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Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Bruce Moe, Finance Director

DATE: January 4, 2005

SUBJECT: Appropriation and Authorization to Spend Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Funds Received by the City With the South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority (\$76,855)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council appropriate \$76,855 of FEMA grant funds from the General Fund and authorize the expenditure of these funds with the South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority (RCC).

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no fiscal implications associated with the recommended action. The City is serving as a pass through for grant funds intended for use by the RCC. The \$76,855 in grant funds was deposited in the City's bank account by FEMA, and will now be expended with the RCC in order to carryout the grant which benefits public safety communications for the RCC's member cities and clients.

BACKGROUND:

In 2003, the RCC applied for and received grant funding from FEMA for several equipment items intended to improve regional communications. The items, which include radios, antennae and computer equipment, will improve communications and interoperability among the public safety departments who are a part of the RCC as well as with surrounding jurisdictions. This plan is supported by all member/client agencies in the RCC, and will provide seamless communications between the RCC cities and surrounding agencies for improved emergency response.

DISCUSSION:

Due to the nature of the request (Homeland Security), the grant application was filed by the Manhattan Beach Fire Department on behalf of the RCC. Procedurally, in order to meet FEMA guidelines and audit requirements (since the City is considered the grantee), the funds need to be received and expended by the City of Manhattan Beach, even though much of the work is being coordinated and completed by the RCC on behalf of all member/client cities. In order to do that, we must:

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1. appropriate the grant funds which were deposited in the City's General Fund (\$76,855);
2. obtain Council approval to expend the funds since the expense exceeds \$20,000.

If approved, the RCC will invoice the City, and the City will cut a check to the RCC for the funds expended. The City is acting as a conduit to the grant funds and is not expending any of our own funds in this effort.

cc: Ralph Mailloux, RCC