



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Fire Department
Department No.: 031
For Agenda Of: July 9, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Mark A. Hartwig, Fire Chief 805-681-5507
Director(s)
Contact Info: Diane Sauer, Fiscal Manager 805-681-5505

SUBJECT: Thomas Fire Cost Share Settlement

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A
As to form:

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following:

- a) Authorize the Fire Chief to sign the Thomas Fire Settlement Worksheet-10 Party (Attachment A) resulting in a reimbursement to the County Fire Department of \$2,732,806.45; and
- b) Find that the proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378(b)(2) in that the Agreement involves a continuing administrative or maintenance activity, and CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), in that the Agreement involves an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in the direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

Summary Text:

The recommended action will allow the Fire Chief to sign the Thomas Fire Settlement Worksheet-10 Party between Federal, State and Local Agencies that identifies County Fire's share of costs as \$111,038.08 and a reimbursement due to County Fire of \$2,732,806.45.

Background:

County Fire initially responded on December 4, 2017 to the Thomas Fire in support of the State mission in Ventura County. As the fire progressed and it became clear that multiple parties would be responsible for a share of the costs, the cost apportionment process was instituted for the Thomas Fire. County Fire

executed the attached “Cost Share Agreement for the Thomas Fire” (Attachment B). The cost apportionment process is one of the accepted methods within the fire service to allocate/share the costs of an incident.

As a result of this methodology and the fire’s advancement into Santa Barbara County, it was determined that the Santa Barbara County Fire Department would be responsible for 0.04% of the total incident costs for ground resources and 0.20% of the total incident costs for aircraft and retardant. This is identified in the attached cost share agreement. While County Fire provided significant support to the incident for an extended period of time, County Fire’s jurisdictional responsibility was actually very small, as reflected in the cost share percentages.

Total fire incident costs have been calculated and result in a cost share responsibility of \$111,038.08 for County Fire and a reimbursement to County Fire of \$2,732,806.45. All ten parties that were signatory to the Cost Share Agreement for the Thomas Fire have been asked to sign the Thomas Fire Settlement Worksheet-10 Party.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No. Costs were incurred during FY 2017/18.

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

A total of \$2,732,806.45 will be reimbursed to the Santa Barbara County Fire Department for the response to the Thomas Fire. Through the fire cost share settlement process, the Fire Department’s share of costs is \$111,038.08 which the Department will subsequently include as part of the County’s disaster claim once the settlement has been finalized.

Staffing Impacts:

None

Special Instructions:

None

Attachments:

- A. Thomas Fire Settlement Worksheet – 10 Party
- B. Cost Share Agreement for the Thomas Fire (supporting documentation referenced in the Agreement is on file at County Fire).

Authored by:

Diane Sauer, Fire Department

cc:

Mark A. Hartwig, Fire Chief
Rob Heckman, Deputy Fire Chief