



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: January 29, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: SUPPORTING THE STATE'S VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

SUMMARY:

Overview

Vegetation management is one of the most effective ways to better protect lives and property from an out-of-control wildfire. Whether it is adequate defensible space around structures, removing dead and dying trees, conducting prescribed burns or maintaining fire breaks, defending homes and communities from fire is more successful when government agencies better manage the vegetative fuel that threatens the region.

Cal Fire has in place an aggressive vegetation management program, but their resources are stretched to the limit as they pursue fuel treatment projects while also carrying out property inspections. Given the enormous impact that reducing dangerous brush has on improving fire safety, it is essential that additional resources are provided to Cal Fire to support this necessary function. In addition, there has been an effort for the past few years, led by State Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, to change the State Code to increase the allowable defensible space around homes and structures from 100 feet to 300 feet. The County has been on record in support of this effort. It is long overdue for State Legislators to finally approve this proposal.

Recommendation(s):

VICE CHAIRWOMAN JACOB AND SUPERVISOR SLATER-PRICE

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter to be signed by the Chair of the Board, letting the Governor and the local State delegation know the Board's support for increased funding and additional staffing for Cal Fire's vegetation management program so that high risk fire areas benefit from an expansion of the program, which includes prescribed burns, fire breaks, and property inspections
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to also include in the letter the Board's support for changing the State Code to increase the allowable defensible space around homes and structures from 100 feet to 300 feet.

SUBJECT: SUPPORTING THE STATE'S VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation.

Business Impact Statement:

N/A

Advisory Board Statement:

N/A

BACKGROUND:

Vegetation management is one of the most effective ways to better protect lives and property from an out-of-control wildfire. Whether it is adequate defensible space around structures, removing dead and dying trees, conducting prescribed burns or maintaining fire breaks, defending homes and communities from fire is more successful when government agencies better manage the vegetative fuel that threatens the region.

Cal Fire has in place an aggressive vegetation management program, but their resources are stretched to the limit as they pursue fuel treatment projects while also carrying out property inspections. Given the enormous impact that reducing dangerous brush has on improving fire safety, it is essential that additional resources are provided to Cal Fire to support this necessary function. In addition, there has been an effort for the past few years, led by State Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, to change the State Code to increase the allowable defensible space around homes and structures from 100 feet to 300 feet. The County has been on record in support of this effort. It is long overdue for State Legislators to finally approve this proposal.

Today's action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter to be signed by the Chair of the Board, letting the Governor and the local State delegation know the Board's support for increased funding and additional staffing for Cal Fire's vegetation management program, and changing the State Code to increase the allowable defensible space from 100 feet to 300 feet. We urge your support.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Vice Chairwoman, Second District

PAM SLATER-PRICE
Supervisor, Third District

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

CONCURRENCE(S)

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Other Concurrence(s): N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District All

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: _____