



Agenda Date: 9/27/2005
Agenda Placement: 6M

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Britt Ferguson for Nancy Watt - County Executive Officer
Emergency Services
REPORT BY: Patti DeWeese, Staff Services Analyst, 253-4197
SUBJECT: Acceptance of FY05 Firewise Wildland Urban Interface grant

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer/Director of Emergency Services requests approval of the following actions:

1. Acceptance of the 2005 Wildland Urban Interface grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service in the amount of \$223,675 for the Firewise program; and
2. Approval of Budget Transfer No. 12 appropriating \$223,675 in the Emergency Services budget with offsetting revenues from the Wildland Urban Interface grant. (4/5 vote required)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January of 2005, the County was awarded its first Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grant to fund the Napa Firewise Plan. Deliverables under that grant are nearing completion. Napa County applied for the FY05 WUI grant and has received an award in the amount of \$223,675. These funds will allow the program to continue with phase two of the plan, with the goal of becoming a Firewise County by achieving 100 percent defensible space compliance, and adoption of a comprehensive Interface Fire Ordinance. Napa County has partnered with other local government fire departments to provide common public education and outreach programs, local code development, and GIS data sharing.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
What is the revenue source?	The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Wildland Urban Interface grant program.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary

Discretionary Justification:	This grant provides funding for the Napa Firewise Plan. Without grant funding, this program would be severely downsized or discontinued.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	The term of this grant agreement is through March 2007, although it is anticipated that deliverables will be met within FY05/06. If all projects are not completed, remaining grant funds will be carried over to FY 06/07. There is also the possibility of additional grant funding being made available in future years.
Consequences if not approved:	The programs developed under the 2004 Firewise grant will not be provided; the fire mitigation programs developed using these previous grant funds would be discontinued. These programs provide a direct benefit of public education on fire safety to the 25,000 people that live in our wildland urban interface as well as selected direct mitigation actions such as chipping services and defensible space inspection services.
Additional Information:	The long range goal of the Firewise Program is to move completely to local funding by the year 2008/2009.

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

Napa County has long recognized its exposure to unwanted and damaging wildfire. In an effort to create a a county that is recognized as fire-planned and prepared, to promote a healthy watershed through balance of fire and fuels, and to protect the people and the landscape from destruction, Napa County has developed a Firewise Plan to provide fire hazard mitigation measures.

In January of 2005, the County was awarded its first Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grant to fund the Napa Firewise Plan with deliverables under that grant nearing completion. Napa County applied for the FY05 WUI grant and has received an award in the amount of \$223,675. Acceptance of this grant will allow the program to continue with phase two of the plan, with the long range goal of being designated a Firewise County. Napa County has partnered with other local government fire departments to implement programs within the Firewise Plan.

Some of the projects planned within phase two of the Firewise grant include:

- | continuation of public education and outreach using the "*Napa is Firewise*" campaign, with respect to defensible space surrounding homes in the fire interface zone; using direct mail and media advertisements in both English and Spanish, etc.
- | provide 50 days of brush chipping services to identified neighborhoods in the interface zone i.e. Dry Creek area, Angwin area, Alta Heights, Berryessa areas etc.
- | conduct technical seminars for the planning, building and landscaping industry.
- | continue with a second defensible space inspector training course.
- | oversee 1,000 defensible space inspections using private, licensed inspectors.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Britt Ferguson