

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

BOARD AGENDA # B-11

Urgent _____ Routine X

AGENDA DATE November 6, 2001

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES rw NO _____
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES _____ NO _____

SUBJECT: APPROVE EXPANSION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND THE HEALTH SERVICE AGENCY'S PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT; TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE APPROPRIATION FOR CONTINGENCIES AND AMEND "THE SALARY AND POSITION ALLOCATION RESOLUTION"

- STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:
1. APPROVE AMENDMENT TO "THE SALARY AND POSITION ALLOCATION RESOLUTION" FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES/FIRE WARDEN AND THE HEALTH SERVICE AGENCY'S PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT AS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED STAFFING IMPACT SECTION OF THIS ITEM.
 2. AUTHORIZE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM APPROPRIATIONS FOR CONTINGENCIES TO THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND THE HEALTH SERVICE AGENCY'S PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND DIRECT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS.

FISCAL IMPACT: The anticipated cost of the three positions requested for the Office of Emergency Services for the remainder of the fiscal year will be \$117,000. The additional position cost and associated needs for the Health Service Agency's Public Health Department will be approximately \$235,000 for the rest of the fiscal year. It is recommended that these additional costs in the amount of \$352,000 be funded through a transfer from Appropriations for Contingencies to the appropriate budget units. Funding for next fiscal year would be identified during the Proposed Budget process.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2001-869

On motion of Supervisor Caruso, Seconded by Supervisor Simon
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Mayfield, Blom, Simon, Caruso, and Chair Paul

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

MOTION:

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

By: Christine Ferraro
Deputy

File No.

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STAFF
RECOMMEN-
DATIONS
CONTINUED:

3. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO MAKE PURCHASES AND/OR CONTRACT FOR SERVICES AS NECESSARY TO ADDRESS ANY POTENTIAL THREAT OR EMERGENCY WITH A FOLLOW UP REPORT AND APPROVAL SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

DISCUSSION:

Overview

Stanislaus County has worked diligently with its partners over the years to maintain adequate emergency response services. Since the September 11th tragedy it has become evident that additional effort and resources must be devoted to this work. Emergency and community preparedness have taken on a new focus that most if not all of us never expected or hoped to have to deal with.

In an effort to be prepared, an Interagency Task Force on Emergency and Community Preparedness has been established to develop strategy, provide recommendations and education to respond to and prevent disaster from impacting Stanislaus County residents. The Task Force has identified over twenty-three projects to include community and emergency responder education and updating County and city emergency plans and response mechanisms. The Task Force includes representatives from the County Office of Emergency Services, the cities, the Health Service Agency's Public Health Department, the State Office of Emergency Services, and Environmental Resources to name a few. The Office of Emergency Services/Fire Warden and the Health Service Agency's Public Health Department are key stakeholders in the community and emergency preparedness efforts.

Office of Emergency Services/Fire Warden

The Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services obtains its authority and guidance from the California Emergency Services Act (Govt. Code, Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2). Since World War II, the California Disaster Act, later titled the California Emergency Services Act, has been the document that delineates the system of mitigating the effects of natural, manmade, and war-caused emergencies and disasters within the state. The Act speaks

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to conditions that pose a threat of disaster or in extreme peril to life, property and the resources of the state, and generally to protect the health and safety and preserve the lives and property of the people of the state.

The Act establishes a system of four functional levels, which establish a linkage between the state and local government. Stanislaus County, as a government entity, joins the nine cities of the county in representing the local level of responders through our Sheriff's Department, Fire Districts, etc. The Director of Stanislaus County Emergency Services serves as the coordinator of all local resources in the unincorporated area in times of disaster or extraordinary emergency conditions.

In addition, the Act sets forth the responsibility of each county to form an Operational Area, that is a functional level that coordinates and supports the county and all political subdivisions within the county. Senate Bill 1841 (Petris) required each county to form the Operational Area and establish an Operational Area Council, made up of local political subdivisions, that work together to guide and manage response to large-scale emergencies and disasters. Stanislaus County adopted both of these in 1998.

While each city may maintain their own local emergency plan and operation, the county is responsible for managing and coordinating, from a more global perspective, all incidents and resources within the county, regardless of jurisdictional issues. Additionally, the Operational Area serves as the link between the local agencies and the region and state levels of government. With two exceptions of law enforcement and fire, all mutual aid resource requests or provisions must be made through the Operational Area Coordinator. All incident reports, status reports, requests for state mission authorization numbers and access to state and federal resources must be funneled through the Operational Area.

Further, the Operational Area is responsible for activating and operating the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at any time that more than one city activates its EOC, or any time mutual aid is requested or provided outside Stanislaus County. Recent activation of the Operational Area EOC have been due to the floods of 1997 and 1998, the Westley Tire Fire, energy shortages, and the September 11th terrorist incident in New York

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City and Washington, DC, as well as several other less notable incidents. The Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services must manage and staff positions in this EOC on an around the clock basis when it is activated.

The Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services coordinates the multiple agencies and jurisdictions often involved in large scale emergencies as well as bringing the representatives at the policy level into the decision process. Stanislaus County OES is responsible for ensuring that all interests are represented, both public and private, in the planning process, through the development of the County Emergency Operations Plan. The Plan is revised and exercised regularly in accordance with state guidelines.

Since as far back as the 1930s the Board of Supervisors designated a County Fire Warden function to coordinate and assist the independent fire districts and the fire departments in the cities with emergency and non-emergency response activation efforts. While the County no longer provides direct emergency response due to a contract with Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District, the Fire Warden continues to administer the contract to ensure prevention, investigation, training and automatic aid for fire, rescue and emergency medical services are performed. The Fire Warden plays an integral role in the day-to-day integration and support of all fire agencies' fire and mutual aid efforts.

In order to meet the variety of projects that must be accomplished as part of the Fire Warden and Office of Emergency Services functions; additional staff support is required. The new position and classification of Deputy Fire Warden/Deputy Director OES will be an unclassified management position, compensated at Band C. The position will be responsible for the coordination between the County and its independent districts to ensure the directives of the Board are accomplished toward emergency response coordination and prevention efforts. The position will also be a key resource in the development and implementation of emergency plans.

A second position of Manager II that will function as the Public Information Officer for the Office of Emergency Services is recommended. This is a critical area for this function particularly at critical times requiring a coordinated public notice of response

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to emergency activities. Ensuring accurate information gets to the media and community is crucial during emergency situations. In addition, a position at this level would perform additional community information and preparedness functions. The individual will provide coordination with the nine cities, utilities and hospitals and ensure emergency operational plans are in place and functional for both the County and the seven cities under contract.

A third position is recommended to provide staff support to the three managers in the program, as well as provide technical assistance with the development of plans. This position ensures the smooth functioning of the Office of Emergency Services/Fire Warden Program.

Finally it is recommended that the unused classification of Fire Prevention Specialist be deleted.

The three new positions will be part of a team in support of the Director of OES (the Chief Executive Officer) and the Fire Warden/Assistant OES Director position.

Health Service Agency's Public Health Department

The Health Service Agency's Public Health Department of the Health Services Agency is actively participating in several of the 17 identified program areas. The Public Health's responsibility can be categorized into ten essential services. Those services include: public education, assessment of capabilities, priority team responder, community preparedness team, planning and training programs for Health Care Providers, surveillance and education of the community. It is the objective of the Agency to broaden Public Health's capabilities and enhance our ability in response to a disaster or bio-terrorism event.

In order to effectively provide the required level of participation the basic infrastructure of the Health Service Agency's Public Health Department needs to be enhanced. The Agency is requesting two new full-time positions specifically dedicated to this effort. The new positions, one Manager II and one Staff Services Coordinator will work together in providing direct management level support to the Public Health Officer. This support will include overseeing and participating in the

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coordination, collaboration and community education as part of the Emergency Preparedness Team.

Additionally, approval of this request will also provide funding for 20% of an Epidemiologist and 50% of a Public Health Nurse. The Epidemiologist will provide surveillance and data analysis capabilities and the Public Health Nurse will work with the Inter-Agency Task Force and be responsible for the Communicable Disease Hot-Line, which will serve to inform and reassure the public. Finally, contracted services will provide physician assistance to the Public Health Officer in the areas of Communicable Disease and Emergency Services.

More than any time in our recent history it is critical that our community be prepared to address potential threats, whether domestic or foreign. Devoting the resources to do this is consistent with the Board's priority of ensuring a safe and healthy community, while promoting effective multi-jurisdictional cooperation.

POLICY
ISSUES:

Board of Supervisor approval is required to Amend the "Salary and Position Allocation Resolution". The recommendations are intended to meet the Board of Supervisors goals and priorities of a safe and healthy community, multi-jurisdictional cooperation while providing excellent customer service.

STAFFING
IMPACT:

Amend the "Salary and Position Allocation" resolution as to add the following positions:

Chief Executive Office – Office of Emergency Services/Fire Warden Budget Unit:

1. Add 1 new position in a new Unclassified management classification of Deputy Fire Warden/Deputy Director OES. This position will be assigned to Management Band C at a salary range of \$47,299.20 to \$70,969.60 yearly, and will be a safety member of the retirement system.
2. Add 1 new position of Manager II to perform the Public Information Officer function for the Office of Emergency Services.

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3. Add 1 new position of Confidential Assistant III.
4. Delete the unused classification of Fire Prevention Specialist.

Health Services Agency - Public Health Department:

1. Add 1 new position of Manager II to assist the Public Health Officer in coordinating the efforts of the Health Services Agency.
2. Add 1 new Staff Services Coordinator to support the Public Health Officer and Manager II in overseeing the coordination, collaboration and community education effort.

TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES STANISLAUS COUNTY

I. BEFORE SEPTEMBER 11TH

Established an Inter-Agency Taskforce (1999). Ch. Richards/Ch. Hinshaw
Participants

- Fire Departments
- Law Enforcement – Police Depts., Sheriff’s Dept
- Department of Environmental Resources / Hazardous Materials Team
- Public Health
- Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, Inland Region

Educated Core Members

Established Liaison with the Calif. Dept. of Health Services

Conducted a Capacity Assessment

Obtained State Domestic Terrorism Equipment Grant and order hazmat equipment.

Ordered Additional Hazmat Equipment

Visited Exemplary Programs – City of Long Beach and Santa Clara County

Conducted a Needs Assessment

Planned Training Programs for Healthcare Providers

Oriented to the Federal Funding Program (Nunn-Lugar-Dominici)

Briefed on the MMRS Program (U.S. Public Health Service/ Metropolitan Medical Response System).

II. AFTER SEPTEMBER 11TH

Conducted Training Workshop for First Responders

Organizations/Agencies represented:

- Public Health
- EMS
- Hospitals
- Urgent Care Centers
- Behavioral Health
- Fire
- Police
- Red Cross

Enhanced Surveillance within the Healthcare Community

- Zebra training Program available to physicians via e-mail or regular mail
- Enlarged surveillance network to include: coroner's office, animal services, agriculture commission

Conducted Onsite Training Programs

- Sutter-Gould Medical Foundation
- Region IV Law Enforcement Agencies

Informed and Reassured the Public

- Communicable Disease Hotline nurse call service
- Posted on the H.S.A. website
- Faxed to physicians and facilities for posting in waiting rooms
- Provided to school nurse programs
- News releases
- Meeting with newspaper editorial staff
- Published schedule of flu vaccine clinics
- Encouraged at-risk individuals to receive pneumonia vaccine

Provided Briefings to Elected Officials

- Board of Supervisors
- Congressman Condit's office

Attended Special State and National Meetings

- California Conference of Local Health Officers/Sacramento
- American Public Health Association/Atlanta

Responded to Public Concerns About Anthrax

- Developed inter-agency policy to response to 911 calls.
- Established liaison with FBI and Regional Public Health Laboratory for rapid testing
- Implemented new mail handling policy; offered training to Departments and Cities
- Met with MID, Parks Dept, and City of Modesto officials to review water supply safety measures

Convened Community Preparedness Taskforce