



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: March 3, 2014
Board Meeting Date: April 8, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager

Subject: Agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing a cooperative fire protection agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to provide fire protection services for the term of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2018, in an amount not to exceed \$42,456,131.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1962, the County has contracted with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to provide fire protection services in the 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 CAL FIRE has continued to provide fire services since the start of the current fiscal year, this contract is being brought to your Board now as we have recently received the state cost estimates from CAL FIRE.

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 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 areas covered by this agreement. The amount of the ancillary costs is not included in the \$907,633 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 2012-13 Actual	FY 2013-14 Projected
Percent of fire and EMS responses within time criteria	90%	90%
Number of fire related deaths and injuries	0	0

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total amount of the County's fiscal obligation to CAL FIRE for the five-year contract is \$42,456,131. 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 and the Structural Fund pays for fire protection services provided to properties in unincorporated areas 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 County will allocate \$1.7 M in Prop. 172 funding in FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15.