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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: April 17, 2013

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry *CH*  
County Administrator *soe*

Re: **Board of Supervisors Agenda – Addendum, April 16, 2013, Item Number 19. Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security – State of Arizona Forestry Division, to provide for the Community Wildlife Protection Plan Project, State Grant Fund, contract amount \$10,000.00 revenue (CT-OEM-13\*731)**

On Tuesday, April 16, 2013, the Board of Supervisors continued Agenda – Addendum Item Number 19. Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security – State of Arizona Forestry Division, to provide for the Community Wildlife Protection Plan Project, State Grant Fund, contract amount \$10,000.00 revenue (CT-OEM-13\*731) pending the receipt of additional information about the status and funding of the program.

## Background

Attached is a memorandum from Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (PCOEMHS) Director Mike Hein describing how Pima County, in partnership with the State of Arizona, has utilized funds provided through the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA). The HFRA was passed in 2003 to provide funding and guidance for better forest management practices following the destructive wildland fires in 2002. The HFRA incentivizes communities to create a Community Wildlife Protection Plan (CWPP), designed to prioritize future funding for hazardous fuel reduction projects.

PCOEMHS initially received \$6,809 from the National Park Service through the Sonoran Institute. Additional funding has been supplemented by using Emergency Management Program Grants from the State of Arizona Division of Emergency Management in the amount of \$24,968, and \$8,000 from the Bureau of Land Management.

The \$10,000 allocated to Pima County by the State of Arizona, Arizona State Forestry Division, brings the total amount that will be received for this project to \$49,777. This will allow PCOEMHS to complete the final phase of the CWPP.

The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Re: **Board of Supervisors Agenda – Addendum, April 16, 2013, Item Number 19.**  
**Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security – State of Arizona**  
**Forestry Division, to provide for the Community Wildlife Protection Plan Project,**  
**State Grant Fund, contract amount \$10,000.00 revenue (CT-OEM-13\*731)**

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**Recommendation**

I recommend approval of CT-OEM-13\*731, which allows Pima County to receive \$10,000 to finalize the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Pima County.

CHH/dr

c: Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services  
Robin Brigode, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



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## MEMORANDUM

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Date: April 16, 2013

To: Jan Leshner, Deputy County Administrator

From: Mike Hein, Director  
Office of Emergency Management &  
Homeland Security

Re: **Pima County Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

I understand there were some questions raised at the Board of Supervisors Meeting this morning on Addendum Item No. 19. The item before the Board was an agreement between Pima County and the Arizona State Forestry Division to support the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in the amount of \$10,000.

For several years, the Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (PCOEMHS) has been approached by several of the area's Fire Districts along with the Arizona State Forester and Bureau of Land Management to develop a countywide CWPP. Pima County currently has three (3) CWPPs in place for the areas of Catalina, Arivaca/Sasabe and Sonoita/Elgin.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) are a mechanism for communities to address their wildfire risk. These plans promote collaboration and local action.

Destructive wildland fires in 2002 were a catalyst for Congress to pass the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) in 2003. The intent of the HFRA was to provide funding and guidance for better forest management practices throughout wildland areas and the wildland urban interface. One of the key outcomes of the HFRA was to incentivize communities to create a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. An approved CWPP can influence and prioritize future funding for hazardous fuel reduction projects, including where and how federal agencies implement fuel reduction projects on federal lands.

CWPPs must meet three basic criteria:

- **Collaboration:** A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
- **Prioritized Fuel Reduction:** A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.
- **Treatment of Structural Ignitability:** A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.
- The first statutory definition of CWPPs appears in Title I of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA). The HFRA promulgates that communities, which have a CWPP in place, will be a priority for receiving hazardous fuels reduction funding administered by the USFS and BLM.

Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator  
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PCOEMHS has been able to secure funding to complete the CWPP through collaboration with other agencies and leveraging funds. Specifically, we initially received \$6,809 from National Park Service through the Sonoran Institute. Subsequently, funding has been supplemented by using Emergency Management Program Grants (EMPG) from the State of Arizona Division of Emergency Management in the amount of \$24,968 and \$8,000 from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

With the final \$10,000 from the Arizona State Forestry Division we can complete the final phase of the CWPP. To date, with the assistance of several fire districts we have completed identifying areas of high risk and the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The remaining portion will be accomplished by Logan Simpson Design who has completed several CWPPs within the southwestern United States.

In addition to enhancing safety and reducing risk to human structures and watersheds once the CWPP is complete, communities are given priority for USFS and BLM funded hazardous fuels reduction projects as authorized under the HFRA.