



Staff Report

PROPOSED REVISED LETTER OF AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE THE PROVISION OF FIRE-RELATED SERVICES THROUGH A JPA BETWEEN THE BELMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF SAN CARLOS

Honorable President and Board Members:

Summary

- On Wednesday, April 12, 2006, the South County Fire Protection Authority approved a Letter of Agreement between the Belmont Fire Protection District and the City of San Carlos to continue fire-related services through a Successor JPA between the two parties (see Attachment A).
- On Monday, April 24, 2006, the San Carlos City Council postponed action on the proposed April 12 Letter of Agreement so that several areas of interest raised at that meeting could be discussed at the Special Meeting of the South County Fire Authority Board on April 26.
- On Tuesday, April 25, the Belmont Fire Protection District Board voted unanimously to approve the April 12 iteration of the LOA with no changes.
- On Wednesday, April 26, the South County Fire Authority Board discussed and directed revisions to the April 12 iteration of the Letter of Agreement (see Attachment B).
- On Wednesday, May 3, the South County Fire Authority Board approved the revised Letter of Agreement before you this evening
- Once the Letter of Agreement is approved by both entities, the Successor Joint Powers Authority Agreement will be drafted and scheduled for approval by both parties before June 30, 2006 to be effective July 1, 2006.

Background

The Belmont Fire Protection District Board and the San Carlos City Council commissioned a series of meetings between the agencies, utilizing the South County Fire Protection Authority Board, to explore terms and conditions of a possible rescue of the South County Fire Authority. The District Board subsequently authorized Council Members Feierbach and Warden to represent it in negotiations at South County Board meetings. At your March 28th meeting, staff presented an update regarding the negotiations. Since that time, additional meetings have taken place and resulted in a proposal by the South County "2x2" to the San Carlos City Council and Belmont Fire Protection District Board. The culmination of these negotiations and actions by the South County Fire Authority Board are now before you in the attached proposed revised Letter of Agreement (LOA) which was approved by the South County Board on May 3, 2006.

Discussion

Jean Savaree, legal counsel for South County, has prepared the attached revised LOA incorporating the Fire Authority Board's latest directives from their April 26 meeting.

The areas receiving significant attention since staff's last report are as follows:

1) Item 11 - **Composition of Facilities and Paramedic Services in Successor Joint Powers Authority** was revised to read as follows: "The Successor Joint Powers Authority Agreement shall initially provide that each Party shall have two (2) fire stations within its jurisdiction with a paramedic company at each location."

2) Item 12 - **Limitation on Authority of Successor Joint Powers Authority** was revised to read as follows: "The Board of the Successor Joint Powers Authority shall have limited authority. Prior to any final Board action on the budget, budget amendments, labor agreements, major changes in the level of service or increasing the number of member agencies in the Successor Joint Powers Authority, the Successor Joint Powers Authority Board shall obtain approval from the Belmont Fire Protection District Board and San Carlos City Council prior to any final action on these items. The Successor Joint Powers Authority Board shall also have the authority to refer additional items to the Belmont Fire Protection District Board and the San Carlos City Council for review and direction prior to taking action if the Board so desires or when tie votes on major issues occur at the Successor Joint Powers Authority Board meetings."

South County Fire Board Representatives (Feierbach & Warden)

South County Fire Board members Feierbach and Warden may wish to expand upon what is in this report with comments during this meeting.

Public Contact

A copy of this report was sent to the local print media, the City of San Mateo, Firefighters Local 2400, the South County Fire Chief, the Battalion Chiefs, the Fire Marshal, and the City of San Carlos. The item was posted on the agenda as required by law. Articles have appeared in local newspapers following the South County meetings.

General Plan/Vision

N/A

Recommendation

That the Belmont Fire Protection District Board consider and approve the proposed revised Letter of Agreement as approved by the South County Fire Authority Board on May 3, 2006, to continue the provision of fire-related services through a Successor Joint Powers Authority Agreement between the Belmont Fire Protection District and the City of San Carlos.

Attachments

- A. Letter of Agreement and Exhibits from Jean Savaree approved by the South County Fire Authority Board on 4/12/06
- B. Revised Letter of Agreement and Exhibits from Jean Savaree approved by the South County Fire Authority Board on 5/3/06
- C. Belmont Fire Protection District Staff Reports dated March 28, 2006 and April 25,2006

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen L. Cassingham
Interim District Manager

Staff Contact:

Maureen L. Cassingham, Interim District Manager
Thomas Fil, District Director of Finance
Greg Sam, Interim District Human Resources Director
650-595-7410
mcassingham@belmont.gov