SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PORTERVILLE CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION’S PRESENCE AT THE PORTERVILLE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT’S AIR ATTACK BASE

SOURCE: FIRE DEPARTMENT / AIRPORT

COMMENT: In response to the State budget crisis, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has developed a plan to move their aircraft operations from Porterville to Fresno. Should the State implement this plan, it would have dire consequences on the City of Porterville and the southern San Joaquin Valley’s fire protection system.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council adopt the attached resolution in support of maintaining the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s presence at the Porterville Municipal Airport’s Air Attack Base.

ATTACHMENT: 1- Resolution

Item No. 13
RESOLUTION NO. ___-2003

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PORTERVILLE CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION’S PRESENCE AT THE PORTERVILLE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT’S AIR ATTACK BASE

WHEREAS, the City of Porterville and the State of California, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, have had a mutually beneficial working relationship for over 75 years; and

WHEREAS, the State of California is currently undergoing a budget crisis and considering canceling their agreement with the United States Forest Service to jointly staff the Porterville Municipal Airport’s Air Attack Base; and

WHEREAS, operations of the Air Attack Base account for approximately 50% of the airport’s annual budget; and

WHEREAS, should the State of California withdraw from the airport, the City’s ability to maintain a safe and fully operational airport will be jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, without a safe and fully operational airport, the United States Forest Service’s Air Attack Base would be in jeopardy of closing; and

WHEREAS, isolated communities, hillside communities, and the Tule River Indian Reservation rely on a quick air attack as their primary response to potentially catastrophic fires; and

WHEREAS, leaving Porterville intact would maintain a quick initial response and increased fire fighting capabilities, which in turn, would lessen the human exposure to fire danger; and

WHEREAS, the Southern San Joaquin Valley, Tulare County and Kern County in particular, contain more State Response Area than any other geographical area in the Central Valley which would require missions to the Southern San Joaquin Valley be launched from Fox Field in L.A. County to the South, Paso Robles to the West, and Fresno to the North. This would result in a significant increase in response time and turn-around time. This would unreasonably expose the populace of the South Valley to potentially larger and more costly fire operations; and

WHEREAS, supplemental ground support personnel costs account for an estimated payroll of $50,000 a season which is turned over within the City of Porterville and has an economic impact approaching $150,000; and

WHEREAS, the Porterville Batch Plant is an “Account Base” facility which is staffed by C.D.F. personnel and is less expensive to operate and maintain than a contract vendor.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Porterville, State of California that the Council does:

1. Strongly support the continuation of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s joint agreement with the United States Forest Service to staff the Porterville Municipal Airport’s Air Attack Base.

2. Strongly support a continuing and jointly beneficial working relationship between the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the United States Forest Service, and the City of Porterville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Porterville does hereby authorize the Mayor of the City of Porterville to sign any documents or letters required to assist the City of Porterville in maintaining the presence of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection at the Porterville Municipal Airport.

___________________________________
Gordon T. Woods, Mayor

ATTEST:

John Longley, City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF TULARE )

I, JOHN LONGLEY, the duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Porterville do hereby certify and declare that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Porterville at a regular meeting of the Porterville City Council regularly called and held on the 7th day of January, 2003.

THAT said resolution was duly passed adopted by the following vote:

COUNCIL: AYES:
COUNCIL: NOES:
COUNCIL: ABSTAIN:
COUNCIL: ABSENT:

JOHN LONGLEY, City Clerk

By ______________________________
Georgia Hawley, Deputy City Clerk