

Title III Project Public Notice Template



HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Humboldt County will receive "safety-net" revenues under the "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000". The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors elected to designate seven percent (7%) of its safety-net payment for projects under Title III. Projects may include: Category (1): Carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program; Category (2): Reimburse counties for the cost of search and rescue and other emergency services on federal lands; and Category (3): Develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). On November 10, 2009, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors approved proposed Title III projects identified below for purposes of obtaining public comment. This notice opens a forty-five (45) day comment period inviting all persons wishing to review and make written comments on the following projects to do so.

Firewise Project

3 year budget = \$161,315

This project involves assisting residential communities to become recognized Firewise Communities/USA sites and implements actions to prevent the potential for home ignitions from wildfire.

CWPP Project

3 year budget = \$251,227

This project places its focus on improving the countywide fuels reduction and firesafe planning strategy through a coordinated update and refinement of the Humboldt County CWPP and local CWPPs.

Sheriff Search and Rescue

3 year budget = \$30,000

This funding will be used to reimburse the county for the cost of search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting, on federal land.

More detailed descriptions of these proposed projects may be reviewed at the following locations:

Humboldt County
Community Development Service
Department
Attn: Cybelle Immitt
3015 H St.
Eureka, CA 95501

And on the web at:

http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/fire_safe_council/fsc_default.asp

All comments must be submitted in writing and received on or before the close of work **Monday, January 4, 2010**. Written comments can be mailed or hand-delivered to the address above. For additional information regarding PL 106-393 Title III qualified county projects, please contact Cybelle Immitt via person or mail at the above address, via phone at (707) 268-3736, or via email at cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us.

Community Development Services – Planning Division will work with, and support, local Fire Safe Councils (FSC) and other community organizations to plan and implement Firewise actions. Activities under the Firewise Project will include assisting individuals, neighborhoods, subdivisions, small towns and similar private residential communities with implementing actions to prevent the potential for home ignitions from wildfire. Activities will also include assisting residential communities in becoming recognized Firewise Communities/USA sites. While Humboldt County is not an eligible entity for recognition, it can assist small local communities in the recognition process. Planning Division staff will coordinate with CAL FIRE staff to provide technical and education support for local communities working to become certified Firewise Communities. This will entail Planning Division staff time to support communities as they take on the following 5 step process of getting Firewise Certified:

- Complete a community assessment and create a plan
- Form a Firewise Board or Committee
- Hold a Firewise Day event
- Invest a minimum of \$2/capata in local wildfire mitigation projects
- Submit an application to the Firewise Communities Program via our state liaison

Planning Division staff will also provide assistance with implementing Firewise projects within certified communities. Firewise projects might include such activities as the following:

- Firewise landscaping and home construction education programs
- GIS for Firewise Communities (building a GIS database that will help communities with their Firewise assessments)
 - GIS database for hazardous fuels reduction project tracking
 - GIS database for level of fire service mapping
 - GIS database EMS Roads and addressing
 - Using GIS to make map books for fire departments and FSCs in Firewise communities
- Help with environmental compliance for fuels reduction projects identified as priorities in Firewise plans.
- Title 3 Small Grants Program for communities with Firewise certification. The small grant program will be modeled after the existing small grant program administered by Community Development Services. Funds will be granted for Firewise projects such as:
 - Local fire prevention planning projects
 - Fire Protection Service planning projects
 - Matching funds to leverage larger grants for bigger projects
 - Firewise day events

This project places its focus on improving the countywide fuels reduction and firesafe planning strategy through a coordinated update and refinement of the Humboldt County CWPP entitled the “Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan”. As part of this project, Planning Division staff will work with communities to integrate their local CWPPs with the countywide CWPP. This activity will be guided by the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) in partnership with all participating local FSCs and supported by Planning Division staff. This project will catalyze a much higher level of coordination and cooperation among fire safe organizations and increase the effectiveness of countywide efforts to reduce the risk of wildfire damage and loss. As part of this project, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database will be maintained that can be used by all participating FSCs to develop and update their CWPPs and monitor implementation progress.

Funding for this project will be used to support Planning Division staff time associated with updating the County CWPP, assistance to local communities with developing and updating their CWPPs, community outreach, and GIS database maintenances. Funds will also be made available to local community groups involved in drafting and updating CWPPs throughout the county as needed. Planning Division staff will manage the distribution and oversee the use of these small grants using the same process and procedures currently employed. Consultant services will be sought as needed.