



Agenda Date: 3/1/2005
Agenda Placement: 6A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Sharon Bull for Ernie Loveless - Fire Chief
County Fire Department
REPORT BY: Sharon Bull, Staff Services Analyst, 967-1417
SUBJECT: Cooperative Fire Agreement between the County and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

RECOMMENDATION

County Fire Chief requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign an agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for a maximum of \$5,554,011 for the term July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 for fire protection services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 1932, the County of Napa and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) have been partners in cooperative fire protection. By agreement, CDF provides management of the Napa County Fire Department which includes three paid fire stations, nine volunteer fire stations and a Fire Marshal Bureau.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	County Fire Department - 100%
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Mandatory
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	none
Consequences if not approved:	Fire protection not provided through CDF.
Additional Information:	None

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 Napa County Fire Department consists of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), under contract with the County for fire protection services, and nine volunteer fire departments. CDF's Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Chief serves as the County's Fire Chief and is responsible for the direction and coordination of fire protection services on a countywide basis.

The annual contract with CDF includes \$3,900,868 for Schedule A fire protection services. This contract provides for 35 full-time fire control personnel, principally at the Yountville, Napa, and Greenwood Ranch stations plus eight support staff. The contract also includes \$620,399 for fire code enforcement by six full-time personnel in the Fire Marshal's Office.

The Amador portion of the contract provides \$578,078 to keep the stations at Spanish Flat and St. Helena, and the second engines at Napa and St. Helena, operating during the seven-month non-fire season. This amount covers 38% of salary and benefits for another 27 CDF personnel. The total contract amount of \$5,554,011 is \$771,527 higher than the prior year's level.

This increase primarily reflects a planned overtime adjustment for fire suppression personnel, and a large increase in the benefit rate. Vacancies in staff positions will result in contract savings. The contract includes a "hold-over" clause, which allows for the contract terms to extend beyond the expiration date. Because the State is not able to establish benefit rates until around November or December, this contract is usually ready for renewal around December or January.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Michael Stoltz