



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: July 8, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Fire Chief Michael W. Dyer (805) 681-5507
Director:

SUBJECT: \$300,000 Donation for Wildland Firefighting Preparedness

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Select_Other

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Fire Department to accept a donation of approximately \$300,000 from the Craig and Susan McCaw Foundation to augment Wildland Firefighting and Preparedness.
2. Determine that the execution of this 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 B).

Summary Text:

California's projected increased fire activity and reduced fuel moisture, coupled with record-setting drought conditions, requires us to take every step possible to prevent and respond to wildfires.

This generous donation of \$300,000 will allow the Fire Department to implement several key enhancements on an as-needed basis when severe fire weather and fuel conditions dictate. The enhancements may include but are not limited to:

1. Additional water-dropping flights for helicopters stationed at the Santa Barbara Airport;
2. Additional Fire Fuels Crew staffing; and
3. Additional Firefighter staffing to patrol high risk areas.

Background

The Craig and Susan McCaw Foundation is a Washington State Non-Profit Corporation organized for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501 c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Wildfires have always been a regular occurrence in California, particularly in Santa Barbara. The unprecedented and historic drought conditions that now exist make it necessary to implement any measures which might stop a wildfire in its early, incipient stage. The presence of increased staffing or an additional water-dropping helicopter could make the difference between a minor spot fire and an inferno. This donation is provided by the Craig and Susan McCaw Foundation to be used at the Fire Department's operational discretion with the hope of preventing damaging wildfires during what will likely be a busy fire season. The funds are for this season and with a particular focus on the Santa Barbara region.

This recommendation adheres to the County donation policy.

Performance Measure:

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

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

A budget revision will be submitted at a future date once the specific uses of the funds are identified.

Special Instructions:

N/A

Attachments:

N/A

Authored by:

Michael W. Dyer, Fire Chief

cc: