



MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Michael T. Martinez, Chief of Police

BY: Zak Ayala, Commander

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding with the San Luis Obispo County Regional Special Weapons and Tactics Team

DATE: July 23, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Adopt the Resolution authorizing the Chief of Police to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to participate in the San Luis Obispo County Regional Special Weapons and Tactics Team; and
- 2) Find that approving the Memorandum of Understanding is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because it has no potential to result in either a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378.)

IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

No financial impact is projected. Expenses to support the Police Department Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team members and equipment are already allocated and included in the FY 2024-25 Police Department's budget.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2008, the Cities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, and San Luis Obispo along with California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo and California State Parks (the "Participating Agencies") have operated a Regional SWAT Team under a previously signed agreement. The Regional SWAT Team utilizes special tactics and equipment to manage and resolve critical incidents involving armed or barricaded suspects, hostages, and high-risk warrant services or incidents that are high risk and so hazardous, complex, or unusual they may exceed the capabilities of first responders or investigative units in their respective jurisdictions.

In January 2024, the Regional SWAT Team Governing Board, comprised of the head law enforcement officer of the respective participating agencies reviewed the previous agreement and prepared a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with updated

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information. The MOU updates included additional language in the categories under Purpose, Term, Agency Responsibilities, Agency Budgeting, and Indemnification. The MOU has been reviewed by each agency's legal counsel as to form.

The term of the MOU will be until June 30, 2029; however, the MOU allows the participating agencies to automatically renew the MOU for three successive five-year increments as long as no substantive changes are needed.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

The City of Arroyo Grande currently participates in a joint Regional SWAT Team comprised of six local law enforcement agencies.

The Participating Agencies recognize that response to critical incidents can be enhanced by combining police personnel with specialized training and expertise into a Regional SWAT Team that is available for response to any of the Participating Agencies and in accordance with the terms and conditions defined in the Memorandum of Agreement.

ALTERNATIVES:

The following alternatives are provided for the Council's consideration:

1. Authorize the Chief of Police to sign an updated Memorandum of Understanding for the City's participation in the San Luis Obispo County Regional Special Weapons and Tactics Team (Regional SWAT Team);
2. Do not authorize the Chief of Police to sign an updated Memorandum of Understanding; or
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

ADVANTAGES:

Signing the updated Memorandum of Understanding will establish defined roles and responsibilities for participating agencies in the Regional SWAT Team.

DISADVANTAGES:

Non-approval will result in the Police Department being unable to be represented with the Regional SWAT Team.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Approving the Memorandum of Understanding is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because it has no potential to result in either a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378.)

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTS:

The Agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Regional SWAT Team Resolution
2. Regional SWAT Team Memorandum of Understanding