

DATE ISSUED: February 2, 2005

REPORT NO. 05-016

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council
Docket of February 7, 2005

SUBJECT: Department of Homeland Security Buffer Zone Protection Plan
Initiative

SUMMARY

Issue: Should the City participate in the non-regulatory and voluntary federal Buffer Zone Protection Plan (BZPP) initiative and accept protective law enforcement equipment upon completion of approved Buffer Zone Protection Plans?

Manager's Recommendation: Approve City's participation in the BZPP initiative.

Other Recommendations: None.

Fiscal Impact: The City will receive up to \$50,000 worth of equipment for each BZPP approved. There is no budget impact to city. The protective law enforcement equipment is purchased by Department of Homeland Security and there is no local match.

BACKGROUND

The federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is working with public and private sector entities to ensure protective measures are implemented to secure the United States from terrorist attack. The Buffer Zone Protection Plan initiative is a non-regulatory, voluntary program with no tasking from the Federal government. It is being implemented nation-wide at selected critical infrastructure and key asset (CI/KA) sites that have been identified by DHS's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) Division. Critical infrastructure and key assets are what DHS, in conjunction with State and local officials, have deemed most crucial in terms of national-level public health and safety, governance, economic and national security, and public confidence consequences. Whereas the primary focus of other DHS anti-terrorism programs has been response and consequence management, this initiative targets prevention. The BZPP initiative is designed to complement and supplement protective measures already

being taken by State and local jurisdictions. Its goal is to enhance local law enforcement (LLE) agency capabilities to secure CI/KA sites.

DISCUSSION

Buffer Zone Protection Plan Program

The Buffer Zone Protection Plan Program's objectives are to:

1. Reduce the nation's vulnerability to terrorism by developing plans to protect critical infrastructure and key assets and to deny use of our infrastructure as a weapon.
2. Identify and characterize the vulnerability of potential targets based on negative national, state and local consequences if attacked.
3. Evaluate and prepare critical infrastructure and minimize the potential for a terrorist attack.
4. Implement an infrastructure protection plan that includes protective security standards and measures.
5. Establish local and regional protective security capability.
6. Allocate protective security equipment and training.

As part of the national effort to protect critical infrastructure assets, DHS's Protective Security Division (PSD) is assisting state and local authorities, as well as private industry, in developing Buffer Zone Protection Plans. The purpose of the BZPP is to make it more difficult for terrorists to conduct surveillance or successfully launch attacks from the immediate vicinity of CI/KA targets.

The BZPP is a planning document that defines a buffer zone outside the security perimeter of a specific CI/KA site. The Plan identifies specific threats and vulnerabilities, and analyzes and categorizes the level of risk, associated with each site. The Plan recommends corrective measures that will reduce the risk of a successful attack. It helps to define the communications, and the command and control structure and relationships between local law enforcement and the CI/KA site to be protected. It also defines appropriate security measures to be taken consistent with each level of the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS), commonly referred to as Threat Warning Levels.

Local authorities (local law enforcement and CI/KA site representatives) develop a BZPP document with the training support of DHS experts. Two-day training for local law enforcement and CI/KA representatives is provided by a DHS-sponsored mobile training team from Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). The training is no cost. When the plan has been completed and fully coordinated, it will become the basis to identify equipment and protective measures necessary to address vulnerabilities. The appropriate equipment to correct vulnerabilities is requested by local law enforcement from a list of DHS-approved equipment. The actual protective equipment to be provided to LLE is determined by DHS in coordination with technical experts from the National Energy

Technology Laboratory (NETL) and representatives from the local law enforcement agency. DHS purchases the items identified by NETL. These items are loaned to the LLE agency for one year. DHS then transfers ownership of the equipment to LLE directly. The one-year loan period is necessitated by Federal regulations associated with the initiative. Jurisdictions that have more than one site for which a BZPP has been approved may pool the money allocated to the individual sites to allow for the procurement of more expensive items. Categories of DHS-authorized equipment include:

- Computers and Servers
- Radio Communications Equipment
- Camera Systems for Bomb Support/Web Cams
- Vehicle Barriers
- Lighting/Inspection Mirrors
- Spotting Scopes and Night Vision
- Intrusion Detection Systems

Only those sites contained on the federally-approved CI/KA list for fiscal years (FY) 2004 and 2005 are currently eligible for the BZPP. The federal list identifies 259 sites in California. Of those, eighteen sites are located in the San Diego urban area. Nine sites are located in the City's jurisdiction. Sites within the City's jurisdiction include: Fashion Valley, Mission Valley, Las Americas, and University Town Center (UTC) shopping malls; Qualcomm and Torero Stadiums, General Atomics power plant, and government facilities including a Customs facility and a Field Operations Office. DHS has indicated there will be additional sites identified in subsequent fiscal years.

The BZPP initiative assures public safety, confidence and services by improving the nation's infrastructure. It ensures that our CI/KA have the best possible protective measures while safeguarding the privacy and freedoms of our citizens. City participation in the initiative will make these benefits available to the residents of San Diego. City participation requires that the Council approve City participation in the BZPP Program and authorize the City Manager to accept equipment for the San Diego Police Department.

ALTERNATIVE

Do not approve the City's participation in the BZPP initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

August F. Ghio
Director
Office of Homeland Security

Approved: Rey Arellano
Deputy City Manager & CIO

GHIO/dch