

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE CITY OF GREENFIELD
AND THE GREENFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
TO EVALUATE AND PROVIDE EMERGENCY MUNICIPAL SUPPLEMENTAL
FUNDS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF FIRE RESCUE SERVICE IN THE
CITY OF GREENFIELD**

THIS MEMORADUM OF UNDERSTANDING is entered into as of _____ between the City of Greenfield, a California Municipal Corporation (the CITY) and the Greenfield Fire Protection District (the DISTRICT) for the purpose to consider the dissolution of the Greenfield Fire Protection District, the creation of a new jurisdiction or the City assuming management responsibility for the operation and administration of its Fire and EMS Services.

WHEREAS the District has applied for a Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant from the US Department of Homeland Security, and

WHEREAS the goal of the SAFER GRANT is to assist local fire departments improve and restore staffing and deployment capabilities so they may more effectively and safely respond to emergencies; improve ability of the fire departments to assemble a sufficient number of firefighters at a structure fire in compliance with NFPA 1710 and 1720; assist fire departments; ensure that all first-arriving apparatus are staffed with a minimum of four qualified personnel who are capable of initiating the suppression response, and to improve firefighter safety by meeting minimum staffing guidelines, and

WHEREAS the District has a structural deficit as a result of California State law and the existing fire protection agreement with the community in which the City of Greenfield is under no legal obligation to pay a fair share of the District fire expenses; and

WHEREAS the State of California has eliminated redevelopment agencies, restructured debt and revenue obligations to special districts and reduced a variety of fees paid to local government while at the same time diverting money to State coffers in an effort to curtail massive spending deficits at the State level during the recession; and

WHEREAS Monterey County manages Public Safety Sales Tax Prop 172 funds and has regularly redirected funds earmarked for special districts for other government programs to balance its own budget which has led to a significant loss of revenue to all special districts; and

WHEREAS the Department is only able to respond to its first due response area for less than 19% of the time given its current staffing levels and unable to meet the NFPA 1710 assembly requirements; and

WHEREAS the District Board has committed to retaining current firefighters to ensure the safety of the community beyond the expiration of this grant; and

WHEREAS the District has performed a staffing analysis and analyzed ISO ratings data and determined that the loss of these firefighter positions will significantly downgrade the community ISO rating; and

WHEREAS the safety of the community will be compromised by the inability to deploy sufficient firefighters on the scene of a structure fire or other major emergency which will render the District improperly dependent on automatic and mutual aid units from surrounding jurisdictions whom are also experiencing similar staffing shortages; and

WHEREAS receiving SAFER GRANT funds will ensure no delays in beginning SAR or fire suppression, the avoidance of injuries to firefighters, faster clearing of human occupancy and initial knockdown efforts, less property damage losses, compliance with OSHA 2-in/2-out requirements, ISO compliance with manpower requirements, NFPA 1720 compliance on responding to emergency calls 90% of the time, and the reallocation of resources for recruiting, training and hiring critical reserve Firefighters; and

WHEREAS an independent consultant conducted a Fire Reorganization Study and has recommended that the City detaches from the District and establishes a City Fire Department and the remainder District contracts with City for fire protection services in unincorporated service area; and

WHEREAS an independent consultant has found that absent award of another two-year Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) staffing grant or other significant stable revenue source by November 2016, substantial expenditure reductions will be required to achieve a balanced budget; such expenditure reductions would most likely involve a reduced daily staffing level; and

WHEREAS an independent consultant has found that overall Fire District expenditures over the current and preceding five fiscal years have exceeded revenues for the same period by more than \$125,000; and

WHEREAS an independent consultant has found that personnel costs constitute approximately 81 percent of the Fire District's current fiscal year budget and that District employee compensation and benefits are significantly below that of other local fire agencies resulting in four of the District's six employees leaving for better-paying jobs resulting in a loss of local response area knowledge, emergency response experience, and supervisory experience.

NOW THEREFORE, the DISTRICT and the CITY agree to cooperatively take the following actions

1. The District will continue its efforts to secure a SAFER GRANT to assist in improving and restoring staffing and deployment capabilities so that the District may more effectively and safely respond to emergencies, improve its ability to assemble a sufficient number of firefighters at a structure fire in compliance with NFPA 1710 and 1720 and improve firefighter safety by meeting minimum staffing guidelines.

2. The District will take all necessary steps to properly administer its operational budget to ensure that current resources and funds are used to maintain existing service levels and maintain the quality of its existing capital assets.
3. The City will designate \$125,000 for use by the District to fund any operating shortfall in the event that the District is unsuccessful in its SAFER GRANT.
4. The City and District will begin negotiations regarding the allocation of District assets if Greenfield residents approve a special revenue measure to properly fund Fire and EMS service and effectuate the reorganization of the Fire District and establishment of a Fire Department.

Both the DISTRICT and the CITY enter into this agreement for the exclusive purpose of ensuring that all city and county residents currently located within the DISTRICT continue to receive improved Fire and Emergency Services to safeguard the lives and property of the community.

Roy Morris,
President
Greenfield Fire Protection District

Susan A. Stanton, ICMA-CM
City Manager
City of Greenfield

ATTEST

Ann Rathbun
City Clerk

APPROVED TO FORM

Jennifer Fought
City Attorney