

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas Miller, County Executive Officer
by Rui Cunha, Emergency Services Program Manager

DATE: February 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Approve a budget revision for a leak detection system to be purchased with Homeland Security Grant Program funds for the Placer County Central Hazardous Materials Response Team, authorize the Purchasing Manager to purchase the system, and add the system to the Master Fixed Asset List

ACTION REQUESTED

That your Board approve a budget revision for a leak detection system to be purchased with Homeland Security Grant Program funds for the Placer County Central Hazardous Materials (hazmat) Response Team, authorize the Purchasing Manager to purchase the system, and add the system to the Master Fixed Asset List.

BACKGROUND

The Hazmat Teams: The Placer County Central Hazmat team, operating from Station 10 in Bowman, is preparing for its certification as a Type II Hazardous Materials Response team. The state certification process ensures standardization between hazmat teams in equipment, training and response operations. However, the required equipment list for each "Type" team is subject to changes that necessitate procurement of equipment not previously forecast in normal budget cycles, and such is the case in this instance. Upon attaining Type II status, the Central Team will have improved capabilities in detection, testing and incident response. Placer County's Eastern hazmat team, stationed in Truckee, is undergoing a similar certification process, completion of which will ultimately provide Placer County a robust hazardous materials response capability comprising two Type II and one Type I hazmat teams.

The System: The leak detection system to be purchased is for detecting compressed air (pneumatic) leaks and is used in hazardous materials response. It is often required in vehicular or rail related incidents to ensure that a temporary seal put in place by the hazmat team over a puncture or leaking seal on a tank is complete and air tight. It uses extremely sensitive sound detection that is far more sensitive than the human ear. It can also be used to ensure that original seals on damaged rail tank cars or automotive tankers, etc., are intact after an accident.

A leak detection kit is required in all "Type II" hazmat teams, and this system, costing approximately \$7,400, has already been approved by the Purchasing Manager for sole

source acquisition. Sole source was justified inasmuch as it is the same system being used by the hazmat teams of the City of Roseville and the City and County of

Sacramento, all teams with which Placer County frequently teams and exchanges mutual aid. This commonality of equipment improves the efficacy of response as hazmat personnel from any of these five teams will be able to utilize the system without needing extra time for familiarization or training, as time is often in short supply during an active hazardous materials incident.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of this action. The full cost of the System is provided by all-hazard Homeland Security Grant Program funds.

Attachment: Budget Revision

