



Agenda Date: 6/6/2006
Agenda Placement: 6Z

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Britt Ferguson for Nancy Watt - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office
REPORT BY: Neal T. O'Haire, Emergency Services Manager, 253-4257
SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Napa County Office of Education Planning Grant application

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer requests authorization to sign a letter of support on behalf of the County as a requirement of the Napa County Office of Education (NCOE) grant application to the U. S. Department of Education which will allow NCOE to continue developing additional phases of the comprehensive Countywide School Emergency Services Plan and Program which began in 2005.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Napa County Office of Education (NCOE) was awarded a \$600,000 Emergency Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) in 2005. As part of the application process, they were required to obtain signatures of local officials demonstrating their support for the grant and planning process. These signatures included the Napa County Sheriff, County Executive Officer, Director of Health and Human Services and the County Emergency Services Manager.

NCOE is once again applying for additional grant funds from USDOE in order to continue with additional phases of their Comprehensive School Emergency Services Plan and Program. The grant requires NCOE to obtain letters of support from various local official to demonstrate their support of the ongoing plan to sustain and improve school emergency and disaster planning for all schools in Napa County.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Napa County Office of Education (NCOE) was awarded a grant for \$600,000 from the U.S. Department of Education in the fall of 2005 to develop a countywide school emergency services system. The grant allowed all districts and schools to work on updating their emergency and disaster procedures to: Better protect students and staff in times of disaster, safeguard school facilities and property, standardize the release of students from school facilities in order to maintain safety and accountability, and to shelter and safeguard students who cannot be released. The end products of that grant includes a countywide plan, district annexes and school plan boiler plates applicable to elementary, middle and high schools throughout the County. The planning documents are being developed with staff assistance of subject matter experts from the County staff in accordance with both the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

NCOE is now applying for additional grant funds being made available by the USDOE to continue with this project. If awarded, these funds will be used primarily to focus on preparing schools to deal with pandemic situations, and, to a lesser extent, to provide planning for students and staff with disabilities and/or special needs.

In order to be considered for this grant, a letter of support signed by the County Executive Officer on behalf of the County of Napa is required. This letter confirms the County's commitment to support NCOE's efforts to improve school emergency and disaster planning for all schools within Napa County. Specific County departments may collaborate with NCOE to develop various aspects of the plans.

It is anticipated that the Office of Education will continue to use the expertise of County Emergency Management, Fire, Safety and Law to assist them in the creation of plans and protocols, training as well as the development and delivery of an emergency exercise program. The result of this planning process benefits all the agencies of Napa County and it is in our best interest to see this succeed and continue.

The net result of this program will be a program of emergency planning, training and exercises that will elevate school system readiness throughout the County and address the concerns expressed in past civil grand jury reports. The County will commit to assist them as outlined above in ensuring that their plans are compatible with the County's plans, meet the requirements of SEMS and NIMS, and are realistically trained and exercised within and among the various school districts.

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the County Executive Officer to execute the letter of support on behalf of the County of Napa and forward the letter to NCOE for inclusion in their grant application package.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . Letter of Support from Napa County
- B . Commitment to School Emergency & Disaster Planning

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Britt Ferguson