



**To: Bay Area UASI Approval Authority**

**From: Craig Dziedzic, General Manager**

**Date: March 11, 2021**

**Re: Item 03: General Manager's Report**

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**Recommendations:**

No Recommendation.

**Action or Discussion Items:**

- a. UASI FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (Discussion)
- b. Securing the Cities (STC) FY 2021 Notice of Funding
- c. Management Team Update (Discussion)
- d. Management Team Tracking Tool and Future Agenda Items (Discussion)

**Discussion/Description:**

**a. UASI FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (Discussion)**

On February 25, 2021, the Department of Homeland Security released the FY 2021 NOFO for the 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). Thirty-one (31) eligible MSAs received funding. The Bay Area UASI received the same level of funding as last year - \$37.5 million.

The NOFO required funding of five (5) National Priority Projects totaling 30% of the allocation:

1. Enhancing cybersecurity – 7.5% of allocation
2. Combating domestic violent extremist – 7.5% of allocation
3. Protection of soft targets/crowded places - 5% of allocation
4. Enhancing info/intel sharing and cooperation with federal agencies (fusion center) - 5% of allocation
5. Emergent threats (unmanned aerial systems, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) - 5% of allocation.

FEMA will review the submitted national priority projects for effectiveness (investment strategy, budget, impact/outcomes, collaboration, and past performance). FEMA will also determine whether the proposed project approach is clear, logical, and reasonable to address the priority areas of interest and contribute to a culture of national preparedness. Failure to address the national priorities would result in a recipient having a portion of their UASI funds (up to 30%) placed on hold.

FEMA also reissued the relative risk scores for the top MSAs in the United States. FEMA's updated revision reverted back to the weighted elements of risk: threat 25%, vulnerability 25%, and consequence 50%. FEMA kept in place the threat components of transnational organized crime and cybersecurity as well as the isolation metric as a component as under vulnerability. The revised scores allow only 31 MSAs to be eligible to apply for grant funding. The score remains the same for the Bay Area region.

**b. Securing the Cities (STC) FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (Discussion)**

The Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) will be releasing the FY 2021 NOFO during the first week of March. The San Francisco Bay Area STC is expecting to receive a \$2 million award, which will fund the implementation phase of the program involving procurement of equipment and trainings/exercises.

**c. Management Team Update (Discussion)**

***UASI Grant Program***

Project Manager Position (Training and Exercise) – Wendy Suhr has accepted the training/exercise project manager position, which facilitates and coordinates the quarterly work group meetings and implements regional training and exercise, including the upcoming Summit exercise this November. Ms. Suhr has more than 20 years of private sector homeland security and emergency preparedness experience. She has lent her expertise to numerous communities across the US, including many years supporting the Pacific territories in their typhoon preparedness efforts. Ms. Suhr has a BA in Sociology and a Master of Public Health from the University of Arizona in Tucson. She earned a Master Exercise Practitioner (MEP) credential from FEMA and was an integral part of the authoring, development, and instruction of the Nation’s first standardized Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

Emergency Services Coordinator I Position (Training and Exercise)- Christophe Arnold has accepted the Emergency Services Coordinator I position. He will be working with the Training and Exercise Program Manager performing administrative functions, including assisting with the planning, coordination and development of regional initiatives, plans, and processes. Mr. Arnold has experience working for a number of international organizations, including German Red Cross, Beirut, Lebanon, NCA/CARE USA/Concern Worldwide US, and ACT Alliance, Geneva Switzerland. Mr. Arnold has a Bachelor’s Degree in political science and a Post Graduate Certificate in community economic development from Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada. He also earned a Master’s Degree in Development Studies from the Graduate Institute in International Relations and Development Studies, Geneva Switzerland.

Emergency Services Coordinator II Position (UASI website and program coordination) – Sara Cox has accepted the Emergency Services Coordinator position, which backfills the position of Ethan Baker. She will be the website administrator and perform administrator functions such as coordinating/assisting with the approval authority meetings, grant proposal process, grant monitoring process, annual report/newsletters, and other tasks as assigned. Ms. Cox has worked for the American Red Cross as a regional philanthropy officer and a grant writer for Edgewood Center for Children and Families. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Science in Disaster Management from the University of Manchester, England.

Securing the Cities (STC) Program

Emergency Services Coordinator I Position –We are in the process of completing the hiring process and will report back at the June Approval Authority meeting.

**d. Management Team Tracking Tool and Future Agenda Items (Discussion Only)**

Attached as Appendix B is the Management Team Tracking Tool. Approval Authority members may submit future agenda items at any time to the General Manager.