



To: Bay Area UASI Approval Authority

From: Amiee Alden, Executive Assistant for Policy and Legislation

Date: May 10, 2012

RE: Item #10: Ad Hoc Legislative Committee Status Update

Recommendation:

This item is only for discussion.

Action and Discussion Item:

Discussion Only

Background:

The UASI Approval Authority voted at its March 8, 2012 meeting to create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Legislation, whose purpose is to review state and federal legislative and regulatory issues and advise the Approval Authority on recommended actions. The Subcommittee is authorized to meet through the end of 2012. Subcommittee members include Renee Domingo, Anne Kronenberg, and Chris Godley, with staff support from Amiee Alden at the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management.

The Subcommittee held its first meeting on April 12, 2012, immediately following the regular Approval Authority meeting. All members were present, and Renee Domingo was elected as Subcommittee Chair.

Discussion/Description:

The Subcommittee discussed concerns with FEMA's proposed National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP), which would eliminate the UASI grant program in favor of consolidating most homeland security grants into a block grant to states. Specific concerns include:

- Loss of regional collaboration
- Competitive selection pitting cities and counties against each other
- Peer review process leading to decisions made on local projects by people not familiar with local priorities and challenges, rather than by subject matter experts.

The House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications held a hearing on FEMA's proposal on April 26. While the National Governor's Association spoke in favor of the NPGP, many local jurisdictions were opposed.



The UASI Subcommittee on Legislation is drafting a letter to the House Subcommittee chairman, Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) from the Mayors of San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose, outlining the Bay Area’s concern about the NPGP, and specifically the elimination of the UASI grant.

Action Requested of the UASI Approval Authority

No action requested at this time.