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DEPARTMENT OF
FIRE

DENNIS SMITH
FIRE CHIEF

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

1231 I STREET
SUITE 401
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814-2979

PH 916-264-5266
FAX 916-264-7079

December 6, 1999

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: SACRAMENTO REGIONAL FIRE/EMS COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
EXTENSION OF ACCESS TO ESCROW FUNDS**

LOCATION/COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide – All Districts

RECOMMENDATION:

This report recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the agreement for extension of access to escrow funds relating to the Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center (SRFECC).

CONTACT PERSON: Dennis Smith, Interim Fire Chief 264-5268
Craig Watrous, Division Chief 228-3056

FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: December 14, 1999

SUMMARY:

The Sacramento Fire Department is a member agency in the Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center (SRFECC). SRFECC and the Member Agencies entered into a lease/purchase agreement for the purposes of upgrading facility and technology which provides Emergency 9-1-1 dispatching services to the residents of Sacramento City/County. The funds for this lease/purchase have been placed in an escrow account to access as portions of the project have been completed. The current agreement allows access to the escrow funds through December 24, 1999. Since completion of the project is not anticipated for approximately 14 more months, an amendment to agreement is being requested to extend access to the escrow funds.

BACKGROUND:

The Sacramento Fire Department started working with the Fire Districts to have a Joint Fire Communication Center in 1990. In July 1994, the JPA Board of Directors and the City Council approved the Sacramento Fire Department becoming a member agency of SRFECC.

An \$8.0 million lease/purchase agreement was entered into between G.E. Capital Public Finance and the SRFECC (and Member agencies) in February 1995. The lease/purchase agreement was for the purposes of completing a facility upgrade and remodel that included a new Public Research Sector (PRC), Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, a Records Management System (RMS), a Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) component, Emergency 9-1-1 telephone system, 800MHz radio equipment, and Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) systems with back-up generators. Repayment of this loan was amortized over seven (7) years. An "escrow" account was created that allowed access during a 30 month period ending August 1997.

Operational cut-over to a new Litton, Public Research Sector (PRC) COBOL computer aided dispatch (CAD) system occurred December 1995. The remaining portions of the program include the final acceptance of CAD, completion and acceptance of the RMS and AVL. Each project's completion, CAD acceptance, RMS conclusion and AVL are dependent upon the installation of an accurate geographical information systems map (GEOFile). The GEOFile cut over is scheduled to occur January 2000. The completion of the GEOFile is a component of CAD acceptance. Once completed, a 30 day reliability test begins. Upon successful completion, payment for the CAD portion is due.

The original escrow account allowed access to the funds through August 1997. In July 1997, via a resolution by the SRFECC Board, authorization was granted to extend the escrow period to access funds through February 1998. The First Amendment to the financing agreement occurred February 1998, this amendment extended the escrow access period 12 additional months through February 1999. The Second Amendment to the financing agreement extended the escrow access period to December 1999. A Third Amendment is being requested which will extend access to the escrow fund through February 2001. This allows for acceptance of the CAD system and work to be completed over the following 10 months on the RMS system.

A project time line was submitted to GE Capitol Public Finance as justification to extend the current escrow access period for 14 additional months. They have consented to that extension and have determined that no arbitrage situation exists. They are requiring approval of each member agency's governing body. By approving the extension, SRFECC will be able to meet the current terms of the contract.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The repayment of this loan is included in each member agencies' semi-annual member payment to SRFECC. The City of Sacramento Fire Department's current budget includes the semi-annual member payment to SRFECC. There will not be any additional funds required from the City of Sacramento to complete this transaction.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This report concerns the provision of financial assurances, which is not a project within the meaning of CEQA. The upgrade of the communications facility is the responsibility of the SRFECC, a separate public entity.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

This proposal is consistent with City Council priorities in that it maintains fiscal viability of City government through the partnerships of other public agencies.

ESBE EFFORTS:


At the time the original RFP was issued (1994), the MBE/WBE guidelines developed by the Board of the SRFECC were followed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dennis Smith
Interim Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:


ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager



RESOLUTION NO. 99-729

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT
TO THE AGREEMENT RELATING TO EXTENSION OF
ESCROW FUNDS FOR THE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL
FIRE/EMS COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO that:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute the Third Amendment to Lease Agreement, Sublease Agreements and Escrow Agreement relating to upgrades of the Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____