



MARIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Committed to the preservation of life, property and environment.



April 9, 2019

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Cost-covered addition of 4.0 FTE Fixed-Term Firefighter positions for Fire Crew fuels/vegetation management work over the next two years

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the addition of 4.0 FTE Two-Year Fixed-Term Firefighter positions (class 0733) to support fuel reduction initiatives in the 2019 and 2020 fire seasons.

SUMMARY: Marin County Fire Department's Fire Crews provide critical work to reduce fire hazard in Marin by removing fuels and responding to wildfires. The County's first Fire Crew began in 2004, and a second Fire Crew was added 2018. Each crew consists of fourteen personnel and is led by a Fire Captain and Fire Engineer. The Fire Crews work to improve defensible space and reduce fire hazards over a nine-month period that begins in June and ends in March.

Recent agreements with MMWD, National Park Service, and Marin County Parks and Open Space have significantly expanded the area for fuel reduction efforts conducted by Marin County Fire Department personnel. The department also added a second Wildfire Protection Battalion Chief in 2016 that was fully funded by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The recommended addition of these four positions will enable the department to provide more consistent and experienced leadership to the existing Fire Crews without reducing personnel assigned to Engine Companies and Fire Stations. Due to the part-time nature of the Fire Crew work and the unpredictable nature of fire seasons, the department will continue to use existing personnel to lead the Fire Crews, and the new positions will provide backfill support to ensure full coverage at each fire station throughout the year.

While the addition of these fixed term positions is an important step towards supporting current fire prevention initiatives, more action is needed. As indicated in the March 26th update on "Lessons Learned: 2017 North Bay Fire

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Tamalpais Fire Crew

Siege”, Marin County Fire Department staff will continue working with our partners across the county to develop a consistent multi-jurisdictional approach and to identify a dedicated funding source to support countywide wildfire prevention and protection efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT: There will be no increase to the General Fund Net County cost as a result of your Board’s actions. The total cost of the positions and related temporary assignments is anticipated to be \$1.67 million over the next two years. There is a companion item on today’s agenda outlining the MOU with Marin County Parks and Open Space. This agreement will fund approximately half of the cost of the new positions over the next two years. In addition, the County has received assistance-by-hire funding from CalFire in FY 2018-19 that will be used to fund the remaining costs. Marin County Fire Department will work with the County Administrator’s Office on the related budget adjustments.

REVIEWED BY: County Administrator County Counsel

Respectfully Submitted,



Jason Weber
Fire Chief