



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: September 12, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Mark Hartwig, Fire Chief / Fire Warden, 681-5500
Director:
Contact Info: Anthony Stornetta, Deputy Chief of Operations, 681-4202
SUBJECT: Agreement with the State of California for Fire Protection to State Responsibility Areas (SRA) Lands

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute Agreement No. 7CA06181 (Attachment A) with the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for fire protection services to State Responsibility Areas (SRA) for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026 in the amount not to exceed \$64,341,711; and
- b) Approve and authorize the Fire Chief to execute future Amendments to the Agreement No. 7CA06181 for up to a total cumulative amount of \$6,434,171.10, which is 10% of the total revenue, so long as there are no significant changes in the scope of work required under the Agreement, upon review and approval by Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel's Office; and
- c) Approve and authorize the Fire Chief to make and sign any required certifications under Agreement No. 7CA06181; and
- d) Determine that the above recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the actions are the creation of a governmental funding

mechanism or other government fiscal activity, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is before the Board to approve an agreement between the County of Santa Barbara (Fire Department) and CAL FIRE to provide reimbursement to the County for costs associated with fire protection services to State Responsibility Areas (SRA) for a three (3) year period (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026). The agreement provides for payment by the State to the Fire Department in accordance with the amounts annually set forth in the State's budget each fiscal year, not to exceed \$64,341,711 for the entire term of this agreement.

This agreement is for three years. Because the actual amount of funding received by the Fire Department will be based upon the actual allocation in the State budget each year, the total allocation over the course of the three years could exceed the contract amount. Therefore, the Fire Department is also requesting that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Fire Chief to approve and execute additional funding up to 10 percent during the three-year period, upon review and approval by the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel's Office.

Background: CAL FIRE is responsible for fire protection within State Responsibility Areas (SRA). SRA is found in 56 of California's 58 counties and totals more than 31 million acres. In most cases, SRA are protected directly by CAL FIRE. However, in Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties, SRA fire protection is provided by the counties under contract with CAL FIRE. Known as "Contract Counties," they protect 3.4 million acres of SRA, 675,100 of which are in Santa Barbara County (see Santa Barbara County State Responsibility Areas and Direct Protection Areas Map - Attachment B).

CAL FIRE provides funding to these six counties for fire prevention activities, pre-suppression force preparedness, and basic initial attack actions to protect SRA in lieu of CAL FIRE having duplicate services/facilities in a Contract County. The agreement also provides for additional funding related to firefighting needs when fires grow beyond initial attack.

The previous agreement between the Fire Department and CAL FIRE expired on June 30, 2023 and contained a hold over clause to automatically extend the agreement until the renewal agreement is executed. Renewal of this agreement will allow continuation of fire protection services to SRA in Santa Barbara County.

Performance Measure:

The agreement provides that the County Fire Department shall contain 95% of all wildland fires in SRA to 10 acres or less.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes. _____ However, the entire \$64.3 million may not be realized since the actual revenue received during the three-year period covered by this agreement is dependent upon the final amounts allocated in the State's budget for each fiscal year.

Special Instructions:

Upon Board approval and execution, the Clerk is asked to provide to the Fire Department, attention Courtney Stockton, the following:

- One copy of Agreement 7CA06181 with original signatures
- One copy of the minute order

Attachments:

- A. Agreement Number 7CA06181
- B. Santa Barbara County State Responsibility Areas and Direct Protection Areas Map

Authored by:

Anthony Stornetta, Deputy Chief of Operations

cc:

Diane Sauer, Fiscal Manager