

**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	May 7, 2024
TITLE	Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with CAL FIRE to Provide Call-When-Needed (CWN) Helicopter Services
DIVISION	Public Safety
FROM	Fred Greer, Helicopter Pilot Roberto Filice, Assistant General Manager, Public Safety
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors authorize Public Safety to enter into a one-year agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to provide call-when-needed (CWN) helicopter fire suppression services.

BACKGROUND

The Oakland Hills Fire of 1991 highlighted the devastating effects of wildfire, and the inadequate fire-fighting resources to meet that threat. The burn scars on abutting Parklands emphasized the need for a District initial attack response capability to protect 126,000 acres of Regional Parks natural resources; the Air Support Unit (ASU) soon initiated a fire bucket program to mitigate potential wildfire damage or destruction. The ASU works hand-in-hand with state and local agencies, and for over 20 years the ASU has agreed to provide CAL FIRE with CWN services on mutual aid requests. The current agreement allows ASU to provide CWN fire suppression services to Cal FIRE for a one-year term.

ANALYSIS

The agreement between Cal FIRE and the Park District is beneficial to the District and neighboring communities. Changing global weather patterns have shown a growing fire risk throughout the region, particularly impinging on 126,000 acres of District open areas. The ability to proactively fight fires is critical to preventing or mitigating spread of fires that impact the District and surrounding areas. The cooperative nature of this work also provides invaluable training, experience and certification for our air crews to fight fires.

FISCAL IMPACT

By entering into this Agreement, CAL FIRE agrees to provide the East Bay Regional Park District a minimum reimbursement for operating costs.



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 05 -
MAY 7, 2024**

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CAL FIRE TO
PROVIDE CALL-WHEN-NEEDED (CWN) HELICOPTER SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Oakland Hills Fire of 1991 highlighted the devastating effects of wildfire, the inadequate fire-fighting resources to meet that threat, and the need for a District initial attack response capability to protect 126,000 acres of Regional Parks natural resources. In response, the East Bay Regional Park District’s Air Support Unit (ASU) soon initiated a fire bucket program to provide water drops, mitigating potential wildfire damage or destruction; and

WHEREAS, when the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) responds to a wildfire, they may request mutual aid assistance from neighboring fire districts and agencies if additional resources, such as water drops, are needed; and

WHEREAS, for over 20 years the ASU has contracted with CAL FIRE to provide call-when-needed (CWN) services; and

WHEREAS, through this Agreement, CAL FIRE and ASU can better protect lives, property, and natural resources from the devastating impacts of wildfires.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby authorize the ASU to enter into an Agreement for a term of one year for call-when-needed (CWN) services with CAL FIRE as presented to the Board on May 7, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Park District and in its name, to execute and deliver such documents and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution.

Moved by Director _____, and seconded by Director _____, and adopted May 7, 2024, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: