

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 3/17/08

Reviewed by: _____

SUBJECT: Presentation and discussion with Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson regarding November 7, 2007 Cosco Busan Oil Spill

REPORT BY: Beth Pollard, City Administrator

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Discuss oil spill response improvements with Supervisor Carson, authorize staff to continue to pursue oil spill response improvements on a local and regional level, and support efforts to improve state and federal oil spill response in the San Francisco Bay.

BACKGROUND

On November 7, 2007, the container ship “Cosco Busan” hit the Bay Bridge and released 58,000 gallons of bunker oil into the San Francisco Bay. By Friday morning, tar balls had washed ashore on the Albany beach and other Albany shoreline.

Attached is the staff report from the Council meeting of November 19, 2007 summarizing the actions taken to address the spill in Albany.

DISCUSSION

City staff has participated in numerous meetings with other agencies to address remaining issues from the November spill, as well as to identify areas in which to improve response in the future if/when there is another oil spill. One of the meetings was with the Alameda County Administrator and her senior staff. The areas identified for future improvement included:

- 1) Advocacy for improvement federal and state response in an oil spill
- 2) Communication
- 3) Expectations
- 4) Response resources

City staff’s specific comments and recommendations are contained in the attached letter to the County Administrator.

ANALYSIS

The primary goal for improving response to oil spills is to protect wildlife, human, and other environmental life from contact with harmful substances. Key objectives are to maximize resources (expertise, clean-up response, protective materials such as boom, and use of volunteers), maintain communication (within and between agencies), and provide accurate and timely information to the public. A well-functioning Incident Command system ideally meets all these objectives. A challenge for local governments arises when federal and state agencies have authority in the Incident Command but do not adequately meet local needs in the eyes of the local governments.

There are changes that can be made on a city, county, and regional basis to improve response, with or without the support of the state and federal agencies. Staff recommends that the City and County continue to pursue local and regional, as well as support state and federal response improvements. Attached is the Executive Summary of the Incident Specific Preparedness Review completed with the involvement of various agencies, for further information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None at this time.

Attachments

1. Letter to County Administrator dated March 5, 2
2. City Council staff report, November 19, 2007
3. Executive Summary, Incident Specific Preparedness Review