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A-14

# Memorandum



**Date:** July 16, 2018

**To:** Chair Williams and members of the Board of Supervisors

**From:** Terri Maus-Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer 

**Subject:** Revisions to Board Letter entitled, "Support of Novim Montecito Community Stakeholder Process And Engagement Effort"

**cc:** Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
2018 JUL 16 PM 3:33

Agenda item A14 on the Board of Supervisors meeting agenda of July 17, 2018, entitled Support of Novim Montecito Community Stakeholder Process and Engagement Effort, has been revised. The redlined version is attached to the revised board letter.

The added Recommended Action (b) was included to formally determine that the Novim Montecito Community Stakeholder Process and Engagement Effort has a "public benefit." Therefore, funds can be allocated to this effort.

In addition, to affirm the County's commitment to media access and participation, language has been added to the letter on page 3 of 4.

In order to clarify the process for disbursement of funds additional language has been added to page 4.

Should you have any questions regarding this item or the clarification provided via this memo, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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  
Department No.: 012  
For Agenda Of: July 17, 2018  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: 4/5

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO  
**SUBJECT:** Support of Novim Montecito Community Stakeholder Process and Engagement Effort

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management

As to form: yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Support the Novim Montecito Community Stakeholder Process and Engagement Effort, and;
- a)b) Determine pursuant to Government Code Section 26227 that the appropriation and expenditure of \$5,000 to support the Novim Montecito Community Stakeholder Process and Engagement Effort is necessary to meet the social needs of Santa Barbara County's population and will serve the public purpose of supporting disaster recovery following the 1/9 Debris Flow, and;
- b)c) Authorize the County Executive Officer to contract with The expend \$5,000 to support the Novim Group Montecito Community Stakeholder Process and Engagement Effort, from funding set aside in the Adopted FY 2018/19 budget, in Department 990, to address Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Disaster related costs, and; and expend \$5,000 to support the Novim Montecito Community Stakeholder Process and Engagement Effort, from funding set aside in the Adopted FY 2018/19 budget, in Department 990, to address Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Disaster related costs, and;
- e)d) Approve budget revision request No. 0005893 (Attachment A) increasing appropriations in the County Executive Office, funded by the release of Committed Disaster Recovery fund balance.
- d)e) Find that the proposed action does not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the

California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 15378(b)(5), organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment and approve the filing of the Notice of Exemption on that basis.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda at request of the First District, in order for the County of Santa Barbara to formally support a community engagement stakeholder process led by Novim, Noozhawk, and the Davenport Institute of Public Policy at Pepperdine University. This stakeholder process is designed to examine the short and long-term challenges and opportunities for the community of Montecito following the impacts of the 1/9 Debris Flow. This support would also include a County ~~contribution~~ allocation of \$5,000 toward that effort. Staff time dedicated to this effort is not known at this juncture but is not anticipated to be significant. Funds will not be disbursed to Novim until a full scope of work and deliverables is provided and remaining funding for the effort is secured by Novim.

**Background:**

Novim is a nonprofit scientific research group based at UC Santa Barbara, working in conjunction with Noozhawk, as well as Davenport Institute of Public Policy at Pepperdine University. Together these entities propose to team with government, local and regional partners for an in-depth examination of Montecito's short and long-term challenges and opportunities, to address the impacts of the 1/9 Debris Flow. Novim does not advocate for a given solution to an issue but rather offers a range of choices to solve a distinct set of problems.

In the past, the following initiatives were undertaken by Novim:

- An exploration of prescription drug use in Santa Barbara County in partnership with the USC Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism along with the Endowment for Health Journalism.
- A public engagement survey of the City of Santa Barbara Budget undertaken in partnership with the Davenport Institute for Public Policy and Civic Leadership at Pepperdine University.
- A public engagement survey on neighborhood improvements for Santa Barbara's Westside undertaken in partnership with Just Communities.
- The current Reimagining Santa Barbara – A look at conditions along State Street and what might be done to create a more vibrant, livable, and sustainable area.

Novim will serve as the fiscal agent. However, partners involved in this effort are working to raise approximately \$500,000 to address the public engagement and outreach costs including costs for a virtual survey and data gathering among other items.

Proposed local partners include:

- The UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science and Management Partnerships for Sustainable Communities



- Santa Barbara Community Environmental Council
- The Montecito Association
- Westmont College

Proposed regional advisory partners include:

- Davenport Institute of Public Policy at Pepperdine University
- California Council of Science and Technology
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Stanford Institute for Public Policy Research

Proposed government partners include:

- Santa Barbara County
- City of Santa Barbara
- State of California
- Department of Energy, Agriculture and FEMA

The stakeholder engagement process involves Novim working with partners to identify and staff a series of study groups organized around specific topic areas. Groups will include local and nationally known engineers, scientists and government experts with backgrounds specific to the disaster.

All media has the ability to access materials developed through the engagement process and report on all activities. Participation and reporting by all media outlets is encouraged by the County in order to ensure broad awareness of the process and outcomes. Noozhawk has indicated they will haveWith a dedicated ~~Montecito~~ reporter, ~~Noozhawk will~~ to report on the activities and the process of the study groups, and their conclusions, while also providing context and comparisons so readers and residents can stay fully informed.

Noozhawk utilizes a customized interactive web site or “electronic town hall” where residents are encourage to analyze and study group suggestions, as well as comment or submit ideas, and ultimately vote their opinions on the developing vision. Participation can be from cell phones, tablets, or computers. Individuals are able to participate 24/7 in multiple languages. A community interaction site is also established to provide for the gathering and sharing of information which includes:

- Idea submissions
- Map based submissions
- Surveys
- Instant polling
- Photo sharing

The site is multi-lingual to include active participation by all community groups.

The result is an updated compendium of approaches, methods and techniques, sensitive to the unique aspects of Montecito, for use by its residents and leaders.

Proposed study groups include:

- Geology and threat analysis
- Protection and emergency response
- Infrastructure – utilities, communications and transportation
- Local governance
- Sustainability
- Finance

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
	990 \$	5,000.00	
Total	\$	5,000.00 \$	- \$

Narrative: The Novim Group (Novim), a Domestic Non-profit Corporation, registered with the California Secretary of State, is requesting a contribution of \$5,000 from the County of Santa Barbara. Subject to your Board’s approval, it is recommended that the contribution be allocated out of the \$6.25 million in funding set aside in the Adopted FY 2018/19 budget, in Department 990, to address Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Disaster related costs. Funds will not be disbursed to Novim until a full scope of work and deliverables is provided and remaining funding for the effort is secured.

**Attachments:**

- A. BJE #0005893

**Authored by:**

Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO