



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 25, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: David Sprague, Fire Chief
Subject: Agreement: City of El Cerrito Fire and Emergency Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a memorandum of understanding with the City of El Cerrito to provide year-round automatic aid in each jurisdiction for fire, technical rescue, emergency medical, and other emergency response, rescinding Resolutions No. 68,820-N.S and 66,821-N.S. and maintaining the existing mutual response area agreement until the year-round fire and emergency services agreement is ratified.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Fire Chiefs of the City of Berkeley and El Cerrito desire to replace two memorandums of understanding dated from 2015 to provide automatic and mutual aid for fire, rescue and emergency medical service responses and station coverage during greater alarm fires.

The Kensington Fire Protection District contracts for service with the El Cerrito Fire Department. This updated agreement will provide year-round response and improve response times of fire companies in the City of Berkeley, El Cerrito and Kensington. This agreement provides residents in each community a safety net when a local jurisdiction's emergency resources are committed to other incidents or would otherwise be delayed in their response.

BACKGROUND

The City Council adopted Resolutions No. 68,820-N.S and 66,821-N.S. on October 21, 2014, that authorized the City Manager to negotiate and execute a mutual response agreement with the City of El Cerrito Fire Department and the Kensington Fire Protection District that provided for the exchange of fire services in the designated mutual response area.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

When a local jurisdiction's emergency resources are committed to other incidents, residents who call 911 for help may experience an increased response time, which can have detrimental impacts to health, property and/or the environment. Establishing automatic and mutual aid contracts with adjacent jurisdictions to provide assistance in these situations is a core responsibility of a local fire chief.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

David Sprague, Fire Chief, (510) 981-3473

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: THE CITY OF EL CERRITO FOR
AUTOMATIC AID RESPONSE AND EXCHANGE OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY
SERVICES; AND RESCINDING RESOLUTIONS NO. 68,820-N.S. and 66,821-N.S.

WHEREAS, resolutions No. 68,820-N.S. and 66,821-N.S. were adopted by the City Council on October 21, 2015 authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the exchange of fire and services with the City of El Cerrito Fire Department, and which permitted both Berkeley and City of El Cerrito Fire Department to automatically respond to incidents regardless of jurisdictional boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Chiefs of Berkeley and El Cerrito fire department's desire to update and modify the previous MOUs; and

WHEREAS, aid shall not be used by either jurisdiction as a substitute for day-to-day full and continuing fire and emergency services protection within its own borders. The rendering of aid by one jurisdiction to another will only occur during periods when a jurisdiction's resources are unable to handle the scope or volume of incidents; and

WHEREAS, aid is to be provided for the purpose of providing adequate fire and emergency service coverage to residents within each jurisdiction and/or halting the forward progress of larger, more complex incidents; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Fire Fighters Association Local 1227 concurs with the proposed agreement and declined to meet and confer to discuss the impacts of entering into a year-round automatic-aid response agreement with the City of El Cerrito to include fire and emergency services responses.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that Resolutions No. 68,820-N.S. and 66,821-N.S. are hereby rescinded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager negotiate and execute an updated Memorandum of Understanding with the City of El Cerrito for the exchange of fire, technical rescue, emergency medical, and other emergency response on a year-round basis and made a part hereof a record signature copy of said MOU to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

