



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Agenda Item No. _____
File Code No. _____

**AGENDA DATE:** January 31, 2017

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

**SUBJECT:** California Emergency Management Agency - Designation Of Applicant's Agent For Zaca Fire Disaster Assistance

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt, by reading of the title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Designating Robert Samario, Finance Director, as the City of Santa Barbara's Agent for California Emergency Management Agency Disaster Assistance for three (3) years, expiring January 31, 2020.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Zaca Fire started on July 4, 2007, and was declared controlled on October 29, 2007. This wildfire burned over 240,207 acres in the San Rafael Mountains, northeast of the Santa Ynez Valley. At the time, the Zaca Fire was California's second largest fire in recorded history.

The San Rafael Mountains serve as the watershed for both Lake Cachuma and the City's Gibraltar Reservoir. As a result of the Zaca Fire, the City's Water Resources Division suffered many fire-related impacts, such as:

- Excessive fine ash, organic carbon and nutrients, which impacted Lake Cachuma, Gibraltar and Lauro Reservoirs, and the Cater Water Treatment Plant (Cater Plant).
- Degraded water quality and diminished water storage capacity at Gibraltar Reservoir.
- Increased chemicals used for water treatment at the Cater Plant.
- Increased solids produced as a result of contaminant removal at the Cater Plant.
- Increased solids and debris in Gibraltar Reservoir, which buried the lower intake discharge valves.
- Increased potential for the water system to violate the Environmental Protection Agency's annual allowable average for trihalomethanes.

In response to the Zaca Fire, staff applied for and received emergency funding from the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), with Robert Peirson, the City's Finance Director at the time, being designated as the City's agent for Cal EMA Disaster Assistance. At the time, it was unknown when the fire-related impacts would subside or

Council Agenda Report  
California Emergency Management Agency - Designation Of Applicant's Agent For Zaca  
Fire Disaster Assistance  
January 31, 2017  
Page 2

reach a status quo; therefore, the City's Zaca Fire claim was left open. Staff believes it is now time to close the City's Zaca Fire claim with Cal EMA. Cal EMA has requested the City designate, by resolution, a current City agent for closing out the Zaca Fire claim.

Staff recommends that Council designate Robert Samario, Finance Director, as the City of Santa Barbara's Agent for Cal EMA Disaster Assistance, for all open claims and any future disasters that may occur during the next three (3) years.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Between Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010, the City received a total of \$1,388,257 from Cal EMA for Zaca Fire disaster assistance. A final disaster assistance payment of at least \$125,000 for Zaca Fire-related administrative expenses is anticipated from Cal EMA.

**PREPARED BY:** Catherine Taylor P.E., Water System Manager/cmw

**SUBMITTED BY:** Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA DESIGNATING ROBERT SAMARIO, FINANCE DIRECTOR, AS THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA'S AGENT FOR CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR THREE (3) YEARS, EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2020

WHEREAS, on July 4, 2007, a wildfire known as the Zaca Fire started, and was declared controlled on October 29, 2007. Over 240,207 acres in the San Rafael Mountains were burned;

WHEREAS, the City's Water Resources Division suffered many fire-related impacts, and needed assistance from the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA);

WHEREAS, the former Finance Director, Robert Peirson, along with City staff applied for and received emergency funding from Cal EMA;

WHEREAS, the former Finance Director was designated as the City's agent for Cal EMA Disaster Assistance; and

WHEREAS, the City would like to close the Zaca Fire claim with Cal EMA, and designate the Finance Director, Robert Samario, as the City of Santa Barbara's Agent for Cal EMA Disaster Assistance for the term of three (3) years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Finance Director, Robert Samario, is hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of the City of Santa Barbara, a public entity established under the laws of the State of California, this application and to file it with Cal EMA for the purpose of obtaining certain federal financial assistance under Public Law 93-288, as amended by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988, and/or state financial assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act.

SECTION 2. That the City of Santa Barbara, a public entity established under the laws of the State of California, hereby authorizes its agent(s) to provide to the California Emergency Management Agency for all matters pertaining to such state disaster assistance the assurances and agreements required.

SECTION 3. This is a universal resolution and is effective for all open and futures disasters up to three (3) years following the date of approval below.