



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** January 03, 2023  
**TO:** City Council Members  
**FROM:** Aimee New, Fire Chief  
**SUBJECT:** Ratify Cooperative Fire Programs and Fire Protection Reimbursement Agreement between the Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians and the City of Sonora

---

## RECOMMENDATION

Ratify Cooperative Fire Programs and Fire Protection Reimbursement Agreement between the Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians and the City of Sonora.

## DISCUSSION

The Sonora City Council authorized the City's intent to negotiate an Agreement for fire services with the Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians on November 15, 2021. Over the past year, City Staff has been negotiating a cooperative Fire Programs and Fire Protection Reimbursement Agreement with Tribal Leadership. Through this Agreement, the City of Sonora will provide Fire Department personnel for the Tribe's future fire station located on Trust Land on Nelson Rd in Jamestown. The service area, Trust Land, covered by the future station is outlined and identified in EXHIBIT A of the Agreement. Construction of the future station is expected to be completed by the Tribe in 2023-2024. The Tribe will maintain all facilities and equipment.

The City, under this agreement, will be expected to:

- Supply personnel necessary to provide wild land and structural fire protection, rescue, first aid, and other emergency response services, and other fire protection, prevention and suppression services.

- Make initial emergency medical incident responses with respect to patrons and tribal employees located at the Chicken Ranch Casino/Hotel Buildings.

- Conduct inspection of the Tribe properties within the Service Area to ensure compliance with applicable fire codes; and

- Assist the Tribe in selecting an appropriate and duly qualified vendor for the repair and maintenance of fire extinguishers, fire alarms, and fire suppression systems.

City Staff anticipates being fully staffed and operational by FY 2023-2024. The City will recruit for a total of nine (9) Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions under the Agreement. Positions include: 3 three (3) FTE Captains, three FTE (3) Fire Engineers, and three (3) FTE Firefighters. The Term of this commitment is three (3) years. This item has been supported by the Association representing fire personnel.

City Staff believes a partnership with the Tribe will provide a substantial emergency response resource for the entire Region. The ultimate goal of the facility is to provide emergency response resources for the Tribal community, but also serve as a regional facility that will provide support to the surrounding areas.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There will be no impact to the general fund to increase fire personnel to provide a cooperative fire program and fire protection as outlined in the Reimbursement Agreement. All personnel cost increases will be offset by reimbursement to the City of Sonora from the Tribe. In addition, the Tribe will have a cost share of the Fire Chief's annual total compensation and a ten percent administrative fee to cover hiring and additional expenses.

This item has been reviewed by Legal Council and the Central San Joaquin Valley Risk Management Authority (CSJVRMA).

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Cooperative Agreement
- TC Resolution
- GC Resolution