



Edwin M. Lee  
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Anne Kronenberg  
Executive Director

February 1, 2017

Honorable Malia Cohen  
Chair, Budget & Finance Committee  
and Members  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Dear Supervisor Cohen:

The City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) is the steward of the Bay Area's homeland security grant funds and through our leadership and collaborative approach, I believe we have made the San Francisco Bay Area a more prepared and resilient community. The 12 counties that make up the San Francisco Bay Area Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) region have entrusted the fiscal management and oversight of these funds to CCSF as fiscal agent not only for our leadership and commitment to collaboration, but also because we have the capability and capacity to manage the complex accounting processes and grant compliance requirements associated with the numerous grants the Bay Area receives from the State of California and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. It also is practical for us to be the fiscal agent because CCSF receives the highest allocation of the grant funds because we have the highest risk. We also receive five percent of the grant to fund the costs associated with its management.

As part of our responsibility to manage these funds, we must provide the State of California Office of Emergency Services a CCSF Governing Body Resolution to Apply for 2017 Homeland Security Grants by February 17, 2017. These funds are used throughout the Bay Area for personnel, programs, projects, and equipment dedicated to making our communities prepared and resilient. In San Francisco we invest our allocation in the following ways:

- **Staffing:** 39 city employees responsible for planning for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies. These are the people that help find care and shelter for residents displaced by fire and floods, manage incoming resources following a disaster, and send alerts and warnings to the public.

- **Emergency Planning:** Development of emergency plans for all hazards including earthquakes, tsunamis, public health emergencies, extreme weather, and man-made disasters. These plans are required in order to receive state and federal reimbursements following a declared emergency and must be maintained and updated.
- **Training and Exercise:** Investment in this area allows us to practice our plans and how we work together during an emergency. Examples include a Community Point of Distribution (C-POD) exercise conducted last year where we tested our ability to deliver and distribute life sustaining supplies to the public following catastrophic earthquake.
- **Community Preparedness:** San Francisco's Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams (NERT) and nationally recognized SF72 personal preparedness program are supported by homeland security and emergency preparedness grants. The NERT program provides free training to residents so they can take care of themselves, their family, and their community during an emergency. Last year, more than 10,000 people used SF72 as resource to develop their personal emergency plan.

As you know, this resolution was presented to the Budget and Finance Committee last Wednesday and it was voted to be continued during the next meeting taking place Thursday, February 2, 2017 due to public concerns regarding Alameda County's first responder and emergency management exercise Urban Shield. You heard from a number of concerned individuals requesting CCSF exclude funding Urban Shield with homeland security grants. As you may know earlier this month the Alameda County Board of Supervisors conducted a hearing to consider these same public concerns while deciding whether to continue the agreement to manage the Bay Area UASI training and exercise program, which includes Urban Shield. Over the course of many hours, the Board intently listened to each public commenter and ultimately voted unanimously to continue the agreement. The Alameda Board also voted to create a task force comprised of representatives from various public and community organizations (including two members of the Stop Urban Shield Coalition) to study the design and execution of Urban Shield. This fall, the task force will present to the Alameda Board of Supervisors its recommendations to continue or discontinue Urban Shield in 2018.

I look forward to hearing the recommendations of this task force and in the meantime I urge you to approve the governing body resolution to allow us to apply for these critical emergency preparedness and homeland security grants.

Sincerely,



Anne Kronenberg  
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Katy Tang  
Honorable Norman Yee  
Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board