



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO  
Department No.: 012  
For Agenda Of: 4/19/11  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Tme: 40 minutes  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Chandra L. Wallar, County Executive Officer  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, 568.3400  
**SUBJECT:** Community Wildfire Protection Plan Development Process

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form:

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

1. Receive a report on the purpose and development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans
2. Direct County Executive, Fire and Planning and Development Department staff (CWPP Working Group) to develop a county-wide process for the creation, review, approval and monitoring of Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
3. Return to the Board for approval of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Development Process
4. Determine that the development of this draft process is a government administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and therefore is not a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

**Summary Text:**

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) are a significant tool in the protection of the public and property in the wildland-urban interface. CWPPs are created through a collaborative community process that brings together interested parties to perform a community risk assessment, hazard reduction recommendations and action plans. This item is before the Board to direct staff to create a county-wide CWPP Development Process and Guidelines, and then return to the Board for approval and implementation.

**Background:**

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 encourages the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to give consideration to the priorities established by the local community as they develop and implement forest management and hazardous fuel reduction projects. The local community priorities are established through the process of developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP.) Private landowners, residents, community-based organizations, along with local, state and

federal land management and fire district staff, develop CWPPs to assess fire risks, recommend hazard reduction priorities and create action plans that implement and monitor established priorities. These plans will be community-specific and responsive to the applicable land use and environmental regulations. The Board of Supervisors plays a critical role in the final approval of the CWPPs to improve plan consistency and to communicate their adoption to the public. This Board action will direct County of Santa Barbara staff to develop a consistent process for creating, reviewing, approving and monitoring these CWPPs.

Successful CWPPs will require broad understanding of hazard assessment and mitigation, relevant land use and environmental review policies. These issues can be highly complex and technical. The CWPP Working Group will develop a set of processes, guidelines, templates, timelines and a catalog of best practices that communities will use to keep focused on a successful process and CWPP. These CWPP Development tools will assist in creating consistent CWPPs that can be easily evaluated and then approved by the Board of Supervisors.

In sixty days, the CWPP Working Group will return for approval by the Board of Supervisors a:

- Standard process for developing, approving, implementing, monitoring and evaluating plans,
- Guidelines, format and content descriptions for hazard assessment, environmental review and CWPP approval
- Plan for distributing the CWPP Development Tools to interested stakeholders.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Staff time from Fire, Planning and Development and the County Executive Office will be needed for the CWPP Working Group. Total staff hours are likely to be in the 100-150 hour range to deliver the process, guidelines, development tools and distribution plan to the Board of Supervisors in sixty days.

**Staffing Impacts:**

This project will require the use of existing staff.

**Attachment:**

Attachment 1 – Santa Barbara County CWPP Development Process – Draft

Attachment 2 – CWPP Handbook

**cc:** Michael W. Dyer, Fire Chief  
Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development