COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 881-2401

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

March 13, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

AUTHORIZE ACQUISITION OF A CATERPILLAR 14M MOTORGRADER DIESEL OPERATED – ARTICULATED – 14 ft MOLDBOARD (ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD, ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:

Approve the Fire Protection District's request to proceed with acquisition of a Caterpillar 14M Motorgrader (Grader). The Grader and necessary equipment contained therein, total cost not to exceed $536,000. This purchase request exceeds the $250,000 fixed asset threshold established by your Board, and requires your approval to move forward with the acquisition process.

PURPOSE / JUSTIFICATION OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The purpose of this request is to replace a 37 year old Caterpillar 120 grader which has high usage hours, and replacement parts for this older machine are difficult to find. The acquisition would maintain the Department's current fleet of serviceable graders at a total of three (3). The three graders would facilitate timely maintenance of the Department's extensive motorway system. Additionally, acquisition of the new grader would lessen the need to rent motorgraders due to the unreliability of the older grader, which is currently done on a yearly basis at an approximate cost of $25,000 per year.

This new Caterpillar 14M Motorgrader will also have an enclosed cab, and graders with enclosed cabs have proven to be invaluable by providing increased operator safety and protection. Additionally, due to the intrinsic quality of the enclosed cab, firefighting personnel are able to safely expand the envelope of emergency winter storm activities as well as fire road rehab during emergency, wildland fire operations. This expansion encompasses not only storm/flood and wildland incidents, but also potentially harmful applications such as grading in areas known to have high concentrations of the San Joaquin Valley Fever spore.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the recommended action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal #2, Workplace Excellence, by enhancing the quality and productivity of the District's emergency services.

FISCAL IMPACT / FINANCING:

The estimated cost of the Grader is not to exceed $536,000. The District's 2006-07 Adopted Budget includes sufficient funding for this purchase and maintenance costs will be funded within the District's existing budget. There is no impact on net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS / LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

On October 16, 2001, your Board adopted a policy whereby departments must obtain Board approval to purchase or finance equipment with a unit cost of $250,000 or greater prior to submitting their requisitions to the Purchasing Agent.

CONTRACTING PROCESS:

This is a commodity purchase under the statutory authority of the County Purchasing Agent. The purchase will be requisitioned through, and accomplished by the Purchasing Agent in accordance with the County's purchasing policies and procedures, established by the Internal Services Department.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

Approval of the recommended action will enable the Department to continue our provision of emergency services to the residences of Los Angeles County.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, please instruct the Executive Officer to return adopted copies of this letter to:

1. Los Angeles County Consolidated Fire Protection District
   Materials Management Division
   5801 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 100
   Commerce, California 90040
   Attention: James Ealey, Chief, Materials Management Division

2. Internal Services Department
   Purchasing Division
   1100 North Eastern Avenue, Room 102
   Los Angeles, California 90063
   Attention: Joe Sandoval, Division Manager

If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Chief John B. Tripp, Support Services Bureau, at (232) 881-6152

Respectfully submitted,

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

PMF:af

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Internal Services Department