



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: January 8, 2007
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: 40 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: Michael D. Harris, Emergency Operations Chief
681-5526
SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation For Santa Barbara County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

County Counsel Concurrence *

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: Select Concurrence

Recommended Actions:

- A. Set a hearing for January 15, 2008, to receive a report and recommendations from staff regarding the Operational Area and County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- B. Accept the staff report and recommendation to proceed with the planning, building and other activities required to build an Operational Area and County EOC in the south coast area, Second District.
- C. Direct staff, as part of the County's emergency operational readiness, to incorporate features into the recently approved Santa Maria Government Center Project that allow that center to function as an alternate EOC in the north county.

Summary Text:

County staff has worked with contracted engineers to provide a recommendation to the Board regarding the most appropriate building site of a new EOC. After evaluating sites in the Santa Maria, Santa Ynez and Santa Barbara areas, staff recommends that the new EOC be constructed in the Cathedral Oaks area. This recommendation is based upon the County owning the property, the risk of the building site to various hazards such as fire, flooding, seismic activity, the ability to staff the EOC in a prompt manner

with appropriate staff, and the ability of that EOC staff to continue to work at their regular work sites during various stages of an EOC activation.

Background:

EOC Function

An EOC is an integral part of any jurisdiction's disaster and emergency readiness. The EOC serves the jurisdiction and its leaders as a policy hub; a location in which policy-level leadership and operational support to emergencies or disasters is provided. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), *"The EOC serves as a centralized management center for emergency operations. Here, decisions are made by the EMG (Emergency Management Group) based upon information provided by the IC (Incident Commander) and other personnel. Regardless of size or process, every facility should designate an area where decision makers can gather during an emergency."* The EOC for Santa Barbara County serves for two jurisdictions: the unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County; and the Santa Barbara County Operational Area (Op Area). Consequently the EOC is activated when incidents occur within the unincorporated area of the county or in an incorporated city. According to the 2005 California State Emergency Plan, the Op Area, *"Manages and/or coordinates information, resources, and priorities among all local governments within the boundary of a county."* If a city EOC is activated, the County must activate the Op Area EOC and notify the State's Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) of its activation and the occurrences that initiated such activations (CCR, Title XIX, §2407(a)(1)). An EOC should provide for the following:

- ✓ Managing and coordinating emergency operations;
- ✓ Receiving and disseminating warning information;
- ✓ Developing, training and exercising emergency policies and procedures;
- ✓ Collecting intelligence from, and disseminating information to, the various EOC representatives, and, as appropriate, to county and state agencies, military, and federal agencies;
- ✓ Preparing intelligence and information summaries, situation reports, operational reports, and other reports as required;
- ✓ Maintaining general and specific maps, information display boards, and other data pertaining to emergency operations;
- ✓ Continuing analysis and evaluation of all data pertaining to emergency operations;

- ✓ Controlling and coordinating, within established policy, the operational and logistical support of departmental resources committed to the emergency;
- ✓ Maintaining contact and coordination with field units, and other local government, special district, and departmental EOCs; and,
- ✓ Providing emergency information and instructions to the public, making official releases to the news media and scheduling of press conferences as necessary.

When considering the most appropriate location for building an EOC, staff and the engineers consulted FEMA's guidance on EOC development. In part, the FEMA guidance, and local building practices and policies, provide for the following areas of addressing:

- Provide for rapid activation of the EOC;
- Building in accordance with local building codes and taking into account environmental accommodations;
- Provide for future horizontal expansion;
- Provide for appropriate access, parking, logistical support from delivery vehicles (e.g., fuel delivery for a generator), and helicopter access;
- Ensure site security at various perimeter levels;
- Provide self-sufficiency of the facility during times of prolonged power outage or isolation;
- Plan for a resilient and efficient information technology system that provides contemporary and high-speed information services to assist with emergency management;
- Provide for high functionality of EOC operations during emergencies by appropriate meeting facilities and by accommodating multi-day staff needs (food areas, showering facilities and sleeping areas);
- Dedicate a strong infrastructure around communications (telephone, radio, satellite); including media facilities to facilitate public information; and,
- Base designs on strong use of information technologies including geographical information system (GIS) uses.

Location and Financial Evaluations

Staff has been working with the engineering firm The Austin Company, in evaluating various locations and construction scenarios. Office of Emergency Services (OES) staff, other County staff and the contractor, also visited other Southern California counties' EOCs to conduct on-site evaluations and to understand their identified weaknesses and strengths. Three areas evaluated for the purposes of an EOC were in the Santa Maria area, the Santa Ynez Valley Airport, and the Cathedral Oaks area.

An important finding of the staff is that approximately 75% of the EOC staff live and work in the south county area. This representation is different than the greater County employee representation because EOC staffing is comprised of a high number of managers and executives whose primary duties are located in the south coast area.

The County has appropriated through earlier budget actions approximately \$7.2 million for this effort. During various stages, interest regarding the inclusion of a hanger facility has been discussed if the location was determined to be at the Santa Ynez airport. Also considered was a redundant or secondary dispatch center at the Santa Ynez Airport. Both considerations have been set aside due to limited funding and the determination that aircraft operations are not going to be conducted at an EOC.

Santa Ynez – Option 1.

The Santa Ynez Airport presents a unique opportunity; it's central location. While this seems optimal, it also presents itself as a disadvantage for rapid staffing in times of emergency of disaster. Because so few of the personnel who would staff the EOC live in the area, it would require almost all persons to travel from other areas to the EOC – thus delaying EOC activation. Barriers have existed previously to travel over California Highway 154 and US Highway 101 due to weather and fire.

Although the Santa Ynez Airport operations are minimal when compared to most airports, locating EOCs at airports is generally dissuaded by FEMA. Site visits conducted at other Southern California EOCs showed a number of required expansions. In anticipating the need for future expansions, the two airport locations evaluated proved too small for future EOC expansions. The easterly portion of the airport may require significant dirt engineering because the dirt located at that location was deposited by other parties; this increases costs. The Santa Ynez Airport does not currently have fiber optic service. This is seen by technical staff as required infrastructure for acceptable communications and computer access in an operational center.

Santa Maria – Option 2.

Two areas of the Santa Maria area were evaluated: the Betteravia government center and the Foster Road area. The Foster Road area was discounted because of environmental concerns. A significant number of options were explored at the Betteravia government center. While advantages can be identified around infrastructure and realized by including the EOC in any Betteravia remodeling, placing the EOC at Betteravia places the EOC approximately 70 miles away from the majority of employees who staff the EOC. The Betteravia location is not within a flood plain and has telephone and fiber infrastructures in place.

South Coast – Option 3.

The Cathedral Oaks area provides ample space to develop, and, if needed, room to expand the EOC in the future. The infrastructure is strong and, unlike other locations in the north, provides for internet pathways both north and south. The daily work sites of the emergency command staff, the CEO, Sheriff, Fire Chief, Public Health Officer, etc., are located in the general area. A helipad can be developed or the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport is approximately 6.5 miles in driving distance to provide air support..

Some risk is associated with fire. This can be partially mitigated with appropriate use of defensible space. Seismic risks in the south coast are also present when compared to other areas and can be partially addressed in the engineering of the building. Security can be maximized due to the location away from main traffic and pedestrians. The available space allows for appropriate security buffering.

In order to diversify emergency facility resources, staff recommends that the Betteravia annex construction include systems that allow for its use an alternate operations center.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: The \$7.2 million for the EOC building is contained in the General Fund Capital Designation.

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Budgeted: Budgeted **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			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Staffing Impacts:

<u>Legal Positions:</u>	<u>FTEs:</u>
0	0

Special Instructions: N/A

Attachments: “Report to the Board of Supervisors: Emergency Operations Center for the Santa Barbara County Operational Area”

Authored by:

Michael D. Harris