

June 7, 2010



To the California Fire Service:

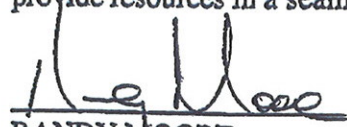
California has developed a model emergency response system to seamlessly utilize available federal, state and local government resources to protect the lives, property and natural resources of its people. However, due to heightened sensitivities concerning efficiency of services, fiscal propriety and accountability, the current administrative rate methodology contained in the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) and the proposed administrative rate for new or renewed local cooperative agreements between the USFS and local government fire agencies have become issues of contention this year.

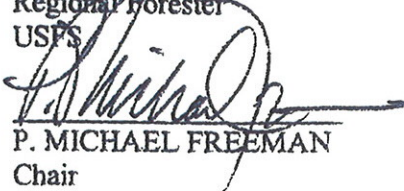
To ensure that California continues to maintain its effective and efficient emergency response system, executive staff representing the USFS, CAL FIRE, Cal EMA, FIREScope, and the Association of Contract Counties met to reaffirm the need for a positive working relationship through open communication, and to develop a plan of action for the upcoming year.


To address the current issues and reach a mutually agreeable solution, the group committed to the following:

- Extend the current CFAA administrative reimbursement rate through December 31, 2010.
- Extend or modify existing local cooperative agreements between the USFS and local government fire agencies to meet operational needs for the current year.
- Convene a working group to develop an approved administrative rate methodology for use in CFAA and all local cooperative agreements. The proposed methodology will be submitted to the Agreement Committee established within the CFAA for its review and approval by January 1, 2011.
- Explore the ability to standardize agreement language and consolidate cooperative agreements where possible prior to January 1, 2011 and conduct a training program for the California fire service.

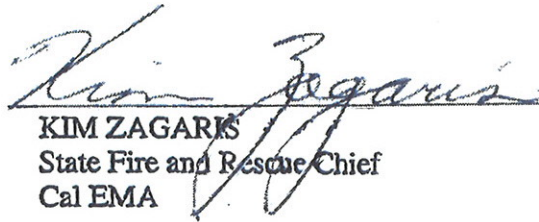
We, the undersigned, are committed to resolving these issues and maintaining the positive working relationship throughout the fire service in California. The concerns of all fire agencies must be considered as we work through these issues. As this endeavor moves forward, progress updates will be posted on the FIREScope and CWCG websites. Only with the continued cooperation among all the federal, state and local partners will California's integrated fire response system maintain its ability to provide resources in a seamless, effective and efficient manner.


RANDY MOORE
Regional Forester
USFS


P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
Chair
FIREScope


DEL WALTERS
Director
CAL FIRE


BOB ROPER
Chair
Association of Contract Counties


KIM ZAGARIS
State Fire and Rescue Chief
Cal EMA