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

August 29, 2006

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:

REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF TWENTY-FOUR FIRE ENGINES AND ONE QUINT-TYPE AERIAL LADDER APPARATUS (ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

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

1. Approve the Consolidated Fire Protection District's (District) request and authorize the Purchasing Agent to proceed with the solicitation and acquisition of twenty four (24) fire engines. A fire engine costs approximately $336,000. This purchase exceeds the $250,000 fixed asset threshold established by your Board and requires your approval to move forward with the solicitation and acquisition process.

2. Approve the District's request and authorize the Purchasing Agent to proceed with the solicitation and acquisition of one (1) quint-type aerial ladder apparatus. A quint-type aerial ladder apparatus costs approximately $731,000. This purchase exceeds the $250,000 fixed asset threshold established by your Board and requires your approval to move forward with the solicitation and acquisition process.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The District has a 20 year replacement schedule for fire apparatus, consisting of 15 years of first line service and 5 years of reserve service. The acquisition of twenty-four fire engines would be twice the normal replacement quantity. The District's normal replacement schedule is being accelerated to take advantage of a $240,000 cost savings. The fire engines and quint will have enclosed cabs, improved fire fighter safety features, more cost effective components to reduce annual operating costs, and higher efficiency, lower emission diesel engines.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This purchase supports the County's Strategic Goal #2 for Workforce Excellence, by enhancing the quality and productivity of the District's workforce.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The total estimated cost of the fire engines and quint is approximately $8,795,000. The District's 2006-07 budget includes sufficient funding for the purchase of the fire engines and quint.

Maintenance costs will be funded within the District's existing budget. There is no impact on net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

The nature of response requirements, fire fighting and automotive technology, and accepted National Fire Protection Agency requirements have changed dramatically over the last 20-year period and the new apparatus will be significantly more efficient and effective than the apparatus they are replacing.

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 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):

The fire engines and quint will greatly enhance the District's ability to protect lives, the environment, and property in a safer, more efficient and cost effective manner.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:

The acquisition of the fire engines and a quint is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061 (b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that this acquisition will not have a significant effect on the environment.

CONCLUSION:

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

PMF:gt

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