

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



FROM: Supervisor Ashley

SUBMITTAL DATE: August 23, 2005

SUBJECT: FIRE SERVICES CONTRACT CITIES AND CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION UNION PARTICIPATION IN REVIEW OF COUNTY STUDY FOR COSTS OF FIRE SERVICES

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board of Supervisors direct the Executive Office to include representatives from the fire services contract cities in the county and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection union in the review and evaluation of the upcoming study for a county employee staffed fire department.

BACKGROUND:

At the Board of Supervisors meeting on August 9, 2005 the Board approved Item 3.70 that calls for "a detailed analysis of the cost associated with establishing a county employee staffed fire department."

The outcome of this study will have long-lasting, direct and immediate impacts on the delivery of fire services to the cities who contract with the county for fire services. The contract cities and community services districts portion of the county's contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for fire services in FY 2005-2006 is \$46,184,566. That is almost half of the amount for the county's contract with CDF of \$96,838,623 for FY 2005-2006. This financial commitment alone indicates that the contract cities should be involved in evaluating the study.

The outcome of this study will also affect members of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection union who have faithfully and efficiently provided outstanding fire services for the county.

The Board has an obligation to these two groups that have dealt with the county in good faith for many years. My office is aware of concerns that have already been expressed by these two groups regarding the monumental impacts the study might have on their constituencies.

These two stakeholder groups must be fully informed and take an active part in the discussion, evaluation and analysis of this study. Only then will they will be able to make an educated and prudent decision on a course of action when and if the county moves forward with its own fire department.

Therefore, the Board should direct the Executive Office to include the contract cities and the union in the evaluation of the county fire department study so they can provide input before it comes before the Board.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marion Ashley".

MARION ASHLEY
5TH District Supervisor