



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:** December 13, 2016  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** 4/5

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**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

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) 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).
  
- b) 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 C).

**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. On May 19, 2015, the Board approved and authorized the Chair 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.

The Fire Department would like to continue this CWN agreement with a revised fee schedule for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018.

**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.

The agreement was re-established in May, 2015 for the 2015 and 2016 Fire Seasons. During this period, the CWN helicopter was requested and stationed at the Santa Barbara Airport for three separate periods during high fire danger weather patterns. The Fire Department would like to renew the CWN agreement for a water-dropping helicopter to bolster wildland firefighting efforts and prevent damaging wildfires during the 2017 and 2018 fire seasons.

**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:**

A total of \$180,721 of the \$300,000 donation has been utilized through October 2016. Guardian Helicopters has provided a new price proposal sheet for calendar year 2017 that includes a 3.4% rate increase over the flight rate established in 2014 (\$3,050 per flight hour versus \$2,950 per flight hour), and a proposal for calendar year 2018 that includes a 3.3% rate increase over the 2017 rate (\$3,150 per flight hour versus \$3,050 per flight hour). Lodging and incidentals for the Guardian crew members is based on the GSA rate, which will reflect a reduction of 8% for 2017 (2018 rates are TBD). There is no change to the mileage reimbursement for the Guardian fuel truck.

Costs associated with this agreement are incurred only when the CWN helicopter is requested by the Fire Department. The Fire Department will work to identify future funding sources for the CWN helicopter once the remainder of the McCaw Foundation funds have been exhausted.

**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:**

Attachment A: Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor (Call-When-Needed Helicopter Agreement)

Attachment B: Exhibits (A, A1, B, B1, C)

Attachment C: CEQA Exemption

**Authored by:**

Eric L. Peterson, Fire Chief

**cc:**