

COMMUNICATION

TO: LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

File No. 10-1310

**FROM: COUNCILMEMBER MITCHELL ENGLANDER, CHAIR
COUNCILMEMBER JOE BUSCAINO, MEMBER
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR AND MEMBER, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE relative to amending the Fire Department's contract with Erickson Air-Crane, Inc., for continued helitanker aircraft fire suppression services.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. AUTHORIZE the Fire Chief to execute the attached proposed amendment with Erickson Air-Crane, Incorporated, for helitanker aircraft fire suppression services, for a one-year term through June 30, 2013, for an amount not to exceed \$2,205,000, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality.
2. INSTRUCT the Fire Department to monitor and report monthly helitanker services expenditures during Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-13 as part of the Financial Status Report process.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The City Administrative Officer (CAO) reports that this action will not impact the General Fund. The anticipated cost for helitanker services during FY 2012-13 will not exceed \$2,205,000 and is funded in the Fire Department's FY 2012-13 Adopted Budget. This agreement is consistent with City financial policies in that the services provided will be financed with funds already budgeted for this purpose.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

In a report to the Mayor dated July 16, 2012 (attached to the Council file), the CAO states that the Fire Department requests authority to execute the fourth amendment, a one-year extension to the agreement with Erickson Air-Crane, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$2,205,000, to continue to provide helitanker services during the 2012-13 brush fire season. Contract terms continue to provide for a 130-day performance period that includes 10 flight-hours. Funding for this agreement is provided in the Department's 2012-13 Adopted Budget.

The CAO reports that a helitanker is a helicopter airship that can collect, transport, and drop approximately 2,000 gallons of water or fire retardant material over a widespread area. The Fire Department uses this technology to suppress large-scale, high-intensity brush fires. When combined with ground crews, the helitanker provides for a formidable fire suppression capability. The helitanker was instrumental in combating the October/November 2003 firestorms, as well as the 2007 Griffith Park and 2008 Sayre fires.

The CAO goes on to report that total flight hours are limited to 10. Should the Fire Department use the helitanker in excess of the 10 flight-hours, the Department would be billed at a rate of \$6,000 per hour. The Department should closely monitor the agreement expenditures and report any potential Contractual Services account impacts through the Financial Status Report process.

On June 19, 2012, the Board of Fire Commissioners approved the Fire Department's request to execute the contract amendment. The CAO concurs with this action.

At the Public Safety Committee meeting held July 27, 2012, Committee Chair and Member recommended that Council authorize the Fire Department to execute the proposed contract amendment with Erickson Air-Crane, Inc., as recommended by the Board of Fire Commissioners and the CAO.

Respectfully submitted,

MITCHELL ENGLANDER, CHAIR
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

JOE BUSCAINO, MEMBER
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ENGLANDER:	YES
PERRY:	ABSENT
BUSCAINO:	YES
KREKORIAN:	ABSENT
ZINE:	ABSENT

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