



Office of the City Manager

June 16, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *DWR* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: Update on Berkeley Tuolumne Camp and Capacity Audit

This report provides Council with an update on Berkeley Tuolumne Camp, and a briefing on a recent capacity audit by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General.

Berkeley Tuolumne Camp Update

Since August 2013, when the California Rim Fire destroyed the Berkeley Tuolumne Camp (BTC), City staff have worked hard to deal with the aftermath of the fire and prepare to rebuild the camp. These efforts resulted in the safe evacuation of all campers and staff, the successful removal of post-fire debris and protection of the Tuolumne River from post-fire runoff, work with the US Forest Service to remove hazardous trees, insurance reimbursements for staff and camper losses, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) public assistance grant eligibility, and support from the US Forest Service to proceed with the master plan for rebuilding camp.

Staff from five City departments are now engaged in multiple processes and partnerships to rebuild the camp, working with and coordinating between the Forest Service, FEMA, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Tuolumne County, our insurance providers, consultants, and legal counsel. With these partners, the City is working: to complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental processes; to develop a conceptual design for camp that is insurance reimbursable and FEMA eligible; to develop detailed cost estimates and a financing plan for rebuilding BTC; and to establish project procedures that align with Federal requirements. Current projections are for BTC to be constructed between 2018 and 2019, and re-opened in 2020, assuming funding is available.

Staff plans to provide a full update on Berkeley Tuolumne Camp during a Council worksession in the coming year.

Capacity Audit

The OIG recently concluded a capacity audit intended to identify areas – early in the FEMA grant process – where the City could strengthen policies and practices to better comply with federal requirements. The OIG reviewed City procurement, contracting, accounting and insurance policies, as well as all post-fire costs incurred to date.

The capacity audit recommended that the State provide the City with more technical assistance and monitoring, and provided examples of ways in which City policies and practices need to be aligned with Federal requirements and FEMA guidelines. While noting that the City complied with its own procurement policies and while not disallowing any costs, the OIG's report cited concerns with procurement and documentation of two contracts: the post-fire debris removal contract, and the Berkeley Tuolumne Camp Master Plan contract.

Working in an emergency situation, the City awarded the post-fire debris removal contract one week after the Rim Fire destroyed the camp, and three months before the Rim Fire was declared a federal disaster. The City conducted a state-wide search and competitive process to procure these services, dedicated a City inspector to oversee construction, and successfully ensured that the site was cleaned up and the river protected from debris run-off.

Similarly, one month after the fire, the City directed our Master Development Plan consultant, who was already under contract pre-fire to develop a Berkeley Tuolumne Camp Master Plan, to survey the damage and develop scopes and cost estimates for the rebuild. These efforts were critical to ensuring that the City could move quickly with the State and FEMA to draft preparatory documents that render the City eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

The OIG has asked FEMA and the State to provide the City with assistance. The City has successfully managed federal aid funding for a variety of projects over the past three decades, including \$23.6M in FEMA grants for disasters that have occurred in Berkeley from 1989 to the present. While the OIG capacity audit accelerated the City's specific preparations for the Rim Fire FEMA Public Assistance grant, the City will draw on our strong body of experience to work with FEMA and the State to rebuild Berkeley Tuolumne Camp in a way that complies with federal requirements and minimizes cost to the City.

cc: Gil Dong, Interim Deputy City Manager / Fire Chief
Zach Cowan, Interim Deputy City Manager / City Attorney
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront