



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

2015 DEC -3 AM 10:39

CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

DIANNE JACOB
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: December 15, 2015

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF CAL FIRE RESOURCES FOR EL NIÑO FLOODING AND OTHER NON-FIRE EMERGENCIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview

San Diego County is one of the most geographically diverse regions in the country and susceptible to numerous natural hazards and disasters. Over the past decade, the region has faced major wildland fires, heavy snow, and drought. Now El Niño poses the threat of delivering greater than normal rainfall with the potential for widespread flooding.

Since the historic wildfires of 2003 and 2007, this Board has made emergency and fire preparedness a top priority. The currently predicted El Niño presents a specific risk to the region and over the past several months, we have bolstered our emergency response capabilities to address the severe weather and flooding risks anticipated by El Niño.

To further our region's El Niño preparedness, today's action will provide this County with immediate access to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) inmate work crews for flood preparedness and response. These inmate work crews currently have sandbag machines at each of their camps, and this agreement will allow the County to be able to quickly utilize this capability to help protect our residents before and during major storms.

Today's action will establish an Assistance-By-Hire Agreement with CAL FIRE. Should major flooding occur in San Diego County, the County would have the ability to request assistance directly from the CAL FIRE San Diego Unit instead of the protracted process of making the request through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Recommendation(s)

SUPERVISOR DIANNE JACOB

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to establish, and authorize the Director, Office of Emergency Services to execute, upon successful negotiation, an Assistance-By-Hire Agreement to directly utilize CAL FIRE resources during non-fire, non-law enforcement emergencies.

Fiscal Impact

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There is no fiscal impact associated with this Board action.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

Background

San Diego County is one of the most geographically diverse regions in the country and susceptible to numerous natural hazards and disasters. Over the past decade, the region has faced major wildland fires, heavy snow, and drought. Now El Niño poses the threat of delivering greater than normal rainfall with the potential for widespread flooding. Recent events show how quickly heavy rain can turn into a disaster. In July 2015, an unusual summer storm dropped several inches of rain in San Diego County. Ramona was particularly hit hard as the rainfall ultimately impacted more than 130 families and caused damage to homes and businesses. The impending El Niño may bring a large amount of rain to the region, with frequent storms and longer than normal rainy season. In addition, El Niño has the potential to decrease the time period between storm systems, which could result in disastrous flooding. Utilizing all available options to respond to emergencies and quickly deploy resources will protect residents from potential damage.

The last major El Niño provided an exceptional amount of rainfall in Southern California. According to a National University System Institute for Policy Research report from October 2015, during the 1997-1998 El Niño, California received well-above average rainfall and sustained over \$800 million in economic losses. Further, the report notes that more than 50,000 residents and nearly 5,000 businesses in the San Diego region currently reside within 100-year flood zones which could be prone to flooding during concentrated rainfall.

As the County prepares for El Niño, this Board of Supervisors has been committed to prevention and response efforts as we protect our region. In addition to being the regional leader for the wildland fire mission, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has the capability to respond to non-wildland fire, non-law enforcement emergencies. Establishing an Assistance-By-Hire Agreement with CAL FIRE will allow the County to request assistance directly from the CAL FIRE San Diego Unit instead of making the request through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

The agreement will allow resources such as inmate fire crews to be activated to fill sandbags immediately for an actual or potential flooding emergency. Within the San Diego region, CAL FIRE operates four inmate fire camps. These facilities house local and State inmates who provide important assistance with wildland fire prevention and response duties. During storms, the inmates could be used to perform duties such as filling sandbags for local residents to protect property.

The County of San Diego remains committed to protecting all of our residents from disasters and

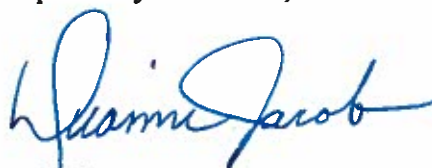
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emergencies. Existing partnerships with cities, water districts, and fire agencies have led to a high level of preparedness. Today's action, authorizing a formal agreement with CAL FIRE, will help the County and its residents more quickly respond to future rain events by rapidly responding to emergencies.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

Today's proposed action supports the Safe Communities Strategic Initiative of the County of San Diego's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan by establishing a cooperative agreement that will help make San Diego the most resilient community in America.

Respectfully submitted,



DIANNE JACOB
Supervisor, Second District

ATTACHMENT(S)
N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 2, Board of Supervisors

OTHER CONCURRENCES(S): [Click here and type]

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