



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Environmental Services Agency

DATE: December 10, 2002

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 4, 2003

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Marcia Raines, Director, Environmental Services Agency *MR*

SUBJECT: Agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for Fire Protection Services

Recommendation

1. Adopt a Resolution:
 - a. Rescinding authorization to execute the incorrect version of an Agreement with the California Department of Forestry; and
 - b. Authorizing execution of the corrected Agreement with the California Department of Forestry (CDF) for fire protection services.
2. Rescinding approval of an incorrect Appropriation Transfer Request transferring funds from Non General Fund Reserves to cover increased contract costs; and
3. Approving a corrected Appropriation Transfer Request transferring funds from Non General Fund Reserves to cover increased contract costs.

Background

This item first appeared on the January 14, 2003 agenda. The contract presented to the Board of Supervisors contained inaccuracies in the payment amount due to a calculation error. The contract approved by your board indicated that the total payment was \$7,022,882, when in fact the correct total is \$7,100,111. The agreement and ATR before the Board today replace Resolution #65772 and Resolution #65774.

The County has maintained a contract with CDF for fire protection services in the unincorporated areas of the County not protected by cities or fire districts, and County Service Area #1 (CSA #1/Eichler Highlands) since 1962. CDF provides this protection from four County fire stations, each with a three person, paramedic engine company. CSA #1 is

also provided with a three-person engine company. In addition to fire and emergency medical services, CDF provides fire protection planning for new construction, fire prevention activities, and life safety inspection in the County areas. These services are coordinated by the County Fire Warden, whose services are provided through the contract with CDF.

CDF oversees the operations of five County-funded volunteer fire companies. This includes the allocation of equipment and supplies, maintenance of fire apparatus operated by the volunteer companies, and coordination of dispatch services. CDF also coordinates the volunteer training program to assure that County volunteer firefighters meet all County, State and Federal training mandates.

Discussion

Several accomplishments in the area of fire protection have been made over the last year. Over 2,000 hours of training were conducted on subjects such as fire control, emergency medical services, and hazardous materials. Efforts were made to increase community services standards, such as a Motorcycle Safety Day led by the Skylonda station and the La Honda Fire Brigade, and a "Sober and Safe Graduate Night" conducted at Pescadero High School. CDF staff are working with the Planning and Building Department on possible County adoption of the California Uniform Fire Code, which would allow the County to better coordinate with other jurisdictions that have adopted this code in past years. CDF worked cooperatively with San Mateo County Public Safety Communications in the development and implementation of a station alerting system for paid and volunteer stations. This resulted in a minute and a half reduction between a 911 call and the response of an emergency crew.

Over the past year, efforts have been made to upgrade the La Honda fire apparatus building. Additionally, there have been general fire equipment upgrades for all four San Mateo County Fire Department Volunteer Stations. These upgrades have benefited both the County Fire Department as well as the volunteer companies themselves. Further, these benefits have reflected an increased cooperative effort between career and volunteer firefighters. The County Fire Department will seek to continue these equipment upgrades to both increase overall fire department efficiency and to further the cooperative working relationship with the four volunteer firefighter companies.

An area of continuing focus for this fiscal year includes CDF staff working on mapping emergency response areas for each Battalion in County Fire and CDF wild land jurisdictions. These maps will be electronically placed in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems at each communication center to further facilitate and streamline responses of emergency resources. CDF staff are working closely with the Public Works Department to prioritize and perform maintenance on the four County owned fire stations, three of which are older and in need of repairs.

Because CDF contracts with multiple jurisdictions, CDF requires all contracting jurisdictions to sign the standard State-issued boilerplate contract without any addenda. CDF does provide equal benefits to its employees. CDF also follows a strict non-discrimination policy aligned with the County's non-discrimination language. However, a waiver request of equal

benefits and non-discrimination language has been submitted since the boilerplate contract lacks the County's enforcement language.

The County Counsel's Office has reviewed the resolution and finds it in order.

Vision Alignment

The CDF contract keeps the commitment of ensuring health and safety for all and goal number 7: maintain and enhance the public safety of all residents and visitors. The contract contributes to this commitment and goal by providing complete fire protection services for the unincorporated lands of the County.

Fiscal Impact

The total maximum amount of the contract with CDF for FY 2002-03 is \$7,100,111. The majority of the contract (\$6,064,511) is financed through the Structural Fire Fund which receives monies from property tax levied on all properties located within the County, but outside of cities and fire districts; the remainder (\$1,035,600) is financed by the County Service Area #1 Fund which receives property tax revenue and special tax revenue for both police and fire protection. The budgeted amount for the CDF contract amount increased from FY 2001-02 to FY 2002-03 by \$715,305 primarily due to an increase in benefit and retirement rates, and the inclusion of the purchase of several fixed assets within the contract, including an air support unit, water tender, and several defibrillators. Invoices from the State on expenses incurred in Schedule A of the contract are based on actual costs of providing service.

One Appropriation Transfer Request accompanies the contract. At the time of budget preparation, benefit rates for CDF employees were estimated at a lower level than ultimately passed by PERS. In order to cover the difference, \$257,623 will be transferred from Non-General Fund Reserves into the contract account within the Structural Fire/Fire Protection budgets.

There is no impact on the General Fund under this agreement or ATR.