



CITY OF SAN PABLO

City of New Directions

February 4, 2015

E-TRANSMITTAL/REGULAR MAIL

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors/
Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CONFIRE) Board of Directors
651 Pine Street, Room 107
Martinez, CA 94553

Mr. David Twa, County Administrative Officer (CAO)
Contra Costa County
651 Pine Street, 10th Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR COUNTY BOS/CONFIRE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS FORTHCOMING AGENDA ITEM ON FEBRUARY 10, 2015 –
EMS AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF SAN PABLO AND CONFIRE AT
COUNTY FS#70 IN SAN PABLO**

Dear CCCFPD Board of Directors:

On behalf of the City of San Pablo City Council, I urge your **full support** for this forthcoming agenda item scheduled for your review and approval at your next regular Board meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

BACKGROUND

First, I would like to commend CONFIRE Chief Jeff Carmen and his staff with working diligently with the City of San Pablo officials and consultant team to solidify this inter-agency EMS Services Agreement between our two agencies.

Upon favorable Board approval, this agreement establishes a new EMS Squad at County Fire Station #70 in San Pablo to greatly enhance basic and advanced level (BLS/ALS) support services where critically needed. Additionally, the new EMS Squad at FS#70 would greatly contribute to reducing annual CONFIRE operating costs, and supplements existing fire service delivery. An additional EMS Squad Unit deployed to the CONFIRE service area, as evidenced by other successfully EMS Squad deployments at County FS#1 (Walnut Creek) and FS#6, (Concord), will

provide a tremendous operational benefit to CONFIRE and the overburdened Battalion #7 service area in West Contra Costa County.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL AND FUNDING ALLOCATED

On Tuesday, January 20, 2015, the San Pablo City Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2015-016 to direct the City Manager to execute a 5-year agreement with CONFIRE to establish a new EMS Squad Unit at County Fire Station #70 in San Pablo (See Attachment). Additionally, the City Council unanimously allocated a total of \$400,000 in preliminary funding for acquisition of the EMS Squad Unit (\$175,000), squad equipment (\$25,000), and a remaining \$200,000 specified for construction costs for a housing structure for the additional squad personnel to be accommodated at FS#70.

On Monday, February 2, 2015, addressing the need to augment housing structure costs for squad personnel at FS#70, the City Council unanimously earmarked an additional funding allocation of \$200,000 for housing costs for a grand total of \$600,000 in designated preliminary funding from the City's existing GF FY 2014-15 Operating, and GF Designated Reserves Budget for these services under the agreement.

CITY MEASURE K FUNDING

Funding from the City's Measure K Local Sales Tax Measure passed in June 2014 by 70% of San Pablo voters will be used by the City to cover annual operating costs associated with the EMS Agreement between the City of San Pablo and CONFIRE. As of December 2014, this ¼ cent local transaction and use tax is now being collected by the State Board of Equalization (BOE), and will be disbursed to the City under terms specified under agreement between the City and State BOE for this purpose. Additional annual operating costs for EMS Services at FS#70 not covered directly by the City's Measure K funding shall be covered by the City's annual GF Operating Budget on an annual basis during the term of the agreement once executed.

EMS SERVICES DEMAND AND OPERATING COSTS AT COUNTY FS#70

Based on an initial report received by the San Pablo City Council in October 2013, FS#70 is the 2nd busiest County fire station with nearly 3,700 service calls annually, and with 83% of annual service calls related to EMS services.¹ Additionally, with the recent cessation of ambulance transports at Doctor's Medical Center in San Pablo in August 2014, there has been substantial demand and support from our community to establish the EMS Squad to maintain and supplement current FS#70 capabilities to meet the high-level demand, and a greater dependence on, basic level and advanced level support (BLS/ALS) EMS services provided by County FS#70.

¹ (ConFire Data: Based on 3,672 annual total incidents; EMS Calls = 2597 of 3147 [or 82.5%] in CY 2012)

AUTOMATIC-AID COSTS REDUCTION

Additionally, the EMS Squad deployment at County FS#70 would also assist greatly in reducing annual automatic aid costs currently paid to the City of Richmond Fire Department by CONFIRE for service calls to San Pablo, and surrounding Battalion #7 service area.²

CONCLUSION

In overall consideration of these issues, the City of San Pablo has clearly demonstrated to your Board its ongoing financial commitment to dedicating local City resources to ensure that critical EMS services provided by CONFIRE are deployed and maintained at County FS#70. Additionally, this funding and enhanced service delivery commitment will assist in avoiding any service impacts and reductions in the future at County FS#70, especially in light of any potential future closure of DMC in San Pablo in March 2015 which is a great public health and safety concern in our community.

We are very fortunate of thankful of this inter-agency collaboration and partnership between the City of San Pablo and CONFIRE in bringing forward this EMS Services Agreement for your full consideration. Following your favorable support, the City will work diligently with CONFIRE officials to target program deployment of the new EMS Squad at County FS#70 by May 1, 2015.

Any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (510) 215-3016, or email: matr@sanpabloca.gov.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Matt Rodriguez,
City of San Pablo

Attachment: City of San Pablo Resolution #2015-016

cc: Tim Ewell, CAO Office
CONFIRE Fire Chief, Jeff Carman
County Supervisor BOS Offices (Attn: Chief of Staffs)
San Pablo Mayor and Councilmembers
City Attorney
Jim Parrott, City Fire Services consultant

² (City of Richmond Fire Department Data: \$370,000 paid by CONFIRE for Auto-Aid Services in CY 2012)

RESOLUTION 2015-016

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN PABLO AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF SAN PABLO FOR ENHANCED EMS SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District ("District") provides fire, rescue and emergency medical incident response services within the City of San Pablo. The District's Station 70 is located within the City at 13928 San Pablo Avenue ("Station 70"), and is currently staffed by one (1) fire captain, one (1) fire engineer and one (1) firefighter; at least one of which is a paramedic. Station 70 currently has the capacity to house one three-person company;

WHEREAS, following the recent passage of sales tax Measure K, a special tax, the City is required to spend the proceeds of Measure K to enhance the emergency medical incident response services provided in the City. The City and District have negotiated an agreement under which an additional two-person squad will be operated out of Station 70 and staffed 24 hours a day. The City will pay for the EMS Squad vehicle, the costs of personnel, equipment and fuel for the EMS Squad, and the costs associated with constructing housing or other accommodations at Station 70 for the EMS Squad personnel;

WHEREAS, under the agreement, the District must staff Station 70 with a two-person squad comprised of a fire engineer and a firefighter, at least one of which will be a paramedic (the "EMS Squad"), in addition to the existing three person squad comprised of a captain, a fire engineer, and a paramedic. The EMS Squad will be housed at, and permanently assigned to Station 70, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This obligation will remain for so long as Station 70 is in existence;

WHEREAS, initially, the District will purchase, and the City will pay for, a new squad vehicle at a cost not to exceed \$175,000. The EMS Squad will be equipped with firefighter protective clothing, a cardiac monitor, a defibrillator, necessary radios and communications equipment and other equipment the District determines is necessary to its duties (the "EMS Squad Equipment"). The EMS Squad Equipment will primarily be provided by the District from its surplus equipment supply. The remaining EMS Squad Equipment will be purchased by District after it provides the City with a list of EMS Squad Equipment that is necessary and in addition to the District supplied EMS Squad Equipment. The District will invoice the City for the cost of any new EMS Squad Equipment it purchases;

WHEREAS, the EMS Squad personnel will be assigned at the sole discretion of the District. Notwithstanding that the EMS Squad is located at Station 70 in the City, the EMS Squad will be used in the same manner that the District would use it if the City were not funding the EMS Squad. At the District's discretion, the EMS Squad may be assigned to provide emergency services at any location as deemed necessary by the District. The EMS Squad will not provide EMS transportation services;

WHEREAS, to house the EMS Squad, the District will determine a design to add a double wide modular housing unit approximately 1,200 square feet in size (with sleeping quarters, bathroom, etc.), a breezeway, walkway, and portal into the existing Station 70, and the necessary site improvements for the new structure to serve as additional housing for the EMS Squad (the "EMS Squad Housing Design").

WHEREAS, CEQA is not triggered by this agreement. Per State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, there cannot be a project unless the proposed action will result in "either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment." The Agreement presents no foreseeable significant adverse impact to the environment. State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) states that a project does not include "organization or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment." The housing improvements to Station 70 are contingent on and subject to appropriate review under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). The District shall act as lead agency for the EMS Squad housing construction, obtain all permits, approval, and entitlements necessary for the EMS Squad housing, and prepare environmental clearance for the remodel project pursuant to CEQA.

WHEREAS, the City will assist in expediting plan review and the issuance of permits and entitlements within the jurisdiction of the City. The District will contract for the construction of the EMS Squad housing according to the EMS Squad Housing Design. The City will fund all reasonable costs of the EMS Squad housing at Station 70 with the exception of upgrades to the current structure and emergency generator. However, the District shall be responsible for competently managing the project and shall be liable for any contractor claims arising out of the project which could have been reasonably avoided by the District;

WHEREAS, in addition to the start-up costs, the City will pay the District for the staffing and operation of the EMS Squad in the maximum amount of (a) \$1.2 million annually for the first three years of this Agreement, and (b) \$1.5 million annually for the fourth and fifth years of this Agreement. However, if the City Council fails to appropriate sufficient funds in any fiscal year for payments due under this Agreement that are in excess of Measure K funds received—currently projected at \$600,000 annually—and if other funds are not available for such payments, then the City shall give the District immediate written notice, and the District may thereafter terminate this agreement; and

WHEREAS, by separate action the City Council has authorized the appropriation of \$400,000 from the General Fund Designated Reserve for Fire EMS Services augmentation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of San Pablo does hereby authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement for enhanced EMS services in substantially the form submitted herewith, with such changes as deemed proper and necessary by the City Manager and City Attorney.

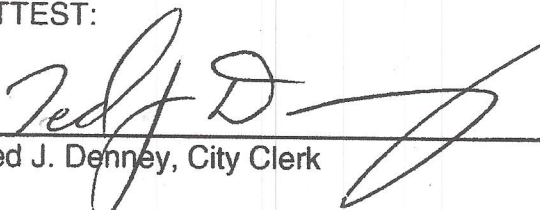
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council finds that the Agreement is categorically exempt under CEQA and directs the City Clerk to immediately file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk.

* * * * *

Adopted this 20th day of January, 2015, by the following vote to wit:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	Morris, Valdez, Kinney and Chao Rothberg
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	Calloway
ABSTAIN:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None

ATTEST:



Ted J. Denney, City Clerk

APPROVED:



Kathy Chao Rothberg, Mayor