



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 4/23/2019

Agenda Placement: 6U

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Minh Tran - County Executive Officer  
County Executive Office

**REPORT BY:** Helene Franchi, Deputy County Executive Officer - 253-4820

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of County Fire Chief

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Executive Officer requests adoption of a resolution appointing Geoff Belyea as the County Fire Chief to serve at the will of the Board of Supervisors, effective April 15, 2019.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 1968, the Board of Supervisors took action to designate the California Department of Forestry Ranger Unit Chief (now known as the CalFire Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Chief) as the Napa County Fire Warden per the Government Code to function as the Napa County Fire Chief. In 2012, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection that included a Deputy Chief position designated to serve as the Napa County Fire Chief instead of the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Chief. Chief Barry Biermann retired earlier in April. After a recruitment and interview process, the County Executive Officer is recommending the appointment of Geoff Belyea as the County Fire Chief.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Funding is included in the FY 2018-19 adopted budget for the County Fire Fund.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary

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Discretionary Justification:	A Fire Chief is critical to ensure appropriate management and efficient and effective operations of the Department.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	This position is currently allocated in the County's agreement with CalFire and will be budgeted accordingly in future fiscal years.
Consequences if not approved:	Further recruitment efforts would be required to fill the position.
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**

In 1968, the Board of Supervisors took action to designate the California Department of Forestry Ranger Unit Chief (now known as the CalFire Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Chief) as the Napa County Fire Warden per the Government Code to function as the Napa County Fire Chief. In 2012, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection that included an Assistant later upgraded to a Deputy Chief position designated to serve as the Napa County Fire Chief instead of the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Chief. The purpose of this change was to allow one person to be dedicated to the Napa County Fire Department as part of their regular job assignment as opposed to utilizing the Unit Chief level that has a responsibility to six counties. This has proven successful over the years.

The most recent Fire Chief, Barry Biermann, retired earlier in April of 2019. Per the contractual arrangement and previous Board decisions regarding the structure of the Napa County Fire Department, County staff worked with CalFire staff to begin the recruitment process for Chief Biermann's replacement. After an interview process that included Chair Gregory and Chief Shana Jones, the County Executive Officer is recommending the appointment of Geoff Belyea as the County Fire Chief. Chief Belyea currently serves as the Assistant Fire Chief for the County Fire Department.

Chief Belyea was raised in Napa, attended Vintage High School and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Services Management. Chief Belyea began his career with CAL FIRE in 1997 as a Fire Fighter I and at the same time began his service to the Napa County Fire Department as a Volunteer Firefighter with the Dry-Creek Lokoya Station. In 2001, he was transferred to the Sonoma Lake Napa Unit of CALFIRE and served in a variety of roles including fire prevention, vegetation management, and public education/public information programs.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . Resolution

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi