



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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ATTACHMENT 4

Date: August 22, 2013

To: State Board of Fire Services

From: Ben Ho
Division Chief
Fire Engineering/Arson Bomb

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Fireworks Disposal Update. This regular update is for information only and no action is required.

Recommended Actions:

Information/Discussion Only

Background Information:

California Health and Safety Code (HSC) §12726 delegates the CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) the responsibility for the destruction of dangerous and illegal fireworks seized by local fire departments and law enforcement agencies. Currently, there is no sustainable funding source in place for the fireworks disposal program.

Analysis/Summary of Issue

Fireworks disposal operations are under way. The OSFM has been notified of over 250,000 pounds of seized illegal fireworks currently being stored by local fire and law enforcement agencies. Funding through the Department of Toxic Substances Control settlement agreement for disposal operations has been depleted. We have explored other alternatives including a possible increase to the fireworks license fee; however, the fee increase may have a major financial impact to non-profit groups. The OSFM received a one - time allocation of \$500,000 from the legislature to assist with shipping and disposal cost but this funding will fall significantly short of the required \$2.5 million needed for the current quantities. We anticipate discussions regarding possible solutions for a sustainable funding source will resume with the Governor's Office, CAL EPA, and the Department of Finance.

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