

# Agenda Report

Date: July 27, 2009

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CALIFORNIA UTILITIES EMERGENCY ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE FOR DISASTER RESPONSE AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENT.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into a California Utilities Emergency Association Mutual Assistance Agreement (Agreement) with members of the California Utilities Emergency Association (CUEA) to provide for disaster response and mutual assistance for the Water and Power Department (Department).

**BACKGROUND:**

The CUEA was created in 1952 to represent California utilities on utility emergency-related issues. CUEA operates the Utilities Branch of the State Office of Emergency Services (OES). CUEA activates the Utilities Emergency Operation Center in OES when an event affects California utilities. CUEA, in collaboration with OES, provides coordination of resources and technical assistance between and among utility organizations during the response and restoration and recovery efforts of member utilities. Approximately 100 California electric, water, gas and telephone utilities in addition to the Department are members of CUEA. Twenty-four of these members have signed the Agreement that allows the signatories to call upon the resources of other electric utilities throughout the State in the event of a disaster.

The Department previously had mutual assistance agreements with the cities of Burbank and Glendale, which could provide additional manpower and equipment in the event of an emergency. In the event of a large scale catastrophic disaster in Southern California that causes wide-spread destruction, the Department and other local utilities may not have the resources to provide local emergency response services and/or provide each other mutual assistance. To mitigate this vulnerability, Glendale and Burbank, along with Southern California Edison, have signed the CUEA Agreement. Staff recommends that the Department also enter

into the same Agreement with other CUEA members that are public and private utilities providing electricity and gas in California.

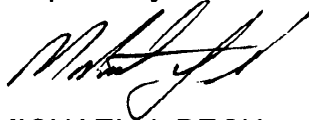
Signing the Agreement will allow the Department to call upon the resources of utilities located throughout Southern and Northern California, such as San Diego Gas and Electric, City of Anaheim Electric Services, Long Beach Gas and Electric, the City of Glendale, Southern California Edison, the City of Palo Alto, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Pacific Gas and Electric, and Sempra Energy, that are also signatories to this Agreement.

The City Attorney's office has reviewed the Agreement and approved it as to form. It would be prudent for the City to become a signatory to the CUEA Mutual Assistance Agreement so that additional resources away from the City may provide utility-specific emergency services in an orderly and organized manner.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is an annual membership cost of \$500 to join CUEA. If the City provides equipment and services to assist another utility during an emergency, the cost to the City is reimbursed from the requesting party.

Respectfully submitted,



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City Manager

Prepared by:

for 

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Approved



Phyllis E. Currie  
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