



CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, California 93950

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Ben Harvey, City Manager

MEETING DATE: November 15, 2017

SUBJECT: Fire Services City Council Subcommittee and Regional Joint Powers Authority Discussion

CEQA: Does not Constitute a “Project” per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines

RECOMMENDATION

Appoint two Members to serve on a Fire Services City Council Subcommittee, and direct the City Manager to send a letter to the City of Monterey expressing interest in discussing the potential formation of a regional joint powers authority for fire services.

DISCUSSION

Since 2008, the City has contracted with the City of Monterey for fire service. The current agreement terminates December 31, 2018. Along with the City of Pacific Grove, the City of Monterey provides contract fire service to numerous other public agencies and government installations on the Monterey Peninsula, including Carmel-by-the-Sea, Sand City, the Monterey Regional Airport, the U.S Army Presidio, the Naval Post Graduate School and La Mesa Village U.S. Military housing.

Cost-sharing for fire services and overhead is spread proportionately amongst all Monterey Fire Department clients. However, all staffing and operational decisions are made by the City of Monterey.

With the end of the current contract approaching in the next twelve months, it is appropriate and prudent to begin exploring options for future fire service – options which should include retaining the City of Monterey for fire service. However, among the potential options that should also be considered is the formation of a regional joint powers authority (JPA) for fire services.

Besides the Cities of Monterey and Pacific Grove, a potential regional fire service JPA could also include Carmel-by-the-Sea, Sand City and the Monterey Airport. Forming a regional fire service JPA would allow for greater City of Pacific Grove management of fire services through direct governance with “a seat at the table”. While it is not anticipated that a JPA model would yield significant cost savings over the City’s current contract fire service model, it would allow for City of Pacific Grove input and direction regarding fire service staffing and operational decisions.

To begin the process, two actions are recommended:

1. Form a two Member City Council Subcommittee tasked with reviewing and recommending future fire service options for the City of Pacific Grove, including retaining the current contract with the Monterey Fire Department and the potential formation of a regional joint powers authority; and
2. Direct the City Manager to send a letter to the City of Monterey advising of the City of Pacific Grove's interest in potentially forming a regional joint powers authority for fire services, and asking to commence discussions with the City of Monterey on this matter.

OPTIONS

1. Do nothing.
2. Provide alternative direction.

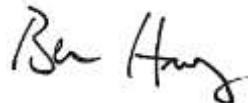
FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact in forming a City Council Subcommittee and directing the City Manager to send a letter.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

Operational Excellence

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



Ben Harvey
City Manager