

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 4/1/05  
**Department Name:** FIRE  
**Department No.:** 031  
**Agenda Date:** 4/19/05  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** 5  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** John M. Scherrei  
Fire Chief

**STAFF** Bruce Carter, Manager, Fire/OES, 681-5559  
**CONTACT:** Joe Guzzardi, Planner, Fire/OES, 681-5556

**SUBJECT:** Request for Waiver of Competition in Purchase of Searchcam EntryLink Hazmat Wireless Video System

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## **Recommendation:**

That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Purchasing Manager to procure the Searchcam® EntryLink Hazmat Wireless Video System, from Search Systems Incorporated, in an amount not to exceed \$42,000 under the terms and conditions of the Fiscal Year 2004 State Homeland Security Grant Program without being required to conduct a formal bid process.

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

Pursuant to County Code Section 2-39, we are requesting your Board to waive the requirement for a competitive bid for the purchase of a specialized wireless video system that will be used by the Santa Barbara County Hazardous Materials Unit. The Searchcam® EntryLink Hazmat Wireless Video System gives incident command personnel the ability to see and hear in real time what a hazardous materials entry team encounters. Two unique aspects of the Search Systems Inc. wireless video system are that (1) it is manufactured with materials that can be decontaminated following exposure to hazardous chemicals, and (2) it can operate safely in an explosive environment. The system includes a handheld camera unit, microphone, laser pointer, temperature sensor, microwave transmitter, antenna/receiver system, and monitor. Search Systems Incorporated is the only manufacturer or distributor that offers a system of this type. Attached is a copy of the Board letter authorizing the Fiscal Year 2004 State Homeland Security Grant Program funding.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

The purchase of the Searchcam® EntryLink Hazmat Wireless Video System will enhance the emergency response capabilities of Santa Barbara County and mutual aid agencies to respond to terrorism incidents.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Funding for the Searchcam® EntryLink Hazmat Wireless Video System would be from the Fiscal Year 2004 State Homeland Security Grant Program. A budget revision has been created to cover this \$42,000 purchase price.

**Special Instructions:**

Certified Copy of Minute Order to:

Rose Pueschel, Santa Barbara County Fire  
John McMillin, Purchasing Agent  
Office of Emergency Services

**Concurrence:** County Executive Officer, County Counsel, Purchasing Manager