



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: October 2, 2007

SUBJECT: YOLO COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY JOINT
POWERS AUTHORITY AGREEMENT

Report in Brief

Police and Fire dispatch services for the City of Woodland are provided by the Yolo County Communications and Emergency Services Agency (YCCESA). YCCESA provides similar services to the cities of West Sacramento, Winters, and the County of Yolo. YCCESA was created by a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement enacted by member agencies (Woodland, West Sacramento, Winters, and the County of Yolo) in 1988. The agreement is in need of an update due to changes in the YCCESA mission, outdated language in the original agreement, and language that is no longer applicable to the agency or the agreement. A revised JPA agreement was prepared by the JPA Board and is presented to the City Council for review and approval.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the revised Joint Powers Authority Agreement.

Background

The Yolo County Communications and Emergency Services Agency (YCCESA) has provided a consolidated 911 public safety answering point (PSAP), and Police and Fire dispatch services since 1988. Consolidated dispatch services provide greater efficiency through shared infrastructure and human resources, and improved coordination during multi-agency incidents. The Agency also provides after hour dispatch services to agencies such as the City of Woodland Public Works Department.

YCCESA was formed in 1988 through a Joint Powers Agreement between the cities of Woodland, West Sacramento, Winters, and the County of Yolo. The JPA is governed by a four member board. Each member agency appoints one member to the Board.

When originally created, the Agency included the Office of Emergency Services. The Agency provided emergency management services to the member agencies. In 2006, Yolo County opted to remove the Office of Emergency Services. Since 1997, YCCESA has served as the project manager

and hub for a law enforcement records management system shared by the cities of Woodland, Winters, West Sacramento, and Davis (Davis was also an associate member of the JPA during this time). Davis pulled out of the RMS project in 2006.

With the changes that have occurred in the Agency's mission, the need arose to design a communications network that incorporates enhanced technology and, in order to update language in the original agreement, the JPA Board drafted a revised JPA agreement. The JPA Board was assisted by counsel in drafting the revised agreement. The draft language has been reviewed and approved by the Woodland City Attorney. The major changes in the revised agreement are:

- Provides clarification and a more specific methodology of costs allocation;
- Authorizes the JPA Board to modify cost formula by JPA Board Resolution passed by a majority vote;
- Deletes nearly one quarter of the text in the agreement because it referred to the Office of Emergency Services;
- Changes the agency name from Yolo County Communications and Emergency Services Agency (YCCESA) to Yolo Consolidated Communications Agency (YCCA);
- Deletes clauses that have expired and incorporates a separate agreement with Yolo County for support services; and
- With the authority of the participating political entities, allows the JPA to assess fees such as are needed to provide public safety (911) service.

The draft of the revised JPA agreement is being presented to the governing boards of each of the member agencies for adoption.

Discussion

911 PSAP operations provide an essential lifeline to our citizens during an emergency. Similarly, emergency dispatching provides a lifeline for first responders. In order to maintain these lifelines and to provide the most effective emergency response possible, it is critical that the communications network be well designed, maintained, and managed. The revised JPA agreement provides more efficient management of the consolidated dispatch services and provides a better framework for the future of the regional communications agency.

Adoption of the new agreement is timely now that the JPA has been in existence for nearly 20 years. A strategic plan completed in 2007 has identified JPA infrastructure needs totaling between seventeen and thirty-one million dollars. While staff continues to refine these figures, it is clear that the timely replacement of communications infrastructure will require a future commitment of significant resources by member agencies or a strategy to develop alternative funding sources in order to insure the continuation of emergency dispatch services. Approval of the revised agreement will demonstrate the City's commitment to the JPA in order to help meet this challenge.

The original JPA agreement assigned authority to the JPA commensurate with the authority of the signing entities, including acquiring funding for agency operations. The primary source of funds come from the general funds of members agencies proportionate to their share of the overall calls for service. Should a specific revenue source be identified for 911 services or other emergency dispatch services, the revised agreement provides specific language for local elected councils and boards to direct those funds to the JPA.

Fiscal Impact

Approval of this agreement will have no impact on the City's contribution to the JPA during FY 2007-08. The formula for allocating future operating costs to JPA members shall reasonably reflect the proportionate costs for providing services. The potential cost to address the future infrastructure replacement as described herein will be considered by the City Council and other member agency's boards as strategies are developed.

Public Contact

The JPA agreement revision has been on the public agenda of several JPA Board meetings. In addition, the item has been included in the posting of the City Council agenda.

Commission Recommendation

The JPA Board has voted to support the revised agreement.

Alternative Courses of Action

1. Approve the revised Joint Powers Authority agreement.
2. Direct staff to present alternative language for the revised JPA agreement. Such changes would have to be presented to the policy boards of other member agencies for review and acceptance.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council approve Alternative No. 1.

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ITEM:**

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Attachment: Revised Joint Powers Authority Agreement.