



ANTHONY C. MARRONE
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

*"Proud Protectors of Life,
the Environment, and Property"*

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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June 17, 2025

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:

APPROVE THE SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE OF HELIPAD 69 BRAVO'S EXISTING AUTOMATION SYSTEM FROM SABE AVIATION, INC. (ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

The Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (District) is requesting approval of the sole source purchase of Helipad 69 Bravo's (69 Bravo's) existing automation system from Sabe Aviation, Inc. (Sabe), a California Corporation. This purchase exceeds the \$250,000 capital asset threshold established by the Board and requires Board approval to proceed with the purchase.

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

1. Authorize the Internal Services Department (ISD), as the County's Purchasing Agent, to proceed with the sole source purchase of 69 Bravo's existing automation system from Sabe at an approximate cost of \$290,000.
2. Find that the proposed actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The District is requesting approval to purchase the existing automation system at 69 Bravo, which is necessary to support critical operational functions of the District's Air and Wildland Division and ensure continued effectiveness in fire suppression efforts. The District relies on specialized equipment and infrastructure to support emergency operations, including automated systems that enhance response capabilities. The automation system is critical to the suppression of wildland fires in the communities of Malibu, Topanga, Fernwood, and the surrounding developments in the Santa

Monica Mountains. The District seeks to acquire this system as a sole source purchase to avoid any potential interruptions in serving its constituents.

The automation system was purchased and installed by Sabe prior to the District's acquisition of the property on February 21, 2025. It is significantly more efficient for the District to purchase the existing equipment directly from Sabe, rather than the District purchasing a similar system at a higher cost. This approach avoids unnecessary operational disruptions and ensures cost-effective continuity of critical fire suppression capabilities. If the District were to purchase elsewhere, the existing equipment would need to be uninstalled, which would create a gap in coverage while obtaining new equipment.

The automation system manages the water levels of the water tanks located at 69 Bravo which are used by aerial firefighting resources during critical fire incidents. The automation system allows remote access to turn on or off the sprinkler system, monitor water capacity to five tanks, turn on or off pumps, and increase the pump flow rate without personnel physically at the location to manually fill or manage the water tanks. This level of control and automation enables 69 Bravo to provide a reliable source of water that can be utilized during wildfires. Additionally, the automated system provides a streamlined refilling process thereby increasing the District's effectiveness in responding to and extinguishing wildland fires.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the recommended actions is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan North Star Focus Area Goal A, Strategies i: Customer Service: Support departmental efforts to improve customer service and to enhance efficiency and responsiveness to meet the needs of all residents.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The District, as a Special District, is funded independently from the County's General Fund, and relies primarily on property tax revenue to provide essential fire protection and life safety services.

Sufficient funding is available in the District's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Final Adopted Budget to purchase existing automation equipment.

There is no impact to net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with County Policy No. 5.015 (Timely Submission of Contracts for Board Approval), this purchase meets the criteria of being a critical nature and urgent for the protection of public health and safety

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The recommended actions are exempt from the CEQA pursuant to Section 15061 (b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines as it addresses incidental matters related to the provision of services, and thus it will not have a significant effect on the environment.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommendations will ensure that the District maintains its ability to respond effectively to wildfires and other emergencies, minimizing delays and ensuring the availability of critical infrastructure.

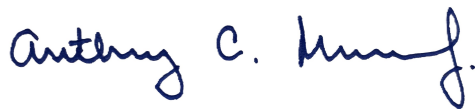
CONCLUSION

Upon approval by your Honorable Board, please instruct the Executive Officer to return an adopted stamped copy of this letter to the following office:

Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
Executive Office – Business Operations
Attention: Jennifer Camarena, Administrative Services Manager II
1320 N. Eastern Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063
Jennifer.Camarena@fire.lacounty.gov

The District's contact can be reached at (323) 267-7205.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony C. Marrone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a clear "A" at the start and a "f" at the end.

ANTHONY C. MARRONE
FIRE CHIEF

ACM:mv

Enclosures

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

SOLE SOURCE REQUEST QUESTIONNAIRE

It is the policy of the County to solicit the maximum number of bids/proposals for a commodity or service from the largest relevant market and to select vendors on a competitive basis.

There are certain acquisitions which, when in the best interest of the County, can only be obtained from a sole source. Sole source acquisitions must be justified in sufficient detail to explain the basis for suspending the usual competitive procurement process.

NOTE: Please refer to Procedure P-3700 of the ISD Purchasing Policies and Procedures Manual.

DOCUMENTATION FOR SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION MUST INCLUDE RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What is being requested?
Automation system for the 69 Bravo helispot.
2. Why is the product needed – how will it be used?
The automation system is vital to the wildland operation in the area, the automation system allows remote access to turn on or off the sprinkler system, monitor water capacity to five tanks, turn on or off pumps, and increase the pump flow rate without personnel physically at the location to manually fill or manage the water tanks. This level of control and automation enables 69 Bravo to provide a reliable source of water that can be utilized during wildfires. Additionally, the automation system provides a streamlined refilling process thereby increasing the District's effectiveness in responding to and extinguishing wildland fires.
3. Is this "brand" of product the only one that meets the user's requirements? If yes, what is unique about the product?
This product is already at the 69 Bravo property and by purchasing it from the previous owner the District will avoid any interruptions in operations, which could thereby impact provision of wildland service.
4. Have other products/vendors been considered? If yes, which products/vendors have been considered and how did they fail to meet the user's requirements?
No, as replacement of the automation system would interrupt critical wildland operations in the area.
5. Will purchase of this product avoid other costs, e.g. data conversion, etc. or will it incur additional costs, e.g. training, conversion, etc.?
Yes, purchase of this system eliminates the need to purchase the same system and find an interim solution to avoid interruption of service.
6. Is the product proprietary or is it available from various dealers? Have you verified this?
The automation system was purchased and installed prior to the District purchasing the property and due to operational need, would not be reasonable to replace without interrupting wildland operations.
7. Reasonableness of Price: Does the County obtain a percentage discount or special discount not available to the private sector?
The vendor has offered a 28% discount to the County.

8. What is the dollar value of existing equipment and the Purchase Order No. for the existing equipment?

N/A