

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, SCHEDULED MEETING OF JUNE 2, 2009

STATEMENT TO BE READ DURING PUBLIC COMMENT

VICKI YORTY, EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR, EL DORADO COUNTY
FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

**AGENDA ITEM 31: RFP #09-918-082, Fire Prevention and County
Planning Services – Title III Federal Forest Fund Reserves**

Introduction.

Thank you Supervisor Nutting for putting this agenda item before the Board of Supervisors. The above referenced item is currently in a 45 day review and comment period as published by the Chief Administrative Officer and Purchasing Agent on April 23, 2009. The Board of Directors of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council sent a letter to this Board on May 26, 2009 with detailed comments expressing our concerns regarding the proposed allocation of Title III funding for FY 2008/2009 and should be a part of your Board package. I am making the following additional comments for your consideration:

1. The EDCFSC BOD is very concerned regarding the evaluation criteria used by the 2-member review committee to review and make the funding recommendations for the 2008/2009 Title III funding. The process involved is what we are questioning.
2. At the 1/27/09 BOS meeting, Michael Applegarth on behalf of the CAO, requested guidance for the distribution of the reduced amount of Title III funding for the current year. During the public comment period of this agenda item, I expressed to you the unique, one-time opportunity we had under the new re-authorization of the Rural

Submitted by Vicki Yorty
#31
at Board Hearing of 6/2/09

Schools Self Determination Act of 2001 passed by Congress in September 2008 to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the greater Placerville through Pollock Pines area. This project has been a top priority since 2003 in our County CWPP but has always been too hard and too costly. Development of CWPPs was one of the items that could be funded using Title III funds under the new legislation. However, you voted to split the reduced funding of \$260K 50/50 between Fire Prevention and Search and Rescue operations on federal land as was done in the past.

3. I requested Supervisor Nutting to reconsider your decision and he put this on the agenda for your 2/10/09 meeting.
4. Members of my BOD as well as other partners in this project attended your meeting on 2/10/09. As the day wore on, people had to leave because of prior commitments. Chief Mark Johnson, El Dorado County Fire Protection District Fire Marshal had to leave at 6 pm to attend the Placerville City Council meeting. By 7 pm I was the sole representative to speak to this agenda item.
5. Before your addressing our agenda time (around 6 pm) I met with Sheriff Neeves to discuss how we could come to some agreement regarding the Title III funding that would be beneficial for both parties. I felt (and still do) that this was a one-time window for using these funds to develop this critical plan so “we” agreed that if the Fire Safe Council could receive all of the funding for this year, we would not submit any proposals for the 2009/2010 fiscal year which would be available on Oct 1, 2009. A win-win for everyone.
6. When our agenda item finally was addressed, Sheriff Neeves and I both spoke to this “bartered” agreement. The CAO representatives

- spoke of the necessity of going through the Request for Proposals process which, at that time, did not concern me in the least. All of the 37 projects we have been funded for using Title III funds required a proposal, budget, etc. to be approved by you. They are in my files.
7. When Supervisor Sweeney made the motion “Title III funds for FY09/10 go to the Fire Safe Council” I felt my dreams had been fulfilled. I have watched the video of this meeting several times and still came to the same conclusion. That evening I even had the opportunity to call Chief Johnson at the Placerville City Council meeting so he could make the announcement to the meeting attendees.
 8. The RFP was issued on 20 February and I submitted 4 proposals at that time for all of the Title III funding...business as usual. Since 2003 we have been awarded a grant through Title III for EDCFSC Operation costs which were included in one of the 4 proposals I submitted. I also submitted proposals for our Defensible Space Evaluation Program and Public Education/Satellite FSC operations. And the 4th proposal was for the CWPP for Placerville through Pollock Pines.
 9. I don't think any of you can imagine my feelings of “betrayal” when I received the review committee's recommendations. See attachment A. EDCFSC Ops (with the exception of our website costs) was zero funded as well as the CWPP for Placerville through Pollock Pines. EDCFSC Ops includes a part of my compensation so this has been a very difficult time for me to advocate. But Ops also includes half of our minimal overhead costs...which we have used as matching funds when applying for federal grants, et al. I, as well as all of our coordinators, serve as independent contractors with no benefits,

retirement, insurance, etc. This is how we have been so competitive when pursuing additional “NEW” funding coming into the county for fuel breaks, etc. See Attachment B which shows the projects that have been funded through Title III funds for program administration and coordination. It is an impressive picture. I previously sent you a bar graph showing Investment (Title III/AQMD) versus Return on Investment—325% -- money coming into the county from federal and state sources.

In closing, I would humbly request that you take a look at the proposed allocation of 2008/2009 Title III funds. Where do you get the best bang for the buck? By zero funding the proposed CWPP for Placerville through Pollock Pines (approximately 30,000 residents), there remains a huge hole in central El Dorado County. Is it wise to just wait and let nature take its course? It is not IF, but WHEN.

(A)

TITLE III

Proposer	Project	Request	Option 1
El Dorado County Fire Safe Council	Project 1-Operations	\$ 91,252.50	
	Coordinator	\$ 54,000.00	\$0.00
	Travel	\$ 4,500.00	\$0.00
	Gas/auto maint/insurance	\$ 8,700.00	\$0.00
	Supplies, copies, postage	\$ 2,850.00	\$0.00
	DSL/Phone Camino Office	\$ 945.00	\$0.00
	Website Maintenance	\$ 3,150.00	\$ 3,150.00
	Accounting	\$ 8,970.00	\$0.00
	FSC Insurance	\$ 3,637.50	\$0.00
	OPS Administrative Support	\$ 4,500.00	\$0.00
	Project 2-Defensible Space	\$ 41,155.00	\$32,127.00
	Project 3-Public Education	\$ 29,040.00	\$ 29,040.00
	Project 4-CWPP	\$ 100,000.00	\$0.00
Total El Dorado County Fire Safe Council			\$64,317.00
Auburn Lake Trails	Risk Education & Home Inspection	\$ 21,042.00	\$ 17,315.00
Cameron Park	Administration & Outreach	\$ 32,900.00	\$ 24,300.00
Diamond Springs	Start up planning/outreach/fuel plan	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 12,600.00
Lake Valley Fire	Administration & Outreach	\$ 74,000.00	\$ 42,300.00
Nevada Fire Safe	Administration & Outreach	\$ 75,000.00	\$0.00
Sierra For. Com. Inst	Models, GIS, seminars	\$ 74,450.00	\$ 67,005.00
UCCE	Wildland fire retrofit plan/education	\$ 39,150.00	\$ 35,235.00
	TOTAL	\$ 597,989.50	\$263,072.00

AMOUNT AVAILABLE \$ 263,072.00
Difference \$ (334,917.50)



FIREWISE ArcView communities

merging GIS & Firewise concepts to create solutions in the W/UI



El Dorado County Fire Safe Projects

