



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

City of Anaheim PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

DATE: MAY 14, 2019

FROM: PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, UC SAN DIEGO, AND SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT AND ACCESS TO A REGIONAL NETWORK OF FIRE CAMERAS FOR WILDFIRE MONITORING

ATTACHMENT (Y/N): YES ITEM # 12

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council, by Motion:

- 1) Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among The Regents of the University of California (UC), UC San Diego, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, a UC campus (UCSD-Scripps), and the City of Anaheim (City) for UCSD-Scripps to utilize City facilities to provide camera equipment, installation, and access to a regional network of fire cameras for the purpose of potential fire monitoring in the City; and
- 2) Authorize and direct the Public Utilities General Manager or designee, on behalf of the City, to execute the MOU and any other related documents and take any and all actions as are necessary, required, or advisable to fund, implement, and administer the MOU.

DISCUSSION:

The Public Utilities Board recommended that the City Council approve these actions at its meeting of March 27, 2019.

Wildfires in the State of California have caused loss of lives, significant destruction of properties, and have overextended firefighting resources. It is a top priority statewide, as the Governor issued a call for action as outlined in his “Wildfires and Climate Change: California’s Energy Future” report, delineating steps to prepare for and fight wildfires. The City of Anaheim has experienced several wildfires, most recently from the Canyon Fire 2 in 2017 that damaged 25 homes and burned over 9,000 acres. In order to mitigate fires, utilities across California have been investing in technologies and tools to harden infrastructure and help first responders identify ignition points more quickly.

The Anaheim Fire & Rescue Department (AFR) and the Public Utilities Department (Public Utilities) jointly evaluated a regional network of fire cameras that is being deployed in High Fire Threat Zones (HFTZ) to provide high resolution video, infrared capabilities, and the ability to zoom into areas to more quickly identify ignition points. Because wildfires spread rapidly in windy conditions, the ability to recognize and respond expeditiously can make a significant difference in saving lives and properties.

Due to the potential for wildfires that may be directly or indirectly caused by overhead power lines, Public Utilities has been deploying strategies to mitigate the potential risks. As part of its Utilities Wildfire Mitigation Plan that was approved by City Council on August 28, 2018, Public Utilities has proactively de-energized a backup circuit that is located near the Oak Canyon Nature Center without impacting customers, enhanced vegetation management and inspection of overhead facilities, and conducted community outreach to residents near HFTZ areas. Having the additional ability to monitor potential wildfire conditions will allow Public Utilities to deploy electric and water field resources and improve situational awareness, for example, to monitor areas where water pressure is needed for firefighting.

AFR and the Public Utilities are recommending a partnership with UCSD-Scripps to become part of their regional network of fire cameras to include locations in the City, which would become part of a larger regional system that spans from San Diego and Orange County, and further north to Central California, and into Nevada. This regional network, owned and managed by UCSD-Scripps, will provide City personnel with the ability to view camera images, and provide additional capabilities to AFR through authenticated authorization and encrypted password protection, to remotely control the cameras and more quickly verify an ignition while environmental conditions are being monitored in real time. AFR can more quickly validate 911 calls reporting a fire by first using the cameras and then deploy the necessary resources based on the visual information.

The first four locations will include two high resolution cameras each, and will be provided to the City at no cost. The cameras will have Panoramic-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) with infrared capabilities. To protect privacy, UCSD-Scripps has incorporated software that will have visual blocking, a technique where the pixels are blurred so that the resolution of structures is limited. A joint field evaluation took place in December 2018 between AFR, Public Utilities, and UCSD-Scripps staff. The first four camera locations have been identified and are shown in the MOU as Exhibit A - Southern California Region Fire Camera Network. The MOU is structured to allow for the addition of cameras in the future depending on the results and experience gained through the initial installations.

UCSD-Scripps has similar agreements with other utilities including Southern California Edison (SCE) and San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) who already have cameras deployed in their respective service territories. Agreements are also in place with other public agencies including the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and CAL-FIRE. The network data is viewable via an online portal to the general public; however, control capabilities are limited to first responders. The data from the cameras is the property of UCSD-Scripps, and will be available to the City to support further analysis and review.

The cameras are being supplied to the City and installed on City facilities by UCSD-Scripps through state funding. Additional cameras may be supplied and installed at no cost to the City; however, this is subject to available funding. Public Utilities' scope of work includes providing suitable locations that have high speed communications, physical security provisions, backup power generation, and providing ongoing maintenance of the cameras. Weather-monitoring equipment will be provided by Public Utilities and installed at each site, with the weather data made available through the UCSD-Scripps network. Public Utilities estimates the associated costs to provide the weather stations and related installation will be approximately \$5,000 per location.

The effective date of the MOU would be June 1, 2019, and remain in effect through September 30, 2021. Should the network of fire cameras prove useful, the MOU may be extended and additional cameras added at additional locations if the parties mutually agree.

IMPACT ON THE BUDGET:

The City will receive the camera equipment and installation at no cost through UCSD-Scripps. Sufficient funds to purchase and install the weather-monitoring equipment and maintain the cameras are included in the Public Utilities Department FY 2018/19 Electric Utility Fund budget, with funding for subsequent years subject to City Council approval of budget appropriations.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurred by,

Dukku Lee
Public Utilities General Manager

Patrick Russell
Interim Fire Chief

Attachment:

1. Memorandum of Understanding Among The Regents of the University of California, UC San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and the City of Anaheim