



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dustin Gardner

Fire Chief

2400 Conejo Spectrum St, Thousand Oaks, CA

91320-1445

July 23, 2024

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

SUBJECT:

Ratification of the Ventura County Fire Protection District's Submission of a Regional Grant Application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Fiscal Year 2023 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program for a Total of \$429,820, Including a Five Percent Cost Share, to Fund Fire Prevention Training.

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify the Ventura County Fire Protection District's (Fire District) submission of a regional grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) fiscal year (FY) 2023 Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grant program, attached as Exhibit 1, for \$429,820, including a required \$20,468 cost share, to fund fire prevention training.

REASON FOR RATIFICATION:

FEMA announced the call for applications for its FY 2023 FP&S Grant Program in late February 2024, with a due date of April 11, 2024. The narrow window for regional 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 regional grant application to meet the deadline before presenting it to your Board. The Fire District is now requesting ratification of the application.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact at this time. If the grant is awarded, the Fire District and regional partner agencies will return to your Board for authorization to accept the grant.

There is a minimum five percent match of the federal grant-share required under the FP&S Grant Program. The funding match will be apportioned among the Fire District and participating regional fire departments. If awarded the grant, the Fire District has sufficient Fund Balance Restricted for Public Protection to meet the required funding match.

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	206,324,066	206,324,066	-
Revenue	209,676,547	209,676,547	209,676,547	-
Net Cost	(3,352,481)	(3,352,481)	(3,352,481)	-

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the County's Strategic Plan priority of providing Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities. If awarded the grant, it will support the implementation of training to enhance fire prevention and code compliance of the Fire District and our regional fire department partners.

DISCUSSION:

The Fire District's engagement in regional collaboration, enhanced readiness, relevancy, and responsiveness propagates throughout Ventura County's communities and our mutual aid partners.

One of the cooperative methodologies we utilize to protect the unique characteristics of the region effectively and efficiently is fire prevention. Prevention, according to the National Fire Protection Association, is the first step in fire safety and pre-mitigation of destructive incidents.

Through fire engineering improvements and the associated evolutions in fire service industry standards, the training in the FEMA FP&S grant benefits the Fire District, but more importantly is mutually beneficial to the region's fire agencies. The enhanced training will provide greater fire prevention safety and service to our community and positively impact the Fire District's collaborators and partner agencies.

The Fire District is the lead agency for the regional grant application to fund the textbook, tuition, travel, and backfill costs for the following California State Fire Training Curriculum: Fire Inspector 1 and 2 Series, Plans Examiner Series, Fire Safety Officer, and Fire Marshal Series. If awarded, the aggregate grant proposal of \$429,820 will be divided as follows: the Fire District's grant share is \$223,100, including a cost share of \$10,624; Oxnard City Fire Department's grant share is \$120,360, including its cost share of \$5,731; and Ventura City Fire Department's grant share is \$86,360, including its cost share of \$4,112.

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 389-9704 or Deputy Fire Chief Chad Cook at 389-9703.

Board of Directors

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Gardner', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dustin Gardner

Fire Chief

DG/CC/GF:dm

Exhibit 1 – 2023 FEMA FP&S Grant Application