




Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

November 15, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From:  Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Dan Marks, Director, Planning and Development

Subject: Grant: Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to: 1) accept grant funds in the amount of \$42,000 from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) for a Comprehensive Emergency Planning Project; 2) execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments; and, 3) authorize the implementation of projects and appropriation of funding for grant-related expenses.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The City will receive up to \$42,000 from the OES to reimburse Toxics Management Division (TMD) of the Planning and Development Department for the City of Berkeley "Comprehensive Emergency Planning Project" that is identified by the State OES as a Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning grant involving transportation. The grant will be deposited and expended from Fund 010. The project will involve contracting out to conduct an emergency exercise and a needs analysis. Therefore, an additional appropriation of \$42,000 will be needed in this fiscal year's budget. The City is obligated to provide a 20% match share (or \$8,400), and this requirement shall be met through contributions of staff time, primarily from Public Works, Fire and Police.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Berkeley is a coastal city of about 103,000 people with an old industrial sector in the western portion of the City. The major transportation avenues are also along the western area of the City. Berkeley is served by San Pablo Avenue and state highways to the west (I-80, I-580) and by Ashby Avenue (I-13) to the South. In addition, the railroad runs along the western edge of the City, close to I-80. Hazardous materials transportation units heavily use all these thoroughfares. Berkeley also has a BART tunnel with large intake valves in its major thoroughfares.

The Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning project aims to produce a needs analysis to be conducted by contracted experts for the purpose of response to a significant release of a hazardous substance. The City has large users and distributors of such materials and these are

transported along the freeway, roads and railroads. The needs analysis will determine the City's current capability and needs for a chemical release in transportation mode.

BACKGROUND

The Toxics Management Division (TMD) of the City of Berkeley is the Administering Agency under Health and Safety Codes for hazardous materials management since 1986, and became a state Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) in 1997. As a CUPA, the TMD has responsibility for administering five programs under the CUPA statutes of the California Health and Safety Code that deal with the regulation and enforcement of hazardous materials.

During FY99, TMD was awarded a \$10,000 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant from OES to help the City of Berkeley prepare a new Area Plan. TMD completed the update of the Area Plan on December 27, 1999. On October 2000, the TMD was again awarded a \$22,995 grant for a Comprehensive Emergency Planning and Training Project. A tabletop exercise was conducted that simulated an emergency situation participated by the City's Emergency Responders (ERs) such as Police, Fire, Health and Human Services, Public Works and TMD staffs. The exercise found the need to review some existing documentation and procedures, in particular, the Multi-Hazard Functional Plan for compliance with SEMS and Management Operations Plan. As a result, TMD contracted the services of Boykin Consulting Services for the tabletop exercise and the revision of the City of Berkeley's Multi-Hazard Functional Plan (MGFP) for compliance with SB 1847, the Petris Legislation.

The grant will allow it to conduct a needs analysis for hazardous materials response and revise the City's emergency plans in the future. On August 15, 2005, TMD applied for a grant from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services proposing a Comprehensive Emergency Planning Project. On September 17, 2005, TMD received verbal notification of the project approval. This grant request is to design an exercise for a hazardous materials (such as ammonia) release in a transportation environment. The needs analysis will assist the City in revising and updating hazardous materials emergency response plan in the future.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This exercise is in compliance with the FEMA recommendation to exercise the emergency plan every four years.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The alternative is not to conduct the exercise and the evaluation or to do it without a grant. Neither action was deemed appropriate.

CONTACT PERSON

Nabil Al-Hadithy, Hazardous Materials Manager, Planning and Development, 981-7460

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FOR A
“COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY PLANNING PROJECT”

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is the Administering Agency for Hazardous Materials Management since 1986 and became a state Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) in 1997 and as such has responsibility for administering five hazardous materials management programs under the CUPA statutes of the California Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has undergone significant reorganization and some downsizing, thus, losing some of its emergency response capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley needs to significantly review and revise its emergency response capabilities and conduct a needs analysis for hazardous materials responses; and

WHEREAS, on August 2005, the Toxics Management Division (TMD) applied to the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services for a grant proposing a Comprehensive Emergency Planning and Training Project and recently received a verbal notice of project approval.

Need Fund information in a Whereas statement

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is hereby authorized to: accept grant funds in the amount of \$42,000 from the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) for a Comprehensive Emergency Planning and Project; execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments; and, authorize the implementation of projects and appropriation of funding for grant-related expenses.