



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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Fire
Department No.: 031
Agenda Date: April 21, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: Choose an item.
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Garrett Huff, Fire Chief/Fire Warden
Contact: Kelly Hubbard, 805-681-5526
SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
Authorization

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the County Fire Department Office of Emergency Management to accept \$200,919 in Fiscal Year 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) federal funds as distributed through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) with a period of performance from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027; and
- b) Adopt a resolution (Attachment A) to appoint the County Executive Officer (CEO), the Director of Office of Emergency Management (OEM), County Fire Chief, and Fire Department Chief Financial and Administrative Officer (CFAO) to act as Authorized Agents to apply and submit grant applications, execute all required grant application documents (including assurances and certifications), and take any actions necessary for each application and subaward under the EMPG grant to provide grant funding for emergency management activities in the Santa Barbara Operational Area; and
- c) Determine the above-recommended actions are not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), finding that the actions consist of administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The recommended actions authorize the Office of Emergency Management to apply for and manage the Fiscal Year 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG).

Discussion:

EMPG funding supports a wide range of emergency preparedness efforts, including planning, training, and equipping emergency management personnel. For the Office of Emergency Management, EMPG grant funds help offset nearly 1 full-time equivalent salary and benefits for emergency planning staff.

Background:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides annual EMPG funding based on population. This grant helps state, local, tribal, and territorial governments prepare for emergencies of all kinds, as authorized by federal law.

The EMPG is a reimbursement grant, meaning local agencies must spend their own funds first and then apply for a 50% match. The County uses General Fund dollars to cover its share, mainly for emergency planning staff.

On July 29, 2025, FEMA issued the Fiscal Year 2025 EMPG Notice of Funding Opportunity. In September 2025, CalOES received notification of updated allocations and terms and conditions, which resulted in multi-state litigation against FEMA until the court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs on December 22, 2025.

On February 6, 2026, CalOES received the updated FY 2025 EMPG Award from FEMA, which revised the terms and conditions, rescinded the stipulation on the State’s population methodology, and restored the period of performance back to three years from one year. CalOES accepted the award on February 13, 2026 and Santa Barbara County’s sub application is due to CalOES by April 30, 2026.

As of March 30, 2026, the grant assurances have yet to be provided. Upon receipt, County Counsel will conduct a review to determine eligibility and ensure compliance with applicable requirements. Should there be any changes or revisions to the grant assurances, we will consult with County Counsel to assess the implications and determine appropriate next steps.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The FY2025 EMPG funding is included in the department’s adopted budget for FY25/26.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 25/26	Total
General Fund		
State		
Federal	200,919	200,919
Fees		
[Other Source]		
Total	200,919	200,919

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send e-copies of the minute order and the signed resolution to Kendall Johnston, kejohnston@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Attachment A – EMPG Authorized Agents Resolution

Contact Information:

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Director, Office of Emergency Management
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