

Agenda Item No.	F
	Legislative Emergency Board Appearance
Date of Presentation:	April 29, 2008
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**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda item is to seek approval from the Board of Forestry to appear before the Legislative Emergency Board in June 2008. If approved, the Department will report on the 2008 Fire Season Severity Plan and Air Tanker Program, request severity reimbursement for the 2007 fire season, request release of funds for 2008 catastrophic fire insurance premiums, and request an Other Funds limitation increase along with a General Fund appropriation to match landowner assessments, based upon FY09 District budgets.

**CONTEXT and BACKGROUND**

During the 2007 regular session, the Legislative Assembly approved a \$4,979,654 special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board for use by the Department for catastrophic fire insurance premiums, an air tanker program and severity resources.

Requested funding is for expenditures paid for aircraft (two air-tankers, one lead plane, four contract helicopters, additional Call When Needed helicopters and ground based resources (crews and engines). Cost for these resources is currently projected at \$2.1 million.

Funding for the 2008 fire season catastrophic insurance premium cost was provided as a specific General Fund appropriation of \$540,753 and was based upon a forecast from last fiscal year's premium payment.

Letters to the Emergency Board containing greater detail on the actual requests will be prepared for submission by the May 2008 deadline to the Legislative Fiscal Office and the Department of Administrative Services. Copies of these letters will be forwarded to Board members upon completion.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the State Forester's appearance before the Legislative Emergency Board in June 2008 to:

- (1) Report on the 2008 Fire Season Severity Plan;
- (2) Request severity cost reimbursement of approximately \$2 million;
- (3) Request funding for payment of the anticipated 2008 fire season catastrophic insurance premium of \$540,753;
- (4) Request a limitation increase to cover projected costs for concluding the 2007 fire season and cover forecasted expenditures for 2008, and request additional General Fund to match landowner assessments based on FY09 approved district budgets.