



**City Of San Diego
COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD
DISTRICT SEVEN**

M E M O R A N D U M

REF: M-11-01-05

DATE: January 19, 2011

TO: Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee (PS&NS)

FROM: Councilmember Marti Emerald 

SUBJECT: Restoration of Closed Fire Engines and Relief Lifeguards

Two years ago in an effort to cooperate with the Mayor to close a significant budget shortfall, the City Council approved the Mayor's plan to close eight of thirteen preselected fire engines on a daily basis and to eliminate four relief lifeguard positions.

Since that time we have heard several reports from the Fire Chief concerning the impacts that the engine closure program has had on response times and service availability. The discussion at the PS&NS meetings has repeatedly come back to the issue of finding the resources to restore closed fire engines and addressing the need for lifeguard training.

Last year the PS&NS Committee made a request that the Mayor bring forward a plan and a budget amendment that immediately restored the closed fire engines and relief lifeguard positions for Fiscal Year 2011. As Committee Chair I feel responsible to move on the restoration of fire engines and lifeguard positions sooner rather than later. I request that the PS&NS Committee at its meeting on January 26, 2011 formulate a motion that would request that the Mayor bring forward a plan & budget amendment that immediately restores the closed fire engines and relief lifeguard positions for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011. In order to restore the closed fire engines and relief lifeguard positions, approximately \$4.8 million would be required. (The 11.5 million in cuts pro-rated over the remaining 5 months of Fiscal Year 2011)

Potential budget amendments could include:

- The Use of General Fund Reserves
- 1% immediate reduction in all general fund departments except public safety
- 1-2% immediate reduction in general fund services and supplies budget

As policy makers I feel that we need to be diligent in our efforts to provide adequate fire and life safety for our citizens and visitors.

Thank you for considering this request.

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Councilmember Marti Emerald
January 19, 2011

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cc: Honorable Mayor Jerry Sanders
Honorable City Councilmembers
Independent Budget Analyst Andrea Telvin