



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 No.: 031
For Agenda Of: March 10, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Garrett Huff, Fire Chief / Fire Warden
Contact: Jennie Brunick, CFAO
SUBJECT: Acceptance of Non-Cash Donation Greater than \$10,000 from the Colonial Greene Trust

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: CEO Budget

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Santa Barbara County Fire Department to accept a non-cash donation of sixteen (16) Infrared Detoxification Units (IDU) from the Colonial Greene Trust totaling \$89,625.60; and
- b) Approve Budget Revision Request #BJE-0010982 (Attachment B); and
- c) Determine that these activities are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(4), since the recommended actions are governmental fiscal activities which do not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

The recommended action by the Board of Supervisors is to authorize the acceptance of the referred non-cash donation in accordance with the California Government Code Section 25355, and the Policies & Procedures for the Acceptance of Donations and Gifts to the County.

The Fire Department is requesting Board approval to accept a non-cash donation from the Colonial Greene Trust of sixteen (16) Infrared Detoxification Units (IDUs) to support firefighter health, safety, and

wellness. The donated equipment will be installed at County fire stations and made available for voluntary use by Department personnel. The total estimated value of the donation is \$89,625.60.

The sauna units are currently in stock and available for shipment. Delivery could occur as early as March 2026, pending approval by the Board of Supervisors and completion of acceptance procedures.

Discussion:

The Department has evaluated Infrared Detoxification Units (IDUs) as part of its broader health and safety strategy. Key benefits of IDUs include aiding post-incident recovery by reducing contaminants on or within the body through deep-tissue infrared heat and controlled sweating and limiting off-gassing of contaminants in shared spaces to reduce secondary exposure risks. Additionally, the use of IDUs supports improved circulation, muscle recovery, and stress reduction, all of which are vital for personnel engaged in physically demanding, high-stress fire service work.

The Colonial Greene Trust has offered to donate 16 Clear Light Infrared sauna units. Each County fire station will install one unit. This donation supports the Department's ongoing commitment to firefighter wellness and long-term risk reduction. Employees will use the equipment only for wellness. It will complement, not replace, current safety protocols, fitness programs, behavioral health initiatives, and decontamination procedures. The Department has created a specific policy and procedure to guide safe equipment use. The donation comes with no conditions or restrictions. The donor receives no influence or preferential treatment.

Background:

Firefighters are routinely exposed to hazardous combustion byproducts, including carcinogens, heavy metals, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), during emergency response and fire suppression. Even with personal protective equipment and established decontamination procedures, residual exposure risks remain in fire service operations. National fire services and occupational safety organizations are placing greater emphasis on prevention. They emphasize comprehensive strategies that address both immediate and long-term health risks related to these exposures.

Santa Barbara County Fire Department acts proactively to protect firefighter health and safety. The Department uses improved decontamination, updates policies and training, and invests in wellness and recovery initiatives.

Fiscal Impacts:

The donation of sixteen (16) Infrared Detoxification Units and associated components was not included in the adopted budget and will require an increase in appropriations. Budget Revision (BJE 0010982) is attached, increasing the appropriation in revenue and expense by \$89,700. The number has been rounded for budget purposes.

The Fire Department will assume responsibility for any ongoing costs associated with the care and maintenance of the IDUs. There will be no impact on the General Fund.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 25/26	Total
Donation & Grant	\$89,700	\$89,700
Total	\$89,700	\$89,700

Attachments:

Attachment A - Disclosure and Request for Approval of Infrared Sauna Units

Attachment B - Budget Revision Request #BJE-0010982

Contact Information:

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