



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
June 25, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Gilbert Dong, Interim Fire Chief  
Michael Meehan, Police Chief

Subject: Revenue Grant: FEMA Port Security Grant Program to Fund Acquisition of a Public Safety Response Boat

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept a grant, and any amendments, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) in the amount of \$690,000, and authorizing the use of \$230,000 in local matching funds to purchase a public safety response boat for public safety, emergency response, and environmental protection.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The total cost of the apparatus and equipment is estimated at \$920,000. A condition for consideration includes a matching contribution from non-federal funds of 25% or \$230,000 of the total cost. The match for this grant will be provided from the FY 2014 Vehicle Replacement Fund (860-5703-410-7042).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Fire and Police Departments are seeking approval to apply for and receive grant funding from FEMA to purchase a boat for public safety patrol, emergency response and environmental protection.

Berkeley's western city limits extend into the Bay by almost two miles. The Marina's fifty-two acres of water accommodate 1,100 crafts that range in length from 16' - 110'. Full-time residents (on vessels) occupy 100 of the berths, and thirteen additional slips hold permanently-moored houseboats. The marina hosts a variety of commercial fishing vessels, charter boats, and a fleet of Hornblower boats that carry one hundred and fifty passengers each. In addition, the Berkeley Marina is under consideration for a passenger ferry terminal with an estimated annual ridership of 300,000.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has officially ceased providing routine law enforcement and fire protection services to all municipal waters per the USCG addendum to the United States National Search and Rescue Supplement to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual. Thus, the Berkeley

Fire and Police Departments are the primary agencies responsible for patrol and emergency response in these City waters. When the USCG is called for assistance, their resources are often extremely delayed or unavailable.

The Fire Department is responsible for search and rescue, marine firefighting and hazardous materials response, mitigation and recovery operations. The Department has no means to combat fires from the water should they occur in any of the Marina's bayside structures, boats or houseboats. Firefighting operations are restricted to land-based tactics. This limited approach of fighting fires from one direction can be ineffective and unsafe.

The Berkeley Police Department is responsible for investigating boating accidents, boating under the influence, criminal investigations, and search and recovery. The Police Department conducts routine patrols, promotes safety, investigates crimes, and assists the Fire Department with search and rescue on the water in the City's area of responsibility.

As stated previously, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) is no longer providing any type of fire protection services in the San Francisco Bay region. All responsibility for this mission has been transferred to local agencies.

Currently, the Department uses trained and equipped rescue swimmers for water rescue response. Swimmers must deploy from the shore, swim to the victims, and swim the victims back to the shoreline. This response approach extends response times. It also hampers firefighters' ability to administer basic and advanced life support, which cannot commence until the victim is out of the water. The boat will also be used to reduce environmental damage to the marina and Bay by dewatering sinking boats, ships, or tow boats in distress. Moving distressed boats from the Bay or marina channel will reduce gasoline, diesel, or oil spills in the Marina. The Fire Department maintains a specialized hazardous materials team twenty-four hours a day. This boat will be used to transport these personnel and any containment or mitigation devices to the scene, thus preventing and mitigating environmental damage and aiding in recovery from these incidents. When accidents occur, the boat and crew will have capability to deploy absorbent pads and booms to reduce environmental damage to the Marina shoreline.

Not having 24-hour access to a boat significantly limits the effectiveness of both Departments' response capabilities. The Fire and Police Departments are underequipped to safely respond to numerous calls received for suicide attempts off the pier, people in the water, boats capsizing, stolen or abandoned suspicious watercraft, body recoveries and other water-based incidents in our jurisdiction.

The proposed public safety response boat provides added value and logistical support for the departments and the City's mutual aid partners, and greatly improves our maritime emergency response.

In addition to vessel acquisition, the grant application includes a request to fund enhancements to an existing dock in the marina for dry dock storage of the vessel.

### BACKGROUND

The Fire Department has been successful with past Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) grant applications. The Department received grants in 2004 for fire risk assessment of the hazardous hill areas and search and rescue training; in 2005 for the replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus; and in 2011 for the acquisition of a Type III Wildland engine.

The total amount of grants received through the AFG program is \$1,190,564. Through the AFG grant program, the City has replaced and updated critical response vehicles, equipment, and funded specialized training.

The Police Department has been successful with past grants. Between 2010 and 2012, the Department received \$861,560.66 in Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding for equipment including a bomb robot, digital radios and medical supplies for the Barricaded Subject / Hostage Negotiation Team (BS/HNT). This critical equipment has allowed for a safer, more effective, and more responsive police department.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Port Security Grant is a welcome funding opportunity given the City's fiscal constraints. If awarded, the boat will improve operational effectiveness, and public safety, and will prevent or decrease environmental damage from hazardous materials incidents within Bay region. The acquisition of the public safety emergency response boat will provide great benefit to the Berkeley community and surrounding agencies.

### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Continue without public safety capabilities in the Marina or Bay waters and with restricted shore-based firefighting and limited rescue response to persons in distress or other marine related emergencies in the Bay.

### CONTACT PERSON

Gilbert Dong, Interim Fire Chief, 981-5500  
Michael Meehan, Police Chief, 981-5700

1: Resolution

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

FEMA GRANT APPLICATION AND EXPENDITURE FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY BOAT

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley Fire and Police Departments are responsible for patrol, search and rescue, firefighting and hazardous materials incident response within the Berkeley marina and in adjacent waters, and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department has a specially trained team of rescue swimmers that currently deploy from the shore or public pier to effect rescues, and

WHEREAS, not having access to a boat significantly limits the effectiveness of both Departments' response capabilities, and

WHEREAS, the proposed boat will greatly improve maritime emergency response capabilities and effectiveness to both departments as well as mutual aid partners throughout the San Francisco Bay region, and

WHEREAS, acquisition of a boat for response in the Marina will aid with environmental protection and hazard mitigation, and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has an opportunity to file for a Federal Emergency Management Agency Port Security Grant Program to receive matching funds for a purchase of a boat.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager be authorized to apply for and accept a grant, and any amendments, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) in the amount of \$690,000, and authorizing the use of \$230,000 in local matching funds (860-5703-410-7042) to purchase a public safety response boat for patrol, emergency response and environmental protection.