



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 7/22/2014

Agenda Placement: 7B

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Scott Upton - Fire Chief
County Fire Department
REPORT BY: Scott Upton, Fire Chief - (707) 299-1460
SUBJECT: Firewise Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

County Fire Chief requests approval of and authorization for the Chairman to sign an agreement with Napa Communities Firewise Foundation for a maximum of \$100,000 for the term July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 for community outreach and assistance in the creation and continuation of Fire Safe Communities and Councils to mitigate the effects of and to survive wildland fires.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As directed by the Board, the Fire Fund will provide funding for Napa Communities Firewise Foundation for FY 2014-2015. Napa Communities Firewise Foundation is a community-based fire awareness program designed by city, county and state fire professionals to provide the residents of Napa County with: 1) Information on the dangers that wildland fire poses to them and their communities. 2) A better understanding of fire ecology in their community in ways that predict the risk while respecting and considering the natural evolution of fire in the wildland settings. 3) The program provides specific steps each person can take to protect themselves, their family and neighbors in the event of a wildfire. Napa County Firewise was previously funded by grants that have lapsed.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	County Fire Department
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary

Discretionary Justification:	Funding is necessary to continue the deliverables of the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation program. Without this funding, Napa Communities Firewise Foundation would cease operations making it more difficult for residents to obtain wildland fire prevention assistance.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	The funding identified is specific to FY 2014-15 and will have no future fiscal impacts.
Consequences if not approved:	Napa Communities Firewise Foundation would cease to exist or be severely limited in the amount of public outreach and fire reduction programs it would be able to provide the citizens of Napa County.
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

As directed by the Board, the Fire Fund will provide funding for Napa Communities Firewise Foundation for FY 2014-2015. The Napa Communities Firewise Foundation is a community-based fire awareness program designed by city, county and state fire professionals to provide the residents of Napa County with: 1) Information on the dangers that wildland fire poses to them and their communities. 2) A better understanding of fire ecology in their community in ways that predict the risk while respecting and considering the natural evolution of fire in the wildland settings. 3) The program provides specific steps each person can take to protect themselves, their family and neighbors in the event of a wildfire. The Napa Communities Firewise Foundation was previously funded by grants that have lapsed. Napa Communities Firewise Foundation continues to seek grant opportunities but available funding is limited.

Under this agreement, Napa Communities Firewise Foundation will provide:

- | Support and Outreach to form community based Fire Safety Councils
- | Defensible Space Inspections and Evaluations
- | Create community maps to identify areas of concerns
- | Assistance with mitigation projects
- | Assistance in the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- | Assistance throughout the Firewise Certification process
- | Technical assistance on the implementation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- | Host Home Ignition Zone Workshops and Community Meetings
- | Maintain a Firewise Website for Napa County

The County Fire Fund will also continue to support the chipping program to clear land and create defensible space. These contracts, totalling \$50,000, were included in the budget request and per the County Purchasing Policy will be signed by the County Purchasing Agent.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi