



Agenda Date: 12/4/2007  
Agenda Placement: 6A

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Gabrielle Avina for Loveless, Ernie - Fire Chief  
County Fire Department  
**REPORT BY:** Gabrielle Avina, Fire Marshal, 967-1421  
**SUBJECT:** Residential Sprinkler Ordinance (2nd Reading)

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Fire Chief requests the following:

1. Second reading and adoption of an ordinance amending Title 15 of the Napa County Code requiring automatic fire sprinklers in all newly constructed residences.  
**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** Categorical Exemption Class 8: It has been determined that this type of action does not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environment Quality Act because the action is designed to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment are exempt from review. [See Class 8 which may be found in the guidelines at CCR section 15321.] Additionally, 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.
2. Adoption of a resolution adopting findings of fact pertaining to local modifications contained in adoption by the County of Napa of the 2007 editions of the California Building Code and the California Fire Code.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Second reading and adoption of an ordinance amending the California Building Standards Code requiring the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system in all newly constructed residences and adoption of a resolution with the findings of fact required for modifications to the California Building Standards Code.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: **Categorical Exemption Class 8:** It has been determined that this type of action does not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environment Quality Act because the action is designed to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment are exempt from review. [See Class 8 which may be found in the guidelines at CCR section 15321.] Additionally, 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**

Automatic fire sprinkler systems have a proven track record of saving lives and protecting property. The adoption of a residential sprinkler ordinance in Napa County will enhance the fire departments ability to perform, improve public safety and will help to mitigate the structure fire risk that community growth places on fire department resources. Residential sprinkler systems are the answer to the structure fire problem and far more cost effective than the costs resulting from an actual fire and the cost associated with increased demands on emergency services.

On October 23, 2007 staff presented recommendations to the Board to require automatic fire sprinklers systems in all newly constructed residences. The Board directed staff to return with a response to several questions raised at the public hearing.

On November 20, 2007 staff returned to the Board with answers to the questions raised at the previous hearing and a response to concerns raised by residents during public comment and communication with staff and Board members. At the November 20, 2007 hearing the Board opened the public hearing, introduced the ordinance, read the title, waived reading the balance of the ordinance and declared its intent to adopt the ordinance on December 4, 2007. If the ordinance is adopted on December 4, 2007 it will go into effect thirty days after its adoption on January 2, 2008.

The ordinance and resolution adopting findings of fact are now before the Board for formal adoption.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- A . Resolution
- B . Ordinance

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi