

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**ITEM: 3.11
(ID # 28158)**

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, June 24, 2025


FROM : EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT: Approval of FY25 Year-End Clean-Up Report and Request for General Fund Support, All Districts. [\$634,667- General Fund Contingency 100%]. (4/5 Vote Required)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and File the FY24 Unbudgeted Incident Response Report and Approve the Increase in Appropriations and Revenue using General Fund Contingency to cover the expenditures incurred by the Emergency Management Department.
2. Approve and direct the Auditor-Controller to make the budget adjustment as detailed in the attached Schedule A.

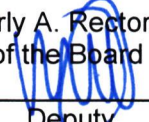
ACTION:4/5 Vote Required


Bruce Barton, EMD Director 6/19/2025

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Spiegel, seconded by Supervisor Medina and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: June 24, 2025
xc: EMD

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 634,667	\$ 0	\$ 634,667	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 634,667	\$ 0	\$ 634,667	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: 100% General Fund Contingency			Budget Adjustment:	Yes
			For Fiscal Year:	24/25

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The County of Riverside Emergency Management Department (EMD) enhances the safety and security of the community by leading the efforts to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. In alignment with this effort, the Department maintains a constant state of readiness to activate and respond quickly once the need arises to prepare communities, disseminate public information, coordinate resources, and create situational awareness among response agencies and local jurisdictions. The Department responds to a variety of emergencies across the Operational Area throughout the year and incurs unprojectable costs related to those response efforts.

EMD responded to multiple weather and hazardous events throughout the first half of this fiscal year including 20 fires and 6 public safety power shutoff (PSPS) events.

The Airport Fire, ignited on September 9, 2024, in Orange County, rapidly spread into Riverside County, severely impacting local communities. The blaze consumed 23,526 acres and affected more than 5,000 homes in Riverside County. The County of Riverside proclaimed a local emergency on September 10, 2024, and the request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant was approved on September 11, 2024. In addition to the financial recovery efforts, the County collaborated with state and federal agencies to assist affected residents with damage assessments and established a Local Assistance Center, providing essential relief and resources to displaced residents.

The Department's coordinated response to the Airport Fire demonstrated the strength and effectiveness of its emergency preparedness plans. Through well-established protocols, interagency collaboration, and timely public communication, the County puts these efforts into action in response to all hazard events.

Most notably was the PSPS event initiated by Southern California Edison (SCE) due to extreme fire weather conditions. The shutoffs were part of a broader effort to prevent wildfires during a severe Santa Ana windstorm. At the peak of the shutoffs, approximately 51,000 customers in Riverside County were without power. The Department coordinated and established emergency shelters in various communities. These shelters were equipped with backup generators to ensure continuous power supply, addressing one of the primary concerns during PSPS events. Additionally, the Department collaborated with other County Departments to provide supplies,

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medical, and behavioral health services and focused efforts on disseminating information to the communities on preparedness and resiliency efforts.

The costs associated with the activation of the Emergency Operations Center and Incident Management Teams (\$697,406) include EMD budgeted salaries as well as unanticipated and unbudgeted expenses. EMD is expected to receive reimbursements for unbudgeted expenses incurred responding to the TS Hilary and Airport Fire. EMD will always seek out reimbursement opportunities to reduce the impact to the County, however, at this time the other events did not meet thresholds/eligibility for reimbursement by these funding sources. The Department is requesting additional funds (\$243,421) for the portion that is not currently funded by other sources and not covered by the State and/or Federal reimbursement.

With this increasing demand for incident response and operations, EMD's budget is restricted and unable to absorb any unexpected impacts to the budget. EMD has recently experienced a series of administrative expenses that have arisen due to the unexpected retirement of key personnel during the current fiscal year. These retirements, representing 4,700 leave hours accrued, were not anticipated during the department's original budget planning cycle and have created immediate budgetary challenges. As a result, the department has incurred expenses that exceed the current budget allocation. Financial support in the amount of \$391,246 from the board is requested to ensure the department can continue fulfilling its operational mandates and strategic objectives without impact on future budgets. This request is aligned with the organization's commitment to operational stability and continued service excellence.

Approval of this request will enable the department to manage the current transition effectively while developing a longer-term staffing and succession strategy.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

The response operations outlined above highlight the Department's role in ensuring community safety and security. It helps residents implement proactive actions for emergencies that minimize damage and loss, ultimately protecting lives and property. The incident response program additionally assists the Department in leading preparedness efforts ensuring that effective plans and communication strategies are in place before, during and after the emergency response.

Additional Fiscal Information

EMD submitted and is expecting to receive State and Federal reimbursements for Hurricane Hilary and the Airport Fire. All other response operations did not meet thresholds for reimbursement by these funding sources.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: FY24 EMD Year-End Report

SCHEDULE A

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Anticipated use of Unassigned Fund Balance:

10000-2000100000-370100 Unassigned Fund Balance \$634,667

Increase Appropriation:

10000-2000100000-510200	Payoff Permanent-Seasonal	391,246
10000-2000100000-510320	Temporary Salaries	14,527
10000-2000100000-510420	Overtime	147,434
10000-2000100000-510500	Standby Pay	10,761
10000-2000100000-510700	Holiday Pay	51
10000-2000100000-520705	Food	30,268
10000-2000100000-523840	Computer Equipment- Software	3,987
10000-2000100000-525320	Security Guard Services	18,729
10000-2000100000-525440	Professional Services	7,256
10000-2000100000-526530	Rent- Lease Equipment	300
10000-2000100000-527100	Fuel	305
10000-2000100000-527180	Operational Supplies	9,319
10000-2000100000-529040	Private Mileage Reimbursement	484
	Total	\$634,667

Decrease Appropriations:

10000-1109000000-581000 Appropriations for Contingencies \$634,667

Increase in Unassigned Fund Balance:

10000-1109000000-370100 Unassigned Fund Balance **\$634,667**

Brett Austin
Brett Austin, Supervising Accountant

6/17/2025

Rebecca S Cortez
Rebecca S Cortez, Principal Management Analyst

6/17/2025