



ANTHONY C. MARRONE
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

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

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 881-2401
www.fire.lacounty.gov



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

HILDA L. SOLIS, CHAIR FIRST DISTRICT	
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JANICE HAHN FOURTH DISTRICT	KATHRYN BARGER FIFTH DISTRICT

June 30, 2026

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:

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE INCREASE TO HELITANKER LEASE CONTRACT WITH COULSON AVIATION INC. AND AN APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (4-VOTES)

SUBJECT

The Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (District) is requesting Board of Supervisors' (Board) approval to increase the maximum annual contract sum for calendar year 2026 for the District's contract with Coulson Aviation Inc. (Coulson) for the lease of aerial wildland firefighting helicopters, and to approve an appropriation adjustment.

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

1. Approve a \$15.0 million increase and delegate authority to the Fire Chief, or his designee, to execute a contract amendment to increase the maximum annual contract sum for the District's contract with Coulson for calendar year 2026.
2. Approve the appropriation adjustment (Enclosure) in the amount of \$12.0 million, to increase Services and Supplies (S&S) appropriation in the Fire Department - Operations Budget Unit, offset with revenue from Southern California Edison (SCE).
3. Find that this contract is still exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as previously determined on June 28, 2022.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

An S-76 intelligence platform helicopter and an additional CH-47 Helitanker will now be located in Los Angeles County and managed by the District. SCE continues to fund the fixed lease costs relating to stand-by time for all three aircraft. Without the increase, aerial suppression capacity during peak fire season would be reduced, increasing reliance on outside aid and elevating the likelihood of large-fire escalation. Approval ensures continuity of proven aviation resources that support operational readiness and the District's mission to protect lives, property, and the environment.

The recommended actions allow the District to maintain access to two contracted Helitankers and an intelligence platform that strengthens local response to an increasingly severe wildfire environment. Current statewide fire prediction models anticipate rising fire potential through the peak wildfire months of August through October, with forecasts indicating above-normal large-fire activity due to significant winter vegetation growth favoring rapid fire spread. This increase in our contracted aerial fleet will improve response effectiveness through real-time fire intelligence, increased fire suppression capacity throughout the County. Optimizing contracted aircraft placement across the County directly improves operational coverage and response efficiency. Without these aircraft, resource distribution becomes more concentrated, resulting in longer response times and a reduced ability to arrive on-scene early at new wildfire incidents.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the recommended actions is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan North Star Focus Area Goal 3E: Data-Driven Decision Making: Use equity and data as a tool to continually assess and strengthen our efficiency and effectiveness, maximize and leverage resources, ensure fiscal responsibility, and hold ourselves accountable.

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 emergency medical services.

The current maximum contract sum for the District's contract with Coulson is \$15.0M. The requested increase of \$15.0M will increase the maximum contract sum to \$30.0M.

For calendar year 2026, SCE has agreed to provide \$24.1M of funding to the District for the fixed lease costs related to 365 days of 24-hour stand-by time for the Helitanker lease. Approval of the recommended appropriation adjustment will increase the Fire Department - Operations Budget Unit's S&S appropriation by \$12.0M to cover 181 days of stand-by time from 1/1/2026 through 6/30/26. The District will ensure the remaining \$12.1M of SCE funding is included in the FY 2026-27 Adopted Budget to cover 184 days of stand-by time from 7/1/2026 through 12/31/26.

The remaining \$5.9M of the contract will cover the flight hours needed for the S-76 and Helitankers will be funded with District revenue. There is sufficient funding in the District's FY 2025-26 Final Adopted Budget and the District will ensure sufficient funding is included in the FY 2026-27 Adopted Budget to fund these costs.

There is no impact to net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

California's wildland fire protection framework assigns primary financial responsibility for wildfire prevention and suppression based on direct protection area (DPA); Federal Responsibility Area (FRA), State Responsibility Area (SRA) and Local Responsibility Area (LRA). The Federal Government and State may enter into agreements with counties or other local agencies to provide wildland fire prevention and suppression assistance via cooperative fire protection or assistance by hire (ABH) agreements.

In addition, the District operates within California's statewide mutual aid system, including the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement and the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan, which establishes the legal and operational basis for mobilization and mutual aid during emergencies and disasters, including wildland fire incidents. The recommended contract amendment and appropriation adjustment support the District's ability to maintain mission-critical wildland fire suppression capability and ensures continuity of operations during peak fire season to support intra-county and statewide mutual aid commitments when requested through the established California's Office of Emergency Services (OES) ordering process.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The services provided through this contract do not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, are still exempt from CEQA, pursuant to Section 15061(b) (3) of the CEQA Guidelines.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

The District's contract with Coulson was approved by your Board on June 28, 2022.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the District to continue to augment the District's fleet of aircraft during the upcoming fire season and will support the District's mission to protect lives, the environment, and property.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by your Honorable Board, please instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to return the adopted stamped Board Letter to the following:

Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
Executive Office - Business Operations
Attention: Jasmine Anderson, Administrative Services Manager II
1320 North Eastern Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063
Jasmine.Anderson@fire.lacounty.gov

The District's contact can be reached at (323) 881-6173.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

6/30/2026

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony C. Marrone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping tail.

ANTHONY C. MARRONE

FIRE CHIEF

ACM:cs

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel

PINK

BA FORM 11162021

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OFFICIAL COPY

June 09, 2026

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

FIRE DEPARTMENT

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. PLEASE CONFIRM THE ACCOUNTING ENTRIES AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HER RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFORE

FY 2025-26

4 - VOTES

SOURCES

USES

FIRE DEPARTMENT - OPERATIONS BUDGET UNIT

DA1-FR-92-9889-40100-40215

ASST BY HIRE-OTHER

INCREASE REVENUE

12,000,000

FIRE DEPARTMENT - OPERATIONS BUDGET UNIT

DA1-FR-2000-40100-40215

SERVICES & SUPPLIES

INCREASE APPROPRIATION

12,000,000

SOURCES TOTAL

\$ 12,000,000

USES TOTAL

\$ 12,000,000

JUSTIFICATION

Reflects an increase in appropriation and revenue, funded by Southern California Edison, to execute a contract amendment increasing the maximum annual contract sum for the District's 2026 calendar year helitanker lease with Coulson Aviation Inc.

Jessica Lindsey

Digitally signed by Jessica Lindsey
Date: 2026.04.14 08:04:19 -07'00'

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

JESSICA LINDSEY, ASM III

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL (AS REQUESTED/REVISED)

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR---

ACTION

RECOMMENDATION

Lan Sam

BY

Digitally signed by Lan Sam
Date: 2026.04.14 09:23:34 -07'00'

DATE **4/14/26**

APPROVED AS REQUESTED

APPROVED AS REVISED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Brian

BY

Hoffman

Digitally signed by Brian Hoffman
Date: 2026.04.14 09:44:40 -07'00'

DATE

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

B.A. NO. **208**