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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

DATE: July 30, 2007 (Date of Memo)
August 1, 2007 (Date of Public Hearing)

TO: LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FROM: Keir Miller, Associate Planner
Land Management Division

RE: ORDER 07-8-1-4/ In the Matter of Approving Projects Under Title III of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, P.L. 106-393 for FY 07-08.

I. ISSUE

On July 3, 2007, Land Management Division submitted a grant request to the Lane County Legislative Review Committee under Title III of Public Law 106-393. The submission was made on behalf of the CWPP Steering Committee and sought \$49,500 to help defray costs associated with implementation of key wildfire mitigation activities during FY 2007-2008. The Title III Legislative Committee staff conducted an initial review of the application and has made a recommendation to the Board to partially fund the request in the amount of \$30,000.

In response to the concerns raised by the Legislative Committee staff, the CWPP Steering Committee respectfully submits the following clarifications and asks that the Board consider funding the project at one hundred percent of the requested amount.

II. ANALYSIS

The Legislative Committee staff has identified two concerns with the CWPP grant request. First, staff state that:

"Much of the proposal contains requests for funding elements of the project, in the fourth year, that were intended to be one-time startup investments only: i.e., community organizing activities, training symposiums, software and GIS investments, site assessments."

Based on this statement, there appears to be some confusion regarding the activities for which funding is sought. No community organizing activities, software investments or site assessments are listed in the submission. Furthermore, it is logical that many of these activities should be continued beyond the "startup" phase of the plan. For example, continuing structural defensible site assessment work is being conducted by the Oregon Department of Forestry through funding provided by a National Fire Plan grant. This work is essential to the ongoing success of the effort and was never identified by the Board as a one-time start up investment. Additionally, the adopted wildfire plan contains a plan maintenance schedule which specifically identifies tasks which are to be addressed annually, biannually and every five years. One such task is periodic risk assessment refinement. This task is listed in the request (item F) but is not discussed by staff. It is possible that staff have confused this item with "software and GIS investments." This is not the case. No new software or geographic information system hardware is requested in this grant.

Additionally, the submission includes a request for \$3,000 for a Community Firewise workshop (item A). This activity should not be confused with a community organizing or planning effort. A Firewise workshop is an intensive, all-day, public education event that serves the unique role of bringing fire protection district personnel, State and Federal agencies, Sheriff and police department personnel, insurance carriers, elected officials, citizen involvement groups, and private citizens together for a series of discussion on structural defensible space standards, road access standards and resource protection standards. The first of these workshops was

held in 2005 at the University of Oregon EMU and served approximately 80 public service individuals. This is the second opportunity since the CWPP was adopted two years to organize this outreach effort. The invitation list to this workshop will be expanded to include the scores of Measure 37 claimants with subdivision proposals within the wildland urban-interface.

The second issue raised by the Legislative Committee staff was the need to provide proper credit to Lane County and acknowledgement of SRS funding in wildfire education materials distributed to the public. The CWPP partners readily acknowledge the generous support and important leadership provided by the Lane County Board of Commissioners. Lane County is currently credited on the CWPP website and in its Year End Report. Effective immediately, all printed publications made possible through Title III funding will carry the following credit:

The distribution of this publication was made possible by Lane County with funding from the federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act.

For more information visit:

http://www.lanecounty.org/CAO_GLA/SecureRuralSchools.htm

As a final note, staff have stated that broadcast PSAs, outreach publications, website maintenance and community fuel reduction demonstration work are: "elements of the proposal that demonstrate a capacity to put information and resources in the hands of residents and businesses" [and that] "based on the proposal, it appears that \$30,000 should be more than sufficient to carry out the core elements of the program." It is the contention of the CWPP Steering Committee that all of the activities listed in the submission will help build the public's capacity to mitigate wildfire risk. However, if the Board chooses to fund only the four activities identified by staff, \$30,000 falls well short of the minimal amount requested for these specific activities that were approved by the Board of Commissioners as the essential implementing components of the CWPP when it was adopted in 2005.

CWPP staff will be available at the work session on August 1st to answer any questions the Commissioners may have on the merits of this request.