



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: November 8, 2012
Board Meeting Date: December 11, 2012
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager

Subject: Agreement with California Department of Forestry for Fire Protection Services for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing an agreement with California Department of Forestry (CAL FIRE) to provide fire protection services for the term of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 in the amount of \$6,583,849.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1962, the County has contracted with CAL FIRE to provide fire protection services in County Service Area #1 (CSA #1) and other unincorporated areas of the County not protected by cities or fire districts. In addition to fire and emergency medical services, CAL FIRE provides fire protection planning for new construction, fire prevention activities and life safety inspection in the County areas. CAL FIRE also oversees the operations of three volunteer fire companies.

While CalFire has continued to provide fire service since the start of the current fiscal year, this contract is being brought to you Board now as we have just recently received actual annual state cost estimates from CalFire.

DISCUSSION:

Because CAL FIRE contracts with multiple jurisdictions, CAL FIRE requires all contracting jurisdictions to sign the standard State-issued contract form. CAL FIRE does provide equal benefits to its employees and also follows a strict non-discrimination policy aligned with the County's non-discrimination language.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution and Agreement as to form.

This contract also provides that the County will pay ancillary costs, including administrative fees, supplies and fixed asset costs for fire protection services in the areas covered by this agreement. The amount of the ancillary costs is not included in the \$6,583,849 budgeted for personnel services, as it is a direct reimbursement from the County to the vendor.

This action supports the County Vision 2025 Environmentally Conscious community goal as fire protection services protect and preserve our natural and built environment.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2011-12 Actual	FY 2012-13 Projected
Percent of fire and emergency medical calls responded to within time criteria established by County EMS	93%	94%
Number of fire related deaths or injuries*	2	0

*There were no injuries or deaths to civilians but two firefighters received injuries in FY 2011-12.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total amount of the County's fiscal obligation to CAL FIRE for the contract is \$6,583,849. This amount includes full funding for the County Fire engine at Station 17 throughout the contract.

The CAL FIRE contract is funded from two sources. Property tax revenue in the Structural Fire Fund pays for fire protection services provided to properties in unincorporated area that are not in another fire protection district. Property and special tax revenue for fire protection services provided to CSA #1, which is a special district that includes the San Mateo Highlands, is the other source of funding.

Due to an ongoing operating deficit in the Structural Fire Fund, the General Fund provided a \$1,869,165 subsidy to the CAL FIRE contract in FY 2011-12 and the projected subsidy in FY 2012-13 is \$1,253,000.