



Information and General Services Department

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May 11, 2015

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

MEETING DATE: May 26, 2015

SUBJECT: Proposed Forest Reserve (Title III) spending plans for Forest Reserve Funding in fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

RECOMMENDATION: Designate Firewise Communities Program as the sole spending plan (excluding the cost of public notice) for FY 15-16 and FY 16-17. Direct staff to file notice of a 45-day public comment period and schedule a public hearing on July 14, 2015 for approval of the spending plan.

FUNDING: FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17 Forest Reserve Title III funds. Total funding available is \$24,330.21 in FY 2015-16 and \$23,113.70 in FY 2016-17.

BACKGROUND: The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS Act), was enacted to provide five years of transitional assistance to rural counties affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. SRS funding continued to be extended in subsequent years currently funding through FY 2016-17 but at diminishing levels with significant restrictions. Current funds are from federal FY 2014 and FY 2015, with payments corresponding the County FY 2015-16 and 2016-17. Funds are limited to carrying out the Firewise Communities program and reimbursement of County Search and Rescue efforts on National Forest lands. For the past five years, the County has used all available Title III funds for the Firewise Communities Program delivered by the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County.

To date, the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has helped 13 communities attain and maintain certification as Firewise Communities with four more communities expected to achieve certification in 2015. Three other communities have expressed interest in the Firewise Communities program. The projects proposed by the Fire Safe Council meet the Federal requirements of the Act.

In order to appropriate these funds, the Act requires that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors approve a spending plan and hold a 45-day public comment period. Should the Board approve the spending plan proposed, staff will publish the required 45-day public comment notice, and return to the Board on July 14, 2015 for final approval. Subsequent to your approval, staff will prepare a contract with the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen T. Monaghan
Chief Information Officer