

March/14/2010

Public Works Directors/Engineers
of All Cities and Counties

Public Works Emergency Response
Mutual Aid Agreement

Enclosed for your agency's consideration and adoption is a copy of the Public Works Emergency Response Mutual Aid Agreement. The purpose of the Agreement is to permit signatory agencies to make the most efficient use of their assets by enabling them to coordinate resources and to maximize funding reimbursement during disasters/emergencies. This document is in two parts: (1) the Agreement (to be officially adopted by your agency) and (2) the Reference Guide (not to be adopted but has suggested procedures for implementing the Agreement).

This agreement was created to enable agencies to assist other agencies on an as needed basis when they are faced with a disaster/emergency. When a disaster/emergency occurs public works agencies have the responsibility to maintain service and recover in the most expedient way. This can best be accomplished by preparation, coordination and cooperation with other public works agencies. Agencies are charged with coordinating their efforts, compiling damage and recovery information and reporting to the appropriate authority. This Agreement provides a mechanism for immediate response provided the responding agency has the resources and expertise necessary.

This Agreement provides for the development of the documentation necessary to seek the maximum reimbursement possible from the appropriate federal agencies. For instance, during the Mt. St. Helen's eruption, the City of Yakima requested resource assistance from King County. Because there was not an agreement in place prior to the disaster, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) could only reimburse the City of Yakima for King County resources at the city's rates. The City of Yakima's rates were approximately 42 percent lower than King County's. This resulted in the City of Yakima paying the difference. However, if both agencies had been signatory to this agreement, then FEMA would have reimbursed the City of Yakima for King County resources at King County's rates.

The listing of agencies' signatory to this mutual aid agreement will be maintained by WSDOT, Highways & Local Programs. Additions and deletions will be provided via email to signatory members. H&LP will also provide access to the list of signatory agencies, the Agreement and the supporting Reference Guide on the Internet.

Please forward an original or certified copy of the agreement to Dave Mounts, Highways & Local Programs, PO Box 47390, Olympia, WA 98504-7390, so your agency can be added to the list. If you have any questions, contact Dave at (360) 705-7379.

Sincerely,



Kathleen B. Davis

Director

Highways & Local Programs Service Center