



Website: **VCFD.org**
Twitter: **@VCFD**
Facebook: **@VenturaCountyFire**
Instagram: **@VenturaCountyFire**

Contact: **Dustin Gardner**
Fire Chief
Phone: **(805) 389-9710**
Email: **dustin.gardner@ventura.org**

September 10, 2024

Board of Directors
Ventura County Fire Protection District
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT:

Approval and Ratification of the Ventura County Fire Protection District's (Fire District) Application to Federal Emergency Management Agency 2024 Port Security Grant Program for a \$1,000,000 Grant, including a Minimum Twenty-Five Percent Fire District Cost-Share, toward the Purchase of a 50-foot Rapid Response Fire and Rescue Boat at a Total Cost of \$2,000,000 to Be Berthed out of the Port of Hueneme.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and ratify the Ventura County Fire Protection District's (Fire District) application (attached as Exhibit 1) to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 2024 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) for a \$1,000,000 grant, including a minimum twenty-five percent Fire District cost-share, toward the purchase of a 50-foot rapid response fire and rescue boat at a total cost of \$2,000,000 to be berthed out of the Port of Hueneme.

REASON FOR RATIFICATION:

FEMA announced the call for submission of eligible applications for its 2024 PSGP at the end of May 2024, with a due date of June 24, 2024. The narrow window for applications did not provide the Fire District with adequate time to obtain formal Board approval. Therefore, the Fire District petitioned the County Executive Office and received approval to submit the grant application to meet the deadline before presenting it to your Board. The Fire District is now requesting your Board's approval and ratification of that application.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact at this time. If the grant is awarded, the Fire District will return to your Board for authorization to accept the grant and process any necessary budget adjustments.

There is a minimum funding match of twenty-five percent of the federal grant share required under the Grant Program. The grant allows for the cost-share/match to be made in cash or in kind. If authorized to proceed, the Fire District will provide a matching share of \$1,250,000.

Total Project Cost:	\$2,000,000
Federal Grant Share:	- 750,000
Funding Match:	\$1,250,000

Current FY 2024-25 Budget Projection for the Fire District - BU 2721				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	206,324,066	226,115,054	226,115,054	-
Revenue	209,676,547	209,676,547	209,676,547	-
Net Cost	(3,352,481)	16,438,507	16,438,507	-

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the County's Strategic Plan priority of providing Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities. The grant award will help the Fire District strengthen its firefighting resources at the Port of Hueneme, improving our readiness and response capabilities.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the Fire District's 2024 PSGP application is to obtain funding for the purchase of a 50-foot rapid response fire and rescue boat to serve the Fire District's maritime jurisdictional areas of the Port of Hueneme, Channel Islands Harbor, 42 miles of Ventura County coastline, and the archipelagic Anacapa and San Nicholas Islands. Additionally, it will significantly benefit our adjacent stakeholders engaged in marine response, such as the Fire District's response to the 2019 Conception boat fire located in Santa Barbara County.

If awarded, the PSGP funds will allow the Fire District to upgrade its firefighting resources in the Port of Hueneme, which is currently served by the Fire District's Fire Boat 15 stationed out of Channel Islands Harbor. Fire Boat 15 is classified as an NFPA Type 5 firefighting boat. The proposed boat is classified as an NFPA Type 2 firefighting boat, which translates into increased capabilities to respond to and mitigate fire, rescue, medical aid, and hazardous material incidents.

If the Fire District is selected for a PSGP award, the construction of this new fireboat will take approximately two years from the contract award. Once the fireboat is placed into service, it will be staffed with a Fire Engineer position to pilot the vessel. Fireboat staffing will be augmented with existing Fire District employees when engaged in maritime response activities. If the grant is awarded, the Fire District will return to the Board to request the additional post positions.

The Port of Hueneme is owned and operated by the Oxnard Harbor District (Harbor District). The Port is a major contributor to the economic health of the Ventura area. Per the Harbor District's website, \$15 billion in goods move through the Port annually, contributing \$2.8 billion overall annual economic impact to Ventura County and Southern California. This fireboat will help protect this valuable County asset. The Port Commissioners are in support of this proposal and may provide up to 1/3 of the staffing costs.

The Fire District's fiscal bureau will ensure that its local competitive bid process conforms to the applicable Federal Office of Management and Budget policies during procurement. Additionally, the Fire District will maintain invoices, tracking, and required FEMA documentation and adhere to the PSGP requirements during the performance period.

The County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel have reviewed this letter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 389-9704 or Business Services Manager Tom Kasper at (805) 389-9764.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DK" followed by a long horizontal line.

Dustin Gardner
Fire Chief

DG/TK/GF:lgf

Exhibit 1 – 2024 FEMA PSGP Grant Application