

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

277



FROM: Fire Department – Office of Emergency Services (OES)

SUBMITTAL DATE:
July 22, 2008

SUBJECT: FY08/09 State Fire Assistance (SFA) Grant

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Accept \$500,000.00 grant funding from the U.S. Forest Service that has been awarded to the Riverside County Fire Department; and
2. Ratify the attached Award Agreement executed by the Riverside County Fire Chief John R. Hawkins, between Riverside County Fire Department and the U.S. Forest Service; and
3. Authorize the Riverside County Fire Chief, or his designee, to sign all documents related to the administration of this grant.

BACKGROUND: On June 10, 2008 (Agenda Item # 3.20), the Riverside County Board of Supervisors authorized the Riverside County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services (OES) to apply for \$500,000.00 in grant funding from the U.S. Forest Service. These funds will allow for the continuation of dead tree removal and other fuels reduction improvement projects within the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) communities. This work is currently being funded by the FY03/04 SFA grant award in the amount of \$4,975,000.00 which will be exhausted by April, 2009.

(BACKGROUND continued on next page)

Bonnie Reed for

Bonnie Reed, John R. Hawkins
ASO for County Fire Chief

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

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| SOURCE OF FUNDS: 75% Federal, 25% County | Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Requires 4/5 Vote | <input type="checkbox"/> |

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE
[Signature]
BY: _____
Robert Tremaine

County Executive Office Signature

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY: *Synthia M. Gunzel* 7-23-08
DATE: Departmental Concurrence
SYNTHIA M. GUNZEL

Dept's Recomin.: Consent Policy
Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.20 (05/22/08), 3.78 (09/18/07) and 3.15 (05/18/04) | **District:** 3 & 4 | **Agenda Number:**

3.76

TO Board of Supervisors **DATE:** July 22, 2008
SUBJECT: FY08/09 State Fire Assistance (SFA) Grant **PAGE:** 2

(BACKGROUND continued from first page)

This \$500,000.00 grant award will have a 75(federal)/25(local) percent match requirement – the County's share will be met by a combination of property owner matches for tree removal, Southern California Edison (SCE) tree removal expenses and Riverside County Fire staff time spent managing the grant.

On Thursday, July 17, 2008, at approximately 11:30 am, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) received notification from the US Forest Service – San Bernardino National Forest that the application deadline date had been moved up to Friday, July 18, 2008 and an executed Award Agreement was required to be submitted by Friday, July 25, 2008 in order for the funds to be encumbered. Due to an emergency need for reallocation of funding, unencumbered funds would be reallocated to other programs in Northern California due to high wildfire activity.

OES met the deadline for the application. However, to meet the deadline to encumber the funds, the Riverside County Fire Chief had to execute an Award Agreement between the US Forest Service and Riverside County Fire Department no later than Friday, July 25, 2008. This deadline was met by executing the attached Agreement. Section 3, sub-section b.4 of the County of Riverside, California Board of Supervisors Policy A-30 states "Any award or contracts resulting from an application will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval." The timeline dictated by US Forest Service – San Bernardino National Forest was extremely short and it was not possible to be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval prior to the deadline.

It was imperative to secure the grant funding. The loss of this funding to Riverside County, especially in our Bark Beetle prone areas, puts the County at even greater risk for potential loss of life and property. These funds will be utilized to help mitigate that risk. Riverside County remains under a Local Emergency Declaration, which is renewed every 14 days (most recently item # 2.3 on the July 15, 2008 Board Agenda), due to the continued infestation of Bark Beetles in the Mountain Communities of Idyllwild and Pine Cove.