Atascadero City Council
Staff Report – Fire Department

Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Plan Update

RECOMMENDATION:

Council receive and file this report.

DISCUSSION:

The Atascadero City Council has placed high importance on emergency planning making public safety one of the Council’s strategic initiatives. Staff from every City department has worked to develop and update the emergency plan for the City. Employees have completed basic training in emergency management. Many staff members have been trained to Emergency Operations Center (EOC) management levels and employees meet the minimum Federal training requirements.

This past year staff from all departments collaborated to develop a comprehensive evacuation plan for the north-west area of the City. Last spring the plan was tested during a wild fire exercise that included opening the City’s EOC. A post exercise critique led to modifications and further refinements to the evacuation plan.

Prior to the development of the evacuation plan, staff began to look for grant opportunities to assist with costs. Over a year ago staff obtained a grant which paid for map development and is slated to fund a fire safety guide. The guide will include the evacuation plan and will be widely distributed to residents in July. Lastly, the grant will cover the cost of printing a fire preplan which will be used to orient outside fire agencies responding to Atascadero fires.

Tonight’s presentation is intended to review the evacuation plan with the City Council before it is distributed citywide. A PowerPoint presentation will depict the plan which will be available on the web and will be distributed in map form.

Future goals include:
- Development of an evacuation plan for the entire west side of Atascadero
• Develop a wild fire evacuation sign plan and installation of signage
• Development of a program to assist local businesses with post disaster recovery
• Continue staff development in emergency management through training and attendance to the Emergency Management Institute (EMI)
• Further develop and define the role of the Disaster Preparedness Operations Committee

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.