



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 28, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
Submitted by: David Sprague, Fire Chief
Subject: Contract: Swifthawk Consulting, LLC to Serve as the Alameda County Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution:

1. Authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute a contract with Swifthawk Consulting, LLC, to serve as the Alameda County Coordinator for coordination with local agencies, fire safe councils, and wildfire mitigation community groups for the initial period, August 1, 2026, through December 30, 2029, with two (2) one (1) year extensions, in a total amount not to exceed \$1 million based on incoming grant funds from the California Fire Safe Council; and
2. Authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute any amendments for not more than \$225,000 per year in Fiscal Year (FY) 30 and 31, upon receiving additional California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) awards in order to continue the contract.
3. To apply for and receive future grant awards to maintain the Alameda County Coordinator position through 2031.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding for this contract is provided by the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) County Coordinator Grant Program for FY 2025–2026 through the One-Time Grant Fund .

As there are no matching funds required, there is no impact on the City's General Fund.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Alameda County faces persistent and significant wildfire risk, particularly in wildland-urban interface areas such as the Berkeley, Oakland, Livermore, Pleasanton, Fremont, and Hayward hills. Recent years have seen increased wildfire activity across California, highlighting the need for coordinated, countywide mitigation and preparedness efforts. While the region is home to numerous active wildfire mitigation groups and agencies, these efforts have historically been fragmented, with limited formal collaboration or shared strategic planning.

The California Fire Safe Council funds county coordinator positions, and Alameda County is one of six counties that did not have a Coordinator position prior to FY25. The position is now housed within the Berkeley Fire Department and actively coordinates and collaborates with county-wide community groups, fire councils, HOAs, and other mitigation support groups.

This initiative directly supports the City's strategic goals to:

- Create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.
- Provide efficient and effective government services.
- Champion and demonstrate social and racial equity by protecting the most vulnerable communities from wildfire risk.
- Advance environmental justice and protect the environment through proactive hazard mitigation planning.

BACKGROUND

The County Coordinator program, funded by the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC), is designed to address the need for countywide collaboration and strategic alignment. The Coordinator will serve as a central point of contact, connecting wildfire mitigation groups, supporting grant applications, and facilitating the use of advanced planning tools such as the pathways analysis. The Coordinator will also be responsible for fulfilling specific grant deliverables and building regional capacity while developing a sustainable framework for ongoing collaboration.

The Alameda County Coordinator would perform work that does not fall within the scope of work of existing job classifications, and therefore this contract is not subject to the notice requirements of AB 339.

The City of Berkeley issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) Specification No. 25-11738-C to contract with an individual that will serve as the Alameda County Coordinator. The

deadline for proposal submissions was June 23, 2026, and only one proposal was received. The selection committee reviewed the proposals and interviewed bidders on June 24, 2026, making their final selection on June 25, 2026.

Swifthawk Consulting, LLC will work in partnership with all Alameda County jurisdictions to complete the required deliverables as set forth by the grantor and develop a work plan to further coordinate wildfire mitigation activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Ensuring the Department is maximizing available resources and working with other county coordinators to collaborate on regional mitigation activities will help sustain the local environment and mitigate the potential of fire, mudslides, and other catastrophic impacts associated with the overgrowth of vegetation and loss of habitat post-wildfire.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Swifthawk Consulting, LLC is uniquely qualified to coordinate countywide wildfire mitigation efforts, having demonstrated expertise in wildfire planning, grant administration, and stakeholder engagement. This contract ensures continuity of critical wildfire resilience work and positions the City and County to secure future funding.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Shanalee Gallagher, Principal Program Manager, Fire Department (510) 981-3473

Attachment

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT: SWIFTHAWK CONSULTING, LLC TO SERVE AS THE ALAMEDA
COUNTY COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley and Alameda County have prioritized wildfire mitigation and resilience; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County Board of Supervisors provided City of Berkeley support to apply for and manage a county-wide position; and

WHEREAS, the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) County Coordinator Grant Program provides funding to support countywide wildfire mitigation coordination; and

WHEREAS, Swifthawk Consulting, LLC has been selected and is qualified to serve as County Coordinator, facilitating partnerships, ensuring deliverables, and securing future grant funding.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or designee shall be authorized to execute a contract with Swifthawk Consulting, LLC to serve as the Alameda County Coordinator for coordination with local agencies, fire safe councils, and wildfire mitigation community groups for the initial period, August 1, 2026, through December 30, 2029, with two (2) one (1) year extensions, in a total amount not to exceed \$1 million based on incoming grant funds from the California Fire Safe Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or designee shall be authorized to execute any amendments for not more than \$225,000 per year in Fiscal Year (FY) 30 and 31, upon receiving additional California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) awards in order to continue the contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or designee be authorized to apply for and receive future grant awards to maintain the Alameda County Coordinator position through 2031.