



To: Bay Area UASI Approval Authority

From: Srijesh Thapa, Regional Project Manager

Date: November 13, 2014

Re: Item 5: Public Information and Warning Project Update

Staff Recommendation:

None.

Action or Discussion Item:

Discussion and possible action.

Summary

On August 14, 2014, the Bay Area UASI Management Team requested approval from the Approval Authority to reallocate \$400,000 from unspent FY11 and FY12 grant funds to address Public Information and Warning capabilities in the Bay Area region. The Public Information and Warning capability is currently ranked fourth highest in terms of risk and gap for the Bay Area region. Stakeholders also suggested that there was considerable need and interest to improve capability in the public warning arena.

Based on consultation and inputs from stakeholders, the Management Team recommended funding the following areas to address the Public Information and Warning Core Capability gaps in the Bay Area:

- First-time purchase of notification software
- Notification software upgrades to improve functionality and/or to gain Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) or Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) compliance
- Training, outreach, and exercise on notification and messaging
- “JIC (Joint Information Center) in the box” equipment for EOCs/DOCs

Consistent with representation on the Approval Authority, the UASI Management Team recommended allocation for the \$400,000 as follows:

Operational Area(s)	Allocation
Alameda	\$ 50,000
Contra Costa	\$ 50,000

Marin	\$ 50,000
Monterey-Santa Cruz-San Benito	\$ 50,000
San Francisco	\$ 50,000
San Mateo	\$ 50,000
Santa Clara	\$ 50,000
Sonoma-Napa-Solano	\$ 50,000
TOTAL	\$400,000

The allocation spending deadline would be December 31, 2014 and the allocation spending decisions of Operational Areas would be due October 15, 2014.

The Approval Authority approved the Management Team’s recommendations and requested the formation of a Public Information and Warning Working Group to be formed with Bay Area stakeholders to provide input throughout the project’s lifespan.

Discussion Item:

As part of the project effort, outreach was conducted with Operational Areas to discuss and determine their decisions to invest their allocated funds for Public Information and Warning projects. Additionally, a Bay Area Public Information and Warning Working Group was established and comprised primarily of Emergency Services Managers from Operational Areas and Core Cities.

A Public Information and Warning Informational Workshop and Working Group meeting was held on October 8th between 1-3 pm, which was attended by most Operational Areas and Core City representatives. The Informational Workshop component of the meeting presented and discussed UASI initiatives to support Public Information and Warning efforts in the region, key elements of the 2012-2017 Bay Area Public Information and Warning Strategic Plan, highlights of a regionalized Mass Notification System concept, overviews of CAP, IPAWS, and JIC in the boxes, and also showcased Contra Costa County’s Community Warning System. The Working Group meeting component focused on Operational Area decisions to invest the \$400,000 allocation for Public Information and Warning Projects, and FY15 UASI grant funding proposal ideas for Public Information and Warning projects.

Based on strong feedback from stakeholders regarding concerns with the short and challenging timeline to meaningfully spend the \$400,000 allocations, the UASI Management Team made the decision to extend the timeline to spend the allocated funds to December 31, 2015. This decision was also informed by the increased interest and momentum to consider implementing a Regional Mass Notification System concept, and the need to support that initiative.

A follow-up Bay Area Public Information and Warning Working Group meeting was held on October 23rd, 11am -12pm, focusing on the Regional Mass Notification Concept, FY15 UASI Public Information and Warning grant funding proposals considerations, and the status of Operational Area decisions to invest the \$400,000 allocation for Public Information and Warning projects.

Currently, the Operational Area decisions to invest their respective allocations are as follows:

OA	Hub	Allocation	Decision
Alameda	East Bay	\$50K	Upgrade JIC and/or procure JIC in the Boxes
Contra Costa	East Bay	\$50K	Invest in community outreach for Community Warning System
San Francisco	West Bay	\$50K	Upgrade JIC
San Mateo	West Bay	\$50K	Possibly invest in new Mass Notification System
Marin	North Bay	\$50K	Possibly invest in new Mass Notification System
Sonoma	North Bay	\$50K	Possibly invest in new Mass Notification System
Napa	North Bay		Possibly invest in new Mass Notification System
Solano	North Bay		Enhance existing Mass Notification System/Invest in Earthquake Early Warning Capability (UC Berkeley software)
Santa Clara	South Bay	\$50K	Pending
Monterey	South Bay	\$50K	JIC in the Boxes
Santa Cruz	South Bay		JIC in the Boxes
San Benito	South Bay		JIC in the Boxes