



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

AGENDA

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

12 noon

Orange County Fire Authority
Regional Fire Operations & Training Center
Boardroom

One Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

Committee Members

Joe Kalmick, Chair

Ross Chun • Anne Hertz-Mallari • Sandy Rains • Don Wagner

NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY

This meeting is open to the public. In addition, there are several alternative ways to view and to make comments during the meeting including:

View Meeting On-Line:

You may access the meeting live electronically at: <https://player.cloud.wowza.com/hosted/xvtncikw/player.html>. (Note: you should use one of the other alternatives below if you want to make comments during the meeting.)

Live Public Comments by Zoom: You may also view and make real-time verbal comments during the meeting via the Zoom link below during the meeting. You will be audible during your comments, but the committee members will not be able to see you. To submit a live comment using Zoom, please be prepared to use the “Raise Your Hand” feature when public comment opportunities are invited by the Chair. (You can raise your hand on your smart phone by pressing *9.) Also, members of the public must unmute themselves when prompted upon being recognized by the Chair in order to be heard. (To unmute your smartphone in Zoom, press *6.)

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Meeting ID: 832 6412 8588

Passcode: 298121

Raise Your Hand (press *9) and Unmute (press *6)

E-Comments: Alternatively, you may email your written comments to coa@ocfa.org. E-comments will be provided to the committee members upon receipt and will be part of the meeting record as long as they are received during or before the committee takes action on an item. Emails related to an item that are received after the item has been acted upon by the committee will not be considered.

Further instructions on how to provide comments is available at: <https://ocfa.org/PublicComments>.

This Agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action or discussion shall be taken on any item not appearing on the following Agenda. Unless legally privileged, all supporting documents, including staff reports, and any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Committee members after the posting of this agenda are available for review at the Orange County Fire Authority Regional Fire Operations & Training Center, 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA 92602 or you may contact the Clerk of the Authority at (714) 573-6040 Monday through Thursday, and every other Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and available online at <http://www.ocfa.org>



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, you should contact the Clerk of the Authority at (714) 573-6040 and identify the need and the requested modification or accommodation. Please notify us as soon as is feasible, however 48 hours prior to the meeting is appreciated to enable the Authority to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Kalmick

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Director Rains

ROLL CALL by Clerk of the Authority

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please refer to instructions on how to submit a public comment during COVID-19 Emergency on Page 1 of this Agenda.

1. PRESENTATION

No items.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters on the consent calendar are considered routine and are to be approved with one motion unless a director or a member of the public requests separate action on a specific item.

A. Minutes for the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee Meetings

Submitted by: Maria Huizar, Clerk of the Authority

The record will reflect that any Director not in attendance at the meeting of the Minutes will be registered as an abstention, unless otherwise indicated.

Recommended Actions:

1. Approve the Minutes for the October 19, 2022, Regular Meeting as submitted.
2. Approve the Minutes for the November 17, 2022, Concurrent Joint Special Meeting as submitted.
3. Approve the Minutes for the December 15, 2022, Concurrent Joint Special Meeting as submitted.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. 2023-2024 Legislative Platform

Submitted by: Robert Cortez, Assistant Chief/Business Services Department and Jay Barkman, Legislative Affairs Manager

Recommended Action:

Review the proposed 2023-24 Legislative Platform and direct staff to place the item on the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting of January 26, 2023, with the committee's recommendation that the Board of Directors approve and adopt.

B. Laguna Woods Fire Station 12 Legislation

Submitted by: Robert Cortez, Assistant Chief/Business Services Department and Jay Barkman, Legislative Affairs Manager

Recommended Action:

Receive and file the report.

C. Quarterly Public Affairs Update

Submitted by: Matt Olson, Director of Communications

Recommended Action:

Receive and file the report.

REPORTS

- Update from State Lobbyist
- Update from Federal Lobbyist

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – The next regular meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury and as required by the State of California, Government Code § 54954.2(a), that the foregoing Agenda was posted in the lobby and front gate public display case of the Orange County Fire Authority, Regional Fire Operations and Training Center, 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA, not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK:

- Legislative Quarterly Update
- Public Affairs Quarterly Update
- Drowning and Wild Fire Prevention Update

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Executive Committee	Thursday, January 26, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
Board of Directors	Thursday, January 26, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Concurrent Joint Special Meetings of the Board of Directors and Committees	Thursday, January 26, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Human Resources Committee	Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 12 noon
Budget and Finance Committee	Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 12 noon
Operations Committee	Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 12 noon

MINUTES ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Legislative and Public Affairs Committee
Regular Meeting
Wednesday October 19, 2022
12:00 Noon**

**Regional Fire Operations and Training Center
Board Room
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee was called to order on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 12:01 p.m. by Chair Joe Kalmick.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Kuo led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach, Chair
Kathy Ward, San Clemente, Vice Chair
Anthony Kuo, Irvine
Anne Hertz-Mallari, Cypress

Absent: Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo
Sandy Rains, Laguna Niguel
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange

Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy
Deputy Chief Kenny Dossey
Assistant Chief Robert Cortez
Director of Communications Matt Olson
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller
Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco
General Counsel David Kendig

**Committee Members participating via teleconferencing*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Kalmick opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting and as there were no comments, closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

1. PRESENTATION

No items.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion by Director Kuo and second by Director Ward, and following a roll call vote, approved 4-0 Agenda Item No. 2A (Directors Chun, Rains and Wagner absent).

A. Minutes for the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Meetings (FILE 12.02E)

Actions:

1. Approve the Minutes for the July 20, 2022, Regular Meeting as submitted.
2. Approve the Minutes for the July 28, 2022, Concurrent Joint Special Meeting as submitted.
3. Approve the Minutes for the August 25, 2022, Concurrent Joint Special Meeting as submitted.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Quarterly Legislative Update (FILE 11.10F)

Legislative Affairs Manager Jay Barkman introduced Nielsen Merksamer Partner John Moffatt, and Holland and Knight Senior Policy Advisor, Lisa Barkovic, who summarized legislation reviewed by the State's legislature in 2022.

On motion of Director Ward and second by Director Hertz-Mallari, following a roll call vote, approved, 4-0 (Directors Chun, Wagner, and Rains absent) to receive and file the report.

B. 2023-2024 Draft Legislative Platform (FILE 12.02E5)

Legislative Affairs Manager Jay Barkman introduced the 2023-2024 Draft Legislative Platform.

On motion of Director Ward and second by Director Hertz-Mallari, and following a roll call vote, approved 4-0 (Directors Chun, Wagner, and Rains absent) to:

1. Review the draft 2023-2024 Legislative Platform.
2. Direct staff to return to the January 18, 2023, meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee for final adoption of the 2023-2024 Legislative Platform.

C. Quarterly Public Affairs Update (FILE 17.10C)

Communications Director Matt Olson presented the Quarterly Public Affairs Update.

On motion of Director Ward and second by Director Hertz-Mallari, and following a roll call vote, approved 4-0 (Directors Chun, Rains, and Wagner absent) to receive and file the report.

D. Board of Director Requested Item - Options for Teleconferencing During Public Board and Committee Meetings (FILE 11.03)

Chair Kalmick introduced Director Hertz-Mallari who presented the Board of Directors Requested Item – Options for Teleconferencing During Public Board and Committee Meetings.

On motion of Director Ward and second by Director Hertz-Mallari, and following a roll call vote, approved 4-0 (Directors Chun, Rains and Wagner absent) to select Option # 1 to return to all in-person meetings of the Board and Committees

REPORTS

No items.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

The Committee Members offered no comments.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Kalmick adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority

MINUTES ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Legislative and Public Affairs Committee
Concurrent Joint Special Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2022
7:09 P.M.**

**Regional Fire Operations and Training Center
Board Room
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602**

CALL TO ORDER

A Concurrent Joint Special Meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors, Executive, Budget and Finance, Human Resources, Legislative & Public Affairs Committees was called to order on November 17, 2022, at 7:09 p.m. by Board of Directors Chair Steggell.

ROLL CALL

Present: Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach, Chair
Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo
Anthony Kuo, Irvine
Sandy Rains, Laguna Niguel
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange*
Kathy Ward, San Clemente

Absent: Anne Hertz-Mallari, Cypress

Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy	Deputy Chief Lori Zeller
Deputy Chief Kenny Dossey	Assistant Chief Robert Cortez
Assistant Chief Lori Smith	Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane	Assistant Chief TJ McGovern
Director of Communications Matt Olson	Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar	General Counsel David Kendig

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Steggell opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting and as there were no comments, closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

1. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Findings Required by AB 361 for the Continued Use of Teleconferencing for Meetings (FILE 12.02E2)

General Counsel David Kendig presented the Findings Required by AB 361 for the Continued Use of Teleconferencing for Meetings.

On motion of Director Rains and second by Director Kalmick, and following a roll call vote, approved 5-1 (Director Kuo opposed, and Director Hertz-Mallari absent) to select Option #1 to make the following findings:

- a. A state of emergency has been proclaimed by California's Governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic and continues in effect; and
- b. The Committee has reconsidered the circumstances of the emergency; and
- c. State and local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19.

REPORTS

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

The Committee Members offered no comments.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Steggell adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. The next regular meeting of the legislative and public affairs committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority

MINUTES ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Legislative and Public Affairs Committee
Concurrent Joint Special Meeting
Thursday, December 15, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

**Regional Fire Operations and Training Center
Board Room
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602**

CALL TO ORDER

A Concurrent Joint Special Meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors, Executive, Budget and Finance, Human Resources, Legislative & Public Affairs Committees was called to order on December 15, 2022, at 6:04 p.m. by Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors Dave Shawver.

ROLL CALL

Present: Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach, Chair*
Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo*
Anne Hertz-Mallari, Cypress*
Sandy Rains, Laguna Niguel*
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange*

Absent: None.

Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy
Assistant Chief TJ McGovern
General Counsel David Kendig

Assistant Chief Robert Cortez
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Shawver opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting and as there were no comments, closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

1. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Findings Required by AB 361 for the Continued Use of Teleconferencing for Meetings (FILE 12.02E2)

General Counsel David Kendig presented the Findings Required by AB 361 for the Continued Use of Teleconferencing for Meetings.

On motion of Director Rains and second by Director Kalmick, and following a roll call vote, approved 4-1 (Director Hertz-Mallari opposed) to select Option #1 to make the following findings:

- a. A state of emergency has been proclaimed by California's Governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic and continues in effect; and
- b. The Committee has reconsidered the circumstances of the emergency; and
- c. State and local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19.

REPORTS

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

The Committee Members offered no comments.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Shawver adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m. The next regular meeting of the legislative and public affairs committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority



Orange County Fire Authority
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Meeting
January 18, 2023

Agenda Item No. 3A
Discussion Calendar

2023-2024 Legislative Platform

Contact(s) for Further Information

Robert Cortez, Assistant Chief robertcortez@ocfa.org 714.573.6012
Business Services Department

Jay Barkman, Legislative Affairs jaybarkman@ocfa.org 714.573.6048
Manager

Summary

This item is submitted to review and approve OCFA's 2023-2024 Legislative Platform.

Prior Board/Committee Action

The draft platform was presented to the committee on October 19, 2022, and staff was directed to finalize and return on January 18, 2023, for final consideration.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Review the proposed 2023-24 Legislative Platform and direct staff to place the item on the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting of January 26, 2023, with the committee's recommendation that the Board of Directors approve and adopt.

Impact to Cities/County

Not Applicable.

Fiscal Impact

Not Applicable.

Background

The attached OCFA 2023-24 Legislative Platform is proposed for adoption to guide OCFA leadership and staff in the review of proposed legislation, recommending positions, and directing the Board's priorities in securing funding for various programs or issue areas identified. The platform is presented to OCFA's Board of Directors every two years to coincide with the start of the federal and state legislative sessions.

This year the platform underwent an additional level of review with the creation of the newly formed Legislative Public Affairs Committee. The committee reviewed the item on October 19, 2022, which included proposed edits from the previously adopted platform. Staff will provide a brief oral presentation summarizing those edits and highlighting main points of the platform.

Attachment(s)

OCFA 2023-2024 Legislative Platform

2023-24 Legislative Platform

Operations and Community Safety

Wildfire Prevention & Suppression

- Support increased state funding of CALFIRE, Contract Counties and other sources of funding for staffing and pre-positioning of resources during high threat periods (winds, drought, flooding)
- Support funding of aerial resources for both suppression and incident awareness and assessment (IAA)
- Support use of technology to forecast high fire risk conditions, wildfire progression (modeling), and monitoring (cameras, sensors, IAA)
- Support funding for education, fuel reduction, and planning to reduce fire ignitions and loss of life during wildfires

Building & Development

- Support funding, tax incentives, and educational programs that encourage home hardening to reduce building ignition during wildfires from embers
- Oppose legislation or efforts to eliminate local discretion and input on developments (housing and commercial) in the Wildland Urban Interface
- Monitor legislation impacting the fire code and related topics (i.e., high rise buildings, hazardous materials, home hardening, etc.)
- Monitor legislation that mandates use of solar energy in new developments, mobile fueling expansion, and proposals for “new energy” infrastructure that impact fire and health safety codes

Community Safety

- Support legislation and budget proposals that streamline enforcement, licensing and disposal of fireworks or explosive material
- Support legislation and funding for fire safety programs, drowning prevention, and child car seat safety

Arson

- Support stronger penalties and efforts to prosecute arson crimes

Disaster Recovery & UASI

- Support funding for Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and other Department of Homeland Security grants that address regional or national threats, emergency preparedness, and communication

Emergency Medical Services and 911 System

BLS/ALS & Transport

- Support measures that increase Medi-CAL reimbursement to fire departments for ambulance transport and paramedic treatment
- Support measures that increase county and city authority to exercise local oversight and administration of the EMS system, including the design of service areas and contracting for service
- Support funding and the adoption of standards that improve firefighter safety
- Oppose mandated training or services by local EMS agencies without funding or cost recovery mechanisms

Alternate Destination & Alternative Transport

- Support legislation that encourages local agencies, either through funding or regulatory reforms, to treat patients by transporting to appropriate alternate destinations

Paramedic Licensing

- Monitor measures that revise paramedic licensing processes and impact OCFA hiring or promotional processes

911 Dispatch

- Support measures that reduce false or abusive use of 911 requests for services
- Support legislation and funding for the improvement or expansion of 911 dispatch centers, and establishing back-up systems and locations for continuity of operations

Homeless and Behavioral Health

- Support legislation that provides resources and alternative avenues of health care to adequately address behavioral health issues

Administrative

Revenues, Fees, & Taxes

- Support the use of state and federal funds for wildfire mitigation, defensible space, and suppression efforts (i.e., California State Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds, Federal Forestry, and other land management agencies)
- Oppose the diversion of local revenues, fees, and taxes by the state (i.e., State takeaways, property tax and sales tax “borrowing, etc.)
- Support legislation to increase cost recovery responding to emergency incidents at institutional facilities that are exempt from contributing to local tax base

- Support legislation to increase cost recovery responding to emergency incidents resulting from illegal activity

Employee Benefits/ Risk Management

- Support measures that limit OCFA's legal or insurance liabilities (i.e., improving efficiency of workers compensation review or settlement of claims)
- Monitor expansion or addition of new presumptive injuries or illnesses that force local agencies to provide benefits without considering if the injury or illness is related to employment
- Support measures that enhance or promote fire service employee safety

JPA Agreement

- Oppose efforts to restrict local control of JPA governance and any restriction on local design of JPA authority

Pensions

- Support measures that reduce liability and increase rate stability for local agencies

Logistics

- Monitor legislation that impacts design/construction of emergency buildings, fire vehicles, or 911 technology systems
- Support legislation that funds fire station construction or assists our member agencies in securing land for station construction
- Support legislation that funds or streamlines planning and installation of electric vehicle charging stations on secured public facilities and infrastructure for the use of essential and public safety employees

2023-2024 Federal Priorities

I. National Urban Search and Rescue Team (US&R)

OCFA is a sponsoring agency of California Task Force 5, one of 28 Task Forces across the country. These are Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) supported Task Forces that provide a federal response capability to nationally declared disasters. The system provides FEMA with a first responder capability using local agencies and personnel to administer and oversee the program. OCFA is responsible for administering federal funds to train and maintain local personnel and equipment that is deployed to national incidents.

In 2016, authorizing legislation was passed to address Task Force concerns with worker compensation, licensing of civilian members, and employment issues. The Task Forces have since then focused on increasing federal appropriations. Congress has for the last several years provided \$38 million annually.

OCFA will work with our national task force partners to advocate for additional funding for the US&R program. Additional funding is needed to replace critical equipment, enhance training, and fund capital replacement/improvement (vehicles, US&R warehouse).

II. Homeland Security & FEMA Grant Programs

OCFA will work with other national groups to support increased federal funding of Fire Act grants from FEMA (SAFER, AFG), Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding from Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Fire Administration. Santa Ana and Anaheim receive UASI funds and work with OCFA and other fire/law enforcement agencies to address regional equipment and training needs.

III. Wildfire & Forest Management

OCFA will support efforts to address vacancies and staffing concerns at the United States Forest Service (USFS) to ensure our federal partner can support state and regional incidents. In addition, we will continue to support additional grant funding for the USFS to administer awards at the local level for community level vegetation removal, defensible space, and wildfire prevention/planning.

OCFA may submit requests through our Representatives or US Senators for congressionally directed spending on projects such as OCFA's new wildland hand crew facility, helicopter replacement, or water refill facilities throughout our wildland areas. Other projects identified through OCFA's budget or capital outlay plans may be considered if eligible based on congressional priorities.

2023-2024 State Priorities

I. Wildfire Mutual Aid Resources

In 2022, OCFA secured a historic level of state funding (\$16.95 million) for the construction of a new Wildland Hand Crew Facility thanks to Senator Dave Min (D-Costa Mesa). An additional \$4.2 million in State budget funding was also secured for OCFA as one of six contract counties to expand our hand crew. This funding allowed OCFA to add a second year-around crew. The \$4.2 million is intended to be ongoing as a permanent increase to OCFA's contract county agreement with CALFIRE.

However, the State's 2023 fiscal situation appears to be taking a downturn with expectations of a budget deficit. OCFA will work with our contract county partners and labor representatives to ensure budget funding is provided.

OCFA will also seek support for our Air Operations, including plans to support and augment our helicopter fleet, and the continuance of funding provided by Southern California Edison to OCFA and others for increased aerial firefighting resources. Legislation in support of this program may be required and staff is researching options.

II. Fire Based Ambulance/Paramedic EMS Local Control

Over recent years there have been various efforts to supersede local municipal control of fire-based EMS/ambulance/paramedic service delivery. The California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) is the state authority responsible for establishing standards for the training and scope of practice for EMS personnel. However, over the last several years the State EMSA has begun considering the establishment of new regulations that will intrude into local control in the design and level of service provided by fire-based municipal EMS agencies.

This effort was opposed by city and fire service leaders across the state, and the EMSA has now paused to allow for a workgroup to meet and discuss with fire service representatives. The OCFA will work with our local member agencies and statewide partners such as the League of Cities, California Fire Chiefs Association, and labor representatives to oppose any underground regulations imposed by EMSA on local agencies. Decisions on the design and level of service must continue to be made by local municipal fire-based EMS agencies that have been providing and funding those services.



Orange County Fire Authority
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Meeting
January 18, 2023

Agenda Item No. 3B
Discussion Calendar

Laguna Woods Fire Station 12 Legislation

Contact(s) for Further Information

Robert Cortez, Assistant Chief robertcortez@ocfa.org 714.573.6012
Business Services Department

Jay Barkman, Legislative Affairs jaybarkman@ocfa.org 714.573.6048
Manager

Summary

This item is submitted to inform the committee of state legislation OCFA will be pursuing to assist in the acquisition of land for the construction of Fire Station 12 in the City of Laguna Woods.

Prior Board/Committee Action

Not Applicable.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Receive and file the report.

Impact to Cities/County

Successful legislation will provide land for a new fire station and enhance fire and medical service delivery.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact associated with this update. However, a budget adjustment will be requested as part of the FY2022-23 Mid-Year budget review and FY2023-24 budget development process.

Increased Cost Funded by Structural Fire Fund: \$0

Increased Cost Funded by Cash Contract Cities: \$0

Background

For the past several years, the OCFA and the City of Laguna Woods have been discussing the need for a new fire station based on the review of call volume and response data. In 2020, it was determined that a new fire station was in fact needed, and efforts were made by the city and OCFA to identify property for construction. Unfortunately, the only viable land available under city control is city park property that previously received state funding under the 2002 Resources Bond Act. The statewide ballot measure raised proceeds for various state projects, programs, and grants to local agencies. The City of Laguna Woods received \$125,488 of bond funds through a grant application to make improvements to what is now known as City Centre Park. As a requirement for receiving 2002 Resource Bond Act funds, the city recorded a grant deed restricting the use of the property through June 30, 2031.

In 2021, the city contacted the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) to inform them that a portion of the park land was needed for a new fire station and sought direction on how

to remove the deed restriction. Alternatives discussed included finding replacement land, however, city staff explained that no vacant land existed. The city then was directed by CDPR to conduct an appraisal of the portion of the park that would be required for the fire station with the goal that funds may be re-invested into the remaining portions of City Centre Park. The appraisal was completed and CDPR has now advised the city and OCFA that state legislation will be required to complete the process.

OCFA has met with the Legislative Director and Director of Grants for the CDPR to discuss any remaining issues and the path forward via legislation. CDPR has indicated its willingness to provide technical assistance to the city and OCFA and has offered to draft initial bill language for our consideration.

OCFA staff has also reached out to Senator Min's office to inquire about carrying this legislation, since the City of Laguna Woods is in the Senator's district. Senator Min's staff has informed us they will carry the bill.

Sponsoring a bill will require services beyond our current state lobbyist contract and scope of work. As such, staff will seek a budget adjustment approval as part of the Mid-year budget review process and FY2023-24 budget development process to increase the current lobbyist retainer by \$5,500 per month from January to October 2023. This aligns with the expected legislative cycle to get the bill through the legislature and to the Governor for signature.

Attachment(s)

None



Orange County Fire Authority
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Meeting
January 18, 2023

Agenda Item No. 3C
Discussion Calendar

Quarterly Public Affairs Update

Contact(s) for Further Information

Matt Olson
Director of Communications

MattOlson@ocfa.org

714.573.6028

Summary

This item is submitted to provide a preliminary update of current OCFA public affairs programs and analytics that will be presented to the committee.

Prior Board/Committee Action

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Receive and file the report.

Impact to Cities/County

Not Applicable.

Fiscal Impact

Not applicable.

Background

Over the past quarter, the Corporate Communications section has implemented various innovative new strategies to engage, educate, and inform the communities we serve. This includes the agency's first ever Holiday "Safety & Joy" Short Film," various social media campaigns, and multiple press conferences and media events that resulted in hundreds of news articles, radio spots, and TV clips. Updates will include these and other areas of Public Affairs interest such as social media engagement numbers, community education events, current seasonal campaigns (holiday safety and awareness), and multimedia projects such as our upcoming PSAs on child seat installation with Supervisor Wagner.

Attachment(s)

None.