

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Thomas Miller, County Executive Officer
by Rui Cunha, Program Manager, Office of Emergency Services

Date: November 7, 2006

Subject: Approve a budget revision for three portable changeable message signs to be purchased with Homeland Security Grant funds for the Department of Public Works, authorize the Purchasing Manager to solicit bids and sign a contract in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 and add the items to the Master Fixed Asset List

ACTION REQUESTED

Request the Board of Supervisors approve a budget revision for three portable changeable message signs to be purchased with Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds for the Department of Public Works, authorize the Purchasing Manager to solicit bids and sign a contract in an amount not to exceed \$60,000, and add the items to the Master Fixed Asset List.

BACKGROUND

To date, the County has obligated or spent 90% of the '04 HSGP grant funds (\$1,115,882) and 88% of '05 funds (\$793,341). There are numerous other items in various stages of the acquisition process, but not far enough along to report. Time is of the essence, however, as the two grants expire by the end November and December, 2006 respectively. Significant unencumbered funds remain available, however, for two very specific reasons: numerous equipment purchases came in under budget; and unused training and exercise funds were reprogrammed in order to purchase additional equipment.

This is an excellent opportunity for the County to purchase these heretofore fiscally unsupported but highly desirable multi-use signs. Coupled with low-power AM radios (yet to be purchased), these signs give the County a critical traffic control capability that would be invaluable in a mass evacuation. Previously presented to the HSGP Approval Authority (Sheriff Bonner, Rocklin Police Chief Siemens, Dr. Burton, Penryn Fire Chief Ebert, and Roseville Fire Chief Wagner), the signage did not receive high enough priority funding support, but were retained on an unfunded equipment list of items for possible purchase pending receipt of additional funding.

On a very positive note, with this acquisition, every *high* and *medium* priority unfunded item remaining in the three currently open grants, FY '04, FY '05 and FY '06 will have been acquired.

Estimated to cost \$20,000 each, the signs are part of a traffic control system that would be executed in a flood-based, regional mass evacuation, planning for which is now underway and assisted by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. The

nationally recognized vulnerability of Sacramento to flooding has focused a great deal of attention on this effort, and the possibility of a flood in Sacramento has very real potential impacts on the highways and roadways of Placer County and, indeed, all counties in the Central Valley.

Per prior coordination, the signs are to be stored, maintained, and operated by the Department of Public Works.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the general fund as a result of this action since the items are to be purchased with Homeland Security Grant Funds. However, a budget revision is required to properly allocate the funds to the appropriate account, and the items must be added to the Master Fixed Asset List.

Attachments:

Budget Revision

