

Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Committee

CSAC Legislative Conference

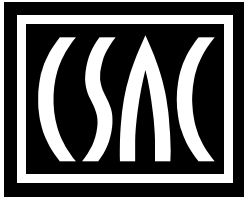
Wednesday, March 28, 2007 • 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Sheraton Grand Sacramento • Gardenia Ballroom Level
Sacramento, California

Supervisor Jeff Morris, Trinity County, Chair
Supervisor Mike Nelson, Merced County, Vice Chair

- 2:30 p.m. **I. Welcome and Introductions**
Supervisor Jeff Morris, Trinity County
Supervisor Mike Nelson, Merced County
- 2:40 p.m. **II. California Agriculture Outlook for 2007**
Secretary A.G. Kawamura, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Eric Stein, Deputy Director, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- 3:00 p.m. **III. Global Warming/Climate Change:**
- **State Activities Regarding Climate Change: Implications for Counties**
Howard Choy, Los Angeles County
 - **Report on NACo Global Warming Resolution (ATTACHMENT 1)**
Supervisor Susan Adams, Marin County
- 3:25 p.m. **IV. Community Forest Stewardship**
Supervisor Jeff Morris, Trinity County, Chair
Pat Frost, Director, Trinity County Resource Conservation District
- 3:45 p.m. **V. CSAC Flood Protection Policy Working Group Report**
Supervisor Roger Dickinson, Sacramento County – Chair, CSAC Flood Protection Policy Working Group
Karen Keene, CSAC Legislative Representative
- 4:00 p.m. **VI. Update: Office of Inspector General Audit of U.S. Forest Service (ATTACHMENTS 2-3)**
Fire Chief Ken Masucco, Marin FPD
- 4:20 p.m. **VII. CSAC County Platform Revision Update**
Karen Keene, CSAC Legislative Representative
- 4:30 p.m. **VIII. Closing Comments and Adjournment**
Supervisor Jeff Morris, Trinity County
Supervisor Mike Nelson, Merced County

Note: Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., CSAC Building, 1100 K Street, Suite 101, First Floor Conference Room



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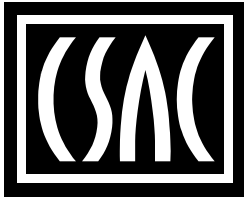
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment One

Report on NACo Global Warming Resolution

Attachment Two and Three

Update: Office of Inspector General Audit of U.S.
Forest Service



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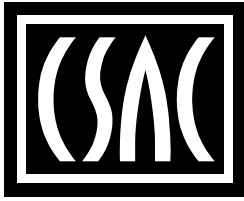
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Attachment One

Report on NACo Global Warming Resolution



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RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE PRACTICAL ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE RISKS OF GLOBAL WARMING

Issue: Global Warming and Climate Change

Adopted policy: NACo urges Congress to address global warming, regardless of its source. NACo supports immediate and long-range efforts by the federal government to involve all levels of stakeholders to mitigate possible sources of climate change now through a series of practical incentives and through more federal funding for all means of emissions reduction. NACo will provide a leadership role in the education, discussion, evaluation, and decision making processes regarding issues of global climate change affecting counties.

Background: Climate disruption is a reality. As a result many cities, counties, and regional organizations throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing pollutants through a series of programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits. Emission reduction programs benefit communities through reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies.

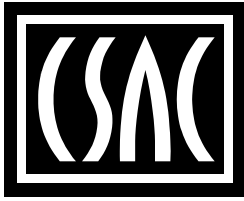
All strategies for emissions reduction should be considered, including but not limited to, mass transit, biofuels, hydrogen, wind and tidal energy, geothermal and other forms of renewable energy strategies, nuclear, clean coal technologies and smart growth strategies.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that local governments spend \$3.4 billion too much on energy costs through waste and inefficiency. Hundreds of counties are participating in the Energy Star program to cut county energy costs and pollution by 20-40 percent. More than 40 counties are enrolled in the County Energy Efficiency Network to save money and reduce pollution. Many of these counties work with performance contractors to improve efficiency at no out-of-pocket cost to taxpayers.

Many counties like King County, WA; Dane County, WI; Montgomery County, MD; New Castle County, DE; and Fairfax County, VA are also taking voluntary measures to cut air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions to help attain clean air.

The U.S. National Academy of Sciences and 10 other countries recently called for immediate action to curb greenhouse air pollution tied to global warming. The world's preeminent climatologists from 113 countries just attended the International Panel on Climate Change Conference (IPCC) and jointly stated on January 31, 2007 that recent global warming was "very likely" caused by human activity but there was still no consensus as to certainty.

However, all can concur that the earth is warming up and therefore it makes sense to discuss the consequences of global warming and to discuss what initiatives can be undertaken to address these consequences. Most scientists agree that global warming impacts are now being seen and cost-effective solutions exist like more energy efficiency and renewable energy. Extreme climate change could have a



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huge impact on counties with more and severe floods, a growth in killer heat waves, shifting crop patterns, wildfires and lack of or too much snow.

Congress is considering many measures to reduce greenhouse air pollution. This NACo policy supports practical, cost-effective efforts to reduce greenhouse air pollution to save lives, jobs, and money and reduce the risk of global warming.

NACo believes that any changes to address multi-emissions pollution should support current Clean Air Act provisions and protect the ability of states/ localities to adopt more stringent regulations. NACo has language dealing with multi-emissions reductions, states rights, trading, New Source Review (NSR), and greenhouse gases.

Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact: Implementing conservation measures could save counties billions and reduce the risk of flooding, heat wave deaths, crop losses and higher fuel costs. This measure would increase rural income with wind farms and bio-fuel projects.

Adopted by the NACo Board of Directors
March 5, 2007



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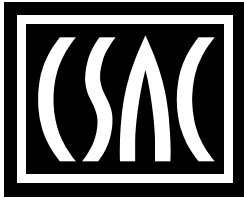
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Update: Office of Inspector General Audit of U.S. Forest Service



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NASF ISSUE PAPER
OIG Audit Report on FS Fire Suppression Cost

ISSUE: Office of Inspector General Audit Report No. 08601-44-SF. Forest Service Large Fire Suppression Costs Issued November 20, 2006.

BACKGROUND: On November 20, 2006 the USDA Inspector General released its audit report on Forest Service large fire suppression costs. The report provides a critical examination of FS large fire suppression costs and contains recommendations related to clarifying the responsibilities of both the Forest Service and States in protecting private property in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), and ensuring an equitable allocation of costs between federal and non-federal entities. In conducting the audit, the Inspector General relied solely on the opinions and observations of Forest Service officials. State and local government agencies were neither interviewed nor asked to comment on the report.

KEY POINTS:

- The Inspector General has over-simplified a complex situation and failed to recognize the differences in land management objectives among federal, state, local, and tribal organizations.
- All wildland fire protection agencies (federal, state, local, and tribal) have a shared responsibility for protecting private property in the WUI.
- Protecting communities, our citizens and their individual homes, and businesses in the WUI from destruction by wildfire is by its very nature a complex high cost endeavor, and represents a significant budget problem for all protection entities.
- Shifting federal suppression costs related to the WUI to states or local government does not reduce total suppression costs, nor does it address the real problems in protecting the WUI.
- The solution to cost-effective WUI protection is multi-faceted and requires the cooperation of all wildland fire protection entities.
 - Federal agencies must be more aggressive in reducing forest fuel accumulations on federal lands adjacent to private development.
 - All protection entities must implement comprehensive prevention and public education programs, such as the FIREWISE program, and encourage communities to develop Community Wildfire Prevention Plans (CWPPs).
 - Local government must be more proactive in developing sensible regulations for WUI development, such as effective zoning and building codes, as has been proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo).
 - Home and business owners in the WUI must take personal responsibility for reducing the ignitability of their structures and providing for adequate defensible space around their properties.
- It is appropriate for state, local and tribal protection entities to share the suppression costs of a wildfire that originates on federal lands and then spreads to neighboring state, private, or tribal lands, as long as the federal agency aggressively fights the fire under a suppression objective.
- It is the responsibility of federal agencies to keep wildfires that originate on their lands from burning onto non-federal lands. State, local, and tribal entities are under no obligation to share



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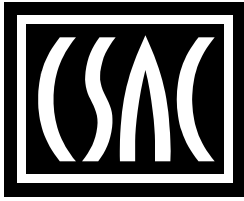
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the costs of a wildfire that originates on federal lands, if that fire never spreads off of federal lands.

- If a federal agency ignites a prescribed fire, chooses to manage a wildfire under a Wildland Fire Use objective (using the fire to create resource benefits), or some other Appropriate Management Response strategy that is less than full suppression, and the fire subsequently spreads to non-federal lands, the federal agency is solely responsible for all suppression costs.

CONTACT: Dan Smith, NASF Fire Director, 208-867-0908



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United States Forest Service (USFS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Report Issue Paper

Problem Statement:

On November 20, 2006, the USFS released their OIG audit of large fire suppression costs. This report identified a need to mitigate the escalating costs of large Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fires occurring across the nation. The report identifies several issues:

1. People moving into the WUI areas need to assume responsibility to protect their homes and ensure their homes are constructed and landscaped to reduce wildfire risks.
2. State and local government regulate WUI development, not the Federal government.
3. Feds need to be held more accountable in addressing the WUI problem.

Recommendations:

Feds will be implementing cost-containment options that can strengthen firefighting operations without sacrificing safety by (1) increasing the use of managed wildland fires to thin fuels, (2) having non-Fed entities share more of the wildland fire suppression costs, (3), establish control to assess the performance of line officers and incident commanders in controlling costs.

Concerns:

1. While this report applies directly to the USFS, there may be similar actions taken with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Fish & Wildlife, etc. and a domino effect from State to local government.
2. There needs to be a value given to local government and State fire resources/agencies on their contribution to the national fire problem being addressed. This study looked at what the Feds provide and not vice verses.
3. This is a national problem and “cost shifting” does not contribute to the overall goal attainment.
4. The WUI fire issue is not going to diminish as global climate changes indicate future increased fire incidents.