



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 12/3/2013

Agenda Placement: 7A

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Scott Upton - Fire Chief  
County Fire Department  
**REPORT BY:** Scott Upton, Fire Chief - (707) 967-1404  
**SUBJECT:** Volunteer Fire Assistance Program Grant

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Fire Chief requests acceptance of and approval for the Chairman to sign the (VFA) Volunteer Fire Assistance Program Grant agreement in the amount of \$19,721 for the purchase of Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting for the Napa County Volunteer Companies.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 has awarded an "Volunteer Fire Assistance Program" grant to the Napa County Fire Department. The funds are designated as a 50% share of the cost to replace protective clothing and equipment for wildland fire fighting.

County Fire's 50% cost share, or \$19,720.80 is available in the Fire Fund.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Fire Fund
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	This item is discretionary in that the Fire Department is not required to accept these grant funds. Grant funds are available with a 50% match to purchase

necessary safety equipment for Volunteer Firefighters. By accepting this grant, the County can purchase more equipment this fiscal year with the matching funds.

Is the general fund affected? No

Future fiscal impact: None.

Consequences if not approved: If not approved, County Fire will still be required to replace the protective clothing and equipment at the full cost.

Additional Information:

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has been approved as an agent of the United States Department Of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service for the purposes of administering the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program, hereinafter referred to as "VFA" has made funds available to the State for redistribution under certain terms and conditions to local agencies.

The County Fire Chief applied for this grant to purchase protective clothing and equipment for wildland fire fighting. All of this clothing and equipment will be provided to the nine Volunteer Companies. The purchase of National Fire Protection Association 1977 compliant web gear with built in hydration systems will help keep the fire fighters hydrated, reducing the risk of a heat illness, thus increasing fire fighter safety which is a priority. The grant has a 50% match requirement that is included in the County's Fire Fund budget.

Acceptance of this grant will further enhance the safety of Napa County Fire Department emergency personnel.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan