

# **REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

## ***City of Salinas, California***

DATE: December 6, 2016

FROM: Edmond A. Rodriguez, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: **APPROVE AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE HAZARDOUS MATERIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES BY THE MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE TEAM WITHIN THE OPERATIONAL AREAS OF SAN BENITO COUNTY**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the Monterey County Regional Hazardous Material Response Team (Regional Haz/Mat Team) to provide Hazardous Material emergency response services to all operational areas within San Benito County.

### **DISCUSSION:**

In 2004, the City of Salinas, City of Seaside and the County of Monterey Department of Environmental Health developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to form a Regional Hazardous Material Response Team for all operational areas within Monterey County. Funding for the Regional Haz/Mat Team sustainment over the last twelve (12) years has come primarily from the County's adoption of a Certified Uniform Program Agency (CUPA); which is a fee attached to the issuance of each annual Health Permit to businesses through the Monterey County Department of Health. As the City of Salinas provides the majority of trained and equipped personnel to the Regional Haz/Mat Team, these funds are utilized to train and compensate Salinas Fire Department (SFD) personnel on an annual basis.

In 2013, the State of California Office of Emergency Services (Cal-OES) adopted new requirements for established Regional Haz/Mat Teams to undergo a comprehensive evaluation and typing process in order to continue to receive state or federal grant funds for Haz/Mat Teams beginning on January 1, 2014. The Regional Haz/Mat Team undertook this rigorous process in mid-2013 and were subsequently awarded Type II status; the second highest level of Haz/Mat response and mitigation capabilities. As additional funding for this typing effort came through state and federal Haz/Mat grant funds, a major requirement for the receipt and continued ability to receive like funding is the capability to respond to more than one (1) operational area within the State of California. An operational area under the California Mutual Aid System consists of the political boundaries of a County with California having 58 geographic operational areas respectively.

Since 2013, the Regional Haz/Mat Team has received over \$472,046 from state and federal grant sources. Because of the typing process completion and designation as a Type II Regional Haz/Mat

Response Team, our community has and will continue to benefit from the following sources of funding:

- State of California Homeland Security Grant Program- SHGP
- Bay-Area Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)- Bay/UASI
- Local Emergency Planning Committees- LEPC
- Federal Emergency Management Agency- FEMA

This agreement before City Council is to formalize an emergency response of the Regional Haz/Mat Team for confirmed Haz/Mat responses within San Benito County. Currently, San Benito County does not have a developed Haz/Mat Response Team capability and relies on an emergency response by coordination through the State of California Fire/Rescue Mutual Aid System. This agreement would streamline the call-out process for the Regional Haz/Mat Team to assemble and response to Haz/Mat emergencies within San Benito County and provide a significant benefit and safety service unmet within their operational area.

As the SFD has been a recipient of former, current and future state and federal grant funding, approving this Agreement with San Benito County will ensure said funds are available to maintain a Regional Haz/Mat Response Team for both operational areas. In addition, completion of this formalized Agreement will satisfy the grant acceptance policy for state and federal grant funds which mandates that recipients of said funds must, through written agreements, be capable of an emergency response to more than one (1) operational area within the State of California.

**ISSUE:**

Shall the City Council approve a resolution and agreement to authorize the Regional Haz/Mat Team to provide Hazardous Material emergency response services to all operational areas within San Benito County?

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Costs for an emergency Regional Haz/Mat Team response within San Benito County will be recovered through the San Benito County Department of Environmental Health's Haz/Mat cost-recovery process under state law for the responsible party or parties which caused the Haz/Mat spill, release or incident.

**TIME CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Regional Haz/Mat Team would like to commence this agreement with a start date of January 1, 2017. Currently, in addition to our Council action, the Cities of Seaside, and Hollister along with the County of San Benito are undergoing acceptances of this Agreement through their elected body processes.

**ALTERNATIVES/IMPLICATIONS:**

1. Staff recommends the City Council approve the resolution and agreement for emergency response Haz/Mat services within San Benito County.
2. Failure to formalize an agreement with another operational area and not approve the resolution will jeopardize all future state and federal grant funding for the continued safe and effective operations of the Regional Haz/Mat Team. Staff does not recommend this option.

## **CITY COUNCIL GOALS:**

Approval of the resolution and agreement with San Benito County supports the following City Council Goals:

- Safe Livable Community
- Effective Sustainable Government
- Quality of Life

## **CONCLUSIONS:**

The approval of this Resolution and agreement will continue to provide the Regional Haz/Mat Team with continued state and federal grant funds for sustainable operations and fulfill the mandate that the Regional Haz/Mat Team have an emergency response capability written Agreement to more than one (1) operational area within the State of California.

Attachments:

Resolution  
Agreement with San Benito County  
Attachment A