



PLANNING DIVISION  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

## COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

3015 H STREET

EUREKA, CALIF. 95501-4484 PHONE (707) 445-7541

DATE November 30, 2004  
TO: Humboldt County Fire Safe Council  
FROM: Kirk Gothier, Assistant Planning Director  
SUBJECT: Agenda and Staff Reports for FSC Meeting of December 7, 2004

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### AGENDA Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting

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**Tuesday, December 7, 2004**

**Time: 1 to 4:00 P.M.**

**Location: USFS Six Rivers National Forest, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka**

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- 1. Call to Order and Introductions (1:00 – 1:10 PM)**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from 11/8/04 FSC Meeting (1:10 – 1:15 PM)**
- 3. Public Comments (1:15 – 1:30 PM)**
- 4. Review Brown Act Summary (1:30 – 1:40 PM)**
- 5. Fire Planning Funding and Work Products (1:40 – 2:00 PM)**
  - Review Funding and Products to Date
  - Review Future Funding Prospects
- 6. Letters of Support for National Fire Plan Grants- (2:00 – 2:30 PM)**
  - Review National Fire Plan Grant Program
  - Determine if FSC will prepare letters of support for Grant applicants
  - Establish criteria and process for letters of support
- BREAK (2:30 – 2:45 PM)**
- 7. Formation of County Service Area (2:45 – 3:30 PM)**
  - Identify Possible Range of Services
  - Select Working Group to Research Alternatives
- 8. Review Chapters 6 & 7 of Master Fire Protection Plan (3:30 – 3:55 PM)**
- 9. Set Next Meeting – Date and Time (3:55 – 4:00 PM)**

**AGENDA ITEM 2**  
**Meeting Summary (Action Minutes)**  
**Humboldt County Fire Safe Council**  
**November 8, 2004**

The tenth meeting of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (FSC) was held on November 8, 2004, from 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M., at the U.S. Forest Service Six Rivers National Forest conference room, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, California. The FSC was appointed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to guide preparation and implementation of the County Master Fire Protection Plan (Fire Plan).

**Fire Safe Council Members Attending:**

Kevin O'Neil, Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Division Chief, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit  
Kirk Gothier, Humboldt County Community Development Services, Assistant Planning Director  
Glenn Ziemer, Humboldt Fire District #1, Fire Chief  
Ian Sigman, Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company Chief and Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council  
Dave White, Arcata Fire Department Chief and Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association Representative  
Will Harling, Orleans/Somers Bar Fire Safe Council and Orleans Fire & Rescue  
Debra Lake, Fruitland Volunteer Fire Department, Board Chair  
Lucy Salazar, USFS, Six Rivers National Forest, Vegetation Management & Air Coordinator  
Dan Larkin, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services  
Peter Tittmann, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council  
Manny Mello, Northwest Insurance  
Tim Jones, BLM Fire Management Officer

**Public and Agency Representatives Attending:**

Tracy Katelman, ForeverGreen Forestry and the Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council  
Ben Riggan, Program Director for Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council  
Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County Community Development Services, Planning  
George Duffy Bridgeville (Van Duzen FSC)  
Steve Hartman, CDF  
Jim Moranda, CDF  
Kim Price, CDF  
Kent, Swartzlanger, USFS – SRF  
Mary Commins, Humboldt County Community Development Services, Planning

**Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M. by the Fire Safe Council Chair, Kevin O'Neil and self introductions were made by the Council members and the audience.

## **Agenda Item 2: Extension of Fire Safe Council (FSC)**

### **Discussion:**

Kirk Gothier welcomed the continuing and new FSC Members, reviewed the Resolution continuing the FSC, explained that it was necessary to designate a Chair and Vice-Chair for the continued FSC, and asked the FSC members to agree on meeting procedures. Kirk summarized Brown Act requirements and agreed to bring a written summary of the Act to the next FSC meeting.

### **Actions:**

- Designating a Chair and Vice-Chair – Unanimous vote for Kevin O’Neil to continue as Chair and Will Harling to continue as Vice-Chair.
- Meeting procedures – On a motion by Dave White, with a second from Tim Jones, the FSC approved the following meeting procedures:
  1. Chair and Planning staff prepare a meeting agenda per FSC direction. FSC members can request that the Chair add items to the agenda up to 10 days prior to the next FSC meeting.
  2. Chair calls the meeting to order and secures agreement from all present to follow the agenda, work towards consensus, encourage comments, speak one at a time, and respect agenda items and timeframes. Chair serves as facilitator.
  3. Chair calls for a motion, second and vote by a quorum of the FSC (7 or more members) for any Council action.
  4. Public Input on agenda items allowed as determined by the Chair and FSC members present. The agenda shall include a time for public comment.
  5. Planning staff prepares action minutes for review and approval of the FSC at a subsequent meeting.

## **Agenda Item 3: Review of the Community Outreach Program**

### **Discussion:**

Cybelle Immitt and Tracy Katleman described the feedback and data being collected as part of the community outreach program. They directed the FSC members present to review the display maps around the meeting room during break. Based on comments from the FSC members present, staff agreed to:

- Set up a meeting with the “Urban” Fire Chiefs to discuss changes to the Agenda so that it is a better fit for the urban issues.
- Work with the Fire Chiefs to design a publicity campaign, possibly utilizing Television coverage to get more community members to the winter Community Fire Planning Meetings.
- Make more of an effort to tailor each meeting to the location in which it is being held.

#### **Agenda Item 4: FSC Work Program for Remainder of Fiscal Year 2004-05**

##### **Discussion:**

Kirk Gothier summarized the draft work program in Attachment 4-1 and discussed several modifications with the FSC members present. Kirk summarized the budget and funding to date on the fire planning effort and agreed to bring a written budget summary for this fiscal year, along with a summary of related funding in the Office of Emergency Services, to the next FSC meeting.

Other items discussed included:

- Consider including in the plan an analysis of the amount of money lost/ac if timberland is lost in a wildfire. Need to quantify the potential loss in revenue. This information could be used to make an argument for Countywide CSA and support of rural fire service.
- Fire safe ordinance needs to be updated (may be able to be incorporated into one of the recommendations)
- Insurance section re-write – May want to create a recommendation and prioritize it around this issue.

##### **Actions:**

On a motion by Glenn Ziemer, with a second from Tim Jones, the FSC approved the tentative work program with the following revisions:

- Update the MFPP summary as well as the executive summary.
- Make corrections to the section in Chapter 4 on ISO.

Staff also agreed to Email chapters 6 and 7 to FSC members so they can begin their thorough review to prepare for the next meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Review HR 2389 Funding for Local Projects**

##### **Discussion:**

Kirk Gothier gave an overview of the suggestions made by the Fire Safe Council during the previous meeting as to what criteria should be used to rank applications for the HR 2389 funds. Kirk explained that no decision had been made due to a lack of quorum and asked the Council to propose and come to agreement on criteria.

Other items discussed included:

- Orleans/Somes Bar FSC has had a hard time getting planning money so looking for funding to do some of their planning. Fire Departments may use money to go door to door surveying people about fire safety (similar to Trinity Co. Big Red Truck program).

- There was some discussion on whether the title III funding is being used appropriately. There was some confusion around whether or not activities could be funded that were not adjacent to federal lands. Language in the HR 2389 Implementation Guidelines was pointed out that indicated that expenditures of funds for education and planning are not restricted to areas adjacent to federal lands.

**Actions:**

On a motion by Tim Jones, with a second from Glenn Ziemer, the FSC recommended the following ranking criteria:

**Projects will rank higher if they**

- Comply with the requirements of Title III.
- Are consistent with the recommendations (chapter 5) in the consultant's draft of the MFPP.
- Have a funding Cap of \$15,000 for FSCs and \$10,000 for fire departments and are achievable within a year of receipt of funding bearing extenuating circumstances.
- Place priority on rural areas (population based)
- Support existing Fire Departments or FSCs, or the formation of a new FSC.
- Include fiscal accountability, with a line item for reporting project results.
- Where applicable, demonstrate coordination between local fire departments and FSCs.
- Strive to increase level of community participation in FSCs and Fire Departments.

**Agenda Item 6: Set Next Meeting – Date and Time**

Items to include in the December agenda:

- Determine if the FSC will sign letters of support for applicants to the State Grants Clearinghouse for National Fire Plan moneys. Applications have to be submitted in February.
- A fiscal discussion to get a realistic picture of how much we have spent on what activities and how much we have to work with.

There was some discussion on the best time to have the meeting: evening meetings were ruled out by the majority of the Council members.

The next meeting will be held at the U.S. Forest Service Six Rivers National Forest conference room on **December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004.**

**Adjournment**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:30 P.M.

**AGENDA ITEM 4**  
**For Meeting of December 7, 2004**

DATE: November 19, 2004  
TO: Humboldt County Fire Safe Council  
FROM: Kirk Gothier, Assistant Planning Director  
SUBJECT: Summary of the Brown Act

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**Recommendation**

Receive a Summary of the Brown Act.

**Background**

At the November 8, 2004 FSC meeting, Planning Staff agreed to prepare a summary of the Brown Act for the next FSC meeting.

**Discussion**

Attachment 4-1 includes the California Attorney General's summary of the Brown Act.

**Attachments**

Attachment 4-1: Summary of Brown Act

**Attachment 4-1**  
Summary of the Brown Act

## Ralph M. Brown Act: Attorney General's Guide

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### INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet concerns the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act, which governs open meetings for local government bodies. The Brown Act is contained in section 54950 et seq. of the Government Code, and accordingly, all statutory references in this pamphlet are to the Government Code unless otherwise noted.

The pamphlet contains a table of contents, which may also serve as a topical outline for the reader. The pamphlet also includes a brief summary of the main provisions of the Brown Act, along with references to the appropriate Government Code sections and chapters of the text. The text includes a discussion of the law along with tips on how the law should be applied in particular situations. Numerous references are made to legal authorities throughout the text. A copy of the Brown Act in its entirety is set forth in the appendix to the pamphlet. Lastly, the pamphlet contains a table of authorities so that the reader can determine all of the places in the text where references are made to a particular authority.

In preparing this pamphlet, we relied on a variety of legal resources. Appellate court cases were consulted and are cited throughout the pamphlet. While most of the more significant cases are discussed, this pamphlet is not intended to be a compendium of all court cases in this area. In addition, we drew upon published opinions and unpublished letter opinions issued by this office. Attorney General opinions, unlike appellate court decisions, are advisory only and do not constitute the law of the state. However, in some instances, the courts have adopted the analysis of Attorney General opinions, and for that reason, we believe that these opinions may be helpful in interpreting the Brown Act. Published opinions are cited by volume and page number (e.g., 32 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 240 (1958)). Unpublished letter opinions are cited as indexed letters by year and page number (e.g., I.L. 76-201). Published opinions are available through law libraries and some attorneys' offices. As a general rule, indexed letters are available only in the Office of the Attorney General. Copies may be obtained by a request to the Public Inquiry Unit of the Office of the Attorney General.

If you have specific questions or problems, the statutes, cases and opinions should be consulted. You also may wish to refer the matter to the attorney for the agency in question, a private attorney or the district attorney.

The pamphlet is current through May 1994 with respect to statutes, case law, and Attorney General opinions.

## SUMMARY OF BROWN ACT

### Coverage:

#### GOVERNING BODIES:

Includes city councils, boards of supervisors, and district boards. Also covered are other legislative bodies of local government agencies created by state or federal law.

#### SUBSIDIARY BODIES:

Includes boards or commissions of a local government agency as well as standing committees of a legislative body. A standing committee has continuing subject matter jurisdiction or a meeting schedule set by its parent body. Less-than-a-quorum advisory committees, other than standing committees, are exempt.

#### PRIVATE CORPORATIONS OR ENTITIES:

Covered only if:

- (1) A legislative body delegates some of its functions to a private corporation or entity; or
- (2) If a legislative body provides some funding to a private corporation or entity and appoints one of its members to serve in official capacity on entity's board of directors.

### Meeting Defined

#### *INCLUDES:*

Any gathering of a quorum of a legislative body to discuss or transact business under the body's jurisdiction; serial meetings are prohibited.

#### *EXEMPTS:*

- (1) Individual contacts between board members and others which do not constitute serial meetings;
- (2) Attendance at conferences and meetings which are open to public so long as members of legislative bodies do not discuss amongst themselves business of a specific nature under the body's jurisdiction;
- (3) Attendance at social or ceremonial events where no business of the body is discussed.

## Locations of Meetings

A body must conduct its meetings within the boundaries of its jurisdiction unless it qualifies for a specific exemption.

## Public Rights

### *PUBLIC TESTIMONY:*

Public may comment on agenda items before or during consideration by legislative body. Time must be set aside for public to comment on any other matters under the body's jurisdiction.

### *TAPING OR BROADCASTING:*

Meetings may be broadcast, audio-recorded or video-recorded so long as the activity *does not constitute a disruption of the proceeding.*

### *CONDITIONS TO ATTENDANCE:*

Public may not be asked to register or identify themselves or to pay fees in order to attend public meetings.

## Public Records

Materials provided to a majority of a body which are not exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act must be provided, upon request, to members of the public without delay.

## Required Notices and Agendas

### *REGULAR MEETINGS:*

Agenda containing brief general description (approximately twenty words in length) of each matter to be considered or discussed must be posted at least 72 hours prior to meeting.

### *SPECIAL MEETINGS:*

Twenty-four hour notice must be provided to members of legislative body and media outlets including brief general description of matters to be considered or discussed.

*EMERGENCY MEETINGS:*

One hour notice in case of work stoppage or crippling disaster.

*CLOSED SESSION AGENDAS:*

All items to be considered in closed session must be described in the notice or agenda for the meeting. A model format for closed-session agendas appears in section 54954.5. Prior to each closed session, the body must andorally announce the subject matter of the closed session. If final action is taken in closed session, the body generally must report the action at the conclusion of the closed session.

*AGENDA EXCEPTION:*

Special procedures permit a body to proceed without an agenda in the case of emergency circumstances, or where a need for immediate action came to the attention of the body after posting of the agenda.

## Closed-Session Meetings

*PERSONNEL EXEMPTION:*

The body may conduct a closed session to consider appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, discipline or dismissal of an employee. With respect to complaints or charges against an employee, the employee must be notified, at least 24 hours in advance, of his or her right to have the hearing conducted in public.

*PENDING LITIGATION:*

A body may meet in closed session to receive advice from its legal counsel concerning existing litigation, initiating litigation, or situations involving a significant exposure to litigation. The circumstances which constitute significant exposure to litigation are expressly defined in section 54956.9(b)(3).

*LABOR NEGOTIATIONS:*

A body may meet in closed session with its negotiator to consider labor negotiations with represented and unrepresented employees. Issues related to budgets and available funds may be considered in closed session, although final decisions concerning salaries of unrepresented employees must be made in public.

*REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS:*

A body may meet in closed session to consider price and terms of payment in connection with the purchase, sale, exchange or lease of real property

## Remedies and Sanctions

### *CIVIL REMEDIES:*

Individuals or the district attorney may file civil lawsuits for injunctive, mandatory or declaratory relief, or to void action taken in violation of the Act. Attorneys' fees are available to prevailing plaintiffs.

### *CRIMINAL SANCTIONS:*

The district attorney may seek misdemeanor penalties against a member of a body who attends a meeting where action is taken in violation of the Act, and where the member intended to deprive the public of information which the member knew or has reason to know the public was entitled to receive.

**AGENDA ITEM 5**  
**For Meeting of December 7, 2004**

DATE: November 19, 2004  
TO: Humboldt County Fire Safe Council  
FROM: Kirk Gothier, Assistant Planning Director  
SUBJECT: Fire Planning Funding and Work Products

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**Recommendation**

Receive a report on fire planning funding and work products.

**Background**

On October 30, 2000, Public Law 106-393 (HR 2389, "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000") was signed into law. This Act "decoupled" federal revenue sharing from forestry receipts and provided rural counties an increased and predictable level of funding for local schools and roads by providing fund above current federal forest reserve payments for a five year period.

HR2389 has three parts, Title I, II, and III. Under Title I of the Act, 80 - 85% of each annual payment is to be allocated to schools and roads, split 50/50, as it was under prior law. The remaining 15 – 20% of the funds can be spent in two possible ways, either under Title II – Special Projects on Federal Lands, or under Title III – County Projects. Title II is for projects done on federal forest lands, and requires the formation of a Resource Advisory Committee to review project proposals. The County has opted to use the 15% reserve for Title III projects.

Title III is for County projects which fall under one of the six project categories:

- 1) Search & Rescue and Other Emergency Services, performed on federal forest lands.
- 2) Community Service Work Camps, for services performed on federal forest lands.
- 3) Easement Purchases, either for non-motorized access to public lands or for conservation easements.
- 4) Forest Related Education, for forest-related after school programs.
- 5) Fire Prevention and County Planning, for homeowner education in fire sensitive areas, and for planning efforts adjacent to federal forest lands and for wildfire planning.
- 6) Community Forestry – 'towards non-federal cost-share requirements of section 9 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 USC 2105)'.

Approximately \$2 million is allocated annually under this program to Humboldt County. The 15% reserve represents about \$305,000 per year; the balance of 85% is shared equally between Humboldt County Schools and Humboldt County Roads.

The County Board of Supervisors must notify the USDA Forest Service of the annual reserve election no later than September 30 of each year, but can elect to modify the reserve allocation anywhere from 15% to 20%. The distribution of the reserve funds between Title II and Title III is at the discretion of the Board. If no Title II project funds are allocated, there is no need to form a Resource Advisory Committee.

Payments under the Act were authorized for a five year period, with the last payment being made in FY 2005-06. Projects under Title II and III must be initiated by September 30, 2006. Title II monies not obligated by September 30, 2007 shall be returned to the US Treasury. Title III monies not obligated by September 30, 2007 “shall be available to be expended by the county for the uses identified in section 302(b).” (Section 302(b) are the Title III listed uses.)

The Board of Supervisors elected to reserve 15% for Title III projects in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004. The Board has one more payment option to make under the current statute, in September, 2005.

### **Discussion**

In May of 2001, the Board reviewed and approved an initial list of Title III County Projects. The projects included:

- |  |                 |           |
|--|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. Preparation of a Master Fire Protection Plan        | 3 year budget = | \$368,000 |
| 2. Sheriff’s Search & Rescue Reimbursement             | 5 year budget = | \$46,425  |
| 3. Juvenile Assigned Work Service (JAWS)               | 5 year budget = | \$224,307 |
| 4. Probation Environmental Preservation Project (PEPP) | 5 year budget = | \$294,729 |

### **History of the work that has been done to date on the Master Fire Protection Plan program:**

#### **2002**

**September 4, 2002** – Planwest Partners was selected as the consultant to prepare the Master Fire Protection Plan. This work was budgeted for \$146,725. Research and development of the Plan commenced.

**November 12, 2002** – The Board of Supervisors approved the formation of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council.

#### **2003**

The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council met on a regular basis with Planning staff and Planwest Partners and the development of the draft Fire Plan progressed.

## **2004**

**March, 2004** – An administrative draft of the Master Fire Protection plan was submitted by Planwest Partners to County Planning staff. Planning staff proceeded to review and work with the consultant to make revisions to the draft.

**April 27, 2004** - The Board of Supervisors received a progress report on the preparation of the Master Fire Protection Plan. It was reported that, of the \$368,000 initially earmarked for this work, \$146,725 in a consultant contract and approximately \$67,048 in staff and other expenses had been incurred to produce a draft of the Fire Plan and the initial risk assessment. This left an un-obligated balance of approximately \$154,227. Work that remained under the Fire Plan program as initially proposed included, a detailed rural road inventory and fire access route mapping (\$66,000) and Community Level Fire Planning (\$78,000). The balance of the un-obligated funding is being used for continuing Fire Plan revisions and printing support for local Fire Safe Councils and fire departments (\$10,227).

In April the Board of Supervisors also approved a list of new County projects for approximately \$600,000 in unallocated remaining funds available for Title III (or Title II) projects and authorized staff to publish public notice for a public review period.

**June 22, 2004** – The Board of Supervisors approved a contract with Tracy Katelman to assist with the community level fire planning component of the Master Fire Protection Plan process. Funding for Katelman's \$24,000 contract came out of the \$78,000 allocated for this purpose. Planning for community fire meetings began.

**July 13, 2004** – The Board of Supervisors approved the list of Title III project allocations that had been revised based on public input. Attachment 4-1 includes this final report to the Board of Supervisors with the revised Title III funding allocations.

**August 2, 2004** – A Fire Safe Council draft of the Fire Plan was presented to the Council for review. Subsequently, a Consultant's draft of the plan was published to the County website reflecting the revisions suggested at the August Fire Safe Council meeting. Future Fire Plan revision sessions would be needed to produce a final draft of the document.

**September 2004** – Community outreach program began with a series of Community Fire Planning meetings. 28 community meetings were planned throughout the County through the month of March.

**November 8, 2004** – County Planning Staff worked with the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) to develop a set of criteria to be used for the prioritization of funding proposals for Title III monies (See meeting Summary). The HCFSC requested a summary of the fire planning products that have been completed to date as part of preparing the Master Fire Protection Plan. This summary can be found in Attachment 4-2.

**December, 2004** – A call for applications for Title III grant funding is planned to be published in the local media and circulated through current fire planning email lists. These applications will be submitted for the funding categories listed below:

- **Fire District & Department Funding Assistance** - A funding pool for Fire Districts and Fire Departments to carry out projects identified in the draft Fire Plan and which are consistent with Title III allowed uses (\$95,000).
- **Local Fire Safe Councils Fire Planning & Education** - A funding pool for Fire Safe Councils in the County to carry out projects identified in the draft Fire Plan that are consistent with Title III allowed uses (\$75,000).

**On-Going Work** – County Planning and consultant staff have maintained communication with the Fire Protection Districts and non-district fire departments to fine-tune the fire protection capability mapping for Humboldt County. County Planning staff has been working with Fire District personnel to check and digitize district boundaries.

**Future of Title III funding** - The availability of Title III funding is the result of an experimental program, the success of which will be reviewed by Congress in October of 2006. A variety of studies and County accountability inventories have been initiated to gather information that can be used by Congress to determine if the program has been a success. Humboldt County has contributed information to these efforts and is considering more active involvement in the effort to encourage the extension of this legislation.

**Attachments:**

Attachment 5-1: Summary of Work Products

Attachment 5-2: Final report to the Board of Supervisors with the revised Title III funding allocations.

## **Attachment 5-1: Summary of Work Products**

### **County Fire Planning Products**

#### **1. A Draft of the Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan**

This plan can:

- Act as a guide for the implementation of the Fire Safe Council's recommendations for making Humboldt County less vulnerable to fire.
- Contribute to the Hazard Element of the updated Humboldt County General Plan and the fire element of the County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Help local FSCs and Fire Departments qualify for grant funding through the National Fire Plan by documenting community support for a variety of fire safety activities.
- Help qualify Humboldt County and local FSCs for funding through the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA). HFRA requires:
  - Collaboration (state, federal and local government and other interested parties) which we did.
  - Prioritized Fuel Reduction (which we are doing at the Community Fire Planning Meetings).
  - Treatment of Structural Ignitability, which means that the Fire Plan must recommend measures to homeowners that they can use to reduce the ignitability of the structures in the area addressed by the Fire Plan. (We may need to add some of this to our plan and we are presenting this kind of information at our community meetings.)

#### **2. GIS data and maps of fire department response capabilities (fire protection infrastructure, access impediments, response areas and response times).**

This data can be used by fire protection service providers for ISO rating evaluations, for community education, and for the development of Fire Protection District Municipal Service Reviews. This data illustrates service gaps and, combined with illustrations of high hazard areas, can be used to plan for the appropriate location of new facilities and/or the expansion of existing services.

#### **3. Digitized inventory of precise Fire Protection District jurisdictional boundaries.**

#### **4. GIS data and maps identifying fire risks and hazards, community resources at risk, and potential mitigation projects.**

This data, which has been and will continue to be collected as part of the community outreach program, can be used by communities to draft their own local wildfire protection plans and can help them capture funding through the National Fire Plan and other funding sources.

#### **5. Digitized road name and location corrections.**

This data can be incorporated into the County GIS database contributing to a countywide rural roads inventory and fire access route identification program.

**6. Wildfire protection project lists created through community process.**

This can be used by local FSCs and community groups to apply for National Fire Plan funding.

**7. Survey data on the service capabilities of Fire Protection Districts and non-district fire departments.**

This information can be used to help Fire Districts draft their Municipal Service Reviews. The data can also be used as a starting point from which the Fire Safe Council can move forward on many of the implementation measures in the Fire Plan.

**Attachment 5-2**

**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

For Meeting of July 13, 2004

DATE: July 5, 2004  
TO: Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Kirk Girard, Director of Community Development Services  
SUBJECT: HR 2389 – Forest Service Funding for Local Projects

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive the staff report.
2. Receive public comment.
3. Approve revised HR2389 Title III funding allocations as shown in Attachment 1b.
4. Direct staff to report back to the Board if any program changes are necessary as a result of Six Rivers National Forest oversight review.

Prepared by: Tom Hofweber and Kirk Girard

CAO Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW:  
 Auditor \_\_\_\_\_ County Counsel \_\_\_\_\_ Personnel \_\_\_\_\_ Risk Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ITEM: cc:

- Consent
- Departmental
- Public Hearing
- Other

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL  
Board Item No. F-1  
Meeting 4/27/2004

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT  
 Upon the motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_  
 seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_  
 and unanimously carried by those members present,  
 the Board hereby adopts the recommended action  
 contained in this report.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lora Canzoneri, Clerk of the Board

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

**DISCUSSION**

On April 27, 2004 your Board approved preliminary HR - 2389 Title III funding allocations. As required by law, a 45-day public review period ensued. This item discusses the public comments received during the public review period and recommends that the Board approve revised allocations. This item also requests that the Board approve a specific project proposal to establish a summer youth education and training program to develop fuels reduction and thinning crew capability.

Staff received letters of comment regarding the proposed Title III funding allocations. Among the suggestions in the letters were to adjust the proposed allocations to accommodate an additional project category and to modify the amount of funding received by some of the project categories listed in the public notice (see Attachment 2).

On the basis of this input staff is recommending the following changes in funding allocations:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Proposed Amount (April 27, 2004)</b>	<b>Current Recommendation</b>	<b>Change</b>
➤ Fire District & Department Funding Assistance	\$100,000	\$95,000	-\$5,000
➤ California Conservation Corps Fire Prevention Training Program	\$0.00	\$20,000	+\$20,000
➤ Fire District Master Service Element Assistance	\$30,000	\$25,000	-\$5,000
➤ Local Fire Safe Councils Fire Planning & Education	\$50,000	\$75,000	+\$25,000
➤ Fire Assessment District Formation Assistance	\$100,000	\$95,000	-\$5,000
➤ Emergency Services Addressing System Improvements	\$40,000	\$35,000	-\$5,000
➤ General Plan Policy & Ordinance Integration	\$30,000	\$25,000	-\$5,000
➤ Recreational and Conservation Easement Program	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$230,000</u>	<u>-\$20,000</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b><u>\$600,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$600,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>

Staff recommends increasing the funding for Fire Safe Council Planning and Education initiatives because Fire Safe Councils are a critical component of wildland fire prevention, particularly in rural areas adjacent to public lands. The value of Fire Safe Councils was emphasized repeatedly in the comments received.

Staff also recommends funding for an innovative education and training program sponsored by the California Conservation Corp (CCC). The proposed project will train 8-12 youth that have participated in programs sponsored by the Local Workforce Area Youth Council to conduct fuel reduction and fire prevention activities. The youth will be supervised and trained by the CCC. The California Department of Forestry (CDF) will provide fuel thinning and fire risk reduction work prescriptions and the Humboldt Regional Occupation Program (HROP) will oversee the fire prevention education and training curriculum. This program is being operated as a training pilot in the hope that sustainable funding can be identified in subsequent years for CCC supervised and HROP trained youth crews. The youth crews will be available to work on priority fuel reduction projects identified by Fire Safe Councils, Fire Departments and CDF and at the same time receive occupational training that will enable them to secure positions in the fast growing wildland fire prevention field.

These recommendations necessitated \$5,000 reductions in funding for Fire District and Department Funding Assistance, Fire Assessment District Formation Assistance, Fire District Master Service Element Assistance, Emergency Services Addressing System Improvements, General Plan Policy & Ordinance Integration programs and a \$20,000 reduction in the Recreational and Conservation Easement Program. The proposed reductions will not jeopardize the stated objectives of these programs.

Taking the recommended action will make the program monies available to eligible entities. Staff, in conjunction with the County Fire Safe Council, will develop an application process for project funding.

**FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

Funds for these programs come from the US Forest Service. These programs will have a net positive financial impact for the County and other program recipients. The proposed changes in funding levels will not impact the Department's adopted FY 2004-2005 budget but could impact future year funding.

**ALTERNATIVES**

The Board has numerous alternatives available associated with these program monies. These include adjusting the dollar amounts associated with the various components, adding or deleting components, or soliciting additional input for program proposals. As long as the eligibility criteria and regulations are followed, the Board has the discretion over what projects are funded.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**

Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF) has oversight of the program and must approve of the projects proposed. The projects were noticed for a 45 day public comment period prior to approval. If the Board directs, other local agencies can be involved in project review and/or submittal.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1a: Preliminary Staff Recommendations (April 27, 2004) HR- 2389 Title III Allocations
- Attachment 1b: Final Staff Recommendations

**ATTACHMENT 1a:  
Preliminary Staff Recommendations (April 27, 2004) HR2389 Title III Allocations**

**Fire Plan Implementation Programs **\$350,000:****

**Fire District & Department Funding Assistance \$100,000**

A funding pool for Fire Districts and Fire Departments to carry out projects identified in the draft Fire Plan and which are consistent with Title III allowed uses. See Attachment 2 for possible projects.

**Fire District Master Service Element assistance \$30,000**

This project will help fund Planning Division work on updating the master service elements and sphere of influence reports.

**Local Fire Safe Councils Fire planning & education \$50,000**

A funding pool for Fire Safe Councils in the County to carry out projects identified in the draft Fire Plan which are consistent with Title III allowed uses. See Attachment 2 for possible projects.

**Fire Assessment District formation assistance \$100,000**

This will fund consulting services and Planning Division costs to perform assessment engineering and other work required for assessment district formations and fee calculations.

**Emergency services addressing system improvements \$40,000**

This will fund Planning Division work with emergency responders including the Sheriff, CDF, fire agencies to upgrade emergency response road addressing system information.

**General Plan policy & ordinance integration \$30,000**

This will fund Planning Division work to integrate the relevant findings and recommendations of the Fire Plan into the General Plan and land use development code.

**2. Recreational and Conservation Easement Program **\$250,000:****

This program will utilize an extra help part time planner (\$50,000 over a 2 year period) to manage a conservation and access easement program, and establish a funding pool of \$200,000 for both in-house and land trust project assistance. Funding assistance would be provided for costs associated with acquiring easements including: appraisal costs, legal fees, recording fees, preparation and planning costs, and easement purchases (suggested 20% maximum contribution) for non-County initiated projects.

In-house programs could include funding for: California Land Conservation (Williamson Act) contract fee assistance, river and other access easements, conservation easements for riparian and other sensitive areas, and pursuing State funded conservation easement opportunities.

These programs could provide key implementation of a proactive approach to land conservation that has been a repeated topic of discussion in the General Plan Update meetings.

**ATTACHMENT 1b: Final Staff Recommendations  
HR2389 Title III Allocations**

**Fire Plan Implementation Programs **\$370,000:****  
**Fire District & Department Funding Assistance \$95,000**

A funding pool for Fire Districts and Fire Departments to carry out projects identified in the draft Fire Plan and which are consistent with Title III allowed uses.

**California Conservation Corps Fire Prevention Training Program \$20,000**

The proposed pilot program will provide occupational training to 8 to 12 youth between the ages of 16 and 21 to conduct fuel reduction and fire prevention activities. The program will be jointly administered by the CCC, CDF, and HROP.

**Fire District Master Service Element Assistance \$25,000**

This project will help fund Planning Division work on updating the master service elements and sphere of influence reports.

**Local Fire Safe Councils Fire Planning & Education \$75,000**

A funding pool for Fire Safe Councils in the County to carry out projects identified in the draft Fire Plan which are consistent with Title III allowed uses. See Attachment 2 for possible projects.

**Fire Assessment District Formation Assistance \$95,000**

This will fund consulting services and Planning Division costs to perform assessment engineering and other work required for assessment district formations and fee calculations.

**Emergency Services Addressing System Improvements \$35,000**

This will fund Planning Division work with emergency responders including the Sheriff, CDF, fire agencies to upgrade emergency response road addressing system information.

**General Plan Policy & Ordinance Integration \$25,000**

This will fund Planning Division work to integrate the relevant findings and recommendations of the Fire Plan into the General Plan and land use development code.

**2. Recreational and Conservation Easement Program **\$230,000:****

This program will utilize an extra help part time planner (\$50,000 over a 2 year period) to manage a conservation and access easement program, and establish a funding pool of \$180,000 for both in-house and land trust project assistance. Funding assistance would be provided for costs associated with acquiring easements including: appraisal costs, legal fees, recording fees, preparation and planning costs, and easement purchases (suggested 20% maximum contribution) for non-County initiated projects.

In-house programs could include funding for: California Land Conservation (Williamson Act) contract fee assistance, river and other access easements, conservation easements for riparian and other sensitive areas, and pursuing State funded conservation easement opportunities. These programs could provide key implementation of a proactive approach to land conservation that has been a repeated topic of discussion in the General Plan Update meetings.

**AGENDA ITEM 6**  
**For Meeting of December 7, 2004**

DATE: November 19, 2004  
TO: Humboldt County Fire Safe Council  
FROM: Kirk Gothier, Assistant Planning Director  
SUBJECT: Letters of Support for National Fire Plan Grants

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**Recommendation**

Agree that the FSC will prepare letters of support for grant applicants to the grants clearinghouse.

**Background**

“The grants clearinghouse at [www.grants.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.grants.firesafecouncil.org) is an online grants application process. The clearinghouse is a one-stop shop that simplifies the process of finding and applying for grants to improve California's community wildfire preparedness.

The California Fire Alliance, through grants to the California Fire Safe Council, spearheaded the clearinghouse to help achieve the goals of the National Fire Plan by facilitating an open, collaborative process for grant funding. It expands the playing field to more organizations by making it easier to find and apply for grants. It increases collaboration among agencies by sharing information and facilitating planning across agency boundaries. This will better demonstrate to Congress California’s needs and accomplishments.”<sup>1</sup>

Entities eligible to apply for grant funding through the clearinghouse are organizations working in California and representing their communities: State, County, Municipal, Interstate, Inter-municipal, Special District, Independent School District, State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning, Private University, Native American Tribe, Profit Organizations, Nonprofit Organizations and more.

**Discussion**

An addition to this year’s grants clearinghouse program is the requirement to include letters of support from contributing entities with the submitted concept paper. Although the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council will not be directly contributing with local matching funding, it has been suggested that a letter from a County FSC can be an asset to a grant application submitted by a local FSC or fire department. The action of producing such letters of support is consistent with the FSC’s charter to “...encourage development of local volunteer fire safe councils dedicated to create fire defensible communities...” Concept papers for this grant program are due by February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005. We should expect requests for letters of support in January.

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<sup>1</sup> From [www.grants.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.grants.firesafecouncil.org)

**AGENDA ITEM 7**  
**For Meeting of December 7, 2004**

DATE: November 19, 2004  
TO: Humboldt County Fire Safe Council  
FROM: Kirk Gothier, Assistant Planning Director  
SUBJECT: Formation of County Service Area

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**Recommendation**

1. Review Implementation Measure 7.5-3 and the County Wide Service Area for Fire Protection discussion in Appendix A of the Master Fire Protection Plan
2. Identify Possible Range of Services
3. Select Working Group to Research Alternatives

**Background**

As discussed in Agenda Item 5, The Board of Supervisors approved a funding allocation of \$95,000 for “consulting services and Planning Division costs to perform assessment engineering and other work required for assessment district formations and fee calculations.”

**Discussion**

Appendix A includes a general list of the possible range of services and zones of benefit that could be established with a County-Wide Service Area (CSA). Considering the recent defeat of Measure L, staff is now recommending that the FSC review the general range of services in Appendix A, identify specific services to be delivered, set clear priorities for the services that are most needed, and discuss a strategy based on the lessons learned from the defeat of Measure L.

In reviewing the general range of services in Appendix A, Planning Staff would recommend that the FSC identify those services and assessments that are most likely to be supported by the voters. Once the FSC identifies the possible range of services, staff is recommending that a working group be established to complete a more detailed assessment of the costs and benefits associated with delivering the prioritized services. The alternatives basically range from developing a template for local districts to use in pursuing assessments, to having the Planning Division prepare a preliminary engineering report in support of forming a CSA to deliver specified services.

**Attachments**

Attachment 7-1: Appendix A, Discussion of County Wide Service Area.

## **Attachment 7-1**

### Appendix A discussion of County-Wide Service Area

#### ***COUNTY-WIDE SERVICE AREA FOR FIRE PROTECTION***

The Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan has been prepared as a means to reduce fire risk/hazards and improve the capabilities and fiscal condition of local fire departments. The Countywide Service Area implementation measure outlined further in chapter 7 is intended to establish a county-wide mechanism to provide services and organizational support for local fire departments, establish a means of funding to improve department stability, and support a higher level-of-service to County residents.

#### ***Background Information***

Many Counties throughout the State of California use County Service Areas (County Service Area Law, Government Code Sec. 25210 – 25211) to provide fire protection services. County Service Areas (CSAs) were created by the State Legislature as a means for counties to “extend” municipal services, including structural fire protection, to areas of the county that are experiencing growth. Humboldt County has already used a CSA to fund winter-time fire protection. CSA 4 provides fire protection to communities along the coast between Crannell and Freshwater Lagoon, excluding Trinidad.

One of the most promising solutions to the County’s fire protection service gaps and funding short-falls throughout Humboldt County is to extend CSA 4 or to form a new fire related CSA. This could involve the annexation of those areas not currently served by a local fire protection agency (either by a special district or city providing fire protection) and voter approval of additional assessments to fund fire protection. Or, this County-wide CSA could involve the annexation of the entire County and the establishment of zones providing different services and levying different assessments depending on the needs of that community.

Many other California counties use CSAs to provide fire protection services in the unincorporated area. Shasta County, for example, has used a CSA to provide fire protection to a significant portion that County since 1974. Shasta County established CSA #1/Shasta County Fire Department to provide fire protection to all areas of the county outside existing fire protections districts and cities providing fire protection. The SCFD contracts with CDF to provide all department administration and operations functions. In addition, the SCFD supports 19 volunteer fire companies by providing oversight, administrative support, training, maintenance, funding, and dispatching.

#### ***County Service Area Organization and Operations***

The desired outcome resulting from the formation of a County-wide CSA and establishment of new fire related assessments would be:

- A local government agency providing fire protection throughout the County;

- Continued and expanded management of CSA operations by CDF;
- The desired minimum level-of-service provided to all residents of Humboldt County (minimum level-of-service to be established through the Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan process);
- Enhanced Fire/EMS dispatch services including all or most Fire/EMS providers through increased funding to CDF;
- Training, technical assistance, support services, provided to volunteer fire departments;
- Administration of assessment revenue/ongoing funding, technical assistance with grant applications, pooling of insurance and administrative costs, and other services by Humboldt County; and
- Augmented community fire protection services, both winter-time and year-round, provided by CDF, depending on the specific area of the County and community need.

**AGENDA ITEM 8**  
**For Meeting of December 7, 2004**

DATE: November 19, 2004  
TO: Humboldt County Fire Safe Council  
FROM: Kirk Gothier, Assistant Planning Director  
SUBJECT: Review Chapters 6 & 7 of Master Fire Protection Plan (MFFP)

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**Recommendation**

1. Review Revisions made by Staff based on 8/2/04 FSC Meeting
2. Review Chapters 6 & 7 of the Master Fire Protection Plan
3. Recommend Further Revisions if Needed

**Background**

The Consultants Draft of the Master Fire Protection Plan was completed in July of 2004 and reviewed at the August 2004 FSC meeting by the FSC members present.

**Discussion**

Staff has made several revisions to the Consultant Draft MFFP based on feedback from the FSC and has forwarded these revisions to the FSC members. As mentioned at the November FSC meeting, staff will also be adding a Chapter to capture the more detailed regional information being collected as part of our community outreach program.

Staff is recommending that the FSC begin reviewing and making recommendations on Chapters 6 & 7 at the December meeting. While these Chapters were discussed at length by the previous FSC, they include the key recommendations and implementation of the Fire Plan, which should be reviewed by the reformed and expanded FSC.

**Attachments**

Attachment 8-1: Chapters 6 & 7 of the Master Fire Protection Plan

## **6 Policy Recommendations**

The Fire Plan policies in this chapter will also be incorporated into the Natural Resources and Hazard Element of the Humboldt County 2025 General Plan. These policies can guide fire safe mitigation strategies and implementation contained in the following chapter.

While the County is not directly responsible for responding to fires, maintaining fire apparatus, or hiring firefighting personnel, it has a key role in the fire planning process. This has traditionally included incorporating fire safe practices into the land use planning process and maintaining current district and services information through the LAFCO process.

A policy is a specific statement that guides decision-making and indicates a commitment of the local legislative body to a particular course of action. Many of these policies originated as objectives developed by the County Fire Safe Council. Others have been formulated to address needs identified through the community risk assessment process, and to respond to issues identified through the surveys conducted for the Fire Plan. Each of the numbered topics below contains individual policies.

It's important to note that no individual policy will be effective in making Humboldt County's communities fire safe. Actions that are consistent with overall policy direction, and carried out as prescribed by related implementation measures will be most effective for reducing fire risk/hazard and responding to fires when they occur. Numbers in parentheses located at the end of the policy statements indicate a nexus with the associated recommendation from chapter 5. Emphasis has been placed on developing policy statements for the recommendations that had a high priority placed on them by the Fire Safe Council during their December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003 meeting.

### **6.1 Fire Protection Capability**

Given the relatively high number of local fire organizations that provide fire protection services in the County, coordination of local fire service delivery is a need that has been identified in the Fire Plan. Also identified are the needs for equipment and apparatus, training and training facilities, and improved regional and local organization. The following policies address coordination of services.

- 6.1A Establish minimum levels of fire protection service for Humboldt County communities. (Recommendation 5.1-1)
- 6.1B Support the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association in establishing an appropriately located regional fire training facilities that includes classrooms, burn tower, as well as fire and rescue training props. (Recommendation 5.1-2)
- 6.1C Support the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association/Fire Training Officers Group in establishing regular fire training programs/classes at the local level, by region, throughout the County (i.e., Southern Humboldt, North Eastern Humboldt,

Northern Humboldt, Eel River Valley, Humboldt Bay, etc.) (Recommendation 5.1-2)

- 6.1D Support local volunteer fire department recruitment and training efforts (Recommendation 5.1-2)
- 6.1E Schedule regular regional workshops, throughout the County, facilitated by the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association, that are designed to disseminate information about local, state, and federal regulations (qualifications, fire safety, reporting, etc.) that impact the volunteer fire department operations. (Recommendation 5.1-2)
- 6.1F Through the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association, establish a network whereby surplus apparatus/equipment can easily be distributed from departments with excess to departments that are in need. (Recommendation 5.1-3)
- 6.1G Support pre-fire planning, mutual aid agreements, sphere of influence reorganization (i.e.: consolidation), and cooperative Federal and State agreements to provide adequate fire protection and to overcome limitations on fire response assistance. (Recommendation 5.1-3)
- 6.1H Periodically disseminate funding information about purchase of fire equipment, technical assistance information for fire training and updated fire fighting technology, and identifying funding sources for staffing, fire prevention/protection programs and educational materials. (Recommendation 5.1-3)
- 6.1I Promote efficient and flexible fire planning and coordination among all agencies (Recommendation 5.1-3)
- 6.1J Support communication and collaboration between fire and public safety agencies. (Recommendation 5.1-3)
- 6.1K Encourage the provision of fire protection services for every community through districts/agencies with career firefighters. (Recommendation 5.1-4)
- 6.1L Support additional fire protection services for unprotected and under-protected areas of Humboldt County. (Recommendation 5.1-4)
- 6.1M Encourage local cost/benefit assessment of fire resources, devoted to specific fire safety activities, to determine needed levels of fire suppression and prevention. (Recommendation 5.1-4)

## **6.2 Fire Safe Education**

- 6.2A Provide fire safety education to homeowners to and the homebuilding, real estate, and building supply industries. This would include information about non-combustible roof coverings, fire safe construction for high fire risk areas, techniques for home ignition zones, adequate emergency water supplies, address and roads identification (visible house numbers and road signs), road clearances, and emergency evacuation procedures. (Recommendation 5.2-1)

- 6.2C Provide descriptive maps to county residents that make them aware of what areas and assets are currently within a fire protection district and which ones are not. (Recommendation 5.2-2)
- 6.2D Expand existing community and school fire prevention education programs countywide, and coordinate dissemination of program materials (Recommendation 5.2-3)
- 6.2E Coordinate with appropriate federal, state and local government agencies (i.e.: USFS, BLM, CDF, local non-governmental organizations, local fire organizations, local Fire Safe Councils, local schools, etc.) and also volunteers and the media to provide ongoing educational information to make Humboldt County residents fire safe. (Recommendation 5.2-3)

### **6.3 Risk and Hazard Assessment**

- 6.3A Identify community areas and assets at greatest risk and the corresponding level of desired fire protection. (Recommendation 5.3-1)
- 6.3B Every five years update the Risk Assessment portion of the Master Fire Protection Plan to determine those unincorporated County areas at greatest risk from wildfire. (Recommendation 5.3-1)

### **6.4 Risk Reduction and Management**

- 6.4A Consider the wildland/urban fire interface in the planning process, and address future needs and requirements. (Recommendation 5.4-1)
- 6.4B Coordinate vegetation management plans with the appropriate federal, state and local government agencies (i.e.: Transportation, Public Works, etc.) and condition new subdivisions to control vegetation alongside roads and in public areas to reduce risk of fire spreading to or from private property. (Recommendation 5.4-1)
- 6.4C Establish guidelines for the use of fire resistive construction materials for new residential construction in areas of high fire risk (Recommendation 5.4-1)
- 6.4D Define and identify strategies to assist local communities. (Recommendation 5.4-1)
- 6.4E Require fire risk disclosures for new development in fire risk areas, and condition new development to provide onsite protection measures (i.e.: fuel breaks, adequate water source). (Recommendation 5.4-1)
- 6.4F Promote biomass conversion and utilization strategies to reduce fuel loads and provide energy. (Recommendation 5.4-2)
- 6.4G In cooperation with landowners, support programs that will provide strategies for biomass conversion and utilization to reduce fuel loads on private lands (Recommendation 5.4-2)

## **6.5 Community Preparedness and Response**

- 6.5A Promote the goals and objectives of the Humboldt Fire Safe Council and other local fire safe councils within Humboldt County. (Recommendation 5.5-1)
- 6.5B Coordinate with other County Fire Safe Councils, especially Del Norte, Trinity, and Mendocino Counties(Recommendation 5.5-2)
- 6.5C Maintain the Humboldt Fire Safe Council for fire plan oversight, review, implementation recommendations, fund dissemination, and as the Humboldt County focal point for funding, coordination, and representation to the California Fire Safe Council. (Recommendation 5.5-3)
- 6.5D Incorporate wildland fire safety measures, fire hazard mitigations, accessible roads data, emergency water supply locations, flammable vegetation clearance for defensible space techniques, and other fire safety techniques, into local community planning. (Recommendation 5.5-7)

## **6.6 Funding Sources and Fiscal Issues**

- 6.6A Provide technical support to local organizations that seek to establish (tax) benefit assessment areas as well as alternative funding mechanisms, in coordination with state/federal government funding programs (i.e.: Amador) as a source of funding for community fire protection. (Recommendation 5.6-1)
- 6.6B Encourage the provision of fire protection services through a district or local agency with a stable source of revenue from property tax, assessments, fees, or other source. (Recommendation 5.6-1)
- 6.6C Establish funding and resource pools for various fire department administrative, purchasing, and expense categories such as vehicle maintenance and insurance (workers compensation and liability) that can be maintained through Humboldt County, the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association, or similar local organization. (Recommendation 5.6-1)
- 6.6D Support reallocation of Proposition 172 funds, to local fire agencies (Recommendation 5.6-2)
- 6.6E Support the allocation of a portion of Title III funds to local FSCs for coordination and planning (Recommendation 5.6-3)
- 6.6F Provide resources to assist local fire organizations and local fire safe councils with grant writing and funding pursuits related to fire service activities. (Recommendation 5.6-4)

## 7 Mitigation Strategies & Implementation Measures

The Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan (Fire Plan) mitigation strategies and implementation measures are intended to reduce fire risks and hazards identified in Chapter 3, and carry out the prioritized recommendations and policies contained in Chapters 5 and 6.

To ensure that the Fire Plan reflects community priorities, the Fire Safe Council has worked closely with organizations such as the Humboldt County Fire Chief's Association to focus implementation efforts on the most critical issues to local fire protection. The Fire Plan implementation strategies in this chapter represent the specific and achievable actions that will address the most important issues identified during the planning process.

The implementation measures outlined in this chapter are based on the Fire Plan recommendations that were identified as priorities in chapter 5. These commendations were prioritized by the FSC at their December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003 meeting.

The mitigation strategies implementation measures are organized by six topics:

- 7.1 Fire Protection Capability
- 7.2 Fire Safe Education
- 7.3 Risk Reduction and Management
- 7.4 Community Preparedness and Response
- 7.5 Funding Sources and Fiscal Issues

*(Risk and Hazard Assessment is not included in this chapter as there were no prioritized recommendations under this category)*

These topics are consistent with the overall goals identified in Chapter 1, findings and recommendations in Chapter 5, and policies in Chapter 6. Specific implementation strategies are numbered to relate to the topics, but reference information relating to the original recommendation is retained.

Implementation of the strategies included in the Fire Plan should result in safer communities for Humboldt County residents. Successful implementation should improve the stability, capacity, and coordination between local fire departments, comprehensive fire safe education programs, as well as reduced fuel loads and increased biomass utilization.

### 7.1 Fire Protection Capability

*FSC Goal: Support the development of local fire organizations' and Fire Safe Councils' efforts to maintain adequate staffing levels and to serve as public safety agents, and monitor these efforts.*

Chapters 2 and 4 describe the critical issues facing local fire departments, and how challenging it can be for the all-volunteer departments to meet those challenges. These challenges include the administrative requirements associated with managing an all-volunteer fire department; insufficient funding; lack of essential training and equipment; and difficulty in recruiting volunteers. In addition,

new federal homeland security and occupational safety and health requirements passed by the State Legislature in 2001 (SB 1207 - codified as Section 6303 of the California Labor Code), place a burden on local departments that has not been fully evaluated.

There is a significant difference between the level-of-service available to residents living in an urbanized area such as Eureka and residents living in more remote rural communities. Local departments use formal and informal mutual aid and automatic aid agreement to augment the level of protection provided to the residents that they serve, but level-of-service differences between communities still persist. The Fire Safe Council acknowledges the importance of establishing a count-wide level-of-service standard so that service gaps can more easily be identified and addressed and residents are aware of the level of protection available to them.

- 7.1-1 Develop level-of-service standards for the provision of all fire protection services (fire, EMS, HazMat, rescue) in the County, and make such standards public so that landowners and residents are aware.
- 7.1-2 Establish regional fire training facilities in appropriate locations; facilities should include classrooms, a burn tower, and fire and rescue training props.
- 7.1-3 Improve communication and coordination between local fire departments, CDF, and federal agencies during fires and other emergencies.

## **7.2 Fire Safe Education**

*FSC Goal: Promote local fire safe planning, fire safe standards, fire education programs addressing fire risk and hazard in rural areas, and measures that local communities can implement to be fire safe*

The Fire Plan acknowledges that the use of effective fire safe education programs is one of the most successful ways to reduce fire risk and minimize loss due to fire. When residents have information about fire safe strategies and understand the costs associated with not utilizing them, the likely result will be less fire related damage in the community.

However, most departments do not have the capacity to deliver fire safe education in the community, nor are there county-wide standards for school- or community-based fire safety education programs. In recognition of this, the FSC has placed a high priority on incorporating consistent fire safe standards into local land use planning, and providing fire safety education materials to homeowners through a variety of means.

- 7.2-1 Provide fire safety education to homeowners and to the homebuilding, real estate, and building supply industries. This would include information about non-combustible roof coverings, fire safe construction for high fire risk areas, techniques for home ignition zones, adequate emergency water supplies, address and roads identification (visible house numbers and road signs), road clearances, and emergency evacuation procedures.

### **7.3 Risk Reduction and Management**

*FSC Goal: Encourage countywide efforts to reduce or modify fuel loads for community protection and fire prevention.*

The wildland urban interface extends into nearly every community in Humboldt County, and as a consequence, numerous communities are on the Federal Register's list of Communities at Risk of wildfire (refer to a list of such communities). The historic development patterns of the County have resulted in many small isolated communities that have only limited municipal services, most notably fire protection. In addition, the effects of excluding normally recurring wildfires, the current health of Humboldt County's forests, and increasing fuel loading – if not addressed - will likely lead to higher fire intensity, and higher fire suppression costs.

Measures for reducing fire risk range from establishing defensible space around individual homes to constructing fuelbreaks on public resource lands. However, such measures are most effective when they are tailored to address specific hazards. Fire Plan related interviews and analysis indicate that fuels reduction efforts are carried out by a variety of agencies and are not done in a coordinated manner. Further, fuel reduction efforts are not keeping pace with fuel loading, and as a result wildland fuel hazards to communities continue to increase.

The Fire Plan emphasizes countywide fuel management planning and the coordination of fuel projects by all involved agencies. The Fire Plan further encourages a linkage between fuels reduction and the development of biomass utilization programs, such as power generation. Because a specific fuel reduction recommendation was not identified as a priority in chapter 5, the following implementation measure was modified to include a reference to fuel reduction. This was done to explicitly meet the goal of the Risk Reduction and Management topic and in recognition that fuels reduction projects need to take place to produce the biomass referred to in 5.4-1.

- 7.3-1 Update Humboldt County Fire Safe Standards to identify specific hazard zones and improve fire safe measures for community planning areas and/or other unincorporated rural residential areas in Humboldt County to address roads, vegetation setbacks, and enforcement
- 7.3-2 Emphasize countywide fuel management planning and the coordination of fuel projects by all involved agencies. Develop a biomass utilization program to build commercially viable markets for fuel reduction projects, wood products and residue.

### **7.4 Community Preparedness and Response**

*FSC Goal: Assure adequate fire protection for people, property, and community.*

There are numerous local Fire Safe Councils as well as community based organizations, such as the Red Cross, that help communities in the County become fire safe and help coordinate community response in the event of an emergency. Local Fire Safe Councils are in the best position to involve communities in the process of prioritizing community assets and values for the purpose of emergency planning. The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council can serve an important role in

supporting local Fire Safe Councils and coordinating future countywide fire planning. The Fire Plan recommends that the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council be maintained to support countywide fire planning as well as community based fire and emergency efforts.

- 7.4-1 Maintain the continuance of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council after the Fire Plan is completed.
- 7.4-2 Incorporate wildland fire safety measures, fire hazard mitigations, accessible roads data, emergency water supply locations, flammable vegetation clearance for defensible space techniques, and other fire safety techniques, into local community planning.

## **7.5 Funding Sources and Fiscal Issues**

FSC Goal: Support fire prevention and resource protection efforts of local communities, Fire Safe Councils, special districts with fire safety responsibilities, fire organizations and Joint Powers Authority (JPA) cooperative services (dispatching, hazmat, training and other cooperative opportunities).

Funding for local fire departments is one of the most critical issues identified during this planning effort. Local departments indicate that revenue is insufficient to meet the requirements involved in providing “all risk” fire protection services. The impact of additional occupational safety requirements mandated by SB 1207, no matter how critical to firefighter safety, could be “the straw that breaks the camel’s back.”

The variety of methods by which local fire departments are organized, and the funding sources that are available to each type of department, makes identifying “one size fits all” funding solutions very difficult. In Humboldt County there are 43 “local” departments providing fire protection. The organizations that support those fire departments include four different types of special districts (Fire Protection District, Community Services Districts, Resort Improvement District, and a County Service Area), city departments, volunteer companies supported largely by timber/lumber companies, volunteer departments that receive a portion of their annual revenue from local Indian Tribes, and volunteer fire companies not affiliated with local agencies that are most often organized as non-profit corporations.

The success of many of the implementation strategies identified by the Fire Plan will depend on the ability of local fire departments to not only maintain but to increase their level of funding and level-of-service. The Fire Plan has identified implementation measures that should accomplish the Fire Safe Council’s goal.

- 7.5-1 Develop reliable sources of on-going funding for fire protection districts, such as revenue exchange agreements, benefit assessments, mitigation and user fees.
- 7.5-2 Support reallocation of a portion of Proposition 172 funds, to local fire agencies and assist with developing and implementing new measures/propositions to increase fire protection revenues.

- 7.5-3 Pursue the formation of a County-wide County Service Area or other appropriate assessment/funding implementation to fund fire and emergency services protection, prevention, and training.

## **7.6 *Matrix of Implementation Measure***

The following sections contain a matrix that divides the implementation measures into four of the general topic areas that are used throughout this plan. The implementation matrix also reflects the priority of the recommendations from Chapter 5 (as established by the FSC during its working sessions), a description of the end-state that will likely result from its successful implementation, and the series of steps necessary to achieve the desired outcome (including the responsible party, essential resources, and a proposed schedule).

**7.1 Fire Protection Capability**

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>FIRE PROTECTION CAPABILITY</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>	Develop level-of-service standards for the provision of all fire protection services (fire, EMS, HazMat, rescue) in the County, and make such standards public so that landowners and residents are aware. (5.1-1)
<b>Measure</b>	<b>7.1-1 LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD</b>		

**Description:** A countywide level-of-service standard for the provision of “all-risk” fire protection (fire, EMS, HazMat, rescue) and establish maximum incident response times (by zone), incident reporting requirements, equipment and apparatus requirements, minimum department scope of service, as well as training, staffing, and health and fitness levels for firefighters. This level-of-service standard is important for the following reasons: 1) it will improve the ability of real estate professionals, public safety personnel, and government officials to inform landowners and residents of the level of fire protection that is available to them; 2) it will support fire departments grant requests to local, state, and federal funding sources for purchase of apparatus, equipment, and training to meet standards; and 3) local government can effectively plan for municipal service delivery and population growth. However, it may be a challenge for some of the smaller departments to bring their level of service up to the agreed upon standard and ISO ratings may be influenced based on changes in service delivery and discloser.

Planning for County level-of-service standards involves several steps: The Humboldt County Fire Chief’s Association (HCFCA) will establish a working group of its members to evaluate the existing level-of-service in the County and level-of-service standards used by other jurisdictions; HCFCA will propose an appropriate level-of-service standard; Each fire department will indicate the resources required to meet the standard; and then, working in consultation with the HCFCA, Humboldt County, and the local fire organizations will establish a schedule for implementation of the standard and identify available resource to assist departments in meeting the standard. Additional strategies will be explored to mitigate any hardship placed on local fire protection services as a result of setting in place a minimum standard of service.

<b>Steps</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Schedule*</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	Review CalOSHA, NFPA, ISO, & Cal Fire Marshal requirements as baseline	HCFCA/CDF		3 months	
	Select basic LOS for personnel, app/equip, response time	HCFCA/CDF		1 month	
	Coordinate with City/County Planning	HCFCA/Co & City staff.		1 month	
	Develop LOS recommendations	HCFCA/CDF.		1 month	
	Perform fiscal analysis	HCFCA/CDF		TBD	May require consultant
	Coordinate with County-wide CSA effort	Hum. Co / HCFCA			
	Implementation	All		on-going	

\*As funding and staff are available

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>FIRE PROTECTION CAPABILITY</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>	Establish regional fire training facilities in appropriate locations; facilities should include classrooms, a burn tower, and fire and rescue training props. (5.1-2)		
<b>Measure</b>	<b>7.1-2 REGIONAL FIRE TRAINING FACILITIES</b>				
<p><b>Description:</b> The development of fire and emergency services training facilities in Humboldt County are critical to the delivery of emergency services in the County. In acknowledgement of the fact that 90 percent of firefighters in Humboldt County are volunteers, many of whom live in outlying areas; multiple training facilities may be required to support countywide training programs. Regional fire training facilities are also essential to local firefighters in meeting an established level-of-service standard.</p> <p>Several local education organizations, such as the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE), College of the Redwoods (CR), and Humboldt State University (HSU), may have programs or resources that will contribute to this strategy. To accomplish this task, the HCFCA will coordinate with local education organizations and survey its membership to determine the level of department interest in a regional training facility (RTF), department resources available for this purpose (funding, land, equipment, staff), in addition, the HCFCA will work with allied agencies (police, Sheriff, ambulance, etc) to determine interest in working jointly with fire departments to develop the RTF. Next, the HCFCA, working with local planners, will evaluate prospective locations for RTF (including an analysis of the proximity to agencies served). The HCFCA will propose alternatives for RTF development.</p>					
<b>Steps</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Schedule*</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	Evaluate regional training needs and propose scope of services for training center, including off-site classes	HCFCFA/CDF/HCOE/CR/HSU		6 months	
	Evaluate locations for facility	HCFCFA / Hum. Co.& CDF		1 month	
	Evaluate facility & program costs	HCFCFA / HCOE CR/HSU		2 Months	May require consultant
	Evaluate sources of funding	HCFCFA / HCOE / CR/HSU Hum. Co.		1 month	
	Coordinate with County-wide CSA effort	HCFCFA / Hum. Co. & CDF		24 months	
	Implementation	All		On-going	
*As funding and staff are available					

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>FIRE PROTECTION CAPABILITY</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>	Improve communication and coordination between local fire departments, CDF, and federal agencies during fires and other emergencies (5.1-3)		
<b>Measure</b>	<b>7.1-3 IMPROVE INTER-AGENCY COMMUNICATION</b>				
<b>Description:</b> Effective communications between all fire agencies, EMS, and allied agencies, are critical to the health and safety of local residents. Communications includes information sharing, dispatch, and inter- and intra-departmental radio communications. This implementation strategy strives to improve all levels of communications by supporting entities already involved in communications.					
To accomplish this task, the HCFCFA and their southern Humboldt Fire Chief's Group, Humboldt County Fire Dispatch Cooperative, Humboldt County Sheriff's Office (SO), and other local public safety agencies will first identify the strengths and short-falls associated with the existing communications structures (such as centralized dispatch services, lack of radio coverage within certain areas, the inability to communicate between allied agencies, or confusion caused by multiple dispatch centers). Next, this group will propose the ideal communications structure for the County and evaluate its feasibility. Finally, this group will determine the best alternative for County-wide communications and identify the organizational changes, funding requirements, and system improvements required to achieve this.					
<b>Steps</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Schedule*</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Evaluate County-wide fire/EMS dispatch and identify issues & opportunities		HCFCFA, HCFDC, CDF, Hum. SO Cities		3 months	
Propose "ideal" dispatch structure		HCFCFA, HCFDC, CDF, Hum. Co SO., Cities		1 months	
Evaluate cost & prepare cost share allocation		HCFCFA, HCFDC, CDF, Hum. Co. SO, Cities		1 months	
Review funding alternatives		HCFCFA, HCFDC, CDF, Hum. Co. SO, Cities		1 months	
Coordinate with County-wide CSA effort		Humboldt County Planning & all of the above		24 Months	May require a consultant
Prepare implementation plan		All of the above		TBD	
*As funding and staff are available					

**7.2 Fire Safe Education**

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>FIRE SAFE EDUCATION</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>	Provide fire safety education to homeowners, homebuilders in rural areas, real estate agents, and building supply stores. This would include information about non-combustible roof coverings, fire safe construction for high fire risk areas, techniques for reducing flammability in home ignition zones, adequate emergency water supplies, address and roads identification (visible house numbers and road signs), road clearances, and emergency evacuation procedures. (5.2-1)
<b>Measure</b>	<b>7.2-1 FIRE SAFE EDUCATION</b>		

**Description:** Fire safety education programs can reduce fire risk and minimize loss due to fire. When the public understands fire safe strategies and the associated costs of not utilizing them, the likely result will be less fire related damage in the community

Successful implementation of County wide fire safety education programs will involve the cooperation of construction and real estate professionals, and home building supply retailers. These entities can assist local government and fire departments in distributing information regarding fire safe standards (see 7.1-1). Contractors and real estate agents could be instrumental in the education effort by disclosing information regarding high fire risk areas. However, hazard maps (see 7.3-1) and evacuation information will need to be developed by local government and emergency service providers to facilitate disclosure.

Steps toward implementation of this measure include: establishment of partnerships with construction, real estate, and retail interests; compilation of materials regarding local fire safe standards and home fire safety techniques (construction materials, defensible space, rural water supply, road maintenance and signing, etc); disclosure of hazard zones and evacuation strategies; and establishment of local real estate disclosure requirements for high fire hazard areas.

<b>Steps</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Schedule*</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	Review existing fire safe education programs and materials	HC & local FSCs, CDF, Hum. Co.	Institute for Sustainable Forestry (ISF)	3 months	
	Establish partnerships with real estate, contractors/developers, and building supply stores	HC & local FSCs, CDF, Hum. Co.		3 months	
	Prepare/compile fire safe materials, including hazard zone maps, evacuation/disaster preparedness, etc.	HC & local FSCs, CDF, Hum. Co.		6 months	
	Distribute new and current local fire safe materials			Ongoing	

\*As funding and staff are available

**7.3 Risk Reduction and Management**

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>	Update Humboldt County Fire Safe Standards to identify specific hazard zones and improve fire safe measures for community planning areas and/or other unincorporated rural residential areas in Humboldt County to address roads, vegetation setbacks, and enforcement. (5.4-8 change accordingly)
<b>Measure</b>	<b>7.3-1 HAZARD IDENTIFICATION</b>		

**Description:** The Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies (RAMS) analysis prepared for this Fire Plan has established a baseline for the development of fire hazard zones for Humboldt County. The addition and refinement of vegetation, fire protection capability, and fire history data over time should produce even more accurate fire risk zones. The use of these zones in community planning should facilitate better allocation of fire prevention, suppression, and code enforcement resources as well as land use planning decisions.

Successful implementation of this measure will require the implementation of Measure 7.2-1; adoption of a standard risk assessment technique/model; procedures to continually gather data and update Humboldt County GIS systems; and the incorporation of fire hazard identification into the regular update of local emergency operations plans.

<b>Steps</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>		<b>Schedule*</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	Work with Local FSCs, HSU, local governments, and State and Federal Agencies, to continually improve risk/hazard GIS data	Hum. Co. / FSC/ Local FSCs / CDF / USFS/ Tribes		Ongoing	
	Regularly update risk/hazard mapping	Hum. Co. / FSC/ Local FSCs / CDF / USFS/ Tribes		Ongoing	
	Implement risk & hazard reduction programs based on most current data	FSC/ Local FSCs / CDF / USFS/ Tribes		Ongoing	

\*As funding and staff are available

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>	<u>Emphasize countywide fuel management planning and the coordination of fuel projects by all involved agencies.</u> Develop a biomass utilization program to develop commercially-viable markets for fuel reduction project wood products and residue. (5.4-1)		
<b>Measure</b>	<b>7.3-2 BIOMASS UTILIZATION</b>				
<p><b>Description:</b> The implementation of fuels reduction programs (defensible space, shaded fuelbreaks, forest thinning, and forest plantation management) is known to reduce fire hazard and the resulting risk to life and property. However, funding for these activities is scarce. Establishment of programs to add incentives to carry out fuels reduction, such as a biomass utilization program could increase the likelihood that it will occur.</p> <p>Successful implementation of a self sustaining biomass utilization program will require the following steps: establish an industry/agency working group (including resource and air quality management agencies as well as environmental interests); compile all local and regional biomass utilization studies; identify additional local biomass utilization resources/assets as well as local, state and federal funding sources and programs; development of recommendations by the industry/agency working group to stimulate biomass utilization and fire hazard and risk reduction.</p>					
<b>Steps</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Schedule*</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Establish County/Agency/Industry working group (CDF, Timber Co's, PG&E, HEA, NCUAQMD, USFS, HSU, Hum. Co., etc)		CDF / FSC / Hum. Co. Planning & Econ. Devel.	ISF	2 months	
Compile and review existing local/regional biomass planning reports		Industry Working Group		3 months	
Develop preliminary biomass utilization strategy		Industry Working Group			
Seek funding and prepare feasibility study		Industry Working Group / Hum. Co. Planning & Econ. Devel.	Grant sources		
*As funding and staff are available					

**7.4 Community Preparedness and Response**

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>	Maintain the continuance of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council after the Fire Plan is completed (5.5-3)
<b>Measure</b>	<b>7.4-1 COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL</b>		

**Description:** The Fire Plan found that local and Countywide Fire Safe Councils play in integral role in implementing fuel reduction projects as well as prioritizing community assets and values. One of the main tasks of the FSC will be to oversee and guide the process of forming a countywide CSA. Additionally, The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council will play an important role in many of the measures developed to implement other Fire Plan recommendations as well as coordinating funding to local Fire Safe Councils.

In order to maintain the FSC, the Board of Supervisors will need to revise the Fire Safe Council “Purpose” and “Term” contained in the Resolution establishing the Fire Safe Council and provide the necessary resources to support the FSC.

<i>Steps</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Schedule*</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Review activities of other County FSCs	Hum. Co. / FSC	ASAP	
Develop revised proposal for FSC “Purpose” and “Membership”	Hum. Co. / FSC	ASAP	
Adopt new FSC authorizing ordinance	Hum. Co.	ASAP	

\*As funding and staff are available

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>	Incorporate wildland fire safety measures, fire hazard mitigations, accessible roads data, emergency water supply locations, flammable vegetation clearance for defensible space techniques, and other fire safety techniques, into local community planning (5.5-7)		
<b>Measure</b>	<b>7.4-2 FIRE SAFE PLANNING</b>				
<p><b>Description:</b> The implementation of uniform fire safe standards can reduce future losses of life and property. The most current fire safe techniques must be incorporated into the planning regulations, and most importantly enforcement measures, of local jurisdictions throughout the County. To accomplish this, the HCFCA shall meet with local agency planners to evaluate the standards in effect within each jurisdiction. The HCFCA- Fire Prevention Officers Section has already begun working to clarify the implementation of State and Federal fire prevention construction and occupancy standards in order to assist contractors, business operators, local government, and local fire agencies to improve fire safety. To that end, they are developing standards for smoke detectors, key boxes, fire department connections, fire sprinkler inspector test and alarm monitoring, fire extinguishers, cooking hoods, premises identification, roads, burn permits, and gated communities. The work of the Fire Prevention Officers Section will serve as an effective springboard for additional coordinated fire safe planning and enforcement efforts.</p> <p>Steps toward accomplishing this measure include: establishing priorities for the HCFCA and local planners; research regarding model standards available from State and Federal agencies; agreement between jurisdictions (fire departments, cities and the County) as to minimum County wide standards; development of enforcement mechanisms (responsibilities and revenue sources); and codification of standards by local agencies.</p>					
<b>Steps</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	Review State and Federal model fire safe standards and existing local ordinances	HCFCA, CDF,		3 months	
	Develop model ordinance for uniform County & City fire safe standards	HCFCA, CDF,		3 months	
	Work with County and Cities	HCFCA, CDF, Hum. Co., Cities		3 months	
	Coordinate with County-wide CSA effort	Hum. Co & all of the above		24 months	May require a consultant
	Implement model ordinance	Hum. Co.Planning/ cities/CDF		2 months	
*As funding and staff are available					

**7.5 Funding Sources and Fiscal Issues**

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCES AND FISCAL ISSUES</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>	Develop reliable sources of on-going funding for fire protection districts, such as revenue exchange agreements, benefit assessments, mitigation and user fees (5.6-1)
<b>Measure</b>	<b>7.5-1 DEVELOP RELIABLE REVENUE SOURCES</b>		

**Description:** The Fire Plan identifies funding to local fire departments is a critical issue. Personnel related costs such as workman’s compensation, even in all volunteer departments, have increased many times faster than the growth of revenue. Proposition 13 and subsequent changes to the State Constitution have made it extremely challenging for local agencies to increase taxes for fire protection, and fund raising by all-volunteer departments is difficult and time-consuming. To maintain capable fire protection, it is important to establish adequate and reliable revenue sources for local fire departments as well as innovative cost-sharing programs to increase the efficiency of service provision.

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors has established a County/Fire District Working Group to evaluate and report on fire district funding requests. The efforts of this group should serve as a spring-board for additional work to be coordinated by the FSC. Additional steps necessary to implement this measure include: Re-authorization of the FSC and revision of its membership (see 7.4-1) (this may include members of the working group); coordination with Measure 7.1-1; analysis of the gap between the “true” cost of providing fire protection at the level-of-service desired and available funding; compilation of information regarding funding strategies used by other Counties/fire districts within Counties; development of recommendations.

<i>Steps</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Schedule*</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Compile information including funding strategies and cost data.	FSC / Hum. Co Planning and Econ Devel.	No additional	3 months	
Coordinate with County-wide CSA effort	Hum. Co. Planning & all of the above	No additional	24 months	May require a consultant
Develop recommendations	FSC / Hum. Co Planning	No additional	12 months	

\*As funding and staff are available

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCES AND FISCAL ISSUES</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>	Support reallocation of a portion of Proposition 172 funds, to local fire agencies and assist with developing and implementing new measures/propositions to increase fire protection revenues. (5.6-2)		
<b>Measure</b>	<b>7.5-2 PROPOSITION 172 AND OTHER NEW FUNDS</b>				
<p><b>Description:</b> In 1993, the voters of California passed Proposition 172, the Local Public Safety Protection and Improvement Act of 1993 (Art. XIII, Sec 35, California Constitution), which added an additional ½ cent to the Sales and Use tax to fund public safety (including fire protection). This tax was placed on the ballot by the Governor and the Legislature in an attempt to reduce the impact of the shift of property tax funds from local government to schools that resulted from the implementation of the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund. Proposition 172 also created the Public Safety Augmentation Fund. Subsequent laws approved by the Legislature that implemented Proposition 172 (Gov. Code Sec. 30051-30056) did not specifically mention Special Districts as entities eligible to receive allocations from the Public Safety Augmentation Fund, even though Special Districts were affected by the ERAF shifts. As a result, Special Districts providing fire protection in Humboldt County do not receive Proposition 172 funds.</p> <p>The Humboldt County Fire Chief’s Association has been actively working to include local fire related districts in the allocation of Proposition 172 funds. This measure supports the reallocation of a portion of Proposition 172 funds to fire related districts as well as the implementation of new measures to increase funding for fire protection.</p> <p>To accomplish this, the Working Group referenced in Measure 7.5-1 will continue its evaluation as it relates to Proposition 172 and in other funding alternatives; Humboldt County Community Development Services will seek funding for studies required to support the establishment of new assessments and evaluate the most efficient organizational structure for fire protection in unincorporated lands outside of existing fire related districts; and develop and implement a funding strategy.</p>					
<b>Steps</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Schedule*</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Continue County/Fire District Working Group and coordinate closely with HCFCFA		County Working Group		Continuous until agreement	
Coordinate with 6.6-1		County Working Group		As above	
Coordinate with County-wide CSA effort		County Working Group & Hum. Co. Planning		24 months	May require a consultant
Develop funding strategy		County Working Group		As above	
Work with County and Cities to establish new funding sources		County Working Group		As above	
*As funding and staff are available					

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCES AND FISCAL ISSUES</b>	<b>Recommendation:</b>	Pursue the formation of a County-wide County Service Area to fund fire and emergency services protection, prevention, and training.		
<b>Measure</b>	<b>7.5-3 FORMATION OF COUNTY-WIDE COUNTY SERVICE AREA</b>				
<p><b>Description:</b> County Service Areas (CSAs) are a means for counties to “extend” municipal services, including structural fire protection, to areas of the county that are experiencing growth. Humboldt County has already used a CSA to fund winter-time fire protection. CSA 4 provides fire protection to communities along the coast between Crannell and Freshwater Lagoon, excluding Trinidad. Subject to approval of the Humboldt LAFCo and the voters, CSA 4 could be expanded or a new CSA created to fund expanded fire protection, emergency dispatch services, prevention, and training throughout the County or in specific areas of the County. The CSA could “over-lay” existing fire related districts to extend new services (e.g., dispatch or training) or augment existing services. Formation of the CSA must be accompanied by a special tax, assessment, or fee structure to fund the services to be provided.</p> <p>This measure will be carried out through a coordinated effort by the County FSC (see 7.4-1) County Planning and CDFT. The steps necessary to accomplish this measure include: identify funding sources to support CSA planning; evaluate range of services to be provided and feasibility of offering menu of services to existing districts, cities, allied agencies that chose to be part of districts or chose to contract for services; develop rough estimate of cost of providing service; evaluate potential district boundaries; research issues relating to assessments, parcel tax, fees, property tax exchange, other revenue, zones of benefit, and develop rough estimates of revenue; proceed to district formation.</p>					
<b>Steps</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Schedule*</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	Seek funding to support planning	Humboldt County		Completed	
	Evaluate range of services to be provided	Working Group		4 Months	
	Evaluate potential district boundaries	Working Group		4 months	
	Research funding alternatives	Working Group, Humboldt County & FSC		6 months	May require consultant
	Seek approval to form district	Working Group, Humboldt County		3 months	
	District formation	Working Group, Humboldt County		1 year	May require consultant
*As funding and staff are available					

