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Nevada County to get \$635K in rural schools funding

Nevada County will receive a total of \$634,700 in Secure Rural Schools funding for fiscal 2014 and 2015, county CEO Rick Haffey announced late Friday.

Haffey, in his weekly Friday memo, said the funds were allocated after the U.S. Senate approved and President Obama signed a two-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 through a bill related to Medicare reimbursement rates.

The legislation, H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, is also known as the “Doc Fix” bill.

“This funding is not a hand-out,” Nevada County Supervisor and Rural County Representatives of California delegate Nate Beason said. “It’s money that the federal government owes us every year.”

“Rural county representatives work hard here and in Washington to advance rural issues and understanding of the important role forested counties play in supplying food, fiber and water to urban areas,” Beason said. “What happens in rural counties doesn’t stay in rural counties.”

SRS funding mitigates the impact to county governments from the reduction of timber harvesting on federal forest lands. Prior to this reauthorization, SRS expired on Sept. 30, 2013, resulting in a loss of funding in 2014 and future years to support critical programs in schools and forested counties across the United States.

California’s rural counties have come to rely on SRS funding to support public schools and critical county road programs.

“SRS funding is critical to California’s rural counties, and we appreciate the reauthorization provided by Congress and the president,” said Lee Adams, Rural County Representatives of California chair and Sierra County supervisor. “It’s now time to identify a long-term, stable funding source for forested counties and schools to maintain vital programs and avoid interruptions in services and operations.”

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