

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

420



FROM: Economic Development Agency

SUBMITTAL DATE:
July 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the Economic Development Agency (EDA) and Riverside County Fire Department for the Continued Removal and Utilization of Woody Biomass

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Assistant County Executive Officer/EDA or designee, and the Riverside County Fire Chief to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as part of a United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service grant project, subject to approval as to form by County Counsel; and
2. Authorize the Assistant County Executive Officer/EDA or designee, to approve reimbursement requests from Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD) for program equipment maintenance costs and additional equipment purchases that further the intent and goals of the grant project, as specified in the MOU.

BACKGROUND: (Commences on page 2)

FISCAL PROCEDURES APPROVED
PAUL ANGULO, CPA, AUDITOR-CONTROLLER
BY: Samuel Wong 7/6/11
SAMUEL WONG

Robert Field

Robert Field
Assistant County Executive Officer/EDA

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|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|---------|
| FINANCIAL DATA | Current F.Y. Total Cost: | \$ 111,486 | In Current Year Budget: | Yes |
| | Current F.Y. Net County Cost: | \$ 0 | Budget Adjustment: | No |
| | Annual Net County Cost: | \$ 0 | For Fiscal Year: | 2011/12 |

COMPANION ITEM ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA: No

SOURCE OF FUNDS: U.S. Forest Service SPEA Program Income

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Requires 4/5 Vote | <input type="checkbox"/> |

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

BY: *Jennifer J. Sargent*

County Executive Office Signature Jennifer J. Sargent

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY: *Anita C. Willis*
ANITA C. WILLIS
Departmental Concurrence

By: *John Hawkins*
John Hawkins, County Fire Chief
Riverside County Fire Department

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

Economic Development Agency – Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the Economic Development Agency (EDA) and Riverside County Fire Department for the Continued Removal and Utilization of Woody Biomass

July 14, 2011

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BACKGROUND: On June 24, 2004, EDA was awarded a \$1.8 million Economic Development Assistance grant (SPEA program) from the State and Private Forestry branch of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The purpose of the grant was to foster the development of woody biomass utilization following the tremendous amount of tree mortality caused by drought and bark beetle infestation in the Southern California mountains.

EDA determined a need and received approval from USFS in June of 2008 to dedicate a portion of the USFS grant funds toward the purchase of equipment to aid in expediting the timely utilization and disposal of the fallen timber for value-added commercial uses. EDA determined that RCFD had the expertise, special skills and experience to purchase this type of equipment and entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with RCFD, effective July 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009.

Pursuant to the scope of work in the above-mentioned MOU, in June and July of 2009 RCFD purchased an integrated trucking system, slash bins and log bunks using \$375,000 of SPEA grant funds. RCFD continues to use the integrated trucking system and equipment for the timely removal and utilization of logs and slash from the mountain areas of Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties, which are put to value-added commercial uses.

Using SPEA program income, EDA established a separate equipment maintenance fund of \$61,486 to pay for direct costs incurred by RCFD for the upkeep of the integrated trucking system purchased with grant funds. There is another \$50,000 of program income that is presently available for RCFD to purchase additional ancillary equipment deemed to further the intent and goals of the USFS grant. The USFS program fund will continue to earn revenue through December 15, 2012 from monthly payments on a revolving loan agreement.

EDA requests Board of Supervisors' approval to enter into a new Memorandum of Understanding with RCFD, effective from July 1, 2011 through January 31, 2013 to authorize allocating up to \$61,486 of USFS program income for program equipment maintenance costs and allocating up to \$50,000 for additional equipment purchases. There is no impact on the general fund.