

MADERA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

**IN COOPERATION WITH
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

**14225 ROAD 28
MADERA, CALIFORNIA 93638-5715
(559) 676-7799
FAX: (559) 673-2085**

**MIKEL L. MARTIN
MADERA COUNTY FIRE CHIEF**

October 12, 2007

TO: Stell Manfredi, Chief Administrative Officer
Madera County

FROM: Mikel L. Martin, Fire Chief
By: Stan Craig, Deputy Chief

SUBJECT: Fire Protection Service Delivery for the Proposed
Incorporation of Oakhurst

It has been brought to the attention of the Fire Department that there are misconceptions regarding the delivery of fire protection services in the area being proposed for incorporation.

At this writing, the proposal to incorporate Oakhurst provides that fire department services currently available within the proposed incorporation area will continue, without change, on a contractual basis. As you are probably aware, the fire department assets currently stationed within the proposed incorporation boundary depend on resources from outlying areas to provide an appropriate level of response for some emergencies. The practice of dispatching the nearest available and appropriate resources to any emergency within the Oakhurst area will continue under a fire protection contract with the Madera County Fire Department. Additionally, as is the case throughout the State of California, Mutual Aid resources from neighboring jurisdictions, will be requested if, and/or when, emergency incident circumstances dictate the necessity for responses in excess of what the local jurisdiction can muster. Mutual Aid Resources are provided to the host agency free of charge, for the duration of need.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) will continue to dispatch state funded resources to any fire incident within the proposed incorporation area, which represents a direct threat to watershed values protected by the state. Additionally, as a neighboring jurisdiction, Cal Fire will continue to provide assistance to this area on incidents which are not defined as a threat to its jurisdiction, through the Master Mutual Aid system.

When the incorporation effort succeeds, and the new city contracts for fire protection service delivery with the County of Madera, all fire department resources, from all local jurisdictions (Oakhurst City, Madera County, Cal Fire) will continue to utilize common radio frequencies and be managed under a single command structure. This system will continue to allow for a seamless utilization of any available fire department resource, regardless of statutory responsibility.

If further clarification or explanation is needed, regarding the delivery of fire protection services relative to the incorporation proposal, please feel free to contact me, or Deputy Chief Stan Craig.

cc: Ron Bucheger
President, A.C.T.I.O.N.