

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**San Mateo & Santa Cruz Unit**

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June 23, 2006

Board Members of the Half Moon Bay Fire Protection District
Board Members of the Point Montara Fire Protection District

Vern Hamilton, Interim Fire Chief
1191 Main Street
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Chief Hamilton,

I am pleased to provide you with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's response to your Request For Proposals of May 2, 2006. Let me thank you, again, for allowing us the additional few days to amend our documents to reflect the proposed budgets (for Half Moon Bay and Point Montara) information that you provided to us on the 14th.

CDF has an extensive history of entering into cooperative fire protection agreements with a host of counties, cities, and special districts throughout the State. Each of these programs is designed to enhance the emergency service efforts of both agencies. In the case of local government, these arrangements provide an economical means of supplying trained and professional personnel to fulfill the service level requirements set by the local governing board. California gets the benefit of assuring that there are adequate resources to protect life and property in all areas of the state. Yet, each function can remain separate and distinct and the communities served can continue to identify with their local emergency service provider.

Please remember that CDF provides the number and classification of personnel established by the Board and this response contains provisions for the continued employment of **all** current HMBFD staff as requested. HMBFD would continue to be responsible for determining the level and types of service provided, and, of course, the appropriate funding for those services. Additionally, the Board would continue to provide direction to the District's staff as well as approving programs and policies specific to the District.

Of course, this is a complex issue which makes our response appear complicated too. To provide some clarification we have provided additional information that describes our cooperative agreements as well as CDF and its programs. Please allow me to briefly describe what is contained behind the following tabs:

Tab 1 is our response that meets the criteria of your request.

Tab 2 is the supporting fiscal documentation for our response.

Tab 3 includes CDF's current compensation rates.

Tab 4 contains a variety of information and fact sheets.

Tab 5 contains information specific to our Unit's Training Battalion and programs that it offers to our career and volunteer firefighting staffs.

Tab 6 is a copy of the San Mateo County Fire Safe Council Annual Report

Tab 7 is a blank copy of a CDF Cooperative Agreement and a description of the agreement process. It also has some frequently asked questions about contracting with CDF and a brief description of the Local Government Fire Protection program.

Tab 8 is a copy of the current contract with Bargaining Unit 8, CDF Fire Fighters (CDFFF) IAFF Local 2881.

Initiating and finalizing cooperative agreements may take several months. Additionally, it takes some effort to transition employee's benefits, seniority, sick leave and other credits, PERS enrollment, and to determine employee's level of training and qualifications. If selected as the successful Fire Service provider, and soon after receiving a formal "Letter of Intent" from the District, CDF will assign a team of Department staff from the local Unit and our Sacramento Headquarters as well as our employee's Bargaining Unit to facilitate the process. We would expect HMBFD administrative staff and employee representatives to be included on this team. During this interim period, we suggest that we instate a qualified CDF Chief Officer in HMBFD to begin reviewing existing policies, procedures, and processes that may affect operations and to help guide the transition team.

I expect that you and the Half Moon Bay FPD Board and employees will have a multitude of questions about this proposal and CDF in general and I gladly volunteer to make any presentations that you think may be helpful. As complex as the decision is and as intricate the process, I believe that the effort would be worthwhile and benefit the communities of Half Moon Bay and Point Montara.

Please contact me with questions or concerns that you may have in this regard.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John E. Ferreira", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John E. Ferreira, Chief
CDF – San Mateo & Santa Cruz Unit
San Mateo County Fire

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