



To: Bay Area UASI Approval Authority

From: Kyle Merkins, Assistant Deputy Chief, San Francisco Fire Department

Date: May 8, 2014

Re: Item #4: Regional Fire Boat Funding Request

Action or Discussion Item:

Action – Request for \$345,000 in UASI funding for a regional fire boat.

Discussion:

The San Francisco Fire Department is seeking to purchase an all hazards CBRNE/firefighting response vessel. Having a new, state-of-the-art vessel will give the region a much-needed asset to protect our Bay, harbors, waterfront, as well as property and critical infrastructure such as our large commercial ports and international airports. We hope to complete the purchase by the fall of 2014.

Type 1 Capability

The new boat will be type 1 so that it has maximum capacity to pump the most water per minute for the longest period of time – 20,000 gallons per minute for up to 48 hours. Such capacity would be critical to protect life, property, and environmentally sensitive areas throughout the Bay region in the event of a petroleum-based fire or other significant fire caused by an earthquake or other natural or manmade hazard. In addition, the new boat has the ability to extend a water source inland for many miles and would be a critical asset should a local jurisdiction require additional water, such as in the loss of a water main.

Need for Regional Sustainment

San Francisco currently has both a type 1 and type 2 fireboat. These are the only such assets in Northern California. The boats have been deployed throughout the region on a regular basis, most recently to combat pier fires in Alameda and Richmond. However, these assets are over fifty years old, require constant maintenance and investment to keep them operational, and they should be retired.

Funding Required

The total project cost for the new fire boat is \$11.6 million. The Port Security Grant Program will provide most of the funding (\$7.6 million). However, we still need \$4 million, and so we are coming to the Approval Authority with a request for assistance of \$345,000. We are looking

at every possible funding option to complete this much-needed project, and so we are also seeking additional funds from the State, the San Francisco General Fund, and private sector partners like the refineries.

Supporters

Secretary Mark Ghilarducci strongly believes the fire boat is a critical regional asset and is supporting us in our search for additional funding sources, including our request to the Bay Area UASI. Other supporters of the project include Senator Diane Feinstein, Representative Nancy Pelosi, Assistant FEMA Administrator Brian Kamoie, Assistant FEMA Administrator Robert Fenton, and USCG Sector SF Captain of the Port Greg Stump.

Please see Appendix A, “New Fire Boat Project,” for more information.