



City of Palo Alto

City Council Staff Report

(ID # 9871)

Report Type: Consent Calendar

Meeting Date: 12/10/2018

Summary Title: Council Donation to Butte County (Camp Fire) Fire Relief

Title: Approval of a Donation of \$25,000 From the City Council Contingency Fund to Support Butte County Fire Relief, Resilience and Recovery After the Camp Fire

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Fire

Recommendation

Approve a donation of \$25,000 from the City Council Contingency to support Butte County Fire relief, resilience, and recovery following the Camp Fire.

The recommended recipient is The Camp Fire Evacuation Relief Fund, administered by the North Valley Community Foundation based in Chico, California (Recommended donation: \$25,000).

Background

On November 19, 2018, Council Member Karen Holman and Mayor Liz Kniss proposed donating \$25,000 from the City Council Contingency to support the community needs following the Camp Fire which has devastated the City of Paradise and nearby communities in Butte County.

In response to this devastation, the City Council expressed sympathy and a desire to support our neighboring communities. Council contacted colleagues in the impacted areas seeking a way to assist.

Staff is recommending the donation be sent to a local community foundation with established relief funds that directly support the immediate and long-term needs of those impacted by this disaster. This is similar to a policy decision made following the North Bay Fires of 2017 where the council directed contingency funds to support community foundations in Sonoma, Napa, and Mendocino Counties.

The North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) is based in the City of Chico in Butte County and has been at the forefront of emergency relief following the Camp Fire. The North Valley Community Foundation provides visionary community leadership by identifying emerging

challenges in the region. NVCF brings together diverse groups of problem-solvers, mobilizes resources, and equips community leaders.

Council has made similar relief donations from their contingency fund and these donations comply with City Policy and past practice.

Resource Impact

Annual funding in the amount of \$225,000 is appropriated in the City Council Contingency with approximately \$200,000 in remaining unspent funds. This action will reduce the Contingency to \$175,000 in Fiscal Year 2019 which can be used to support other funding needs, subject to City Council approval. It should be noted that included in an item for Finance Committee review on November 28, 2018, a reduction of \$100,000 in this contingent account is recommended.