



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: Fire  
Department No.: 031  
For Agenda Of: August 9, 2011  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Michael W. Dyer, Fire Chief x5500  
Director  
Contact Info: Christian J. Hahn, Deputy Fire Chief x5500

**SUBJECT: Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between Santa Barbara County Fire Department and Los Padres National Forest**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Santa Barbara County Fire Chief to:

1. Execute a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between the Santa Barbara County Fire Department and the USDA Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest, and to
2. Annually update the Annual Operating Plan for the said agreement.

**Summary Text:**

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide for cooperation in the prevention, detection and suppression of wildland fires within the protection areas of the County Fire Department and the Los Padres National Forest. Efficient suppression of fires depends on early detection and fast initial attack, and due to topography, fuel, weather and accessibility, it is imperative that immediate action be taken by the nearest suppression force. Therefore, it is mutually advantageous, and in the public interest, for the parties to coordinate their efforts in the prevention, detection, and suppression of wildfires in and adjacent to their areas of responsibility. It is also mutually advantageous for both parties to provide support and participate in non-fire emergencies of national scope.

The language in the current agreement has been updated and this action will allow the Fire Chief to implement the updated Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement for a five (5) year period.

**Background:** The Santa Barbara County Fire Department and the Los Padres National Forest have a long history of cooperative fire protection in Santa Barbara County and have successfully worked side by side over the years on many major wildland fires. Both agencies have recognized the mutual benefits of working together to protect Santa Barbara County's citizens, visitors and natural resources. This agreement formalizes the cooperative arrangement and provides the framework for operational and financial considerations.

As part of this Agreement, County Fire and Los Padres National Forest personnel annually review and coordinate operational response levels, dispatching procedures, communication plans, protection area maps, equipment and personnel availability, billing procedures and any other items necessary for efficient and safe operations.

The Agreement also provides for cooperation in fuels treatments and prescribed burning.

**Fiscal Impacts:**

Actual revenues and expenditures will be dependent upon fire activity during the course of the agreement.

**Special Instructions:**

Please send a certified copy of the minute order to Santa Barbara County Fire Department, attention Rose Pueschel.

**Attachments:**

Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement