



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Sean Thuilliez, Chief of Police
DATE: February 16, 2021
SUBJECT: **Authorize City Staff to Create a Facilities Use Agreement with the Fellowship Church for Establishment of an Incident Command Post to be Used in the Event of Floods, Mud Slides and Debris Flows Resulting from the Apple Fire and El Dorado Fires**

Background and Analysis:

The Apple and El Dorado Fires scorched approximately 55,000 acres of mountainous terrain north of the City of Beaumont. The intensity of both fires eliminated brush from the hillsides and scorched the earth, changing its composition and its ability to retain water.

Experts in hydrology, geology, forestry, and water conservation examined the burn scars and predicted that flooding, mud slides, and debris flows could be triggered by sudden, intense rainfall or prolonged precipitation over the burn scars. Future flood events are likely to affect the City of Beaumont and may create conditions that endanger lives, damage or destroy critical infrastructure, and adversely affect commonly used transportation corridors.

The Police Department has been working closely with the National Weather Service, Riverside County Flood Control, CAL-FIRE, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and the Beaumont Unified School District to create a mitigation plan, establish evacuation zones, and craft a public messaging campaign to aid in keeping community members informed.

During the week of January 25, 2021, the National Weather Service identified atmospheric conditions they predicted would bring significant precipitation to the burn scars. In anticipation of this storm event an Incident Command Post (ICP) was established at Fellowship Church in the City of Beaumont. The purpose of the ICP was to create a centrally located coordination hub where allied agencies could coordinate,

establish plans, disseminate information, and direct resources and responses to affected areas.

On January 26, 2021, an evacuation warning was issued for areas within the City of Beaumont adjacent to Little San Gorgonio Creek and Noble Creek (Noble A, B and F). Additional evacuation zones in the County area were also issued similar warnings. Several of those areas later received a mandatory evacuation notice resulting in the evacuation of approximately 994 persons.

The Incident Command Post was staffed on January 28 and 29, with personnel from the previously mentioned agencies. Fortunately, the storm in question dissipated and failed to deliver the precipitation previously predicted. The evacuation orders were lifted, and a repopulation operation was conducted, allowing residents to return to their homes.

City staff recommends that a facilities use agreement be created with the Fellowship Church to allow the continued use of the facilities at the church until the threat of flooding events have waned.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this operation resulted in a total billable amount of \$980.30. This includes consumable goods and overtime for all City personnel.

Recommended Action:

Authorize City staff to create a facilities use agreement with Fellowship Church for continued use of the facilities at the church.