

# Agenda Report

April 24, 2006

**To:** CITY COUNCIL

**From:** CITY MANAGER

**Subject:** Authorize the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Members of the Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network to Promote Citywide Emergency Preparedness, and to Provide for Disaster Response and Mutual Assistance to Various City Departments

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with members of the Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) to promote Citywide emergency preparedness and provide for disaster response and mutual assistance for the Water and Power Department and the Public Works Department for Water/Wastewater Operations.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Water and Power and Public Works Departments are currently revising their emergency response plans. Both Departments have multiple mutual aid agreements with agencies in the greater Los Angeles Regions including the cities of Glendale and Burbank. In the event of a large-scale catastrophic disaster with adverse impacts to multiple local agencies including those that are partners in the mutual aid agreements, these partners may not have sufficient capacity to address their needs and provide emergency services to Pasadena. A means of mitigating this vulnerability is to seek additional mutual aid arrangements with agencies throughout the State.

The Water/Wastewater Agency Network is a mutual assistance agreement consisting of a volunteer membership organization of public and private water and wastewater utilities that function in coordination with the State Office of Emergency Services (OES). It was the expressed interest of OES, State of California Department of Water Resources and Department of Health Services and the California Utilities Emergency Association to facilitate and encourage water agencies to establish mutual assistance agreements in preparation of emergencies. As a result of this goal, the organizations established the WARN mutual assistance agreement consisting of over 200 volunteered members throughout the State. WARN is organized along the geographical lines established by OES, and Pasadena is in Southern OES Region 1. There are a total of six regions in California, and each region has a steering committee consisting of members to that region. A representative from each region serves on the

state-wide committee to address concerns and procedures related to mutual assistance and emergency preparedness.

The benefits of joining WARN include:

- A standard omnibus mutual assistance agreement and process for sharing emergency resources is established among members statewide.
- It provides the resources to respond and recover more quickly from a disaster.
- This is consistent with the Standardized Emergency Management System and the California Emergency Services Act.
- It meets the Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements for financial reimbursement consideration.
- It contains indemnification and workers compensation provisions to protect participants and provide for reimbursement of costs between utilities sharing resources.
- It serves as a clearing house for communicating emergency requests amongst the members.
- If the member agency is in need of aid itself, then they are not obligated to provide mutual aid. It is strictly on a voluntary basis.
- There is no membership fee to join.

A mutual aid agreement with both local and distant agencies is a vital component to an emergency response plan. Joining WARN will provide the City a vital resource for restoring services following a major disaster.

The Water and Power Department is working on a similar agreement with California Utilities Emergency Association for response to water and power disasters.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

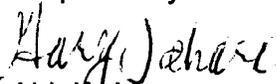
There is no cost for joining WARN. If the City volunteers equipment and services during an emergency, the cost to the City is reimbursed from the requesting party.

Respectfully Submitted,

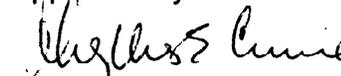


Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Manager

Prepared by:

*for*   
Aldo Vargas  
Associate Engineer  
Water and Power Department

Approved by:

  
Phyllis E. Currie  
General Manager  
Water and Power Department

Concurrence:

  
Martin Pastucha  
Director  
Public Works Department