

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

655



FROM: FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUBMITTAL DATE:
May 8, 2007

SUBJECT: Approve Project Agreement #3 for the Natural Resource Conservation Service Memorandum of Understanding

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors approve Project Agreement #3 with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in the amount of \$500,000 for hazard abatement.

BACKGROUND: Following the 2003 wildfires, NRCS was provided with \$150 million in Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funds to mitigate the tree mortality emergency in three Southern California counties, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. Riverside County was allocated \$20 million of those funds. RCOFD became the local sponsor for receiving the funding in Riverside; a local sponsor was required by Congress to allow NRCS to work in the County. Out of the \$20 million total, \$18 million was allocated to complete work using NRCS-hired contractors. Two million dollars was allocated directly to the County for projects using County resources and contractors per the NRCS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approved by the Board on April 13, 2004 (Agenda Item #3.3). Separate project agreements are required by the MOU and two project agreements have been approved by the Board to date. Riverside County Fire Department (RCOFD) requests approval to enter into Project Agreement #3 designating \$500,000 of the \$2,000,000 granted by NRCS for fuels hazard reduction to establish a partnership with the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) to continue their hazard abatement program after their current grant funding expires this summer.

John R. Hawkins, County Fire Chief

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A

Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30

Requires 4/5 Vote

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

County Executive Office Signature (Robert Tremaine)

- Dep't Recomm.: Consent Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Purchasing: (Robert Howdyshe II)

Director Departmental Concurrence

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS **DATE:** May 8, 2007
SUBJECT: PROJECT AGREEMENT #3 **PAGE:** 2
FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCE
CONSERVATION SERVICE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BACKGROUND (continued):

This new project would involve a partnership between RCOFD and MCFSC as follows:

MCFSC contribution:

- Provide inspectors to identify parcels which qualify for the program process property owner agreements and assist RCOFD staff with contract inspection and administration.
- MCFSC will continue their current policy of requiring a 25% cost share contribution to be paid directly by the property owner to MCFSC. This cost share covers wages and office expenses incurred by MCFSC paid-staff for administering the program.

RCOFD contribution:

- Work with MCFSC and County Purchasing to develop and administer contracts for fuels hazard reduction work.
- Work with appropriate County staff to Conduct Environmental Assessments as necessary to comply with CEQA. Work cooperatively with MCFSC personnel to oversee contract administration and inspection. There would be no new County staff positions.
- Prepare reports and submit invoices to NRCS for reimbursement of contract expenditures.

The Board on July 11, 2006, identified this enforcement program as a critical need in order to protect mountaintop communities from wildfire. This project will assist in cleaning-up non-compliance mountain properties with vegetative fire hazards.