

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**Date:** September 16, 2002

**THROUGH:** PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AUTOMATIC/MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR EXCHANGE OF FIRE PROTECTION, SPECIALIZED, RESCUE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES AND THE CITIES OF: BURBANK, GLENDALE AND PASADENA (VERDUGO)

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council authorize City Manager to execute the agreement between the City of Los Angeles and the Cities of: Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena (Verdugo) which provides for automatic/mutual aid for exchanging fire protection, specialized, rescue and emergency medical services.

## BACKGROUND

Since 1997 the City of Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) has had an automatic/mutual aid agreement with the cities of Burbank and Glendale for the provision of fire protection, specialized, rescue and emergency medical services, proving beneficial to the parties involved. Given that the City of Pasadena Fire Department works closely with Burbank and Glendale Fire Departments through a central dispatch center to deliver emergency response services between the three cities (collectively referred to in the agreement as Verdugo); it is in the best interest of Verdugo and LAFD to include Pasadena in the automatic/mutual aid agreement in order to provide the most expeditious response to suppress fires and render other emergency assistance.

Pasadena's participation in this agreement involves the following: Pasadena may initially respond into the Eagle Rock area to structure fire incidents; Pasadena may respond to assist LAFD on certain freeway areas; Pasadena may respond as part of a team of Verdugo engines to brush fires in the Griffith Park,

Mount Washington, or Verdugo Mountain areas; and Pasadena may respond to assist with swift water rescue incidents. Reciprocally, LAFD agrees to respond fire fighting companies to freeway incidents, brush fires and structure fires from Pasadena's west city limit to the 210 Freeway. LAFD responses may include helicopters, heavy rescue and swift water resources. The foregoing description is general, however, the agreement contains detailed maps of the agreed upon response areas. The intent of the design is for mutual benefit and may be modified at any time by mutual written agreement of the Fire Chiefs of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena.

Each of the parties is desirous of providing to the other a reasonable and reciprocal exchange of emergency services on a day-to-day basis. The proposed agreement allows for the rapid response of resources that are favorably located geographically and/or that add a significant measure of potential protection in a manner that is mutually beneficial. The basic elements of the previous agreement, that did not include Pasadena, are retained.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

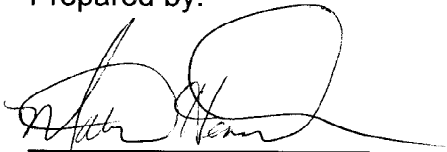
Fiscal impact of automatic/mutual aid is unknown. Authorization to enter into this Agreement will not automatically increase or decrease City costs. While there may be periodic cost increases, there may also be additional savings in life and/or property in Pasadena – without additional costs. Notwithstanding the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement or certain FEMA provisions that provide for reimbursement in the event of a declared disaster, the terms of this Agreement state, "No party furnishing aid pursuant to this Agreement shall be entitled to compensation for services rendered to the requesting agency, it being understood that the respective covenants contained in this Agreement shall constitute the sole consideration for such services."

Respectfully submitted,




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