

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

Support with Emergency Communications Nurse System (ECNS)

This agreement (“Agreement”) is by and between the Consolidated Fire Agencies (“CONFIRE”) and EMK Consultants Inc (“Contractor”) (together, they are referred to as “Parties,” and individually, as a “Party”).

RECITALS

1. CONFIRE is authorized by Section 53060 of the California Government Code to contract with and employ any persons to furnish special services and advice in financial, economic, accounting, engineering, legal or administrative matters, if those persons are specially trained and experienced and competent to perform the special services that are required.
2. CONFIRE is in need of such services and advice and the Contractor warrants that it is specially trained, licensed and experienced and competent to perform the services required by CONFIRE.

AGREEMENT

1. EXHIBITS

This Agreement has multiple Exhibits. Any Exhibit that is specified in this Agreement is by this reference made a part of it.

Exhibits include:

- Exhibit A: Scope of Services
- Exhibit B: Compensation
- Exhibit C: General Terms and Conditions
- Exhibit D: Insurance

2. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERM

- a. This Agreement is effective on July 1, 2026 (“Effective Date”) and unless terminated earlier, shall end on June 30, 2027.
- b. This agreement may be extended for one additional year with Administrative Committee approval with an annual increase of 4 percent (%).

3. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

Contractor, in the performance of this Agreement, is and shall act as an independent contractor. Contractor understands and agrees that Contractor and all of Contractor’s employees shall not be considered officers, employees, agents, partner, or joint venture of CONFIRE, and are not entitled to benefits of any kind or nature normally provided employees of CONFIRE and/or to which CONFIRE’s employees are normally entitled,

including, but not limited to, State Unemployment Compensation or Worker's Compensation. Contractor shall assume full responsibility for payment of all federal, state and local taxes or contributions, including unemployment insurance, social security and income taxes with respect to Contractor's employees.

4. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Contractor shall furnish to CONFIRE the services described in Exhibit A ("Services").

5. COMPENSATION

Contractor shall receive payment, for Services satisfactorily rendered pursuant to this Agreement, as specified in Exhibit B ("Compensation").

6. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The General Terms and Conditions are set forth in Exhibit C.

7. INSURANCE

Exhibit D, entitled Insurance, is attached and incorporated by reference.

8. NOTICE

Any notice required by this Agreement may be given either by personal service or by deposit (postage prepaid) in the U.S. mail addressed as follows:

To CONFIRE:
Consolidated Fire Agencies
Attn: Nathan Cooke, Interim Executive
Director
1743 Miro Way
Rialto, CA 92376

To Contractor:
EMK Consultants Inc
Attn: Elaine Messerli-Kelly
7440 Lacerta Drive
Sparks, NV 89436

9. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Other than as provided in this Agreement, CONFIRE's financial obligations under this Agreement shall be limited to the payment of the compensation provided in this Agreement. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, in no event, shall CONFIRE be liable, regardless of whether any claim is based on contract or tort, for any special, consequential, indirect or incidental damages, including, but not limited to, lost profits or revenue, arising out of or in connection with this Agreement for the services performed in connection with this Agreement.

The Parties have executed this Agreement on the dates indicated below.

CONSOLIDATED FIRE AGENCIES

Date: _____, 2026

By: _____

Print Name: Nathan Cooke

Its: Interim Executive Director

EMK Consultants Inc

Date: _____, 2026

By: _____

Print Name: Elaine M. Kelly

Its: Owner

EXHIBIT A
to AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Consultant is to provide services related to the following action items and deliverables:

Quality Improvement and Quality Assurance:

- Provide subject matter expertise while implementing the education and quality program for the Client utilizing the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED) Emergency Communication Nurse Quality (ECN-Q) Performance Standards.
- Conduct Client (ECNS) quality audits utilizing the Advanced Quality Assurance (AQUA) software provided by the IAED through internal quality audits that promote ACE compliance.

Instruction and Education:

- As a Regional Instructor for the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch, conduct ECNS and ECN-Q courses for CONFIRE as an in-house instructor.
- Collaborate with Client to identify opportunities for improvement for each ECN as well as the ECN team.
- Engage with Client to ensure that the Emergency Communication Nurse System (ECNS) is operationalized for success by assisting with reviewing, developing, and updating ECNS-related policies, workflows, training materials, and QA/QI processes.
- Collaborate with Client to maintain ACE (Accredited Center of Excellence) Accreditation for EMD and to achieve ACE accreditation for ECNS and support the program's sustainability.

Operational Support:

- Provide ECN remote call-taking services on occasion, and as requested by CONFIRE.
- Assist with remote ECN setup, technology readiness, phone system access, and troubleshooting support in collaboration with CONFIRE staff and/or designated technical support personnel.

The Services will also include any other consulting tasks which the Parties may agree on. The Consultant hereby agrees to provide such Services to the Client.

EXHIBIT B
to AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

COMPENSATION

A. Compensation

\$111.38 per hour

Not to exceed the sum of \$ 104,000

B. Payment

- a. Schedule
 - (1) To be billed in monthly installments
- b. Process

Payment shall be made (for all undisputed amounts) within forty-five (45) calendar days after the Contractor submits an invoice to CONFIRE for Services actually completed.

EXHIBIT C
to AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **STANDARD OF CARE.** Contractor's Services will be performed, findings obtained, reports and recommendations prepared in accordance with generally and currently accepted principles and practices of his/her profession for services to California public agencies.
2. **ORIGINALITY OF SERVICES.** Contractor agrees that all technologies, formulae, procedures, processes, methods, writings, ideas, dialogue, compositions, recordings, teleplays and video productions prepared for, written for, or submitted to CONFIRE and/or used in connection with this Agreement, shall be wholly original to Contractor and shall not be copied in whole or in part from any other source, except those submitted to Contractor by CONFIRE as a basis for such services.
3. **PRODUCT.** Contractor understands and agrees that all matters produced under this Agreement shall become the property of CONFIRE and cannot be used without CONFIRE's express written permission. CONFIRE shall have all right, title and interest in said matters, including the right to secure and maintain the copyright, trademark and/or patent of said matter in the name of CONFIRE. Contractor consents to use of Contractor's name in conjunction with the sale, use, performance and distribution of the matters, for any purpose and in any medium.
4. **TERMINATION.**
 - a. **Without Cause by CONFIRE.** CONFIRE may, at any time, with or without reason, terminate this Agreement and compensate Contractor only for services satisfactorily rendered to the date of termination. Written notice by CONFIRE shall be sufficient to stop further performance of services by Contractor. Notice shall be deemed given when received by the Contractor or no later than three (3) days after the day of mailing, whichever is sooner.
 - b. **Without Cause by Contractor.** Contractor may not terminate this Agreement without cause.
 - c. **With Cause by CONFIRE.** CONFIRE may terminate this Agreement upon giving written notice of intent to terminate for cause. Cause shall include:
 - (1) material violation of this Agreement by the Contractor; or
 - (2) any act by Contractor exposing CONFIRE to liability to others for personal injury or property damage; or
 - (3) Contractor is adjudged bankrupt, Contractor

makes a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, or a receiver is appointed on account of Contractor's insolvency.

Written notice by CONFIRE shall contain the reasons for such intent to terminate and unless within three (3) calendar days after that notice the condition or violation shall cease, or satisfactory arrangements for the correction thereof be made, this Agreement shall upon the expiration of the three (3) calendar days cease and terminate. In the event of this termination, CONFIRE may secure the required services from another Contractor. If the expense, fees, and/or costs to CONFIRE exceeds the cost of providing the service pursuant to this Agreement, the Contractor shall immediately pay the excess expense, fees, and/or costs to CONFIRE upon the receipt of CONFIRE's notice of these expense, fees, and/or costs. The foregoing provisions are in addition to and not a limitation of any other rights or remedies available to CONFIRE.

- d. **With Cause by Contractor.** Contractor may terminate this Agreement upon giving of written notice of intention to terminate for cause. Cause shall include:
 - (1) material violation of this Agreement by CONFIRE; or
 - (2) any act by CONFIRE exposing the Contractor to liability to others for personal injury or property damage; or
 - (3) CONFIRE is adjudged bankrupt, CONFIRE makes a general assignment for the benefit of creditors or a receiver is appointed on account of Contractor's insolvency.

Written notice by Contractor shall contain the reasons for such intention to terminate and unless within thirty (30) calendar days after that notice the condition or violation shall cease, or satisfactory arrangements for the correction thereof be made, this Agreement shall upon the expiration of the thirty (30) calendar days cease and terminate. The foregoing provisions are in addition to and not a limitation of any other rights or remedies available to Contractor.

- e. Upon termination, Contractor shall provide CONFIRE with all documents produced maintained or collected by Contractor pursuant to this Agreement, whether or not such documents are final or draft documents.

5. INDEMNIFICATION/ DEFENSE /HOLD

HARMLESS.

- a. **Generally.** To the furthest extent permitted by California law, Contractor shall indemnify, defend, and hold free and harmless the Indemnified Parties from any Claim to the extent that the Claim:
 - (1) arises out of, pertains to, or relates to the negligent errors or omissions (active or passive, ordinary or gross), recklessness (ordinary or gross), or willful misconduct of Contractor, its directors, officials, officers, employees, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, or subconsultants; or
 - (2) arises out of, pertains to, or relates to the performance of this Agreement
 - b. **Indemnified Parties, Defined.** The "Indemnified Parties" are CONFIRE, its officers, consultants, employees, and trustees.
 - c. **Claim, Defined.** A "Claim" consists of actions, assessments, counts, citations, claims, costs, damages, demands, judgments, liabilities (legal, administrative or otherwise), losses, notices, expenses, fines, penalties, proceedings, responsibilities, violations, reasonable attorney's and consultants' fees and causes of action to property or persons, including personal injury and/or death, except that:
 - (1) If the Contract is a contract for design professional services under Civ. Code, § 2782.8, a "Claim" shall be limited to those that arise out of, pertain to, or relate to the negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct of the Contractor; and
 - (2) If the Contract is a construction contract with a public agency under Civ. Code, § 2782, a "Claim" shall exclude any loss to the extent that such loss arises from the active negligence, sole negligence, or willful misconduct of the Indemnified Parties or defects in design furnished by those persons.
 - d. CONFIRE may accept or reject legal counsel Contractor proposes to defend CONFIRE with, in its sole and absolute discretion, and may thereafter appoint, legal counsel to defend CONFIRE at Contractor's expense against a Claim set forth in Section 5.a, supra, of this Exhibit C.
6. **INSURANCE.** The Contractor shall procure and maintain at all times it performs any portion of the Services the insurances specified in Exhibit D to the Agreement.
7. **CONFIDENTIALITY.** The Contractor and the Contractor's agents, personnel, employee(s), and/or subcontractor(s) shall maintain the confidentiality of all information received in the course of performing the Services ("Confidential Information"), and shall not disclose Confidential

Information, including information derived from Confidential Information, to any person not a party to this Agreement without the express prior written consent of CONFIRE, except as required by law or as necessary for Contractor's agents, personnel, employee(s), and/or subcontractor(s) to perform the Services. If Contractor or any of Contractor's agents, personnel, employee(s), and/or subcontractor(s) is served with any subpoena, court order, or other legal process seeking disclosure of any Confidential Information, both Contractor and the person served shall each promptly send to CONFIRE notice(s) of the legal process", but in no event shall do so any later than forty-eight (48) hours or such shorter time frame as necessary so that CONFIRE may exercise any applicable legal rights and remedies. Contractor shall require its agents, personnel, employee(s), and/or subcontractor(s), as a condition of their retention, appointment, employment, or contract, to agree to comply with the provisions of this Section, and shall not permit its agents, personnel, employee(s), and/or subcontractor(s) access to Confidential Information in the absence of such agreement being effective. The obligations imposed in this Section shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

8. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** Through its execution of this Agreement, Contractor acknowledges that it is familiar with the provisions of Gov. Code, § 1090 et seq. and Chapter 7 of the Political Reform Act of 1974 (Gov. Code, § 87100 et seq.), and certifies that it does not know of any facts that constitute a violation of those provisions. In the event Contractor receives any information subsequent to execution of this Agreement that might constitute a violation of these provisions, Contractor agrees it shall immediately notify CONFIRE of this information.
9. **APPROVAL OF LEGISLATIVE BODY.** This Agreement shall not be binding upon CONFIRE until CONFIRE's legislative body has approved all the terms and conditions contained herein.
10. **DISPUTES.** In the event of a dispute between the parties as to performance of Services, Agreement interpretation, or payment, the Parties shall attempt to resolve the dispute by negotiation and/or mediation, if agreed to by the Parties. Pending resolution of the dispute, Contractor shall neither rescind the Agreement nor stop performing the Services.
11. **COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS.** Contractor shall observe and comply with all rules and regulations of the governing board of CONFIRE and all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations. Contractor shall give all notices required by any law, ordinance, rule and regulation bearing on conduct of the Services as indicated or specified. If

Contractor observes that any of the Services required by this Agreement is at variance with any such laws, ordinance, rules or regulations, Contractor shall notify CONFIRE, in writing, and, at the sole option of CONFIRE, any necessary changes to the scope of the Services shall be made and this Agreement shall be appropriately amended in writing, or this Agreement shall be terminated effective upon Contractor's receipt of a written termination notice from CONFIRE. If Contractor performs any work that is in violation of any laws, ordinances, rules or regulations, without first notifying CONFIRE of the violation, Contractor shall bear all costs arising therefrom.

12. PERMITS/LICENSES. Contractor and all Contractor's employees or agents shall secure and maintain in force all permits and licenses that are required by law in connection with the furnishing of Services pursuant to this Agreement.

13. SAFETY AND SECURITY: Contractor is responsible for maintaining safety in the performance of this Agreement. Contractor shall be responsible to ascertain from CONFIRE the rules and regulations pertaining to safety, security, and driving on school grounds, particularly when children are present.

14. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION. It is the policy of CONFIRE that in connection with all work performed under contracts there be no discrimination against any employee engaged in the work because of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status, or any other class or status protected by applicable law, and therefore the Contractor agrees to comply with applicable Federal and California laws including, but not limited to the California Fair Employment and Housing Act beginning with Government Code Section 12900 and Labor Code Section 1735. In addition, the Contractor agrees to require like compliance by all its subcontractor(s).

15. AUDIT. Contractor shall establish and maintain books, records, and systems of account, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, reflecting all business operations of Contractor transacted under this Agreement. Contractor shall retain these books, records, and systems of account during the Term of this Agreement and for three (3) years thereafter. Contractor shall permit CONFIRE, its agent, other representatives, or an independent auditor to audit, examine, and make excerpts, copies, and transcripts from all books and records, and to make audit(s) of all billing statements, invoices, records, and other

data related to the Services covered by this Agreement. Audit(s) may be performed at any time, provided that CONFIRE shall give reasonable prior notice to Contractor and shall conduct audit(s) during Contractor's normal business hours, unless Contractor otherwise consents.

16. EVALUATION OF CONTRACTOR AND SUBORDINATES. CONFIRE may evaluate the Contractor in any manner which is permissible under the law. CONFIRE's evaluation may include, without limitation:

- a. Requesting CONFIRE employee(s) evaluate the Contractor and the Contractor's employees and subcontractors and each of their performance.
- b. Announced and unannounced observance of Contractor, Contractor's employee(s), and/or subcontractor(s)

17. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. Time is of the essence in the performance of Services and the timing requirements agreed upon by the Parties, if any, shall be strictly adhered to unless otherwise modified in writing in accordance with Section 28 of this Agreement. Contractor shall commence performance and shall complete all required Services no later than the dates agreed upon by the Parties. Any Services for which times for performance are not specified shall be commenced and completed by Contractor in a reasonably prompt and timely manner based upon the circumstances and direction communicated to Contractor by CONFIRE.

18. PROVISIONS REQUIRED BY LAW DEEMED INSERTED. Each and every provision of law and clause required by law to be inserted in this Agreement shall be deemed to be inserted and this Agreement shall be read and enforced as though it were included. If through mistake or otherwise, any provision is not inserted or is not correctly inserted, then upon application of either Party, the Agreement shall be amended to make the insertion or correction. All references to statutes and regulations shall include all amendments, replacements, and enactments in the subject which are in effect as of the date of this Agreement, and any later changes which do not materially and substantially alter the positions of the Parties.

19. ASSIGNMENT AND SUCCESSORS. Neither CONFIRE nor Contractor shall, without the prior written consent of the other Party, assign the benefit or in any way transfer their respective obligations under this Agreement. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Parties hereto and, except as otherwise provided herein, upon their executors, administrators, successors, and assigns.

20. SEVERABILITY. In the event that any provision of this Agreement shall be construed to be illegal or

invalid for any reason, said illegality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions hereof, but such illegal or invalid provision shall be fully severable and this Agreement shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provision had never been included herein, unless to do so would frustrate the intent and purpose of this Agreement.

- 21. FORCE MAJEURE.** No Party shall be liable to any other Party for any loss or damage of any kind or for any default or delay in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement (except for payment obligations) if and to the extent that the same is caused, directly or indirectly, by fire, flood, earthquake, elements of nature, epidemics, pandemics, quarantines, acts of God, acts of war, terrorism, civil unrest or political, religious, civil or economic strife, or any other cause beyond a Party's reasonable control.
- 22. VENUE/GOVERNING LAWS.** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and venue shall be in the County and/or federal judicial district in which CONFIRE's principal administrative office is located.
- 23. ATTORNEY'S FEES.** If suit is brought by either Party to enforce any of the terms of this Agreement, each Party shall bear its own attorney's fees and costs.
- 24. EXHIBITS.** All Exhibits referred to in this Agreement are incorporated in this Agreement and made a part of this Agreement as if fully set forth herein.
- 25. ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement represents the entire agreement between CONFIRE and Contractor and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations or agreements, either written or oral. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by an agreement in writing, signed by both CONFIRE and Contractor.
- 26. MODIFICATION.** This Agreement may be amended at any time by the written agreement of CONFIRE and Contractor.
- 27. WAIVER.** Waiver of a breach or default under this Agreement shall not constitute a continuing waiver of a subsequent breach of the same or any other provision under this Agreement.
- 28. AUTHORITY.** The individual executing this Agreement on behalf of Contractor warrants that he/she is authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of Contractor and that Contractor will be bound by the terms and conditions contained herein.
- 29. HEADINGS AND CONSTRUCTION.** Headings at the beginning of each paragraph and subparagraph are solely for the convenience of the Parties and are not a part of the Agreement. Whenever required by the context of this Agreement, the singular shall include the plural and the masculine shall include the feminine and vice

versa. This Agreement shall not be construed as if it had been prepared by one of the Parties, but rather as if both Parties had prepared the same. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to paragraphs, sections, subparagraphs, and subsections are to this Agreement.

- 30. COUNTERPARTS.** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which, together, when signed by all of the Parties hereto, shall constitute one and the same instrument. A facsimile or electronic signature shall be as valid as an original.
- 31. DEBARMENT.** Contractor certifies that neither it nor its principals or subcontracts is presently disbarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency as required by Executive Order 12549
- 32. FEDERAL AUDIT.** Contractor shall provide CONFIRE, any person granting funds to CONFIRE to fund this Contract, any Federal grantor agency when funds are granted to CONFIRE to fund this contract, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives with access to its books, documents, papers, and records of Contractor which are directly pertinent to this Agreement for the purpose of making audit, examination, excerpts, and transcriptions. All such records shall be retained for no less than three (3) years after final payment is made under this Agreement.
- 33. Federal Grant Specific Requirements**
- Must conform with applicable contract provisions contained in 2 CFR 200, Appendix II - Contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards (Exhibit E).
 - The award will not be made to any party debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from participation in federal assistance programs. Vendor must be registered and will be checked against the Federal Debarment List (www.sam.gov). Please note a UEI number is required to register on the SAM web site.
 - Local preference does not apply.

EXHIBIT D
to AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

INSURANCE

1. Contractor shall procure and maintain at all times it performs any portion of the Services the following insurances with minimum limits equal to the amounts indicated below.
 - 1.1. **Commercial General Liability and Automobile Liability Insurance.** Commercial General Liability Insurance and Any Auto Automobile Liability Insurance that shall protect the Contractor, CONFIRE, and the contracting agencies and member agencies of CONFIRE from all claims of bodily injury, property damage, personal injury, death, advertising injury, and medical payments arising performing any portion of the Services. (Form CG 0001 and CA 0001)
 - 1.2. **Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability Insurance.** Workers' Compensation Insurance and Employers' Liability Insurance for all of its employees performing any portion of the Services. In accordance with provisions of section 3700 of the California Labor Code, the Contractor shall be required to secure workers' compensation coverage for its employees. If any class of employee or employees engaged in performing any portion of the Services under this Agreement are not protected under the Workers' Compensation Statute, adequate insurance coverage for the protection of any employee(s) not otherwise protected must be obtained before any of those employee(s) commence performing any portion of the Services. Contractor shall sign and file with CONFIRE the following certification prior to performing the work of the contract: "I am aware of the provisions of Section 3700 of the Labor Code which require every employer to be insured against liability for workers' compensation or to undertake self-insurance in accordance with the provisions of that code, and I will comply with such provisions before commencing the performance of the work of this contract."
 - 1.3. **Professional Liability (Errors and Omissions).** Professional Liability (Errors and Omissions) Insurance as appropriate to the Contractor's profession.

Type of Coverage	Minimum Coverage
Commercial General Liability Insurance , including Bodily Injury, Personal Injury, Property Damage, Advertising Injury, and Medical Payments	
Each Occurrence	\$1,000,000
General Aggregate	\$1,000,000
Automobile Liability Insurance - Any Auto	
Each Occurrence	\$1,000,000
General Aggregate	\$1,000,000
Professional Liability	\$1,000,000
Workers Compensation	Statutory Limits
Employer's Liability	\$1,000,000

2. The Contractor shall not commence performing any portion of the Services until all required insurance has been obtained and certificates indicating the required coverage's have been delivered in duplicate to CONFIRE and approved by CONFIRE. Certificates and insurance policies shall include the following:
 - 2.1. A clause stating: "This policy shall not be canceled or reduced in required limits of liability or amounts of insurance until notice has been mailed to CONFIRE, stating date of cancellation or reduction. Date of cancellation or reduction shall not be less than thirty (30) days after date of mailing notice."
 - 2.2. Language stating in particular those insured, extent of insurance, location and operation to which insurance applies, expiration date, to whom cancellation and reduction notice will be sent, and length of notice period.
 - 2.3. An endorsement stating that CONFIRE and contracting agencies and member agencies of CONFIRE, and their representatives, employees, trustees, officers, consultants, and volunteers are named additional insureds under all policies except Workers' Compensation Insurance, Professional

Liability, and Employers' Liability Insurance. An endorsement shall also state that Contractor's insurance policies shall be primary to any insurance or self-insurance maintained by CONFIRE.

- 2.4. All policies shall be written on an occurrence form, except for Professional Liability which shall be on a claims-made form.