



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Susan E. Manheimer
Interim Chief of Police

SUBJECT: CZU Fire OPD-Santa Cruz County
Mutual Aid Agreement

DATE: December 10, 2020

City Administrator Approval

Date: Jan 6, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator Or Designee To Enter Into Memorandum Of Agreement (“MOA”) Between The City Of Oakland And The County Of Santa Cruz Pertaining To Assistance Provided By The Oakland Police Department (OPD) To The County Of Santa Cruz Under The Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan In Regard To The August 2020 CZU Fire.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OPD personnel provided mutual aid to Santa Cruz County during the devastating CZU Fire of August 2020. OPD personnel, working on overtime during these mutual aid shifts, assisted with traffic control (keeping citizens out of unsafe areas), evacuations, and patrol of evacuated areas to prevent looting. The State of California and County of Santa Cruz proclaimed official emergency status which allows for law enforcement reimbursements. Santa Cruz County is now prepared to reimburse OPD for these personnel costs but requires the signing of a MOA to allow for cost reimbursements.

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the resolution to allow the City Administrator or designee to sign the MOA for staff time reimbursement.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On August 17, 2020, the Northern California (“CZU Fire”), caused wide-ranging damage specifically the Counties of Santa Cruz and San Mateo, killing at least one person, burning thousands of acres, causing mass evacuations, and destroying thousands of homes and numerous power poles, public safety communications equipment, and telephone lines. On August 18, 2020 the California Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to include Santa Cruz County. The State of Emergency status granted Santa Cruz County eligibility for Fire Management Assistance Grant as well as other relief programs. On August 19, 2020, based on the significant threats posed by the CZU Fire, the Santa Cruz County Director of Emergency Services proclaimed the existence of a local emergency.

The CZU Fire emergency caused a great need for outside support from first responders to mitigate hazards to lives as well as property. The California Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan delineates the current state policy concerning emergency management mutual aid and describes the standard procedures

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used to acquire law enforcement mutual aid resources and the method to ensure coordination of law enforcement mutual aid planning and readiness.

The Sheriff of the County of Santa Cruz requested the mutual aid assistance of City of Oakland, pursuant to the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan to support law enforcement services in connection with the CZU Fire. The City of Oakland Police Department (OPD) provided mutual aid assistance when asked. This aid consisted of law enforcement personnel, equipment, and materials from August 20, 2020 through August 29, 2020. Fire personnel would conduct needed evacuations. Due to all available fire personnel being deployed to address the active fire, police personnel (including OPD personnel) were requested to perform several support roles. During wildfires, the police assist with traffic control (keeping citizens out of unsafe areas), evacuations, and patrol of evacuated areas to prevent looting. Due to the deployment in the wildfire areas, the police must stay in close communication with the Fire Departments' incident command to react to unpredictable conditions quickly. OPD sworn personnel assisted County of Santa Cruz emergency response personnel in this manner, as the majority of local emergency response personnel time was spent conducting direct evacuations.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

OPD provided sworn personnel response as listed below in Table 1. These personnel hours were all conducted during overtime – OPD provided this support with the understanding that the County of Santa Cruz would reimburse OPD and the City of Oakland for these overtime personnel costs.

Table 1: OPD Sworn Personnel Assistance to the County of Santa Cruz during three days of the CZU Fire in August 2020.

Personnel Rank	August 19	August 20 (day)	August 20 (night)	August 21
Captain	1		1	
Lieutenant	1	1	1	1
Sergeants	4	4	4	4
Officers	16	15	20	19

OPD has calculated that the cost associated with the above overtime expenditure amounts to \$99,298.51. The County of Santa Cruz is prepared to reimburse OPD for these personnel costs, but requires a MOA which outlines how OPD is expected to document all of its mutual aid assistance costs related to the CZU Fire. Article V, Section 504(l) of the Oakland City Charter requires that the City Council approve all intergovernmental relationships and contracts. Therefore, staff recommends that the City Council adopt the resolution accompanying this report, which will authorize the City Administrator or designee to enter into the MOA between the City Of Oakland and the County Of Santa Cruz.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds paid by the County of Santa Cruz to OPD for CZU Fire mutual aid reimbursement shall be paid allocated to Project TBD; Org 107710; Fund 1010, and expense account is 51214 (Sworn: Overtime).

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

There was no public outreach required for the preparation of this report beyond standard City Council noticing requirements.

COORDINATION

This report was reviewed by the Office of the City Attorney and the Budget Bureau.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: There is no economic impact associated with this report.

Environmental: A growing body of scientific research connects ongoing large regional fires in California with climate changes connected to global warming.

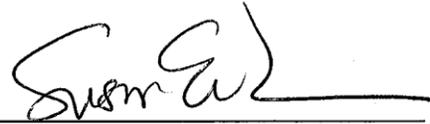
Race and Social Equity: There are no race and social equity impacts associated with this report.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff Recommends That City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator Or Designee To Enter Into Memorandum Of Agreement (“MOA”) Between The City Of Oakland And The County Of Santa Cruz Pertaining To Assistance Provided By The Oakland Police Department (OPD) To The County Of Santa Cruz Under The Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan In Regard To The August 2020 CZU Fire.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Michael Beaver, Lieutenant and Chief of Staff, at MBeaver@oaklandca.gov.

Respectfully submitted,



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