



# *El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association*

June 6, 2011

Ray Nutting, Chair of the Board  
El Dorado County District Three  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667

## **RE: Pioneer FPD “Dry Period” Funding**

Dear Supervisor Nutting:

Annually, between the months of July through December, Special Districts including Fire Districts, have limited or no income. The majority of funding does not occur until the first Property Tax disbursement in December.

Government Code Sections 23010 and 23010.1 allows the County to loan or advance Special Districts up to 85% of their anticipated secure revenue (Dry-Period Funding). Many local Fire Agencies, who carry little to no “Fund Balance”, have relied on this advance to ensure that fire and emergency response can continue without interruption. With the decline in many agencies “Fund Balances” this advance/loan in revenue is more important than ever.

With the reduction/discontinuation of the Aid-To-Fire and the decline in Property Tax revenue the Pioneer Fire Protection District has seen a significant reduction in its “Fund Balance”. With this reduction, along with an increase in operating costs, it will not be able to provide for a minimum level of service or meets its on-going financial obligations, without an advance of its secured revenue for (FY) 2011-2012.

The Pioneer Board of Directors is anticipating \$541,500 in Secured Property Tax funding for (FY) 2011-2012 and is requesting that the Board of Supervisors authorize the El Dorado County Auditor to make available \$460,275 in “Dry-Period” funding to meets is financial obligations. The Fire Chiefs Association supports this request for funding by the Pioneer FPD and supports any other local Fire Agency that makes the same request.



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When the Board of Supervisors voted 3/2 to discontinue the Aid-To-Fire program the Fire Chiefs Association made it clear that there eventually would be some Fire Agencies that would become financially insolvent. If Fire Agencies do begin to fail, every citizen, no matter what Fire District they reside in, will feel the effect! I feel that we maybe becoming close to seeing this reality.

I want to personally thank you for the support you have shown the Fire Service over the years and I hope that together we can find a solution that will prevent the collapse of a fire/emergency delivery system that is the envy of many.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Keating', with a large, stylized initial 'K' or 'E' to the right.

Thomas M. Keating, President  
El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association  
530-677-1868

cc: Joe Harn, El Dorado County Auditor-Controller