



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: May 19, 2015
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Eric L. Peterson, Fire Chief
Director
Contact Info: Eric L. Peterson, Fire Chief, (805) 681-5507
SUBJECT: Call-When-Needed (CWN) Helicopter Agreement

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement for a Call-When-Needed (CWN) water-dropping helicopter to be stationed in the Santa Barbara front country (Attachment A).
2. Determine that the execution of the CWN agreement 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 B).

Summary Text:

On August 19, 2014, the Board approved and authorized the Chair to execute an agreement for a CWN water-dropping helicopter to be stationed in the Santa Barbara front country during periods of high fire risk. The term of the agreement was August 19, 2014 through December 1, 2014.

The Fire Department would like to re-establish this CWN agreement, under the same terms, conditions, and fee schedule, for the period of May 19, 2015 through December 31, 2016.

Background:

On July 8, 2014, the Board of Supervisors accepted a \$300,000 donation from the Craig and Susan McCaw Foundation to augment wildland firefighting and preparedness. On August 19, 2014 the Board approved the execution of a CWN agreement with Guardian Helicopters Inc. for water-dropping

helicopter services utilizing the donated funds. The CWN helicopter was requested and stationed at the Santa Barbara Airport three times in 2014 during high fire danger weather patterns. Fortunately, there were no wildland fires that required the helicopter to provide suppression efforts during those periods. As of May 1, 2015, \$32,244 of the funds have been spent, leaving a total of \$267,756 available for use. The Fire Department would like to utilize the remainder of these one-time funds to re-establish the CWN agreement for a water-dropping helicopter 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: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Guardian Helicopters has agreed to maintain the same rate schedule that was associated with the original agreement. A Final Budget Adjustment for FY 2015-16 will be processed to re-appropriate the unspent donated funds from FY 2014-15 to FY 2015-16.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions: 0

FTEs: 0

Special Instructions:

Upon Board approval and execution, please return a copy of the minute order and agreement to the Fire Department: attention Courtney Stockton.

Attachments:

- A. Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor (Call-When-Needed Helicopter Agreement)
- B. CEQA Exemption

Authored by:

Eric L. Peterson, Fire Chief

cc: