

June 23, 1982

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TO: HEAD DEPUTY FORESTER ARTHUR M. ARNDT
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF GEORGE DEMOS (IN TURN)

FROM: SENIOR DEPUTY FORESTER KLAUS RADTKE

SUBJECT: COOPERATIVE (RESEARCH) AGREEMENTS

Background

On January 14, 1982 I was asked to attend a meeting in the conference room at the LAO in which Peter Ireland, Field Deputy for Supervisor Deane Dana, expressed the Board of Supervisors' desire to produce a homeowner guide on the public safety issues of watershed and fire management. Many Demos (January 18, 26, February 1, 11, March 15, 23, etc.) expressed the desire of the Forestry Division, the Forest Service and the Board of Supervisors to carry out this directive. Subsequently, Fire Chief Bragdon approved and the Board of Supervisors on May 11, 1982 signed Amendment No. 3 to Master Agreement 21-436 for conducting "Chaparral Ecology and Related Ecosystem Studies" (County of Los Angeles and Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, Berkeley).

Under the terms of the contract, the County agreed that I, as principal cooperator, would provide the following services or products by these deadlines:

May 15 Progress Report

July 1 Homeowner guide on watershed and fire safety (condensing the book, "Living More Safely at the Chaparral-Urban Interface")

Updated and re-edited version of the above book for publication by the Forest Service (of the unabridged version)

August 1 Study plan for evaluating the ecological effects of prescribed burning in chaparral ecosystems

Accomplishments, Problems

To date, I have met the above deadlines and also expect to meet the remaining ones. However, this required a greater

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effort than necessary on my part primarily because of the delay within our Department in approving the Amendment and subsequent lack of support after it was signed.

A case in point is my travel. In March I was urged by the Forest Service to travel to Berkeley to cooperate in writing, editing and rewriting of the two books and use their staff support services in order to meet the July 1 deadlines. My well-documented travel request was initially denied by Chief Demos because the contract had not yet been approved and thereafter denied by Chief Bragdon for reasons unknown. However, I was made to understand that the Chief intends to "throttle down my travel" whether or not there is outside funding or a cooperative agreement signed by the Board of Supervisors that necessitates the travel. Over six weeks have passed since the Amendment was signed and over three months since I forwarded my travel request to the Bureau Chief. The books, as spelled out in the contract, are due within a week.

Cooperative (research) agreements require that I act both as Senior Deputy Forester and research scientist. The latter position requires that I think and act more independently than Departmental policy permits, especially when I am faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles and still have to meet contract deadlines in order not to embarrass our profession, the Department, and the Board of Supervisors.

In view of the Departmental red tape concerning outside contracts, I now respectfully request that I not be expected to carry out any new contracts unless the Department policy changes. I, of course, will see the present contracts to completion and will continue to put my efforts in supporting the needs of our Department and the taxpayer.

AR:m