

**EL DORADO COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA TRANSMITTAL
MEETING OF May 12, 1998**

AGENDA TITLE: General Fund Support for West Slope Ambulance and Fire Protection Services

DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors

DATE: 5/6/98

CAO USE ONLY

CONTACT: Supervisor Walt Shultz
Supervisor Sam Bradley

PHONE: 621-6513
621-5650

DEPARTMENT SUMMARY AND REQUESTED BOARD ACTION: Ambulance services for residents of our County's Western Slope are now provided through a cooperative arrangement involving all of the ten separate Fire Districts located with the Western Slope. These same ten Fire Districts have collectively worked with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in establishing a new centralized communication and command center facility in Camino.

Property tax rates for the ten Fire Protection Districts range from a low of 6.352% (Latrobe) to a high of 17.658%. (El Dorado Hills FD) To help stabilize the level of fire protection services for residents throughout our Western Slope, we propose:

1. Establish a policy of County General Fund support of West Slope Fire Protection Districts in amounts needed to bring about a constructive minimum tax rate of 13.0%, phased over a three year period.
2. Appropriate \$124,818 now for disbursement to the affected Districts, thereby achieving the first year's movement toward the 13.0% minimum (see attached Schedule I)

CAO RECOMMENDATION:

Financial impact? () Yes () No

Funding Source: () Gen Fund () Other

BUDGET SUMMARY:

Total Est. Cost \$ _____
Funding
Budgeted \$ _____
New Funding \$ _____
Savings* \$ _____
Other \$ _____
Total Funding Available \$ _____
Change in Net County Cost \$ _____

CAO Office Use Only:

4/5's Vote Req'd. () Yes () No
Change in Policy () Yes () No
New Personnel () Yes () No

CONCURRENCES:

Risk Management _____
County Counsel _____
Other _____

* Explain

BOARD ACTIONS: MAY 12 1998 - NEXT PAGE

Vote: Unanimous _____ Or

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered into the minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

Ayes:

Date: _____

Noes:

Attest: DIXIE L. FOOTE, Board of Supervisors Clerk

Abstentions:

By: _____

Absent:

Rev. 7/96 j:\agendalwin96

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ~~SHULTZ, BRADLEY, NUTTING, NIELSEN, UPTON~~

DATE ~~MAY 12, 1998~~

ACTION ~~APPROVED WITH THE~~

~~MEEKS~~ BAY FIRE DISTRICT INCORPORATED INTO THE POLICY AT AN ADDITIONAL COST OF \$23,666 FOR THE FIRST YEAR'S INCREMENT; AND BOARD DIRECTED THAT THE AGGREGATE OF THESE FUNDS FOR THE FIRST YEAR'S INCREMENT BE ALLOCATED FROM THE COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 1997/98 CONTINGENCY FUND AND SUCCESSIVE YEARS, BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 1999/2000, ARE TO HAVE THIS COST INCLUDED IN THE COUNTY BUDGET; FINALLY, THE CAO WAS DIRECTED TO PREPARE FOR THE CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE AN APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENT THAT WOULD OBLIGE THE FIRE DISTRICTS TO USE THIS FUNDING AUGMENTATION FOR PRODUCTIVE FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRE PROTECTION PURPOSES.

CC: CAO

County of El Dorado

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WILLIAM S. BRADLEY DISTRICT I
RAYMOND J. NUTTING DISTRICT II
J. MARK NIELSEN DISTRICT III
WALTER L. SHULTZ DISTRICT IV
JOHN E. UPTON DISTRICT V
DIXIE L. FOOTE CLERK OF THE BOARD

330 Fair Lane • Placerville, CA 95667
Telephone (530) 621-5390
Fax No. (530) 622-3645



May 11, 1998

TO: MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FR: John Upton, Supervisor, District V 621-6577

**RE: May 12, 1998, Agenda Item #50 — General Fund Support for West Slope
Ambulance and Fire Protection Services**

It is my understanding that it is possible for the Board to establish the proposed policy without the need to make the findings required for a permanent change in property tax allocations. I have asked the CAO to verify this, and to provide any other information he believes the Board should have in deliberating on this issue.

In addition, I would suggest the Board request Fire Districts to do the following:

1. Consider further consolidation as occurred in the establishment of El Dorado County Fire District a few years ago. That consolidation resulted in savings that were translated into improved overall fire readiness in the affected area, and further consolidation could accomplish the same result.
2. Now that the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Joint Powers Authority (JPA) is in full operation, consider further modifications in the fiscal and operational relationship between the County Health Department and the EMS-JPA.

If the Board desires to proceed with the proposed policy, I request incorporation of the one East Slope Fire District Area that is also below the 13% share-of-property taxes goal in the policy. The District in the Meeks Bay Fire District, and the basis for also incorporating the Meeks Bay/West Shore area under the policy would be as follows:

1. Fire danger in the area is probably even greater in the Tahoe Basin than in the remainder of the County. The runoff resulting from a catastrophic fire in the Tahoe Basin would have serious negative effect on Lake clarity, which would then affect the economy and Tahoe Basin property values and tax revenues. Area residents have supported the District which currently has a voter approved \$85 per improved and unimproved parcel fire benefit assessment.

May 11, 1998

Board Members: Agenda Item #50

page 2

2. EMS needs are no less serious in the Tahoe Basin than on the Western Slope. This District area approved establishment of a \$24.60 per parcel benefit assessment for EMS with 82% voter support in June, 1997. Meeks Bay Fire District performs the same first responder role as West Slope Fire Districts.
3. Meeks Bay Fire District performs mutual aid with other Basin Districts, in particular, North Tahoe Fire Protection District (Placer County) and the US Forest Service.
4. Inclusion of Meeks Bay would establish County-wide policy consistency on the part of the Board.
5. The first-year cost would be \$23,666, with a third year cost of \$70,998; a spreadsheet is attached.

REQUESTED ACTION:

If the Board proceeds with this policy, make the policy County-wide by allocating \$23,666 in year one to the Meeks Bay Fire District service area for fire and/or EMS needs to be determined.