



STAFF REPORT

CITY of YORBA LINDA

Administration Department

DATE: September 21, 2021

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MARK A. PULONE, CITY MANAGER
PREPARED BY: CHRIS PEÑA, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COORDINATOR

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR USE OF COUNTYWIDE
MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve and authorize the City Manager to execute and manage, on behalf of the City of Yorba Linda, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Yorba Linda (Participant) and the County of Orange to allow their use of the County's Countywide Mass Notification System under the terms and conditions of the County's Countywide Mass Notification System Operating Guidelines and vendor-provided agreements, commencing on July 1, 2021, through December 30, 2024.

BACKGROUND

AlertOC has been used since its inception in 2008 to contact hundreds of thousands of Orange County residents in times of emergency. Public safety agencies have employed AlertOC for a wide range of notifications, including missing children, severe weather warnings, COVID-19 information, and many evacuations.

On July 22, 2008, the Board of Supervisors for Orange County extended use of the AlertOC system regionally by approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Orange County municipalities and public universities, which are responsible for protecting a resident population and maintaining a dedicated public safety answering point. The MOUs allow these entities to use the County's Countywide Mass Notification System under the terms and conditions of the County's Countywide Mass Notification System Operating Guidelines and vendor provider agreements. This MOU expired on June 30, 2013.

On June 18, 2013, the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Orange County incorporated cities, public universities, and water agencies to allow their use of the County's Countywide Mass Notification System under the terms and conditions of the County's Countywide Mass Notification System Operating Guidelines and vendor-provided agreements for the period of July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2016. On May 5, 2016, the Board renewed the MOU with Orange County cities, universities, and water agencies for a five-year term from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2021. On June 22, 2021, the Board

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approved an updated version of the MOU with the Orange County cities, universities, and water agencies for a 3.5-year term from July 1, 2021, through December 30, 2024.

AlertOC is available 24/7 and has the capacity to send large volumes of messages through phone (home, cell, or work), e-mail, and text communication channels. Landline phone numbers are purchased from E911 database vendors, but all other phone numbers and email addresses are registered utilizing the AlertOC internet public portal. The legal authority (County or City) responsible for announcing emergency notifications depends on the nature and scale of the incident and each city has local control of the system. Upon local authority decision to activate, AlertOC will be used to send a message, describing the situation and recommended action the public should take, to affected households and businesses via telephone, e-mail, and/or text.

DISCUSSION

Public mass notification systems have become a critical component of emergency preparation and response. Residents prepare to be notified of emergencies by providing their landline phones, cell phones, and e-mail addresses. Public safety and city officials respond by using the system to rapidly send out messages when there is a perceived, upcoming, or imminent situation that may require community action.

The City of Yorba Linda's MOU with the County of Orange for Use of Countywide Mass Notification System expired on June 30, 2021. The new MOU (**Attachment A**) will authorize City use of the mass notification system for 3.5 more years, for the period July 1, 2021, to December 30, 2024.

As with the previous MOU, the County of Orange funds the AlertOC system for all participating cities. The County agrees to continue funding the system through December 30, 2024. In the event this funding is no longer available, the cities will be notified and will have the opportunity to terminate the MOU.

Staff continues to recognize the value of the AlertOC system and therefore recommends that the City Council approve and authorize the City Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Orange and the City of Yorba Linda for Use of the Countywide Public Mass Notification System for the period of July 1, 2021, to December 30, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no cost share or City expense associated with this project.

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ALTERNATIVES

The City Council may elect not to participate in the only Countywide mass notification system, therefore denying the MOU execution for the period of July 1, 2021, through December 30, 2024, and terminating use of this service as of June 30, 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Memorandum of Understanding Between the County of Orange and Participants for Use of the Countywide Public Mass Notification System for the period of July 1, 2021, to December 30, 2024
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