



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: Santa Barbara County
Fire Department
Department No.: 031
For Agenda Of: August 19, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Michael W. Dyer, Fire Chief (805) 681-5507
Director(s)
Contact Info: Eric Peterson, Deputy Fire Chief (805) 681-5501

SUBJECT: Wildland Fire Preparedness Funding Plan

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Fire Department to utilize \$1,618,426 of one-time funding sources to provide increased fire protection capabilities (Attachment A).
2. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a contract for a Call-When-Needed (CWN) water-dropping helicopter to be stationed in the Santa Barbara front country (Attachment B).
3. Approve Budget Revision Request #BJE-0003601 (Attachment C).
4. Adopt a Resolution effective August 18, 2014 that establishes a Public Information Assistant position in the Fire Department (Attachment D).
5. Determine that the execution of the CWN contract is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in compliance with Section 15061 (b), (3), (No possibility of impact on the environment), (Attachment E).

Summary Text:

The Fire Department has received notice from the State that one-time drought funding of \$1.3 million for State Responsibility Area (SRA) fire protection in Santa Barbara County is being allocated to allow the Fire Department to augment fire prevention/education and emergency response capabilities.

In addition, on July 8th, 2014, the Board approved a \$300,000 donation to the Fire Department from a private foundation to provide increased fire response capability. Also on July 8th, the Fire Chief advised the Board that he would return with a strategy to utilize that donation and further drought funding through CalFire from the State of California.

The attached funding matrix (Attachment A) outlines a plan to utilize those two combined funding sources and approval of the Recommended Actions in this Board Letter will allow the Fire Department to implement the plan.

Background:

In June of this year, the Fire Department was notified that CalFire had requested additional funds from the State to pay for fire-related effects of the unprecedented drought. The need for drought-related additional staffing, equipment, fire prevention, and public education was used as justification, and the request was granted. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department contracts with the State to provide fire protection in State Responsibility Areas, so the Santa Barbara County Fire Department will receive a proportionate share of those State-approved funds. The Fire Department will receive just over \$1.3 million dollars in one-time revenue from the State.

In addition, the Board of Supervisors approved on July 8, 2014 the acceptance of a \$300,000 donation from the Craig and Susan McCaw Foundation to augment wildland firefighting and preparedness.

The Fire Department has developed a consolidated plan to utilize these one-time funds to bolster wildland firefighting efforts and prevent damaging wildfires.

Performance Measure:

Percentage of all wildland fires contained to 10 acres or less to protect life and property.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Budget Revision Request attached. There are no facilities impacts.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State	\$ 1,318,426.00		\$ 1,318,426.00
Federal			
Other: Donation	\$ 300,000.00		\$ 300,000.00
Other: Fire District		\$ 130,000.00	
Total	\$ 1,618,426.00	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 1,618,426.00

Narrative:

The Drought Funding Plan and Budget Revision Request include establishing a contract for a water-dropping helicopter to be utilized during periods of high fire risk, the expansion of the Fire Fuels Crew, increased staffing at 2 fire stations during high fire season, additional public education efforts, an additional Dispatch console and the purchase of fixed remote automated weather stations (RAWS) to assist in fire predictive services.

The Budget Revision Request reflects the hiring of 9 Extra Help Crew members for 6 months (4.5 FTEs) and the use of overtime to cover a Captain position and 2 Squad Bosses (Firefighters). In addition, services, supplies and equipment (including a crew carrier vehicle and pickup truck) necessary to support the Crew Program are included.

The increased Firefighter staffing at 2 fire stations (increasing the daily staffing at each of these stations from 3 firefighters on duty per day to 4 firefighters on duty per day during 6 months of the fiscal year) will require the use of overtime as these are not permanent staffing increases.

The additional public education efforts will be accomplished by converting a part-time Extra Help FTE to a full-time Public Information Assistant position (a net increase of 0.5 FTE). It is the intent of the Fire Department to continue funding this valuable position which will be included in the Department's FY 2015-16 Requested Budget.

The helicopter contract will be funded via the private donation while the remaining augmentation items will be funded via the Drought funding provided by the State. Ongoing costs related to this plan will be funded with Fire District revenues and will cover the Public Information Assistant position, the operations and maintenance costs for the Crew vehicles and RAWS equipment maintenance.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions: 1.0

Public Information
Assistant

FTEs: 5.0

Fire Crew (4.5), Public
Info Assistant (0.5)

Special Instructions:

Attachments:

- A. 2014 Drought Funding Plan
- B. Call-When-Needed Helicopter Contract
- C. Budget Revision Request BJE-0003601
- D. Position Allocation Resolution
- E. CEQA Exemption

Authored by:

CC: