grant agreement, and to submit all documents related to grant submission.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2003, the USDA Forest Service received \$5,700,000 of a \$20,000,000 Congressional appropriation introduced by Congressman Jerry Lewis to facilitate the processing, marketing, and utilization of timber felled through fuel reduction programs concentrating on dead and dying bark beetle infected trees in the drought-stricken mountain areas of San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. Riverside County is applying for \$2,000,000 of the \$5.7 million grant which represents 35.1% of the funds available. This percentage was derived from a formula which included an average of each county's percent of State local forest acres, the percent of federal local forest acres within each County, and the percent of permanent population and improved properties in each County's forest area.

(continued on page 2)


James Venable, Supervisor
3rd District

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The primary purpose of the funding is to assist in facilitating the processing, marketing, and utilization of timber resulting from fuels reduction activities. Activities funded should ultimately add value and increase the economic use of the removed trees concentrating on existing and proven technologies that result in timely movement of the materials from fire hazard areas.

The attached application adheres to the guidelines and directions distributed by the U.S. Forest Service and contains projects and programs that comply with the eligible uses portion of that document. Funds cannot be used to construct buildings or to fund fuel reduction programs. Cooperative public/private projects that leverage other funds to achieve hazard reduction are encouraged.

The County of Riverside's Economic Development Agency will be the lead agency for this grant program, and requests that the Assistant County Executive Officer/EDA be the appointed agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, award letters, agreements, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

The funding priorities contained within this application were developed in coordination with the Mountain Area Safety Task Force (MAST) and Riverside County staff from involved departments. The program proposed in the application allocates a majority of the funding as the capital for a revolving loan fund that will lend and grant funds to private and public enterprises involved in the processing of the wood being removed from the Mountain Communities. Funded activities would include but not be limited to log sorting yards, sawmills, co-generation plants, related machinery and equipment, and production of value-added wood products. A loan review group composed of members from the County Executive Office, Office of Emergency Services, County Fire Department, MAST members, Transportation and Land Management Agency – Transportation Department, Riverside County Waste Management Division (RCWMD), Economic Development Agency (EDA), Third Supervisorial District Office, and the USDA Forest Service Rural Development Program Manager will recommend eligible projects for the Board of Supervisor's consideration and approval on a project-by-project basis. Factors taken into consideration for funding recommendations include credit-worthiness, ability to implement the project, experience of the project proponents, timeliness in implementing the process and quantity of trees removed from fire hazard areas.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no match required from the County for this grant program, and the interest generated from any loans made from these grant funds shall be reinvested into the revolving loan program; therefore, there is no fiscal impact to the County.

1 **WHEREAS**, should the County of Riverside be awarded funds under the USDA Forest
2 Service for Southern California Drought Assistance Funds – Rural Development Program, the
3 Assistant County Executive Officer/EDA will notify the Board of Supervisors and/or the Board of
4 Directors, and request final approval for executing the standard grant agreement.

5 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors (the "Board") of the
6 County of Riverside as follows:

7 **Section 1.** The County of Riverside shall submit to the USDA Forest Service a grant
8 application in the amount of \$2,000,000, to be used for the above described
9 purposes; and

10 **Section 2.** If the application for funding is approved, the County of Riverside hereby agrees
11 to use the USDA Forest Service funds for eligible activities in the manner
12 presented in the application as approved by the USDA Forest Service and in
13 accordance with program guidelines cited above. It also may execute any and all
14 other instruments necessary or required by USDA Forest Service for participation
15 in the Program.

16 **Section 3.** The County of Riverside authorizes the Assistant County Executive Officer/EDA
17 to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including award
18 letters and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the
19 aforementioned project.

20 ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2004:

21 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

22 ATTEST:

23 By: _____

24 Nancy Romero

25 Clerk of the Board

26 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

27 By: _____

28 County Counsel

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PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2004.

ATTEST:

Secretary

Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside