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

May 29, 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:

REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF TWO (2) HELI-TENDERS AND ONE (1) WATER TENDER DIESEL TRUCK (ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR HONORABLE 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 two (2) heli-tender diesel trucks. Each heli-tender diesel truck costs approximately $325,000. 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) water tender diesel truck. A water tender diesel truck costs approximately $260,000. 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 District is seeking to replace two heli-tenders, a 1975 International (HT5-49615) and a 1972 Dodge (HT8 F2015). The District is also seeking to replace one water tender, a 1990 International (WT81 49690).

The heli-tenders have high mileage and replacement parts are unavailable. There is a greater predictability of maintenance and serviceability with the new apparatus. The new heli-tenders will provide a greater support base for the helicopter fleet. Additionally, acquisition of the heli-tenders would lessen the need for emergency repairs for the current apparatus.

The water tender has high mileage and replacement parts are unavailable. As a result, the front-wheel drive and transfer case were removed, eliminating the vehicle's off-road capability.

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 two heli-tenders and one water-tender is approximately $910,000. The District's 2006-07 budget includes sufficient funding for the purchase of the heli-tenders and water tender.

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, firefighting and automotive technology, and accepted National Fire Protection Agency standards 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. Therefore your approval is required.

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 purchase of two heli-tender diesel trucks and one water-tender diesel truck will greatly enhance the District's ability to protect lives, the environment, and property in a safe, efficient and cost-effective manner.

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

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

3. Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
   Financial Management Division
   5801 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 130
   Commerce, CA 90040
   Attention: Helen Jo

Respectfully submitted,

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

PMF:gth

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