BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - COUNTY OF MARIPosa
RESOLUTION NO. 78-56

Board of Supervisors' policy resolution on duties of Mariposa County Fire Warden; documenting Mariposa County Fire Plan; and establishing a Memorandum of Understanding between Mariposa County Volunteer Fire Departments, the County of Mariposa and Mariposa County's Fire Warden.

To provide direction and organization, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa designates the Ranger-in-Charge of the California Department of Forestry, as the Fire Warden of the County of Mariposa.

The Mariposa County Fire Warden shall be responsible for:

A. Implementing all policies of the Board of Supervisors pertaining to volunteer fire departments that receive financial support from the County.

B. The regular review of all county owned equipment assigned to the various fire departments to determine the operational adequacy of the vehicles and equipment.

C. Assurance that adequate training programs are instituted on a regular basis for all departments that participate in the fire program.

D. The receipt of reports on a monthly basis from the participating departments on all fire activities

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related to the unincorporated areas of the county.

E. Recommending and establishing a comprehensive communication system between all departments and a central dispatch.

F. Recommending on the adequacy of housing of all fire fighting equipment.

G. Develop proposed County Fire Protection budget and approve or disapprove expenditures from the County Fire Protection budget as adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa.

H. Coordinating the efforts of all fire departments on major fire operations in the unincorporated areas and coordinating the mutual aid responses between the county supported fire departments.

I. The design and submission to the County of a long range fire protection plan which shall include the definition of basic equipment complement which will be used by each department and that will ultimately provide the county with the best possible fire protection at the least cost.

J. Review and recommend to the Mariposa County Planning Commission or the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors all fire defense system proposals pursuant to Mariposa County ordinances, resolutions, regulations, and policies.
This Document shall be known as the Mariposa County Fire Plan and Memorandum of Understanding between the Mariposa County Volunteer Fire Departments and the County of Mariposa.

Introduction and Basic Policy Statement:

The County of Mariposa provides, through the volunteer fire departments, fire protection to the unincorporated areas of Mariposa County, except for the Mariposa Public Utility District. The county provides for this basic protection through certain specified support of Volunteer Fire Departments within the county. These departments are part of the Mariposa County Fire Department:

- Buckeye
- Bear Valley
- Catheys Valley
- Coulterville
- El Portal
- Fish Camp
- Greeley Hill
- Hornitos
- Indian Peak
- Lushmeadows
- Mormon Bar
- Midpines
- Wawona
- Ponderosa Basin

The county support provided these departments is contingent on certain specified local support. Failure in local support of a volunteer fire department will result in withdrawal of county support.

Definition of Terms and Operating Procedures:

In order to clarify the basic operating policy, the following definitions and operating procedures are given.

County Fire Warden:

The County Fire Warden is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. He supervises and acts as County Fire Chief for all supported fire agencies. The Fire Warden is the Ranger-in-Charge
of the Madera-Mariposa Ranger Unit of the California Department of Forestry. He is responsible for supervising and coordinating the county fire department in fire suppression activities, training, budgeting, assigning equipment, purchasing and filing claims for county funds, receiving reports, and inspection of county owned fire apparatus; also for developing and periodically updating the Mariposa County Fire Department fire plan.

Volunteer Fire Departments:

The volunteer fire departments are organized volunteer departments in the County of Mariposa, who provide fire protection service to specified areas within the county. These departments receive support from the county, and from local fund raising. Each volunteer fire department has a designated chief who commands the department and who operates under the overall coordination and direction of the County Fire Warden.

Local Support of the Volunteer Fire Departments:

The local volunteer fire departments must supply able bodied volunteer fire fighters, and in addition provide a weather proof heated structure for all vehicles and equipment. They are responsible for maintaining and caring for the county supplied equipment to a high standard. The local departments are held accountable, for the basic complement of equipment as defined by the present Fire Warden and approved by the Board of Supervisors. The local departments will have to supply any additional equipment over and above the complement or the plan. This equipment is to be used and controlled at the discretion of the volunteer fire departments.

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Purchasing:

All purchasing involving county accountable equipment (fixed assets) must be done on a county purchase order process by the County Fire Warden. The auditor will not approve any claim for which he/she does not have a copy of the purchase order signed by the County Fire Warden.

Inspections:

The Fire Warden will conduct inspections of the fire department equipment and facilities, as necessary. He will file at least one annual written inspection report on each volunteer unit with the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, on or by April 1st each year.

Withdrawal of Basic Complement:

Equipment supplied by the county will be withdrawn for continued poor attendance at training sessions and fires, poor maintenance, failure to follow proper operating policy or inability to respond to fires.

Policy Exceptions:

Exceptions to the basic policy may occur due to the unit's locality and equipment; however, such exceptions must be approved by the County Fire Warden.

Department of Forestry - Schedule A

This is a fire protection service, provided by the county through contract with the California Department of Forestry. The contract provides for central dispatching, administrative services, training and coordination services for the volunteer units. Specific services provided, are included in the "Detail of Schedule A", which is included as part of the Schedule A contract.
each year.

Central Dispatch:

This is a dispatching service provided for all the Mariposa County Volunteer Fire Departments, and Department of Forestry. Fire calls are received at this location and units are dispatched. The movement of all units, will be coordinated through the dispatcher, to insure proper coverage and fire control management. When necessary, units may be dispatched anywhere within the county.

County Support of the Volunteer Fire Departments:

The county will provide, a specified basic complement of fire apparatus. The type and number, will be dictated by the departments location, needs, and will be in accordance with the Mariposa County Fire Department fire plan. The county will also provide each type apparatus with a basic complement of tools, hose, and appliances, in accordance with this plan. The county will also provide for the gas, oil, preventive maintenance, and repair of the apparatus, and its equipment. Replacement of worn-out equipment will also be the county's responsibility. Compensation and liability insurance, for each regular fire department member is provided by the county. Utility bills can also be paid for by the county. The county will also provide alerting equipment for the volunteer departments.

Budgeting:

Budgeting, official correspondence and operating problems are to be routed through the Fire Warden for recommendation and presentation to the Board. The Fire Warden will forward all preliminary budgets through the County Administration for Board
Individual volunteer fire department representation before the Board of Supervisors shall be arranged upon request through the County Clerk's office for any specific operational problem or final budget hearing; County Fire Warden shall be notified by the County Clerk's office of the time and date of the appearance.

Volunteer Fire Company Constitution and By-Laws:

Constitution and By-Laws as developed and adopted by the volunteer fire departments and approved by the Board of Supervisors shall remain as departmental guidelines and operational procedures.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa this 28th day of March, 1978, by the following vote:

AYES: Clark, Long, Owings, Weber

NOES: Dalton

NOT VOTING: None

ABSENT: None

CARROLL N. CLARK, Chairman
Board of Supervisors
County of Mariposa

ELLEN BRONSON, County Clerk and
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board