

DATE ISSUED: February 5, 2004

REPORT NO. 04-035

ATTENTION: Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee  
Agenda of February 11, 2004

SUBJECT: Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Agreement

### SUMMARY

Issue – Should the City Council adopt the proposed Fifth Amended Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Agreement?

Manager’s Recommendation – Authorize the City Attorney to endorse the Fifth Amended Agreement.

Other Recommendations – None.

Fiscal Impact – None.

### BACKGROUND

The Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization was first established in 1961. Membership includes each of the eighteen incorporated cities and the County of San Diego. The governing and policy making body of the Unified Emergency Services Organization is the Unified Disaster Council (UDC) on which every member jurisdiction is represented.

The primary purpose of the Organization is to coordinate and facilitate regional emergency plans and programs which are intended to preserve the life and safety of people and property. The second major purpose of the Organization is to make provisions for the execution of plans, programs, and for mutual assistance in the event of multi-jurisdictional emergencies or disasters. The Organization exerts its influence over the entire Operational Area (geographical area of the County) and all political subdivisions.

The UDC meets on a quarterly basis and must have a quorum to conduct its business. Per the guidelines set forth in the previous Emergency Services Agreements, the UDC member jurisdictions utilized a “one jurisdiction one vote” model.

The larger cities in the County have not perceived the voting model as equitable since it did not take into account population. There was no fiscal impact to the membership until federal Fiscal Year 2000 when the federal government began to distribute terrorism grant funds via the State and subsequently to the Operational Areas and governed by the UDC. Distribution of funds by the UDC did not follow any formula, which related to size of the jurisdiction, population protected or potential threat.

The proposed 5th Amended Emergency Services Agreement rectifies the inequitable voting model through the adoption of a two step model similar to the one used by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). While the general business of the Organization will be conducted with a simple majority utilizing the one jurisdiction one vote model, any member jurisdiction can request a weighted vote on any issue in front of the Council. The weighted votes are distributed based on population similar to SANDAG. For action to be taken on an item where a weighted vote is requested, the item must pass both with a simple majority of members present and secondly by a majority of the weighted vote.

The two step process provides fair representation of both the smaller jurisdictions and the larger jurisdictions promoting consensus between the two groups. While there is no direct fiscal impact, historical decisions regarding grant fund distribution and dues structure should be more closely related to a jurisdiction's population in the future.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**D.P. Lee**  
**Director, Office of Homeland Security**

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**Approved: Rey Arellano**  
**Deputy City Manager & CIO**

**LEE/DPL**

**Attachment:** [Fifth Amended Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Agreement](#)