

## CHICO URBAN AREA FIRE AND RESCUE AGREEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

March 1, 2006 - February 28, 2007

In accordance with Section B of the Chico Urban Area Fire and Rescue Agreement (CUAFRA), the following Annual Report is submitted by the City and County Fire Chiefs.

The Agreement and the companion Chico Urban Area Fire and Rescue Plan were adopted by the City Council and Board of Supervisors on June 29, 1999. They were implemented on August 21, 2000. Routine functioning of the Agreement is described in an Operational Letter approved by the Fire Chiefs, City Manager, and the County Chief Administrative Officer. The most recent operational updates were made in 2003. The CUAFRA Service Area was expanded by Amendment 1 in 2003. The CUAFRA Plan and the Operational Letter are currently under administrative review by the Fire Chiefs at the direction of the City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer.

The core operational components of the Agreement are providing the closest fire engine to all emergencies within the CUAFRA Service Area and city staffing of a 3-person engine company at Station 6, west of the railroad tracks. Other firefighting resources such as City aerial ladder trucks, City and CAL FIRE wildland engines, County water tenders, CAL FIRE bulldozers, and both City and County volunteer fire companies are integrated into an automatic-aid system. The CUAFRA Plan provides premises guiding overall operation, ideal station locations, and an ideal Station Planning Sequence for the area as it continues to urbanize and incorporate.

Both the City and the County remain committed to the guiding principles of saving lives and property, protecting natural resources, saving taxpayer dollars, reciprocity and governmental continuity and accountability established in the 1999 Chico Urban Area Fire and Rescue Plan.

Due to rapid growth within the Chico Urban Area and annexations by the City, Fire Stations 42 and 44 respond to an increasing number of alarms that are now in the city. The City and County are working together to identify specific locations for new County Fire Stations in agreed-upon areas. The City has budgeted four million dollars in Redevelopment Agency funding to assist the County with the construction of these new stations.

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Although the CUAFRA Agreement remains viable today, there are a number of issues that require additional effort to meet the overall intent of providing the highest level of public safety emergency response to the City and County residents in the Urban Area. Important issues for the City are returning County engines to an urban staffing level of 3 persons, progress on relocating County Stations to agreed-upon new locations, and beginning operation of Fire Station 7 near Hicks Lane and Eaton Road. Key County issues are assuring response of the closest fire engine to all alarms within the CUAFRA Service Area, developing an agreed-upon station coverage plan, and improving communications procedures.

Statistics for the 2006 calendar year show the following level of interagency activity:

County to City

Automatic Aid Responses Provided	1264
Mutual Aid Responses Provided	<u>18</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	1282

City to County

Automatic Aid Responses Provided	481
Mutual Aid Responses Provided (some outside CUAFRA)	<u>124</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	605

Daily Average Mutual & Automatic Aid Responses - 5.2 (no change)

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The total number of responses provided by the County to the City continues to grow in relation to the number of responses provided by the City to the County. This is because of the continuing annexation of unincorporated territory within the urban area into the City and the historic location of County stations that now places them well within the City. The following statistics reflect the changing of jurisdiction:

County Station 41	288 total incidents; 0% City
County Station 42	1668 total incidents; 62% City
County Station 44	887 total incidents; 43% City

Both the City and County Fire Chiefs appreciate the continuing support of the Board, Council and Department personnel in working to improve the CUAFRA Agreement.

  
HENRI BRACHAIS  
County Fire Chief

  
STEVE BROWN  
City Fire Chief

Date 8-13-2007

Date 8-13-07