# 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


July 29, 2008

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:

**CONTRACT WITH STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS AND OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES TO RECOVER FUNDING FOR THE LIFEGUARD DIVISION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR BOATING SAFETY COURSES AND OTHER MANDATED TRAINING (ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

## SUBJECT

Board approval authorizing the Fire Chief to renew the annual contract with the State Department of Boating and Waterways for reimbursement of costs associated with operational boating safety and marine firefighting training courses implemented by the Fire Department.

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

1. Authorize the Fire Chief of the Fire Protection District (District) to renew the annual contract with the State of California Department of Boating and Waterways and other public agencies for the purpose of recovering personnel costs and incidental expenses incurred when conducting boating safety and enforcement training and other necessary or mandated training.

**PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approval of the recommended action will provide the District with the opportunity to receive reimbursement, up to $75,000, from the State of California Department of Boating and Waterways Grant Funding Program for two (2) Rescue Boat Operations and one (1) Marine Firefighting training modules. The Department of Boating and Waterways Grant Funding Program provides reimbursement to authorized County agencies to offset personnel, equipment, and material costs for various boating safety and enforcement training.

The District's Lifeguard Division has been conducting boating safety and enforcement courses, under Board of Supervisors approval, for the past eight years. During this time, the District's Lifeguard Division has trained over 370 personnel and received full reimbursement, totaling $297,000.

The boating safety and enforcement courses offered have been customized to meet State requirements as well as District operational standards. These courses include instruction on rescue boat operations, marine firefighting, distressed vessel assistance, surf rescues, boat dewatering, and life and property protection. This training is available to District personnel as well as other public safety agencies.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The reimbursement received by the District from the State of California Department of Boating and Waterways results in the recovery of staff time and miscellaneous expenditures associated with training, including equipment and fuel costs. The authorization to enter into contract for rescue boat operation and marine firefighting training enables the District to offer and shape the type of instruction necessary to provide maximum public safety. Previously, our employees were required to attend training provided by outside agencies that was not customized to meet our operational standards.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals:

Approval of the recommended action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal #2, by enhancing the quality and productivity of the County workforce.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

The State of California Department of Boating and Waterways will reimburse the District, up to $75,000, for training costs associated with two (2) Rescue Boat Operations and one (1) Marine Firefighting training modules scheduled for Fiscal Year 2008-09.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

The State of California Department of Boating and Waterways has provided the District with guidelines for the administration of this contract. These guidelines detail the activities and expenditures allowable for reimbursement.

**CONTRACTING PROCESS:**

Reimbursement and payment will be based and substantiated by personnel timekeeping and invoices for incidental expenses related to the training costs.

Once the contract is received and prior to the Fire Chief entering into this agreement the contract will be reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES:**

Approval of the recommended action will provide the District with the ability to provide Fire Department personnel and outside agencies with a thorough and comprehensive Rescue Boat Operations and Marine Firefighting training program. This joint partnership between the District, the State of California Department of Boating and Waterways, and other outside agencies will enhance boating safety.

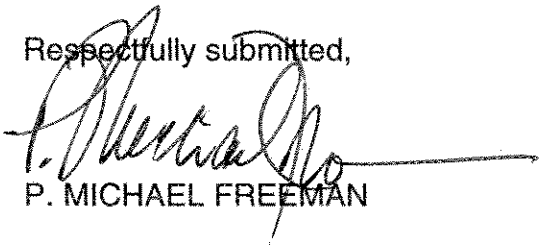
**CONCLUSION:**

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, please instruct the Executive Officer to return adopted copies of this letter, and the minute order to the following offices:

1. Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
   Executive Office
   1320 N. Eastern Ave.
   Los Angeles, CA 90063

2. Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
   Lifeguard Division
   2301 Ocean Front Walk
   Venice, CA 90291

Respectfully submitted,



P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

PMF:cm

c: Executive Officer
Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller