

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: May 28, 2025

CAO File No. 0220-06312-0000

Council File No. 24-1137

Council District: --

To: The Mayor and Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer 

Reference: Board of Fire Commissioners Transmittal dated September 17, 2024

Subject: **ACCEPTANCE OF THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (CAL OES) SWIFT WATER/FLOOD SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING AGREEMENT**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council, subject to the approval by the Mayor:

1. Authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to accept a Standard Agreement in the amount of \$89,610.00, for the performance period of March 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, as granted by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), and authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, to execute any documents or agreements necessary to accept the agreement on the City's behalf, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form;
2. Authorize the Fire Department to deposit the receipt of the Standard Agreement funds into Fund 335, Department 38, account to be determined;
3. Authorize the Fire Department to expend funds up to an amount of \$89,610.00 from the Fire Department General Fund 100, Department 38, Account 6020 Operating Expense, for consumables, travel expenses and student certification fees, in accordance with the Cal OES Swift Water/Flood Search and Rescue Training, for the performance period granted by Cal OES;
4. Authorize the Controller, for reimbursement purposes, to transfer the Standard Agreement funds from Fund 335, Department 38, account to be determined, to the following Fund 100, Department 38 salary accounts: Account 001012 (Salaries Sworn), and Account 001098 (Overtime Variable Staffing), upon submission of proper documentation by the Fire Department of direct staff costs incurred during the performance period of the agreement; and,
5. Authorize the Fire Department to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to approval of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions.

SUMMARY

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) supports local jurisdictions and communities through planning and preparedness activities, training, grant opportunities and facilitating the immediate response to emergencies from initial occurrence through the longer-term recovery phase. The Fire Department (LAFD) has been the recipient of various grants and funding offered through Cal OES that has enhanced the Department's emergency response capabilities.

On May 22, 2023, Standard Agreement No. A231012696 was executed between the LAFD and Cal OES to provide \$89,610.00 in overtime and expense funding for swift water training instructors. The funding will reimburse the LAFD for instructor backfill/overtime, consumables, travel expenses, student certification fees, and training administration. The initial performance period for the Agreement covers the period from March 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, with the option to extend for one additional twelve month period at the original rates and terms.

There are thirteen Cal OES Swift Water/Flood Search & Rescue Teams located throughout the State of California. These Swift Water/Flood Search & Rescue Teams conduct search and rescue in the water environment, including searching disaster areas that have become flooded, conducting rescue operations in collapsed structures inundated by floods, tsunamis, dam failure, or other water-related disasters, accessing and rescuing persons and companion animals trapped by flood waters during disasters¹. The LAFD Swift Water Rescue Team is comprised of 40 specially trained firefighters. Funding provided by this agreement will allow for instructors to train and certify new and existing Swift Water Rescue Team members. Acceptance of this agreement will require a reimbursement process established by Cal OES in which the LAFD must front-fund program expenditures in order to obtain reimbursement from Cal OES.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations in this report will not have an impact on the General Fund. Anticipated expenditures totaling \$89,610.00, as provided by the Training Agreement with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), will be front-funded by the Fire Department and will subsequently be fully reimbursed by Cal OES upon receipt of expenditures.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations provided in this report are in compliance with the City's Financial Policies, in that all Agreement funding will be utilized for its intended purposes.

MWS:EFR:04250159

¹ <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/operations/response-operations/fire-rescue/special-operations/>