



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**  
Office of Public Safety Communications



**DATE:** August 11, 2016  
**BOARD MEETING DATE:** September 6, 2016  
**SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING:** None  
**VOTE REQUIRED:** Majority

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Edward A. Wood, Public Safety Communications Director

**SUBJECT:** Amendment for 911 Communications Services for City of South San Francisco Fire Department

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution authorizing the President of the Board of Supervisors to execute an amendment to the agreement with the City of South San Francisco for Public Safety Communications services, for the term of October 5, 2014 to June 30, 2019, for a total amount of \$559,081.

**BACKGROUND:**

The County of San Mateo and the City of South San Francisco ("City") have had an Agreement for the provision of 911 communications/dispatch services for fire suppression and emergency medical services since 2004. The first Amendment to the Agreement was in 2009 and expired in 2014. Prior to expiration, the City transitioned Fire Department leadership and the parties agreed to continue communications services until negotiations were completed with the newly appointed Fire Chief. During this period, Public Safety Communications continued to provide dispatching services to both first line fire apparatus, two Rescue Ambulances, and provided medical priority call taking (EMD) for the City without a break in service.

**DISCUSSION:**

The City of South San Francisco is in the unique position of being the only city in the County to have exclusive operating rights for the provision of ambulance delivery. The Fire Department operates two ambulances within the City boundaries and is a participating member in the County's fire first response-paramedic program. As such, the City desires an exclusive communications services agreement with County.

Prior to the expiration of the original agreement, the City and County leadership transitioned and staff retirements caused negotiations to stop. Parties agreed to continue communications services until negotiations were completed after new leadership was in place.

Under the terms and conditions of this amendment, Public Safety Communications (PSC) will dispatch all fire and EMS first responders on a full-time basis, 24 hour a day, seven days a week. In addition to communications/dispatch services, Public Safety Communications will provide supervisory and management personnel, as well as provide public safety technology systems oversight and maintenance. A 4% cost-of-living adjustment ("COLA") has been factored into Fiscal Year (FY) 2014/15 and for FY2015/16, FY2016/17, and FY2017/18, the COLA is 3%.

In 1997, a cooperative agreement among most cities and fire protection districts in San Mateo County formed a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) pursuant to the California Government Code. These cities and fire districts agreed to give San Mateo County Public Safety Communications some of their local autonomy in order to work together in a unique shared arrangement.

The JPA entered into a contract with American Medical Response to provide supplies, training, equipment, medical oversight, and some monetary assistance to its members. The JPA also entered into a contract with the County of San Mateo to provide all communications services for fire and medical activities. The City of South San Francisco is the only city in the County that chose not to fully participate in the JPA.

Should City decide to terminate the amendment on or before June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, and become a full fiscal partner with the JPA, the City would be responsible for its share of fees in the Agreement between the County and the JPA. Otherwise, City agrees to negotiate with County for any and all increases identified by the County for labor, cost of living, operating expenses, and/or equity increases for the remainder of the term, no later than December 1, 2018.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the recommended amendment and resolution as to legal form.

The South San Francisco City Council approved this amendment on June 14, 2016.

Approval of this amendment contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 community outcome of Safe Community by ensuring that efficient and prompt 9-1-1 communications services are rendered to the residents and visitors of South San Francisco.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total amount paid to the County will be \$559,081 for the four years and nine months of service. There is no increase of Net County Cost during the term of this amendment.