RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Establish a new volunteer fire company in the department, Company 24, Don Pedro, to meet standard level of service. The addition of a number of trained Tuolumne County Firefighters coupled with a like decline in the Blanchard station has impacted fire and emergency services to the Don Pedro community.

Authorize storage of Engine 24 at the Sheriff substation on Merced Falls Road. Placement of an engine within the subdivision enhances response times to the community.

Authorize expenditure of $7000 to construct a cover to house Engine 24. The funds are contained within the 2005-2006 budget for facilities.

Discussion of the status of the CDF Amador contract for the Blanchard CDF station.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The board has supported provision of emergency services.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Continue to have all members be a part of the Coulterville company and lose the identity of a Don Pedro based fire company.

Not house the unit in a secure location and forgo an opportunity to gain long term use of a facility.

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes  (x) No  Current FY Cost: $7000
Budgeted In Current FY? (X) Yes  ( ) No  ( ) Partially Funded
Amount in Budget: $10,000
Additional Funding Needed: $ -0-
Source:
Internal Transfer
Unanticipated Revenue
Transfer Between Funds
Contingency
( ) General  ( ) Other

Clerk’s Use Only:
Res. No: S5-347  Ord. No:____
Vote–Ayes:___  Noes:___
Absent:____
( ) Approved
( ) Minute Order Attached  ( ) No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.
Date:____
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California
By:______________________________
Deputy

County Administrative Officer:
( ) Requested Action Recommended
( ) No Opinion
Comments:
A budget adjustment for the construction of the cover will be submitted by Board approval to occur in the fiscal year 2005-06.

Amador County Administrative Officer:

CAO:________
TO: BLAINE SHULTZ, Fire Chief
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPANY 24 DON PEDRO AND AUTHORIZATION OF $7,000 EXPENDITURE TO CONSTRUCT A COVER FOR THE ENGINE
Resolution No. 05-347

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on July 19, 2005

ACTION AND VOTE:

Blaine Shultz, Fire Chief;
Establish an Additional Volunteer Fire Company in the Department, Company 24 Don Pedro, to Meet Standard Level of Service; Authorize Storage of Engine 24 at the Sheriff’s Substation on Merced Falls Road; Authorize Expenditure of $7,000 to Construct a Cover to House Engine 24; and Discussion of the Status of the California Department of Forestry (CDF) Amador Contract for the Blanchard CDF Station

BOARD ACTION: Discussion was held with Blaine Shultz relative to fire protection for the Lake Don Pedro area. Supervisor Turpin clarified that the formation of Company 24 is to compliment/enhance the services provided to the North County, and is not to do away with the Amador contract. Discussion was held. Input from the public was provided by the following:

Jim Haden asked why the firefighters left Tuolumne County to provide service through Mariposa County; and he asked if the Blanchard CDF station is changing its location. Blaine Shultz responded that he does not know why the firefighters are requesting to provide service through Mariposa County; and he advised that there has been some discussion on moving the Blanchard Station, but he is not aware of any plans in the near term. Gary Marshall, CDF Division Chief, advised that the State is rebuilding all of the old fire stations, and he will obtain more information on the proposal for the Blanchard Station. He also noted that if they move a station, it is kept within the area.

Discussion was held relative to the Amador contract and fire services and options for funding the cost of the contract. Carl Casey/PWD-Fiscal Officer, provided input relative to the Amador contract and the charges for six captains, and the financial impact of the contract on the 1M Fund. Supervisor Bibby commented on the status of the Bridgeport Fire Station project and the impact it has had on the residents since it is not up and running. She also asked that the Fire Chief provide information for the future – whether volunteers would be paid to cover the stations, and stated she feels that these issues need to be reviewed on a countywide basis. Supervisor Turpin noted that the Amador contract guarantees medical services to the area. Discussion was held. Dana Hertfelder, Public Works Director, provided input relative to the formation of the Lake Don Pedro subdivision and the provision for fire protection services.

George Wesley “Wes” Snyder reviewed the history of the 1M formation; and he noted that with the increase in population, there is a growing need for the Amador contract and the provision of medical services. He suggested that the 1M Fund contribute $10,000 toward the Amador contract and that the County pay the
rest. He noted that he feels that the golf course will be open in four to six months and the condominiums are being renovated and this will increase the 9-1-1 calls for service. He also commented on his personal history with being saved by the medical services in the area. He noted that he has served as a volunteer firefighter, EMT, ambulance driver, and reserve deputy sheriff for the area.

Sally Punte referred to her letter that she distributed to the Board, and she advised that she may have been off on a couple of things relative to the 1M funding and she feels it is good that the Service Area contributes to the Amador contract; however, she noted that they have two lakes and the golf course in their area that increase the need for services. She asked about the response statistics for Engines 24 and 26; the training levels for the firefighters; and she asked for clarification of the CDF paid staffing under the contract. Blaine Shultz responded to the questions.

Jim Haden provided input on the status of Tuolumne County maintaining the Amador contract and their actions to try to renegotiate the cost of the contract.

Wes Snyder provided input on the 1M Committee’s request for the County to investigate the possibility of a parcel tax in both counties, and he advised that they never received a response. Chairman Pickard advised of County Counsel’s review of the issues and the Proposition 218 process.

Sally Punte asked that the Board get back to the community with a local meeting. Supervisor Turpin noted that the membership is current on the Don Pedro 1M Committee and can facilitate keeping in touch with the community.

Further discussion was held.

Blaine Shultz initiated discussion relative to request to expend funds to construct a cover to house Engine 14. He advised that the funds can come from their Building Maintenance line item and he is not requesting additional funding. Supervisor Bibby asked Public Works to research the status of property that Boise Cascade gave to the County and/or the 1M Service Area during the formation of Lake Don Pedro.

(M)Turpin, (S)Fritz, Res. 05-347 was adopted establishing Volunteer Fire Company No. 24 in the Don Pedro area; and authorizing $7,000 to be expended to construct a cover for the engine from the FY 2005-06 budget. Supervisor Turpin clarified that the establishment of this Company does not replace the Amador contract, but is to compliment service for the area. Ayes: Turpin, Bibby, Fritz, Pickard; Excused: Stetson.

cc: File
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FIRE PROTECTION LEVEL OF SERVICE

LAKE DON PEDRO Subdivision

DEFINITIONS:

AMADOR PROGRAM: Contract for services by State employees during the non-fire season.

ISO: Insurance Services Office is a national fire evaluation organization that determines the level of service provided to residential and commercial risks with a numerical risk index. Homeowners insurance rates are calculated on the ISO rating. Mariposa County rating for hydrant areas is a “5” as is Tuolumne County. We have the ability to now place an average of 14 firefighters on scene and operational within the Standards as is required by ISO.

LEVEL OF SERVICE: Provision of an adequate number of personnel and equipment to meet certain criteria. For example, to enter a burning structure a minimum of four trained personnel are required.

The Mariposa County has historically provided fire protection to the Don Pedro area from Coulterville, Catheys Valley and Greeley Hill. In addition, District 1M has provided funding for Amador coverage at Blanchard Fire Station. Amador is a means to pay for costs in keeping State personnel available at fire stations in the winter months. Mariposa County has no Amador contract as all coverage is provided by volunteers and County employees year-round.

Fire protection has been provided by the Tuolumne County Fire Department/CDF at the Blanchard Fire Station located at Bonds Flat Road and Hwy 132. In the past, the station was staffed with one career Captain and 7-10 volunteer firefighters. The County provided equipment and a facility for the volunteer program and typical response met the level of service adequate to meet the ISO requirements as well as the OSHA 2-in 2- out criteria.

Beginning in late 2004 and early 2005, the volunteer program began to disintegrate with large numbers of volunteers leaving the service. A number of those individuals sought membership in the Mariposa County Fire Department. At the time the only station available was Company 26 based in Coulterville. Seven former TCU firefighters joined Coulterville. With the addition of new personnel, our limited staffing in Coulterville,
was enhanced significantly reducing the impact on the Greeley Hill company.

A portion of the new firefighters resided in Lake Don Pedro with others in the Black Oak Market area off Hwy 132. With the demand coming from Don Pedro, a reserve engine was placed in service and located on private property in the subdivision. The apparatus was numbered Engine 24, a designator which was assigned historically to that area. The bulk of the calls for service now come from the Don Pedro community and our ability to field apparatus and staffing offsets the declining numbers of firefighters available in Tuolumne County Fire Department.

Anticipated growth in the Merced Falls, Barrett Cove intersection with both commercial and residential properties will place a significant demand on emergency services in the future and one of the developers has developed a site for a fire station. Until that time, the department has requested permission from the Sheriff to collocate a covered storage location at the transfer station/Sheriff substation site. Cost of the covered facility is estimated to be $7,000 installed and should the proposed development occur the facility would be adequate to store boats for the Sheriff.

Level of service and coverage to the Don Pedro area indicates the greatest number of Mariposa would be served from this location as opposed to Bonds Flat Road. The department and the companies of the North County Battalion now field twenty trained firefighters with additional members in various stages of recruiting and training.
DATE: June 27, 2005

TO: Blaine Shultz, Fire Chief

FROM: Carl Casey, Fiscal Officer

SUBJECT: Fire Protection Agreement for Lake Don Pedro

As you and the Board of Supervisors are well aware, the cost of the agreement with Tuolumne County for fire protection services for the Lake Don Pedro subdivision has increased dramatically over the past few years. For the 2000-01 fiscal year the cost was $10,091 and for the current year it is $45,388. While everyone is in agreement that the Lake Don Pedro area needs fire protection services, the cost of the current agreement is of great concern to me. The Don Pedro 1-M fund that pays for the agreement does not have any revenue from fees to offset this annual charge, and if the cost continues to increase it will totally deplete the Don Pedro 1-M fund within the next two years.

If the Mariposa County Fire Department can provide fire protection services through a volunteer fire station in the Lake Don Pedro area, Public Works would recommend that we terminate the agreement with Tuolumne County. This would be tremendously helpful to the Don Pedro 1-M fund, and preserve the money remaining in the fund for other purposes.

We very much appreciate your efforts to establish a volunteer fire station to serve the residents of Lake Don Pedro. Please keep us informed of your progress in this area.

cc: Dana Hertfelder, Director
    Mary Hodson, Deputy CAO