

## **CITY OF LOS ANGELES COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PROGRAM NARRATIVE**

### **BACKGROUND**

Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a global public health emergency unprecedented in modern history. As the first cases developed abroad, local authorities in the City of Los Angeles responded quickly to conduct situational awareness and monitoring. On March 4, 2020, the Mayor for the City of Los Angeles Proclaimed a Local Emergency in response to COVID-19. That same day, the County of Los Angeles and State of California did the same.

The Mayor's Proclamation set into motion orders for city resources and citizens in response to COVID-19. These "Safer at Home" orders included the closing of non-essential businesses, restrictions on any non-essential travel, and physical distancing requirements. The City of Los Angeles, working with health officials, hospitals, and non-profit organizations around the clock responded to open COVID-19 testing locations, hospital surge sites, and emergency shelters for unhoused individuals. Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) resources were diverted to support and enforce the orders with citywide coordination conducted through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), activated to its highest emergency response level.

Local resources are being depleted exponentially as the emergency protracts. Since December 2019, for example, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) — the busiest origin and destination passenger market in the United States — managed by the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) has been engaged in heightened response and monitoring due to high-levels of international and domestic passenger travel. In 2018, 78.5 million passengers traveled to and through LAX. The continued burden of managing these highly trafficked spaces on a continuum of recovery is an essential consideration for resource requests and allocation.

The components of this grant application provide details on a comprehensive citywide COVID-19 response and recovery program to prevent, slow down transmission of, and respond to COVID-19. Recovery measures are at the forefront of the program's considerations, in order to safely adapt and restore Los Angeles to citizens and commerce. The City of Los Angeles, submits this project proposal for ongoing coronavirus prevention and response efforts to be funded over the two-year grant performance period.

## **PROGRAM STAFFING**

### Personnel Overtime Support

One of the greatest needs for the COVID-19 response is staffing. Due to the projected length of the response, departments continue to be understaffed for the essential missions they serve. As individual workers may self-isolate, quarantine, or become ill, the need for staffing grows as the pandemic timeline lengthens. Additionally, funding is needed to address the measured increases in deployment in public safety departments. The combination of these two factors has led to an increased need in overtime funding for staff deployments.

Following Mayor Eric Garcetti's declaration of a local emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the LAPD initiated the mobilization of sworn department personnel in response to assignments for new COVID-19 related deployments above and beyond normal law enforcement duties. Officers have been providing daily enforcement of the Mayor's Orders and providing support of safer-at-home initiatives. Sworn staff have been assigned to new City-run homeless shelters and COVID-19 testing sites across the city. In addition, support has been provided to medical providers and public transportation hubs and modes. On top of increased deployments, personnel may self-quarantine to prevent spreading the disease to others. In light of health needs and the combination of new enforcement areas and protocols have required the need for overtime funding for healthy officers to maintain safe city streets.

Similarly, for the LAFD, on top of normal response duties and health concerns the department is managing and running ten of the City's COVID-19 testing sites. As of May 26, these sites have provided COVID-19 tests to over 450,000 individuals in Los Angeles City and County. Additionally, the department will also manage decontamination task forces, including staffing and training to ensure safe operations. Looking ahead at future needs, the City is readying itself for the upcoming fire season in the middle of a pandemic response. With a situation unseen within our lifetimes, the projected need for overtime staffing will require the LAFD to utilize overtime funding for necessary coronavirus-related disinfection to ensure the health and safety of responders and Los Angeles residents.

The City's EOC has been activated to its highest level, and the Los Angeles Emergency Management Department (EMD) staff has been tasked with coordinating citywide response and resources. With a small staff of fifteen, the department has been challenged by the City's response to the pandemic. As the situation continues, EMD staff continue to staff the EOC, working with emergency managers from a wide range of City departments to keep up with pressing City needs. This has resulted in the need for department personnel overtime costs funded into the coming year to manage the ongoing response and into recovery.

## **INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND SITUATIONAL AWARENESS**

### Web-Based Situational Awareness Solutions for Incident Management

The importance of situational awareness during continuously evolving conditions is not undervalued during the COVID-19 pandemic. The scale and scope of coordination during this event is centralized at the City's EOC under the direction of its EMD. While the main coordination mission of the EOC remains the same, the nature of the emergency has prompted wider implementation of virtual communication systems, necessitated physical distancing, and required increased frequency of sanitation measures.

Following health and safety orders from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the necessity for virtual EOC operations has become essential to maintaining situational awareness while protecting the health of responders. To meet these challenges, the City of Los Angeles will utilize a secure web-based incident management application at the City EOC and the LAWA Department Operations Center (DOC). The purpose for the incident management application would be to link response teams in various locations into a single platform capable of sharing information, managing resources, providing incident status updates, and maintaining situational awareness. A web-based system will provide a more effective tool to track resource requests to and from the EOC, in a real-time environment to promptly acquire critical resources that are needed by frontline responders, employees, and the public.

A virtual situational awareness platform for mapping data, section reporting, resource requests, and managing workflow is key to the success of EOC and department operations center response. Following the City's procurement policies, a contractor will build and support a customized platform for virtual emergency operations center situational awareness. Services include user license subscriptions, dashboard applications, mapping, alerts, workflows, task management, and resource management. The costs associated with this project are based on quotes and platform requirements will comply with federal regulations inclusive of software/app build out, support, and licensing fees.

### EOC Audio/Visual System

To meet health and safety considerations of physical distancing for essential responders, the necessity for virtual EOC operations extends to audio/visual system enhancements within the City's EOC meeting spaces. The City will follow its procurement policies to contract with a vendor to update existing spaces with teleconferencing capabilities to hold virtual meetings. The selected vendor will evaluate, purchase, install, and configure audio and visual systems to conduct

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meetings with large and small numbers of virtual participants. The cost has been determined based on similar projects the City has conducted in the past.

**DISINFECTION AND SANITATION RESPONSE**

Decontamination Task Force

Key to the City's coronavirus response is disinfection and sanitation. Enhanced cleaning and sanitization protocols promote public health by reducing the transmission of disease and minimize exposure risk levels. Following guidance from the CDC to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19, modified cleaning and sanitation protocols have been put in place in public spaces, work areas, and additional "high-risk" locations. Specific equipment is needed to increase local capabilities in providing effective disinfection against biological threats in order to increase overall health and safety of all City residents.

The LAFD Joint Hazard Assessment Team (JHAT) coordinates decontamination task forces — six specialized technical decontamination units across the city. The proposed equipment and supplies are needed to implement adequate disinfection at sites across the city, which by nature of coordination through the JHAT, includes collaboration with public safety entities across the County including the public health department and providers of public transportation. The LAFD will assist other City agencies with specific remediation of potential "hot spots" utilizing modeling data to highlight very high risk locations including public safety facilities and areas with limited access and persons experiencing homelessness.

LAFD will be equipped to activate disinfection assets for sanitation of gathering spaces, both indoor and outdoor, of varying scale and configuration. The resources will be managed among four bureaus with, at minimum, one disinfecting vehicle per bureau. The purchase of all-terrain vehicles and trailers will allow for the disinfection capability of large open areas as well as into areas that are not easily accessible to traditional vehicles such as off-trail encampments. Additional specialized equipment for disinfection include decontamination tents, fogging machines which are more effective than traditional spraying methods, and bulk decontamination solution.

For the safety of JHAT operators, personal protective equipment such as powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs) with various cartridges, coverall level III suits, biohazard bags, and hand sanitizer are necessary safety precautions. Responders will also use wireless volatile organic compound gas monitors to verify agents post-decontamination to ensure non-hazardous conditions and safe resumption of activities within the treated area. Response data will be transmitted from the field using laptop computers/tablets with internet connectivity/cell service. The cost is

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quoted based on previous purchases of similar items and services will not extend beyond the grant's performance period.

Airport Disinfection and Sanitation

LAWA owns and operates LAX and Van Nuys (VNY) airports. Since December 2019, LAWA has been in a heightened response and monitoring mode due to international passenger travel. This funding request allows for LAWA to improve response and monitoring capabilities to maintain safe operations for its stakeholders — including airline companies, concessionaires and food/beverage spaces, traveling passengers, and its workforce.

Based on CDC guidance, LAWA continues to improve decontamination protocols for highly trafficked areas and facilities with frequently touched surfaces and objects to maintain business operations. The range of locations and assets include airport terminals, LAWA offices and vehicle fleet, airfield buses, and public Flyaway transit buses. With a combination of disinfection methods — from the use of ozone and ultraviolet light to spray and vapor cleaning — LAWA will provide safe environments for continuation and resumption of operations at both LAX and VNY airports. Cleaning protocols include the use of cordless backpack sprayers with disinfecting agents, portable vapor/mist decontamination units, and ultraviolet disinfection robots are essential for sanitation of larger, wide-open, spaces such as airport terminals. For buildings and terminal entrances, shoe sanitizers will help create clean zones and portable ozone sterilizers will provide deep cleaning for law enforcement vehicles and small spaces. With the equipment funded through this grant, these sanitation activities are anticipated to be performed beyond the grant timeline as on-going standard cleaning and disinfecting protocols for all LAWA-owned facilities.

EOC Cleaning Services and Supplies

As the City EOC continues to be staffed daily with responders from City departments, liaison officers, and other essential response partners, personal protective equipment and disinfectant supplies will be purchased to ensure responders are protected during the course of their shifts. Structured within the EOC shift schedule are required cleaning of workstations and communal areas. A six-month supply of masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray, facial tissue, hand sanitizer are needed for the health and safety of over 60 responders who function at this critical location. An additional enhanced sanitation and cleaning service for the EOC facility will also maintain sanitation over the course of the grant.

## **RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE**

### Data Analytics for Continuity of Operations

As the nation sees a return to public spaces and airline travel, it is more important than ever to provide safe environments and restoration of services based on data. Cloud computing and data analytics services will provide LAWA with modeling for reconstitution of airport operations to recover from the COVID-19 public health emergency. This project will allow LAWA to collect and store data across the organization in a cloud-based system and obtain real-time insights into business processes. LAWA intends to utilize these services to perform continuous analysis in support of better and informed decisions as airport stakeholders resume operations disrupted by COVID-19.

### Enhanced Temperature Screening

Another component of recovery and returning to public spaces will require no-contact screening procedures such as temperature screening for groups. Temperature screening is anticipated to be performed in accordance with CDC guidelines on reducing the spread of COVID-19 and will allow LAWA to implement a phased return to airport operations disrupted by the public health emergency. The screening of passengers and workforce is a component of LAWA's plan for continuity of operations beyond Safer at Home measures. Thermal imaging screening units at stations and kiosks to check for elevated body/skin temperature of the travelling public and LAX workforce personnel.

### City of Los Angeles COVID-19 Pandemic After-Action Report

The scale of this coronavirus pandemic has never been seen before in our lifetime. As the response lengthens, City departments and public safety agencies must objectively evaluate the effectiveness of its response and plan accordingly. Due to the complexities of the response and number of response partners who will be involved in the process, a contractor will be hired to develop the City of Los Angeles COVID-19 Pandemic After-Action Report/Improvement Plan. The scope of work will include: conducting a series of workshops, interviews, and debriefings for a comprehensive review of response actions; developing a report with an executive summary; and drafting an improvement plan. The contractor will review response coordination at the EOC and a number of field-level response activities such as mobile testing, mass care and shelter operations, hospital surge capacity and resource management.

## **GRANT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

The Mayor's Office of Public Safety is responsible for grant management and administration. A team of grant specialists, accountants, and contract specialists, the office coordinates communication with departments and the grantor, manages fiscal

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accounting and monitoring, manages equipment and supply procurements, drafts and negotiates service contracts, and conducts day-to-day administration with department stakeholders.

**SUMMARY**

In summary, the City of Los Angeles submits this proposal for ongoing COVID-19 prevention and response efforts in the areas of incident management and situational awareness; disinfection and sanitation response; recovery and resilience; and overall program staffing needs. The City of Los Angeles, submits this project proposal for ongoing coronavirus prevention and response efforts to be funded over the two-year grant period of performance.