

AUTHORITY FOR COOPERATIVE FIRE SERVICES
(December 1988)

8501

GOVERNMENT CODE (GC)

Sections 6500-6514 - Joint Exercise of Powers

Enable a county to enter into contractual arrangements for fire protection or other purposes with any public agency, including the state and federal governments; this statute is commonly referred to as the "Joint Exercise of Powers Act."

Sections 18701-18709 - Blanketing Local Agency Employees Into State Service

Authorize the State Personnel Board (SPB) to prescribe, amend and repeal rules for the conduct of the Merit Civil Service System. Includes authorization for the SPB to arrange for transfer of functions to state and make determination of credits.

Section 24008 - County Fire Wardens

Provides that the board of supervisors may appoint a county fire warden and such assistants or deputy county fire wardens as it may consider necessary. The section outlines the duties of the county fire warden, including enforcement of rules and regulations adopted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and the State Fire Marshal.

Section 25210.51 - County Service Area May Contract With The Director

Provides authority whereby a county service area may contract with the Director for structural fire protection services.

Section 25639 - County May Make Fire Protection Studies With The State

States, "Any county may appropriate and expend, either within or without the County, money from the general fund of the county for cooperation with the State Board of Forestry, the United States Forest Service, or the California Forest Experiment Station in investigations relating to watershed protection, reforestation, and afforestation, when such investigations are for the benefit of the county."

Section 25642 - County May Appropriate Money For Fire Protection

States that, "The Board of Supervisors may appropriate in any one year such sum of money as the Board of Supervisors deems necessary for the purpose of providing fire protection."

Section 26152 - County May Provide for Fire Prevention Education

Provides that the board of supervisors of a county may provide for the education or information of the public relative to the prevention of fires and the conservation of natural resources.

Section 50078.2 - Fire Protection Services Assessments

Authorizes districts, counties, county service areas, and cities to levy an assessment for fire protection services provided that it be related to the benefit received and that it cannot be for the purpose of providing wildland or watershed protection in SRA.

Sections 53100-53120 - Local Emergency Telephone System "911"

Provide the legal basis for the "911" local emergency telephone system.

Sections 55603-55604 - Local Agencies May Contract With Counties for Fire Protection

Provide that the board of supervisors of any county may contract with any local agency within the county for fire protection to be performed by the county fire warden, who may be the local ranger-in-charge of CDF.

Section 55606 - Counties May Contract With The Director

States that, "The Board of Supervisors may contract with the State through the CDF, for the performance by the Director, his chiefs, and assistants of functions for the prevention or suppression of fires within the County."

Section 55607 - The Director May Contract With Counties

States, "The CDF may contract with the County for the performance by the County Fire Warden, his deputies, and assistants of functions for the purpose of prevention or suppression of fires within the County."

Section 55608 - Powers and Duties of County Fire Wardens

States, "When a contract has been made, the Director or the County Fire Warden may exercise the same powers and duties within the County for the prevention and suppression of fires which by State or local law is conferred upon such officers."

Section 55632 - Local Agencies May Contract With Other Local Agencies For Fire Protection

States, "The legislative body of any local agency may contract with any other local agency for the furnishing of fire or police protection to such other local agency."

Section 55640-55642 - County May Contract For Rescue and Resuscitator Services

Provide that the board of supervisors of a county may contract with the director for rescue and resuscitator services.

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE (PRC)

Section 4133 - Agreements With Contract Counties

States, "The Department shall, with the approval of the Department of General Services, annually enter into a contract with any county which enacts an ordinance as provided in Section 4129." [Section 4129, provides that counties may elect to assume responsibility for the prevention and suppression of all fires in the county, including lands within State Responsibility Area, when the Director of CDF concurs in accordance with criteria promulgated by the State Board of Forestry.]

Section 4134 - Payment To Contract Counties

Provides the parameters and restrictions within which the state may pay counties for providing fire protection to SRA.

Section 4135 - Contract Counties Must Spend State Monies for Purpose Intended

States that the CDF must require that money paid to the contract counties for the protection of SRA must be expended for that purpose.

Section 4142 - Cooperative Agreements

States, "The Department may, with the approval of the Department of General Services, enter into a cooperative agreement upon such terms and under such conditions as it deems wise, for the purpose of preventing and suppressing forest fires or other fires in any lands within any county, city or district which makes an appropriation for such purpose."

Section 4143-4144 - Cooperative Agreements With Counties (Amador Plan)

Provide that the Director of CDF, with guidelines set by the Board of Forestry, may enter into a cooperative agreement with any county or special district when any such county so requests, for the purpose of preventing and suppressing forest fires or other fires within the county or special district, upon such terms and conditions as are mutually agreed upon.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

Sections 1480-1485 - Counties May Establish Programs For Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics

Provide that counties may conduct a program utilizing mobile intensive care paramedics; outline training criteria and establish standards for certification procedures.

Sections 1797-1799.108 - Counties May Develop An Emergency Medical Services Program

Provide that counties may develop an emergency medical services program; set standards and training criteria; and provide for medical control to assure medical accountability for the program. These sections also establish the Emergency Medical Services Authority in the Health and Welfare Agency. Additionally, the Interdepartmental Committee on Emergency Medical Services is established to coordinate budgets and activities of other state agencies providing emergency medical services.

Section 13821 - State Responsibility Within Fire Districts

States that, "Fire protection responsibility for timbered, brush and grass lands within a fire district shall remain that of the State." The fire district shall have the fire protection responsibility for structures in the area.

Section 13855 - Fire Districts May Contract With Other Agencies

Provides that fire districts may contract with other governmental agencies for structural fire protection.

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

Section 4125 - Classification of State Responsibility Area (SRA)

States in part, "~~The (State) Board (of Forestry) shall classify all lands within the State, without regard to any classification of lands made by or for any federal agency or purpose, for the purpose of determining areas in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires is primarily the responsibility of the State.~~" (Words in parentheses and all underlining added for editorial purposes.) This statute provides the basis for defining so-called "State Responsibility Area" within which the CDF is responsible for preventing and suppressing wildfires.

Section 4125 - Definition of Local Responsibility Area

States in part, "The prevention and suppression of fires in all areas which are not so classified (as State Responsibility Area) is primarily the responsibility of local or federal agencies, as the case may be."

[\(see next section\)](#)

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[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)