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

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

72 DECEMBER 15, 2009

SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

December 15, 2009

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

Dear Supervisors:

AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY'S PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER FOR THE ACQUISITION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING PROPS FOR THE DEL VALLE REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER (ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

The Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (District) is requesting Board approval to authorize the County's Purchasing Agent to issue a purchase order for the acquisition of hazardous materials training props for the Del Valle Regional Training Center, in an amount not to exceed $4.25 million. Your Board previously approved the acceptance of Federal and State grants to fully fund the purchase of these props which exceed the $250,000 fixed asset threshold established by your Board. The acquisition of the material for this project falls under the statutory authority of the County's Purchasing Agent. However, because the service component associated with labor costs will more than likely exceed the authority of the County's Purchasing Agent, Board approval is required.

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

Authorize the County's Purchasing Agent to issue a purchase order to the selected bidder in an amount not to exceed $4.25 million to design, construct, and install hazardous materials training props at the Del Valle Regional Training Center.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The recommended action will facilitate the design, construction and installation of hazardous materials training props at the Del Valle Regional Training Center, in an amount not to exceed $4.25 million. Your Board previously approved the acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2006 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), Fiscal Year 2007 UASI, and Fiscal Year 2007 State Homeland Security (SHS) grants on March 18, 2008, November 12, 2008, and February 19, 2008, to fully fund the purchase of these hazardous materials training props, which exceed the $250,000 fixed asset threshold established by your Board. The acquisition of the material for this project falls under the statutory authority of the County's Purchasing Agent. However, because the service component associated with labor costs will more than likely exceed the authority of the County's Purchasing Agent, Board approval is required for the County's Purchasing Agent to proceed with this acquisition.

The hazardous materials training props consist of an exterior warehouse loading dock prop and interior industrial warehouse prop. Both props will provide state of the art consequence managed hazardous materials scenarios producing the highest degree of realistic training.

The exterior warehouse loading dock prop will replicate an exterior industrial chemical facility containing drums, cylinders, barrels, tanks and an elaborate plumbing system of various sized pipes, valves, and gages. Numerous simulated gas leaks, vapor leaks, and fire situations involving drums, cylinders and containers can be created and initiated by instructors based on actions taken or not taken by first responders.

The interior warehouse prop will replicate an industrial chemical facility containing drums, cylinders, barrels, tanks, dry goods storage and an elaborate plumbing system of various sized pipes, valves, and gages. Numerous simulated gas leaks, pressure leaks, and vapor leaks from items inside the warehouse can be created and initiated by instructors based on actions taken or not taken by first responders.

The control of all live fire and other effects for both props have been designed as "fail-to-safe." Fail-to-safe ensures that all conditions for the safe discharge of a live fire or ancillary effect shall be within designated safety parameters.

These hazardous materials training props will enhance firefighter safety by providing real life scenarios in a controlled environment, thus allowing for the development of tactical skills, strategic planning, and technical decision making.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the recommended action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal Number 1, operational effectiveness, through emergency preparedness and response efforts; and, Goal Number 5, Public Safety, by maintaining and ensuring the highest level of safety and security standards for the residents of Los Angeles County achieved by ensuring firefighters are afforded the opportunity to access state-of-the-art firefighting training.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The costs to design, construct, and install the hazardous materials training props at the Del Valle Regional Training Center is approximately $4.25 million. The District's Fiscal Year 2009-10 Adopted Budget includes sufficient funding in the Special Services Fixed Asset Budget Unit.

Your Board previously approved the acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2006 UASI, Fiscal Year 2007 UASI, and Fiscal Year 2007 SHS grants to fully fund the purchase of these hazardous materials training props.

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 acquisition of the material for this project falls under the statutory authority of the County's Purchasing Agent. However, because the service component associated with labor costs will more than likely exceed the authority of the County's Purchasing Agent, Board approval is required for the Purchasing Agent to proceed with this acquisition.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

The District submitted a requisition to the Internal Services Department to conduct a solicitation for bids to design, construct, and install the hazardous materials training props at the Del Valle Regional Training Center.

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

Bids are set to close on Monday, December 7, 2009. Upon evaluation of the bids received, the County's Purchasing Agent will determine which of the vendors has provided the lowest, responsible, and responsive bid in an amount not to exceed $4.25 million.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

A Negative Declaration was previously approved by the County in May 1991, pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the development and use of the Del Valle Regional Training Center by the District. No further review under CEQA is required.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended action will expand the District's emergency response capabilities by providing training instruments to enhance firefighter tactical skills and strategic decision making.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by your Board, please instruct the Executive Officer to return a copy of the adopted board letter to:

1. Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
   Executive Office, Emergency Operations
   1320 North Eastern Avenue
   Los Angeles, CA 90063
   Attention: Chief Deputy John B. Tripp

2. Internal Services Department
   Purchasing Division
   1100 North Eastern Avenue, Room 102
   Los Angeles, CA 90063
   Attention: Gerald Plummer, Division Manager

Respectfully submitted,

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

PMF:heo

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