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JOHN D'AGOSTINI
C.A.O. EL DORADO COUNTY
REPLY TO:

SHERIFF - CORONER - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR
COUNTY OF EL DORADO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MAY 5 11:23

HEADQUARTERS
300 FAIR LANE
PLACERVILLE
CA 95667
530 621-5655
FAX 626-8091

JAIL DIVISION
300 FORNI ROAD
PLACERVILLE
CA 95667
530 621-6000
FAX 626-9472

TAHOE PATROL
1360 JOHNSON BLVD., SUITE 100
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE
CA 96150
530 573-3000
FAX 544-6809

TAHOE JAIL
1051 AL TAHOE BLVD.
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE
CA 96150
530-573-3031
FAX 541-6721

May 5, 2014

Terri Daly, Chief Administrative Officer
El Dorado County
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Ms. Daly

The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (EDCFSC) and the El Dorado County Sheriff (EDSO) have discussed an agreement to evenly split the available Title III funds for the current year and for all subsequent years that funds are available. Previous agreements between the organizations have caused sporadic funding to each organization and, on occasion, have led to contentious public hearings. While judicious management of public funds and transparency in government are paramount, an inordinate amount of staff time and Board of Supervisors agenda have been consumed in the decision making process for a small budget segment.

Per the Federal mandate, Title III funds may be used for three specific purposes: Fire wise activities, reimbursement for search and rescue activities on Federal lands and to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). Fire wise prevention efforts and Community Protection Plans are the basis for receiving grants to create defensible space and protect our citizens and property. In addition, these activities are essential to protect and maintain the natural beauty of our county. Also, the abundance of recreational opportunities attract tourists to our area and it is imperative that we have a robust search and rescue capability that is fully funded to protect visitors to our county and maintain a sound economic base.

While we understand that any Title III funds dedicated to Fire Wise activities such as Fire Safe Council will cause a reduction to search and rescue funding and will need to be offset by general fund so as not to incur a reduction in search and rescue services, we believe the Board of Supervisors understands the necessity of keeping search and rescue fully funded and this offset cost is an appropriate ongoing and limited charge to the county's general fund. An even distribution of the Title III funds would eliminate the peaks and valleys in funding Fire Safe Council and greatly reduce staff and BOS administrative time and apply the funds for their intended use.

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Title III Funds

We request the BOS allocate the available Title III funds per this agreement in the formulation of the budget.

Respectfully submitted,



John D'Agostini
Sheriff ~ Coroner
Public Administrator



Pat Dwyer
Fire Safe Council