




April 6, 2020

To: Executive Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Signatory to the Orange County Operational Area Agreement

Overview

The Orange County Operational Area Agreement, initially approved in 1995 in response to the requirements by the State of California's Standardized Emergency Management System, provides a framework for Orange County jurisdictions to coordinate emergency management activities before, during and after a disaster. The Orange County Transportation Authority became a signatory to this agreement in 1996. Since that time, best practices and processes have changed, and the original agreement has been updated and is presented for Board of Directors' consideration.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the signatory agreement allowing Orange County Transportation Authority to participate in the Orange County Operational Area Agreement.

Background

Under the State of California's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), each county was required to establish an Operational Area (OA) and designate a lead agency for the OA. The Orange County OA Agreement, executed in 1995 fulfilled the County of Orange's obligation as the designated lead agency for the OA for emergency response within the county. The agreement consisted of local jurisdictions in Orange County and created an Emergency Operations Center with the County of Orange as the lead agency from which centralized emergency management could be performed, as required, in Title 19 California Code of Regulations Sections 2409(f)(1), (2),(3),(4),(5).

Discussion

In 2017, the OA Executive Board identified the need to update the OA Agreement to better reflect current best practices and update outdated information. Working as the lead agency for the effort, the Orange County Sheriff's Department Emergency Management Division formed a collaborative working group, which included a representative from the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), to complete a comprehensive review and revision of the document. This update was completed in late 2019, and a draft was represented to the OA Executive Board in February of 2020 for approval. Final approval by the County Board of Supervisors was on March 24, 2020. Changes included both structural and content which now represent current practices. These changes included adding OCTA's Chief Executive Officer to the OA Executive Board. This newly-added seat is in line with OCTA's historical support and participation in disasters and emergencies that occur in the OA.

OCTA has historically been a very active participant agency in emergency or disaster situations by providing transportation resources and staff expertise to county and local agencies when requested. OCTA employees have trained and participated in a variety of local emergency drills, exercises, and tests of different county and local agency emergency response plans. From this perspective, the updated Orange County OA Agreement standardizes and formalizes an already existing county system of mutual response and inter-agency aid in an emergency or a disaster.

Although participation by local jurisdictions in the OA Agreement is not mandatory, failure to participate may make it difficult for the local agency to receive state and federal funding for any emergency related costs incurred during an emergency or a disaster, since the purpose of Government Code Section 8607 (e) is to standardize the response and funding process through the use of the SEMS and OA Agreement.

Summary

OCTA's continued participation in the Orange County OA Agreement will further strengthen the excellent emergency response relationship with the County of Orange and local agencies by allowing staff to efficiently utilize transportation resources and expertise within the Orange County SEMS. A coordinated working group has updated the Orange County OA, including the addition of OCTA's Chief Executive Officer to the Executive Committee. Staff is seeking Board of Directors' authorization for the Chief Executive Officer to execute the signatory agreement for the OCTA's continued participation in the Orange County OA Agreement.

Attachment

- A. Orange County Operational Area Agreement of the County of Orange and Political Subdivisions, January 2020

Prepared by:



Katrina Faulkner
Manager, Security and Emergency
Preparedness
714-560-5719

Approved by:



Jennifer L. Bergener
Chief Operating Officer, Operations/
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
714-560-5637