



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: CEO/Office of
Emergency Services
Department No.: 990
For Agenda Of: September 16, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s) Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: Michael D. Harris, Emergency Operations Chief
681-5526
SUBJECT: Acceptance of Gift (Orfalea Foundation)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Accept approximately \$257,000 in satellite phone equipment, portable AM/FM hand-crank portable radios and educational material from the Orfalea Foundation.
- B. Authorize the Emergency Operations Chief to execute agreements to place some of the satellite equipment with radio stations strategically located within the Operational Area to assist in disseminating emergency information to the public during catastrophic emergencies when other telephones systems have failed.

Summary Text:

In accordance with Board resolution 99-485, and County policy ("Acceptance of Gifts by County" (Section N5)), the Office of Emergency Services (OES) is requesting that these gifts be accepted by the County in order to better service the citizens of the Operational Area. There are no caveats or obligations placed upon the County by accepting these gifts other than the equipments proper maintenance.

Background:

The Orfalea Foundation and OES have partnered to improve emergency and disaster preparedness within the Santa Barbara County Operational Area. This cooperative effort has involved all jurisdictions and has focused on governmental and non-governmental agencies building their resources to better respond to emergencies. In addition, educational programs have been targeted by the foundation and

OES in order to assist individuals to take personal responsibility in preparing themselves and their families.

There are three aspects to accepting this gift from the Orfalea Foundation:

1. Accepting seven broadband satellite telephones (Valued at approximately \$119,500) that will provide back-up communications in the event that traditional telephones, cellular phones or Internet communications fail. Because these phones have a greater bandwidth than handheld satellite phones, they can be used for faxing, email and access to the Internet to communicate with state and federal officials when traditional systems have failed. These telephones will be located at:
 - a. The Operational Area EOC
 - b. The Betteravia Government Center
 - c. One of the OES Duty Officer vehicles
 - d. Four commercial radio stations that are geographically located throughout the county in order to communicate emergency information with the Op. Area constituency.
2. Approximately 5,000 portable AM/FM hand crank radios that will be distributed through community-based non-governmental organizations to families that are financially challenged and might otherwise be unable to purchase the radios (valued at approximately \$87,500).
 - * Note: This equipment will not become County property and will be handled between the foundation and non-governmental organizations. OES will provide leadership in this aspect of the gift from the foundation to ensure program execution in-line with OES goals.
3. Public education materials are being developed by non-governmental organizations that will then be provided to the OES for use with the other Op. Area jurisdictions. These materials will be used to better educate the public regarding emergency preparedness and the radio stations with back-up communication capabilities (Approximate material costs and educational campaign development value: \$50,000).

OES and the Director of Communications have met with various commercial radio stations to better understand their abilities to maintain service after a catastrophic event such as an earthquake. Criteria included generator power at both the studio and the transmission site and size of broadcast area during generator-dependent transmission. Upon acceptance by the County of this gift from the Orfalea foundation, OES will enter into a formal agreement with the most appropriate stations that provide Operational Area coverage (also attempting to partner with Spanish language stations).

OES also wishes to extend its appreciation to Mitch Evans of the IT Department and Sgt. Tom Walton of the Sheriff's Department for their tremendous assistance.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Narrative:

Ongoing satellite telephone costs will be contained within the existing OES budget. No costs are associated with OES leading the AM/FM radio distribution to disadvantaged citizens or using gifted education materials as part of an Operational Area education campaign.

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Authored by:

Michael D. Harris, Emergency Operations Chief

cc:

Lois Mitchell, Orfalea Foundation
Barbara Andersen, James Lee Witt & Associates
Bill Pearlman, California Concern