



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



May 7, 2019

File ID: 19-0215

## **TITLE**

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS FROM THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT VIA THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE SYSTEM AS A RESULT OF FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL WHO RESPONDED TO HURRICANES HARVEY AND IRMA IN 2017, ALLOCATING A PORTION OF SAID FUNDS FOR STAFF REIMBURSEMENTS AND ALLOCATING THE REMAINDER OF SAID FUNDS INTO THE VEHICLE REPLACEMENT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIRE DEPARTMENT MUTUAL AID RESPONSE UTILITY VEHICLES (4/5 VOTE REQUIRED)

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Council adopt the resolution.

## **SUMMARY**

The Fire Department is requesting approval for the acceptance and appropriation of reimbursement funds totaling \$277,698.14 from the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department via the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Urban Search and Rescue System. The reimbursement funds are owed to the City due to the Fire Department deploying several personnel to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma in 2017. A portion of these funds will be allocated for staff reimbursements, with the remainder of the funds being allocated to the vehicle replacement fund for a pending purchase of several Fire Department mutual aid response vehicles.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The Director of Development Services has reviewed the proposed activity for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has determined that the activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines because it will not result in a physical change in the environment; therefore, pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Thus, no environmental review is required.

## **BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Not applicable

## **DISCUSSION**

The City of Chula Vista's Fire Department is an active participant with California Task Force 8 (CA-TF8), which is managed by the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. It is one of twenty-eight taskforces that make up the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) System. FEMA USAR taskforces respond to major national emergencies, such as the World Trade Center disaster, and all major hurricanes in support of states in need of federal assistance.

The Chula Vista Fire Department provides trained personnel to CA-TF8 during deployments to these national emergencies. During the 2017 hurricane season, several Fire Department personnel responded with CA-TF8 to Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Hurricane Irma in Florida for an extended period.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City of San Diego and the City of Chula Vista Fire Department provides for subsequent reimbursement of expenses after deployment to a national emergency at the request of FEMA's National USAR System. The reimbursement process from the federal government via FEMA to the City of San Diego is routinely a lengthy process, due the scope of the scope and magnitude of the overall incident costs and federal processing requirements.

The total reimbursement due to the City of Chula Vista for Hurricane Harvey is \$117,316.08. The City has already received 75% (\$87,987.06) with the remaining 25% (\$29,329.02) invoiced and anticipated to be received prior to fiscal year 2019/2020 end.

The total reimbursement to the City of Chula Vista for Hurricane Irma is \$160,386.55. The City has already received 75% (\$120,286.55) with the remaining 25% (\$40,095.32) anticipated to be received prior to fiscal year 2019/2020 end.

Of the total \$277,698.14 reimbursement funds, \$25,851.76 will be allocated for staff reimbursements and \$251,846.38 will be allocated for the purchase of several Fire Department mutual aid response vehicles. The response vehicles will be used by Fire Department personnel deploying to major wildland fires throughout the local region and state of California. The deployment of Fire Department personnel to major wildland fire as part of California's Master Mutual Aid System per the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) is an important component of California's ability to mitigate large scale wildland fires. The Fire Department's participation in California's Master Mutual Aid System provides resources to other local governments and the state during major wildland fires, which in turn enables Chula Vista and the San Diego region to obtain mutual aid assistance during large scale wildland fires that cannot be mitigated by regional resources, as demonstrated in the 2003 and 2007 firestorms.

The new mutual aid response vehicles will enable Fire Department personnel to safely and effectively deploy to wildland fires throughout the local region and state. The vehicles will further be used by the Fire Department within the city to provide the Fire Department with greater operational flexibility and depth during daily emergency and non-emergency situations.

## **DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT**

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site-specific and consequently, the real property holdings of the City Councilmembers do not create a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware, and has not been informed by any City Councilmember, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decisionmaker conflict of interest in this matter.

### **LINK TO STRATEGIC GOALS**

The City's Strategic Plan has five major goals: Operational Excellence, Economic Vitality, Healthy Community, Strong and Secure Neighborhoods and a Connected Community.

The acceptance and appropriation of these funds will provide for a staff reimbursement and the purchase of several utility vehicles for the Fire Department. The utility vehicles will enable the Fire Department to have greater operational flexibility and depth in pursuit of strong and secure neighborhoods within the City. The utility vehicles will further enable the Fire Department to assist other local governments and the State during major wildland fire mutual aid requests, which continue to occur every year. The Fire Department's continued participation in mutual aid requests throughout California via the CFAA and with FEMA's USAR System provide Fire Department personnel with emergency response experience and knowledge that cannot be taught in a classroom. This real incident experience enables Fire Department to serve the community of Chula Vista with greater confidence and effectiveness in times of major emergency incidents.

### **CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT**

There are no current year fiscal impacts.

### **ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT**

Future year impacts will likely be positive but ultimately will depend on the number of deployments and utilization of these resources in responses. Specifically, the funds reimbursed to the City for the deployment of the vehicles will flow into the vehicle replacement fund for the future replacement of these emergency response vehicles, with any excess funds coming back to the General Fund as determined by the Director of Finance. Personnel reimbursements and admin fees will be reimbursed to the General Fund and not be transferred to vehicle replacement fund.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None

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