

ORDINANCE NO. 009

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY AMENDING THE FIRE AUTHORITY'S PROCUREMENT CODE TO REVISE THE PURCHASING RULES AND PROCEDURES.

RECITALS

A. WHEREAS, on May 26, 2016, the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors adopted Ordinance No. 008 to adopt the Orange County Fire Authority Procurement Code to establish purchasing rules and procedures based on the American Bar Association Model Procurement Code; and

B. WHEREAS, the Board wishes to delete certain provisions in the Procurement Code relating to special procurement and to amend and add provisions related to sole source procurements.

THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Orange County Fire Authority does hereby ordain as follows:


Section 1. Amendments to Procurement Code.

As of the effective date of this Ordinance, the amendments to the Orange County Fire Authority Procurement Code shown in the attached Exhibit A are hereby enacted. Text highlighted in red strikethrough text (~~example~~) is deleted, and text highlighted in red underline text (example) is added.

Section 2. Effective Date; Publication.

This Ordinance and the amendments to the Procurement Code shall take effect and be in force thirty days from the date of its passage. Before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage, it or a summary of it shall be published once, with the names of the members of the Board of Directors voting for and against the same in the Orange County Register, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Orange.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 23 day of September, 2021.



DAVID JOHN SHAWVER, CHAIR
OCFA Board of Directors

ATTEST:



MARIA D. HUIZAR
Clerk of the Authority

EXHIBIT A

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY
PROCUREMENT CODE

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- Art. II. Chief Procurement Officer Authority, §§ 1-11--1-14**
- Art. III. Source Selection and Contract Formation, §§ 1-15--1-40**
- Art. IV. Specifications, §§ 1-41--1-46**
- Art. V. Procurement of Public Works Projects and Professional Design Services, §§ 1-47--1-57**
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ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Purpose

The purpose of the Orange County Fire Authority Procurement Code is to:

- (a) Simplify, clarify, centralize, and modernize the Fire Authority's rules and regulations governing procurement.
- (b) Permit the continued development of best value procurement policies and practices.
- (c) Provide for increased public confidence in the procurement procedures followed by the Fire Authority.
- (d) Ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all persons who deal with the procurement system of the Fire Authority.
- (e) Provide increased economy in Fire Authority procurement activities and maximize, to the fullest extent practicable, the purchasing value of public monies of the Fire Authority, and foster effective broad-based competition within the free enterprise system.
- (f) Provide safeguards for the maintenance of a procurement system of quality and integrity.
- (g) Obtain in a cost-effective and timely manner the materials, services, and construction required by the Fire Authority to better serve its citizens.

Sec. 1-1. General Law.

Pursuant to and to the extent required by Government Code Section 6509, the Orange County Fire Authority shall be restricted in the exercises of its powers in the same manner as is a general law city in accordance with the joint power agreement formed as of February 3, 1995, and as subsequently amended.

Sec. 1-2. Applicability.

Sec. 1-2(1). The provisions of this code shall apply to the following:

- (a) Every expenditure of public monies by the Fire Authority irrespective of their source, including State and Federal assistance monies, for the procurement of materials, services, and public projects;
- (b) Disposal of property; and
- (c) Contracts where there is no expenditure of public monies or where the Fire Authority is offering something of value to the business community when the Fire Authority determines source selection and award of a contract.

Sec. 1-2(2). The following are exempt from the provisions of this code:

- (a) Grants awarded by the Fire Authority and approved by the Board of Directors;
- (b) The purchase, sale or lease of Fire Authority real property;
- (c) Contracts for professional witnesses if the purpose of such contracts is to provide for services or testimony relating to an existing or probable judicial proceeding in which the Fire Authority is

or may become a party to, and contracts for special investigative services for law enforcement purposes;

(d) Agreements negotiated by the Fire Authority in settlement of litigation or threatened litigation; or

(e) Contracts with other governmental agencies.

Sec. 1-3. Definitions.

In this code, unless the context otherwise requires:

Sec. 1-3(1). "Business" means any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint stock company, joint venture or any other private legal entity.

Sec. 1-3(2). "Change order" means a written document authorized by the Chief Procurement Officer which directs the contractor to make changes with or without the consent of the contractor.

Sec. 1-3(3). "Chief Procurement Officer" means the official appointed by the Fire Chief as the purchasing and materials manager and the central procurement and contracting authority for the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-3(4). "Contract" means all types of Fire Authority agreements, regardless of what they may be called, for the procurement of materials, maintenance, services, public works, construction or the disposal of materials.

Sec. 1-3(5). "Construction" means the process of building, reconstructing, erecting, altering, renovating, improving, demolishing, or repairing any Fire Authority owned, leased, or operated facility. Construction does not include maintenance work, which is defined to include routine, recurring, and usual work for the preservation or protection of any Fire Authority owned or operated facility for its intended purposes.

Sec. 1-3(7). "Contract officer" means any person duly authorized by the Chief Procurement Officer to facilitate the source selection process, including but not limited to; preparing solicitations and written determinations, conducting negotiations, making award recommendations, and administering contracts.

Sec. 1-3(8). "Contractor" or "Consultant" means any person who has a procurement contract with the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-3(9). "Days", unless otherwise specified, means calendar days and shall be computed by excluding the first day and including the last working day, unless the last day is a holiday, and then it is also excluded.

Sec. 1-3(10). "Department" means the Purchasing Section of the Business Services Department.

Sec. 1-3(11). "Designee" means a duly authorized representative of the Chief Procurement Officer, designated by the Chief Procurement Officer.

Sec. 1-3(12). "Disposal of material" means sale of surplus property by public auction, including online electronic auction, competitive sealed bidding, small purchase procedures, recycling, or other appropriate method designated by this code.

Sec. 1-3(13). "Electronic" means electrical, digital, magnetic, optical, electromagnetic, or any other

similar technology.

Sec. 1-3(14). "Emergency" means a sudden, unexpected occurrence that poses a clear and imminent danger, requiring immediate action to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, or essential public services.

Sec. 1-3(15). "Executive Committee" means the Executive Committee of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors.

Sec. 1-3(16). "Fire Authority" means the Orange County Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-3(17). "Grant" means the furnishing of assistance, whether financial or otherwise, to any person to support a program authorized by law. Grant does not include an agreement whose primary purpose is to procure a specific end product, whether in the form of materials, services or construction. A contract resulting from such an agreement is not a grant but a procurement contract.

Sec. 1-3(18). "Materials" means all property, including but not limited to, equipment, supplies, printing, insurance and buildings but does not include land, a permanent interest in land or leases of real property.

Sec. 1-3(19). "Person" means any corporation, consultant, business, individual, union, committee, club, other organization or group of individuals.

Sec. 1-3(20). "Procurement" means buying, purchasing, renting, leasing, or otherwise acquiring any materials, services, or construction. Procurement also includes all functions that pertain to the acquisition of any material, service, or construction including but not limited to, description of requirements, selection and solicitation of sources, preparation, negotiation and, award of contract, and all phases of contract administration.

Sec. 1-3(21). "Professional service" means a unique, technical function performed by an independent contractor or firm qualified by education, experience, and/or technical ability to provide services and may include consulting, marketing analysis, banking services, auditing, software development/design, and editing services.

Sec. 1-3(22). "Public notice" means the distribution or dissemination of information to interested parties using methods that are reasonably available. Such methods may include electronic mailing lists and a website maintained for that purpose.

Sec. 1-3(23). "Services" means the furnishing of labor, time or effort by a contractor, consultant, subcontractor or sub-consultant which does not involve the delivery of a specific end product other than required design documents or reports and performance. Services do not include employment agreements or collective bargaining agreements. The definition of services includes, but is not limited to: consulting, personal, professional, legal counsel, auditing, technical, professional design and construction services.

Sec. 1-3(24). "Sole Source" means a product or service that is available from only one known supplier as a result of unique performance capabilities, manufacturing processes, compatibility requirements or market conditions.

Sec. 1-3(25). "Subcontractor or subconsultant" means a person who contracts to perform work or render service to a contractor or consultant as defined by this section or to another subcontractor or subconsultant as a part of a contract with the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-3(26). "Written or in writing" means the product of any method for forming characters on paper or other material or viewable screen, which can be read, retrieved, and reproduced, including information that is electronically transmitted and stored.

Sec. 1-3(27). "Using department" means any organizational unit of the Fire Authority, which utilizes any materials, services or construction procured under this code.

Sec. 1-4. Supplementary general principles of law applicable.

Unless displaced by the particular provisions of this code, the principles of law and equity, including the uniform commercial code of this state, the common law of contracts as applied in this state and law relative to agency, fraud, misrepresentation, duress, coercion and mistake supplement the provisions of this code.

Sec. 1-5. Requirement of good faith.

This code requires all parties involved in the negotiation, performance, or administration of Fire Authority contracts to act in good faith.

Sec. 1-6. Confidential information.

All bids, proposals, offers, specifications, or protests submitted to the Fire Authority are subject to public inspection and disclosure under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.). If a person believes that any portion of its bid, proposal, offer, specifications or protest is exempt from public disclosure, such portion may be marked "confidential." Except as required by law or court order, the Fire Authority will use reasonable means to ensure that such confidential information is safeguarded.

Secs. 1-7--1-10. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER AUTHORITY

Sec. 1-11. Authority of the Chief Procurement Officer.

Sec. 1-11(1). Except as otherwise provided in this code, the Chief Procurement Officer may adopt operational procedures consistent with this code governing the procurement and management of all materials, services, and construction to be procured by the Fire Authority and the disposal of materials.

Sec. 1-11(2). The Chief Procurement Officer shall serve as the central procurement and contracting authority of the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-11(3). Except as otherwise provided in this code, the Chief Procurement Officer shall:

- (a) Procure or supervise the procurement of all materials, services and construction needed by the Fire Authority and establish the methods and procedures necessary for the proper, efficient, and economical functioning of the procurement program.
- (b) Establish guidelines for the management of all inventories of materials belonging to the Fire Authority.
- (c) Sell, trade or otherwise dispose of surplus materials belonging to the Fire Authority in accordance with the provisions of Section 1-69.
- (d) Prepare, issue, revise, maintain, and monitor the use of specifications for materials, services and construction required by the Fire Authority.

(e) Manage the Fire Authority's procurement card (pCard) program.

(f) Furnish the Board of Directors with such reports and information as the Board may require.

Sec. 1-11(4). The Chief Procurement Officer may delegate procurement authority to designees or to any using department or official of the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-11(5). The Chief Procurement Officer may determine in writing that noncompliance with any provision of this code is not substantial and may allow for correction or may waive minor informalities or irregularities. The basis for the decision shall be included in the determination.

Sec. 1-11(6). The Chief Procurement Officer, in accordance with this code, shall have the authority to award contracts not exceeding the amount defined under management authority in the Roles and Responsibilities Matrix. Contracts exceeding management authority shall be executed by the Chief Procurement Officer upon approval by the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors.

Sec. 1-11(7). Except in cases of emergency, pursuant to Section 1-22, or where the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee has retained authority, no purchase of services, supplies and equipment by any person other than the Chief Procurement Officer or designee shall be binding upon the Fire Authority or constitute lawful charge against Fire Authority funds.

Sec. 1-12. Written determinations.

Written determinations required by this code shall be retained in the department.

Secs. 1-13, 1-14. Reserved.

ARTICLE III. SOURCE SELECTION AND CONTRACT FORMATION

Sec. 1-15. Definitions.

In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

Sec. 1-15(1). "Best value" means a method in the competitive sealed proposal process which permits the evaluation of criteria to determine the best overall value to the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-15(2). "Discussions" means communication with an offeror, bidder or respondent for the purpose of:

- (a) Eliminating minor irregularities, informalities, or apparent clerical mistakes in the offer or response;
- (b) Clarifying any offer or response to assure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements;
- (c) Resolving minor variations in contract terms and conditions; or
- (d) Establishing the competency or financial stability of any offeror, bidder or respondent.

Sec. 1-15(3). "Invitation for bid" means all documents, written or electronic, whether attached or incorporated by reference, which are used for soliciting bids in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Section 1-17.

Sec. 1-15(4). "Minor informalities or irregularities" means mistakes, or non-judgmental errors, that have negligible effect on price, quantity, quality, delivery, or other contractual terms whereby the waiver or correction of such mistakes does not prejudice other bidders, offerors or respondents.

Sec. 1-15(5). "Negotiations" means an exchange of information or any form of cooperation during which the offeror and the Fire Authority may alter or otherwise change the conditions, terms, and price, unless prohibited, of the proposed contract.

Sec. 1-15(6). "Registered supplier" means a supplier, vendor, or contractor that that has registered as an interested party to do business with the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-15(7). "Request for proposals" means all documents, written or electronic, whether attached or incorporated by reference, which are used for soliciting proposals in accordance with procedures prescribed in Section 1-18.

Sec. 1-15(8). "Request for qualifications" means all documents, written or electronic, whether attached or incorporated by reference, which are used for soliciting responses from qualified respondents in accordance with Article V.

Sec. 1-15(9). "Responsible bidder, offeror, or respondent" means a person who has demonstrated the attribute of trustworthiness, as well as quality, fitness, capacity, and experience to satisfactorily perform the procurement contract.

Sec. 1-15(10). "Responsive bidder" means a person who submits a bid which conforms in all material respects to a solicitation.

Sec. 1-15(11). "Solicitation" means an invitation for bids, a request for technical proposals, a request for proposals, a request for qualifications, a request for quotations, or any other invitation or request by which the Fire Authority invites a person to participate in a procurement.

Sec. 1-16. Methods of source selection.

All contracts of the Fire Authority shall be awarded by one of the methods of source selection specified in this code.

Sec. 1-17. Competitive sealed bidding.

Sec. 1-17(1). Invitation for bids.

- (a) Competitive sealed bids shall be solicited through an invitation for bids. The invitation for bids shall include specifications and any applicable evaluation criteria. Contractual terms and conditions may be included within the solicitation document or incorporated by reference.
- (b) A prequalification process may be conducted prior to the issuance of an invitation for bids in order to establish a list of qualified bidders. In the event a prequalification process is used, the contract officer shall only consider bids that are submitted from prequalified bidders.

Sec. 1-17(2). Public notice. Notice of the invitation for bids shall be electronically posted and the invitation for bids shall be available for public inspection not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date set forth therein for the opening of bids. A shorter time may be deemed necessary for a particular procurement as determined in writing by the Chief Procurement Officer. The public notice shall state the place, date, and time of bid opening.

Sec. 1-17(3). Pre-bid conference. The Chief Procurement Officer may conduct a pre-bid conference. If a pre-bid conference is conducted, it shall be not less than seven days before the bid due date and time, unless the Chief Procurement Officer makes a written determination that the specific needs of the procurement justify a shorter time.

Sec. 1-17(4). Solicitation amendment. The Chief Procurement Officer shall issue a solicitation amendment to do any or all of the following:

- (a) Make a correction in the solicitation;
- (b) Correct defects or ambiguities;
- (c) Provide additional information or instructions; or
- (d) Extend the offer due date and time if the Chief Procurement Officer determines that an extension is in the best interest of the Fire Authority.

If a solicitation is changed by a solicitation amendment, the Chief Procurement Officer shall post the amendment electronically and notify registered suppliers. It is the responsibility of the offeror to obtain any solicitation amendments and acknowledge receipt of amendment as specified in the solicitation amendment.

Sec. 1-17(5). Late bids. A bid is late if it is received at the location designated in the invitation for bids after the time and date set for bid opening. A late bid shall be rejected. Bidders submitting bids that are rejected as late shall be so notified.

Sec. 1-17(6). Bid opening. Bids shall be opened publicly in the presence of one or more witnesses at the time and place designated in the invitation for bids. A secure web-based system or other appropriate media may be used in lieu of public bid opening, provided that the accuracy, confidentiality, and reliability is maintained. The name of each bidder and the amount of each bid, as well as other relevant information as the Chief Procurement Officer deems appropriate shall be recorded. Unless otherwise determined by the Chief Procurement Officer, this record shall be open to public inspection. In the event no attendees are present for bid opening, the sealed bids shall be opened by the department and a "bid" or "no bid" may be recorded on the tabulation. The bids shall not be available for public inspection until after a contract is awarded. After a notice of intent to award is issued or, in the absence of a notice of intent to award, after final execution of the contract, the bids shall be available for public inspection, except to the extent that the withholding of information is permitted or required by law. If the bidder designates a portion of its bid as confidential, it shall isolate and identify in writing the confidential portions in accordance with Section 1-6.

Sec. 1-17(7). Bid acceptance and bid evaluation. Bids shall be unconditionally accepted without alteration or correction, except as authorized in this code. Bids shall be evaluated based on the requirements set forth in the invitations for bids, which may include criteria to determine acceptability such as inspection, testing, quality, workmanship, delivery, and suitability for a particular purpose. The invitation for bids shall set forth the evaluation criteria to be used. No criteria may be used in bid evaluation that is not set forth in the invitation for bids.

Sec. 1-17(8). Correction or withdrawal of bids; cancellation of awards. Correction or withdrawal of inadvertently erroneous bids before or after bid opening, or cancellation of awards or contracts based on such bid mistakes, may be permitted where appropriate. Mistakes discovered before bid opening may be modified or withdrawn by written notice received by the department prior to the time set for bid opening.

Mistakes discovered after bid opening may be modified or withdrawn only to the extent that the bidder can show by clear and convincing evidence that a mistake of a nonjudgmental character was made, the

nature of the mistake, and the bid price actually intended. After bid opening, no changes in bid prices or other bid provisions prejudicial to the interest of the Fire Authority or fair competition shall be permitted. In lieu of bid correction, a bidder alleging a mistake may be permitted to withdraw its bid if:

- (a) The mistake is clearly evident on the face of the bid document but the intended correct bid is not similarly evident; or
- (b) The bidder submits evidence that clearly and convincingly demonstrates that a mistake was made.

All decisions to permit the correction or withdrawal of bids, or to cancel awards based on bid mistakes, shall be supported by a written determination made by the Chief Procurement Officer.

Sec. 1-17(9). Contract award.

- (a) *General.* The contract shall be awarded by appropriate notice to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder whose bid conforms in all material respects to requirements and criteria set forth in the invitation for bids.
- (b) *Public record.* After the Fire Authority issues a notice of intent to award, or in the absence of a notice of intent to award upon final contract execution, the bids shall be available for public inspection, except to the extent that the withholding of information is permitted or required by law. If the bidder designates a portion of its bid as confidential, it shall isolate and identify in writing the confidential portions in accordance with Section 1-6.
- (c) *Encumbrance of funds.* Except in cases of emergency, or in cases where specific authority has been first obtained from the Fire Chief, the Chief Procurement Officer shall not issue any purchase orders for supplies or equipment unless there exists an unencumbered appropriation in the fund account against which said purchase is to be charged. All purchases, regardless of encumbrances, shall be made in conformance with the policies established by this code.
- (d) *Procurement of recycled material.* Recycled products shall be used whenever practicable when they are of comparable quality, of equivalent price and appropriate for the intended use. Recycled products shall be procured in accordance with Public Contract Code, Section 22150, et seq.

Sec. 1-17(10). Low tie bids. If there are two (2) or more low responsive bids from responsible bidders that are identical in price and other evaluation criteria and that meet all the requirements and criteria set forth in the invitation for bids, award may be made by random selection in a manner prescribed by the Chief Procurement Officer.

Sec. 1-18. Competitive sealed proposals.

Sec. 1-18(1). Request for proposals.

- (a) Competitive sealed proposals shall be solicited through a request for proposals. The request for proposals shall include a scope of work and any applicable evaluation criteria. Contractual terms and conditions may be included within the solicitation document or incorporated by reference.
- (b) A prequalification process may be conducted prior to the issuance of a request for proposals in order to establish a list of qualified offerors. In the event a prequalification process is used, the contract officer shall only consider proposals that are submitted from prequalified offerors.

Sec. 1-18(2). Public notice. Adequate public notice of the request for proposals shall be given in the same manner as provided in Section 1-17(2).

Sec. 1-18(3). Pre-proposal conference. The Chief Procurement Officer may conduct a pre-proposal conference. If a pre-proposal conference is conducted, it shall be not less than seven days before the offer due date and time, unless the Chief Procurement Officer makes a written determination that the specific needs of the procurement justify a shorter time.

Sec. 1-18(4). Solicitation amendment. Solicitation amendments shall be handled in the same manner as provided in Section 1-17(4).

Sec. 1-18(5). Late proposals. A proposal is late if it is received at the location designated in the request for proposals after the time and date set for receipt of proposals. Late proposals shall be rejected in accordance with Section 1-17(5).

Sec. 1-18(6). Receipt of proposals. Proposals shall not be opened publicly. No proposals shall be handled as to permit disclosure of the contents of any proposal to competing offerors. Proposals shall be open for public inspection after final execution of the contract, except to the extent that the withholding of information is permitted or required by law. If the offeror designates a portion of its proposal as confidential, it shall isolate and identify in writing the confidential portions in accordance with Section 1-6.

Sec. 1-18(7). Evaluation of proposals.

- (a) *Evaluation criteria.* The request for proposals shall state the criteria to be used in the evaluation of the proposals and shall include their relative importance. Specific numerical weighting is not required.
- (b) *Selection committee.* The Chief Procurement Officer shall appoint a selection committee to evaluate the proposals and make a recommendation based on the criteria set forth in the request for proposals. No other factors or criteria may be used in the evaluation.

Sec. 1-18(8). Discussion with offerors. Discussions may be conducted with offerors.

Sec. 1-18(9). Negotiations with offerors and revisions to proposals. Negotiations may be conducted with offerors. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment in conducting negotiations and there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

- (a) *Concurrent negotiations.* Negotiations may be conducted concurrently with offerors for the purpose of determining source selection and/or contract award.
- (b) *Exclusive negotiations.* Exclusive negotiations may be conducted with the offeror whose proposal is determined in the source selection process to be most advantageous to the Fire Authority. Exclusive negotiations may be conducted subsequent to concurrent negotiations or may be conducted without requiring previous concurrent negotiations. Exclusive negotiations shall not constitute a contract award nor shall it confer any property rights to the successful offeror. If exclusive negotiations are conducted and an agreement is not reached, the Fire Authority may enter into exclusive negotiations with the next highest ranked offeror without the need to repeat the formal solicitation process.

Sec. 1-18(10). Contract award. Contract award shall be made by the Chief Procurement Officer to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined in writing to be the most advantageous to the Fire

Authority taking into consideration the evaluation criteria set forth in the request for proposals. The contract file shall contain the basis on which the award is made.

Sec. 1-19. Contracting for legal counsel.

Sec. 1-19(1). Authority. For the purpose of procuring the services of legal counsel, as defined by the laws of the state, contracts for the services of legal counsel shall be awarded with the authorization of the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee except as otherwise provided by law.

Sec. 1-19(2). Conditions for use. Unless determined by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee that direct selection is in the best interest of the Fire Authority, the services of legal counsel shall be procured in accordance with this code.

Sec. 1-20. Small purchases.

Sec. 1-20(1). General. Any contract for the purchase of supplies, equipment and services (including maintenance) not exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) may be made by the Chief Procurement Officer in accordance with the small purchase procedures authorized in this section. Contract requirements shall not be artificially divided so as to constitute a small purchase under this section.

Sec. 1-20(2). Small purchases over ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00). Insofar as it is practical for small purchases in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) but less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), no less than three (3) businesses shall be solicited to submit quotations. Award shall be made to the responsible bidder submitting the quotation which is most advantageous to the Fire Authority and conforms in all material respects to the solicitation. The names of the businesses submitting quotations, and the date and amount of each quotation, shall be maintained as a public record. Nothing herein contained, however, shall preclude the Fire Authority from utilizing more restrictive procedures if, and when required by federal or state law, where federal or state funds are involved in the contract to be awarded or when the Chief Procurement Officer determines it is in the best interest of the Fire Authority to do so.

Sec. 1-20(3). Small purchases less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00). The Chief Procurement Officer shall adopt operational procedures for making small purchases of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) or less.

Sec. 1-21. Sole source procurement.

Sec. 1-21(1). General Sole Source – Only One Source Exists. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this code, a contract may be awarded without competition when the Chief Procurement Officer determines in writing, after conducting a good faith review of available sources, that there is only one source for the required material, service, or construction item. This section is not applicable to the procurement of construction services (Section 1-50). The using department requesting a sole source procurement shall provide written evidence to support a sole source determination. The Chief Procurement Officer may require that negotiations are conducted as to price, delivery, and terms. The Chief Procurement Officer may require the submission of cost or pricing data in connection with an award under this section. Sole source procurements exceeding the amount defined in the roles and responsibilities matrix shall be executed by the Chief Procurement Officer upon approval by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors. Sole source procurement shall be avoided, except when no reasonable alternative sources exist. A record of sole source procurements shall be maintained as a public record.

Sec. 1-21(2). With Justification. In addition to the authority for sole source procurement in section 1-

21 above, the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors may authorize sole source procurements above the small purchase amount specified in Section 1-20 for supplies, equipment or services (including maintenance), when the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors determines that, due to one or more of the unusual or special circumstances outlined below, it would be in the best interest of the Fire Authority to accomplish the procurement without compliance with Sections 1-17 (competitive sealed bidding), 1-18 (competitive sealed proposals), or 1-51 (procurement of professional design services):

- (a) *Continuity of Service.* It would not be feasible or advisable to change the current provider (i.e. operational inefficiency);
- (b) *Time is of the Essence.* Timing to obtain needed supplies, equipment or services would not allow for a solicitation process (non-emergency procurements);
- (c) *Significant Cost Savings Factor.* It would be financially prudent to not issue a solicitation and/or change the current provider (i.e. cost prohibitive); or
- (d) *Organizational Need.* A specific provider will provide a significant benefit and satisfy an organizational need (i.e. added value to the organization) that cannot be secured from other providers.

This section is not applicable to the procurement of construction services (Section 1-50). The using department requesting the sole source with justification procurement shall provide written evidence to support the procurement determination. Any sole source with justification procurement under this section shall be limited to those materials, equipment or services, necessary to satisfy the Fire Authority's need and shall be made with sound fiscal discretion. A written determination by the Chief Procurement Officer with review and approval from the Assistant Chief, Business Services of the basis for the sole source with justification procurement and for the selection of the particular provider shall be provided to the Executive Committee or Board of Directors prior to authorization of the procurement and shall be maintained as public record. The determination and the award shall be made by the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors in accordance with internal departmental procedures ensuring that the procurement is fair, honest, prudent, and is in the public interest.

Sec. 1-22. Emergency procurements.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this code, the Fire Chief may make or authorize others to make emergency procurements of materials, services, or construction when there exists a threat to public health, welfare, or safety or if a situation exists which makes compliance with Sections 1-17, 1-18, 1-49, or 1-50 contrary to the public interest; provided that such emergency procurements shall be made with such competition as is practicable under the circumstances. The using department requesting an emergency procurement shall provide written evidence to support an emergency determination. An emergency procurement shall be limited to those materials, services, or construction necessary to satisfy the emergency need. Emergency procurements exceeding the amount defined in the roles and responsibilities matrix shall be executed by the Chief Procurement Officer upon approval by the Chair or Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. A written determination of the basis for the emergency and for the selection of the particular contractor shall be maintained as a public record.

Sec. 1-23. ~~Special procurements~~Reserved.

~~Notwithstanding any other provisions of this code, the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors may authorize procurements above the small purchase amount specified in Section 1-20 for supplies, equipment~~

~~or services (including maintenance) when, due to unusual or special circumstances, it would be in the best interest of the Fire Authority to accomplish the procurement without compliance with Sections 1-17 (competitive sealed bidding), 1-18 (competitive sealed proposals), or 1-51 (procurement of professional design services). This is not applicable to the procurement of construction services (Section 1-50). The using department requesting a special procurement shall provide written evidence to support a special procurement determination. Any special procurement under this section shall be limited to those materials, equipment or services, necessary to satisfy the Fire Authority's need and shall be made with sound fiscal discretion. A written determination by the Chief Procurement Officer with review and approval from the Assistant Chief, Business Services of the basis for the special procurement and for the selection of the particular contractor shall be maintained as public record. The determination and the award shall be made in accordance with internal departmental procedures ensuring that the procurement is fair, honest, prudent, and a wise exercise of discretion and is in the public interest.~~

Sec. 1-24. Cancellation of solicitations.

Sec. 1-24(1). Cancellation of solicitations. An invitation for bids, a request for proposals, a request for qualifications, or other solicitation may be cancelled, or any or all bids, proposals or statements of qualifications may be rejected in whole or in part as may be specified in the solicitation, when it is in the best interest of the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-24(2). Prior to opening.

- (a) As used in this section, "opening" means the date and time set for opening of bids, receipt of statements of qualifications or receipt of proposals in competitive sealed proposals.
- (b) Prior to opening, a solicitation may be cancelled in whole or in part when the Chief Procurement Officer determines in writing that such action is in the Fire Authority's best interest for reasons including but not limited to:
 - i. The Fire Authority no longer requires the materials, services, or construction;
 - ii. The Fire Authority no longer can reasonably expect to fund the procurement; or
 - iii. Proposed amendments to the solicitation would be of such magnitude that a new solicitation is in the best interest of the Fire Authority.
- (c) When a solicitation is cancelled prior to opening, notice of cancellation shall be publicly posted.
- (d) The notice of cancellation shall:
 - i. Identify the solicitation;
 - ii. Briefly explain the reason for cancellation; and
 - iii. Where appropriate, explain that an opportunity will be given to compete on any re-solicitation or any future procurements of similar materials, services, or construction.

Sec. 1-24(3). After opening.

- (a) After opening but prior to award, all bids, proposals or statements of qualifications may be rejected in whole or in part when the Chief Procurement Officer determines in writing that such action is in the Fire Authority's best interest for reasons including but not limited to:
 - i. The Fire Authority no longer requires the materials, services or construction;

- ii. Ambiguous or otherwise inadequate specifications or scopes of work were part of the solicitation;
 - iii. The solicitation did not provide for consideration of all factors of significance to the Fire Authority;
 - iv. Prices exceed available funds and it would not be appropriate to adjust quantities to come within available funds;
 - v. All otherwise acceptable bids, statements of qualifications or proposals received are at clearly unreasonable prices;
 - vi. There is reason to believe that the bids, statements of qualifications or proposals may not have been independently arrived at in open competition, may have been collusive, or may have been submitted in bad faith; or
 - vii. Competition was insufficient.
- (b) A notice of rejection shall be sent to all persons that submitted bids, statements of qualifications or proposals, and it shall conform to subsection 1-24(2) (d) of this section.
- (c) If all bids, proposals or request for qualifications are rejected, all bids, proposals or statements received shall remain, to the extent possible, confidential.

Sec. 1-24(4). Documentation. The reasons for cancellation or rejection shall be made a part of the procurement file and shall be available for public inspection.

Sec. 1-25. Rejection of individual bids, proposals, quotations or statements of qualifications.

- (a) A bid may be rejected if:
- i. The bidder is determined to be non-responsible pursuant to Section 1-26;
 - ii. The bid is nonresponsive in accordance with Section 1-17; or
 - iii. It is otherwise not advantageous to the Fire Authority.
- (b) A proposal, statement of qualifications, or quotation may be rejected if:
- i. The person responding to the solicitation is determined to be non-responsible pursuant to Section 1-26; or
 - ii. The proposal is incomplete, nonresponsive to solicitation requirements; or
 - iii. The proposed price exceeds available funds or is unreasonable; or
 - iv. It is otherwise not advantageous to the Fire Authority.
- (c) The reasons for rejection shall be made a part of the procurement file and shall be available for public inspection.

Sec. 1-26. Responsibility of bidders, offerors and respondents.

Sec. 1-26(1). Findings of non-responsibility. If a bidder, offeror or respondent who otherwise would have been awarded a contract is found non-responsible, a written finding of non-responsibility, setting forth the basis of the finding, shall be prepared by the contract officer. The unreasonable failure of a bidder, offeror or respondent to promptly supply information in connection with an inquiry with respect

to responsibility may be grounds for a finding of non-responsibility with respect to such bidder or offeror. The written finding shall be made part of the contract file and be made a public record.

Sec. 1-26(2). Right of nondisclosure. Except as required by law or court order, confidential information furnished by a bidder, offeror or respondent pursuant to this section shall not be disclosed by the Fire Authority outside of the agency, or using department, without prior written consent by the bidder, offeror or respondent.

Sec. 1-26(3). Factors. Factors to be considered in determining if a prospective contractor is responsible include:

- (a) The proposed contractor's financial, physical, personnel or other resources, including subcontracts;
- (b) The proposed contractor's record of performance and integrity;
- (c) Whether the proposed contractor is qualified legally to contract with the Fire Authority; and
- (d) Whether the proposed contractor supplied all necessary information concerning its responsibility.

Sec. 1-26(4). Responsibility criteria. The contract officer may establish specific responsibility criteria for a particular procurement. Any specific responsibility criteria shall be set forth in the solicitation.

Sec. 1-27. Bid and contract security, material or service contracts.

The Chief Procurement Officer may require the submission of security to guarantee faithful bid and contract performance. In determining the amount and type of security required for each contract, the Chief Procurement Officer shall consider the nature of the performance and the need for future protection to the Fire Authority. The requirement for security must be included in the invitation for bids or request for proposals. Failure to submit security in the amount and type of security required may result in the rejection of the bid or proposal.

Sec. 1-28. Types of contracts.

Subject to the limitations of this code, any type of contract which will promote the best interests of the Fire Authority may be used.

Sec. 1-29. Approval of accounting system.

The Chief Procurement Officer may require that the proposed contractor's accounting system is adequate to allocate costs in accordance with generally accepted cost accounting principles prior to award of a contract.

Sec. 1-30. Multi-year contracts.

Unless otherwise provided by law, a contract for materials, services or construction may be entered into for any period of time deemed to be in the best interest of the Fire Authority, if the term of the contract and conditions of renewal or extension, if any, are included in the solicitation and monies are available for the first fiscal period at the time of contracting. Payment and performance obligations for succeeding fiscal periods are subject to the availability and appropriation of monies.

Sec. 1-31. Right to inspect.

The Fire Authority may, at reasonable times, inspect the part of the plant or place of business of a contractor, consultant or any subcontractor or sub-consultant that is related to the performance of any contract awarded or to be awarded by the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-32. Right to audit records.

Sec. 1-32(1). The Fire Authority may, at reasonable times and places, audit the books and records of any person who submits cost or pricing data as provided in Article VII of this code to the extent that the books and records relate to the cost or pricing data. Any person who is awarded a contract, change order or contract modification for which cost or pricing data is required shall maintain the books and records that relate to the cost or pricing data for three (3) years from the date of final payment under the contract, unless otherwise specified in the contract.

Sec. 1-32(2). The Fire Authority is entitled to audit the books and records of a contractor, consultant or any subcontractor or sub-consultant under any contract or subcontract to the extent that the books and records relate to the performance of the contract or subcontract. The books and records shall be maintained by the contractor for a period of three (3) years from the date of final payment under the prime contractor or consultant, and by the subcontractor or sub-consultant for a period of three (3) years from the date of final payment under the subcontract, unless otherwise specified in the contract.

Sec. 1-33. Reporting of anticompetitive practices.

If for any reason collusion or other anticompetitive practices are suspected among any bidders, offerors or respondents a notice of the relevant facts shall be transmitted to the Chief Procurement Officer. This section does not require a law enforcement agency conducting an investigation into such practices to convey such notice to the Chief Procurement Officer.

Sec. 1-34. Prospective vendors lists.

Sec. 1-35(1). The Chief Procurement Officer shall maintain a prospective vendors list. Inclusion of the name of a person shall not indicate whether the person is responsible concerning a particular procurement or otherwise capable of successfully performing a Fire Authority contract.

Sec. 1-35(2). Persons desiring to be included on the prospective vendors list may register with the department electronically. The department may remove a person from the prospective vendors list if it is determined that inclusion is not advantageous to the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-35(3). It shall be the vendor's sole responsibility to ensure that vendor registration information is current and active.

Sec. 1-35. Contract form and execution.

All contracts entered into under this code not exceeding the amount established by Section 1-11(6) shall be executed in the name of the Fire Authority by the Chief Procurement Officer. Contracts entered into under this code exceeding the amount established by Section 1-11(6) approved by the Executive Committee shall be executed by the Fire Chief, approved as to form by the General Counsel to the Fire Authority and countersigned by the Clerk of the Authority.

Sec. 1-36. Assignment of rights and duties.

The Chief Procurement Officer shall have the rights and duties of the Fire Authority to contract for the purchase of all services, supplies, equipment and other personal property required by the Fire Authority in accordance with the code and all policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors, and administrative procedures approved by the Fire Chief, or as otherwise provided by law. Except in cases where the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee has retained authority, the purchase of services, supplies and equipment are not transferable or otherwise assignable without the written consent of the Chief Procurement Officer.

Sec. 1-37--1-40. Reserved.

ARTICLE IV. SPECIFICATIONS

Sec. 1-41. Definition.

As used in this article, "specification" is used interchangeably with "scope", "scope of services", or "scope of work" and means any description of the physical or functional characteristics, or of the nature of a material, service or construction item. Specification may include a description of any requirement for inspecting, testing, or preparing a material, service, or construction item for delivery.

Sec. 1-42. Maximum practicable competition.

Sec. 1-42(1). All specifications shall seek to promote overall economy for the purposes intended and encourage competition in satisfying the Fire Authority's needs and shall not be unduly restrictive.

Sec. 1-42(2). To the extent practicable and unless otherwise permitted by this code, all specifications shall describe the Fire Authority's requirements in a manner that does not unnecessarily exclude a material, service, or construction item.

Sec. 1-42(3). Restrictive specifications shall not be used unless such specifications are required and it is not practicable or advantageous to use a less restrictive specification. The using department requesting a restrictive specification shall provide written evidence to support the restrictive specification. Past success in the material's performance, traditional purchasing practices, or inconvenience of drawing specifications do not justify the use of restrictive specifications.

Sec. 1-42(4). To the extent practicable, the Fire Authority shall use accepted commercial specifications and shall procure standard commercial materials.

Sec. 1-43. Specifications prepared by other than Fire Authority personnel.

The requirements of this code regarding the purposes and non-restrictiveness of specifications shall apply to all specifications prepared other than by Fire Authority personnel, including, but not limited to, those prepared by architects, engineers, designers, and consultants for public contracts, or subcontractors. No person preparing specifications shall receive any direct or indirect benefit from the utilization of such specifications.

Sec. 1-44. Brand name or equal specification.

A brand name or equal specification may be used to describe the standards of quality, performance, and other characteristics needed to meet the requirements of a solicitation, and which invites offers for equivalent products from a manufacturer.

Sec. 1-45. Brand name specification.

A brand name specification may be used to identify the sole acceptable item that meets the Fire Authority's needs. The using department requesting a brand name specification shall provide written evidence to support a brand name determination. A written determination by the Chief Procurement Officer of the basis for the brand name shall be maintained as public record. Past success in the material's performance, traditional purchasing practices, or inconvenience of drawing specifications do not justify the use of a brand name specification.

Sec. 1-46. Reserved.

ARTICLE V.
PROCUREMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS AND
PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES

Sec. 1-47. Definitions.

In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

Sec. 1-47(1). "Capital improvement" means an outlay of funds for the acquisition or improvement of real property, which extends the life or increases the productivity of the real property.

Sec. 1-47 (2). "Contractor" shall mean any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint venture or other legal entity which enters into a contract to sell commodities, services, or construction services to the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-47(4). "Construction project management" means those services provided by a licensed architect, registered engineer, or licensed general contractor.

Sec. 1-47(5). "Construction services" means either of the following for construction- manager-at-risk, and design-build project delivery methods:

- (a) Construction, excluding services, through the construction-manager-at-risk project delivery methods.
- (b) A combination of construction and, as elected by the Fire Authority, one or more related services, such as finance services, maintenance services, operations services, design services and preconstruction services, as those services are authorized in the definitions of construction-manager-at-risk, and design-build in this section.

Sec. 1-47(6). "Construction-manager-at-risk" means a project delivery method in which:

- (a) There is a separate contract for design services and a separate contract for construction services.
- (b) The contract for construction services may be entered into at the same time as the contract for design services or at a later time.
- (c) Design and construction of the project may be in sequential phases or concurrent phases.
- (d) Finance services, maintenance services, operations services, preconstruction services and other related services may be included.

Sec. 1-47(7). "Cost" means the aggregate cost of all materials and services, including labor performed by force account.

Sec. 1-47(8). "Design-bid-build" means a project delivery method in which:

- (a) There is a sequential award of two (2) separate contracts.
- (b) The first contract is for design services.
- (c) The second contract is for construction.
- (d) Design and construction of the project are in sequential phases.

(e) Finance services, maintenance services and operations services are not included.

Sec. 1-47(9). "Design-build" means a project delivery method in which:

- (a) There is a single contract for design services and construction services.
- (b) Design and construction of the project may be in sequential phases or concurrent phases.
- (c) Finance services, maintenance services, operations services, preconstruction services and other related services may be included.

Sec. 1-47(10). "Design professional" means an architect or engineer, or both, duly licensed for professional practice, who may be employed by an owner for the purpose of designing a project.

Sec. 1-47(11). "Emergency for Public Projects" shall have the meaning provided in Public Contract Code Sections 22035 and 22050.

Sec. 1-47(12). "Facility" means any plant, building, structure, ground facility, real property, street, highway or other public work improvement.

Sec. 1-47(13). "Firm" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, association or other legal entity permitted by law to practice the profession of architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, environmental services, land surveying, or construction project management.

Sec. 1-47(14). "Finance services" means financing for a construction services project.

Sec. 1-47(15). "Force account" means work performed on public projects by the Fire Authority's regularly employed personnel.

Sec. 1-47(16). "Maintenance work" shall have the meaning provided in Public Contract Code Section 22002(d), as that section may be amended from time to time, and shall include the following:

- (a) Routine, recurring, and usual work for the preservation or protection of any publicly owned or publicly operated facility for its intended purposes.
- (b) Minor repainting.
- (c) Resurfacing of streets and highways at less than one inch.
- (d) Landscape maintenance, including mowing, watering, trimming, pruning, planting, replacement of plants, and servicing of irrigation and sprinkler systems.

Sec. 1-47(17). "Preconstruction services" means advice during the design phase.

Sec. 1-47(18). "Professional design services" means architect services, engineering services, geologist services, landscape architect services, and land surveying service or any combination of those services that are legally required to be accomplished, reviewed, and approved by professionals registered to practice in the pertaining discipline in the State of California.

Sec. 1-47(19). "Professional engineer" refers to a person engaged in the professional practice of rendering service or creative work requiring education, training and experience in engineering sciences and the application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical and engineering sciences in such professional or creative work as consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning or

design of public or private utilities, structures, machines processes, circuits, buildings, equipment or projects, and supervision of construction for the purpose of securing compliance with specifications and design for any such work.

Sec. 1-47(20). "Public project" shall have the meaning provided in Public Contract Code Section 22002(c), as that section may be amended from time to time, and shall include the following:

- (a) Construction, reconstruction, erection, alteration, renovation, improvement, demolition, and repair work involving any publicly owned, leased, or operated facility.
- (b) Painting or repainting of any publicly owned, leased, or operated facility.
- (c) *"Public project"* does not include maintenance work.

Sec. 1-47(21). "Public works contract" means an agreement for the erection, construction, alteration, repair, or improvement of any public structure, building, road, or other public improvement of any kind.

Sec. 1-47(22). "Solicitation" shall mean an invitation for bids, request for quotations, request for qualifications, or request for proposals issued by the Fire Authority for the purpose of requesting bids, quotes or proposals to perform a contract.

Sec. 1-47(23) "Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act" is an alternative method for public project work performed or contracted by public entities in California as defined by Public Contract Code Section 22000 et seq. The Fire Authority adopted the alternative informal bidding procedures on February 22, 1996 establishing informal bidding procedures for public works.

Sec. 1-48 Procurement of public projects.

Sec. 1-48(1). Procurement of public projects, in accordance with the limits listed in Section 22302 of the Public Contract Code, as those limits may be amended from time to time, may be let to contract by informal procedures as set forth in Section 22032, et seq., of the Public Contract Code. Nothing herein contained, however, shall preclude the Fire Authority from utilizing more restrictive procedures if, and when required by federal or state law, where federal or state funds are involved in the contract to be awarded or when the Chief Procurement Officer determines it is in the best interest of the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-48(2). Contracts for construction shall be solicited through a competitive sealed bid process except as otherwise provided for in Sections 1-52 (procurement of construction services), 1-20 (small purchases), 1-21 (sole source procurement), and 1-22 (emergency procurements). The Chief Procurement Officer shall award contracts for public projects in accordance with the requirements of Public Contract Code Section 22000 et seq. and this code.

Sec. 1-48(3). Force Account and informal bidding procedures. Public works projects of the amount set forth in Public Contract Code Section 22032(a), as amended from time to time, may be performed by the employees of the Fire Authority, by negotiated contract, or by purchase order.

Sec. 1-48(4). Informal bidding procedures. Public works projects of the amount set forth in Public Contract Code Section 22032(b), as amended from time to time, may be let to contract by informal bidding procedures as set forth in Section 1-49(1).

Sec. 1-48(5). Formal bidding procedures. Public projects exceeding the amount set forth in Public

Contract Code Section 22032(c), as may be amended from time to time, shall be let to contract by formal bidding procedures as set forth in Section 1-50.

Sec. 1-48(6) Payment bond. In accordance with the Civil Code Section 9550 et seq. all public works bids involving an expenditure in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) shall require a payment bond in an amount not less than 100 percent of the total amount payable pursuant to the public works contract.

Sec. 1-49. Public project informal bidding procedures.

Sec. 1-49(1). Public projects which are subject to the informal bidding procedures as set forth in Section 1-48, shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder in accordance with the Public Contract Code Section 22000 et seq.

Sec. 1-49(2). Contractors list. The Fire Authority shall maintain a list of qualified contractors, identified according to categories of work. The development and maintenance of the list shall be in accordance with the provisions in the Public Contract Code Section 22034 and criteria established from time to time by the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission.

Sec. 1-49(3). Notice inviting informal bids. All contractors on the list of qualified contractors for the category of work to be bid or all construction trade journals as specified in the Public Contract Code Section 22036, or both, shall be sent a notice inviting informal bids unless the product or service delivery is proprietary. Additional contractors and/or construction trade journals may be notified at the discretion of the Chief Procurement Officer. If there is no list of qualified contractors maintained by the Fire Authority for the particular category of work to be performed, the notice shall be sent to the construction trade journals specified by the Commission.

Sec. 1-49(4). Sending notices and descriptions of project. All sending of notices to contractors and construction trade journals pursuant to Section 1-49(3) shall be completed not fewer than ten calendar days before bids are due. The notice inviting informal bids shall describe the project in general terms, how to obtain more detailed information about the project, and state the time and place for the submission of bids.

Sec. 1-49(5). Award of informal bids. The Chief Procurement Officer is authorized to award informal bids for public projects.

Sec. 1-49(6). Bids in excess of the formal bid limit. If all bids received are in excess of the amount set forth in Public Contract Code Section 22032(b), as may be amended from time to time, the Board of Directors may by passage of a resolution by a four-fifths vote, award the contract, to the lowest responsible bidder, if it determines the cost estimate was reasonable and the contract amount will not exceed the amount set forth in Public Contract Code Section 22034(d), as may be amended from time to time.

Sec. 1-50. Public project formal bidding procedures.

Sec. 1-50(1). Public projects which are subject to formal bidding procedures, shall be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder in accordance with the procedures set forth in this section.

Sec. 1-50(2). Notice inviting formal bids. The notice inviting bids shall state the time and place for the receiving and opening of sealed bids and distinctly describe the project. The notice shall be published at least fourteen (14) calendar days before the date of opening the bids, in a newspaper of

general circulation within the jurisdiction of the Fire Authority. The notice inviting formal bids shall also be sent electronically to all construction trade journals specified for the County of Orange in the Public Contract Code Section 22036 at least fifteen (15) calendar days before the date of bid opening. In addition to notice required by this section, the Fire Authority may give other notice as it deems proper.

Sec. 1-50(3). Adopt plans. The Board of Directors of the Fire Authority shall adopt plans, specifications, and working details for all public projects as required by Public Contract Code 22039, exceeding the amount specified in the Public Contract Code Section 22032(c).

Sec. 1-50(4). Bidder security. All formal public projects shall require bidder's security as required by state law. Bid security shall be in an amount equal to at least ten percent of the amount bid, or such other amount as may be set forth in Public Contract Code Section 20171, as may be amended from time to time. Any bid bond submitted shall be executed by an admitted surety insurer which meets the rating requirements established by the risk manager or designee, made payable to the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-50(5). Prequalification. The Fire Authority may require bidders to meet certain criteria in order to be placed upon a bidder's list to bid on formal public projects.

Sec. 1-50(6). Award of formal bids. The Board of Directors of the Fire Authority shall award all formal public works projects.

Sec. 1-51. Procurement of professional design services.

Contracts for professional design services shall be solicited and selected in accordance with Government Code Section 4525 et seq. through a request for qualifications.

Sec. 1-52. Procurement of construction services.

Contracts for construction services shall be solicited through a design-bid build or a design-build process in accordance with Public Contract Code Section 22160 et seq. except as otherwise provided for in Section 1-53. The Board of Directors or delegated authority shall award all contracts for construction services in accordance with the state requirements and this code.

Sec. 1-53. Public project emergencies procedure.

In cases of emergency, when repair or replacements are necessary to permit the continued conduct of the operation or services of the Fire Authority or to avoid danger to life or property, the Chair or Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, after making a finding that the emergency will not permit a delay resulting from a competitive solicitation for bids and, that the action is necessary to respond to the emergency, may by a four-fifths vote, proceed at once to replace or repair any public facility, take any directly related and immediate action required by that emergency, and procure the necessary equipment, services and supplies for those purposes, without giving notice for bids to let contracts. The Fire Chief shall have the power to declare a public emergency when it is impractical to convene a meeting of the Board of Directors, subject to confirmation by the Board, by a four-fifths vote, at its next meeting and reviewed at least at every regularly scheduled meeting thereafter until the action is terminated. This procedure shall be subject to any other requirements of Public Contract Code Sections 22035 and 22050, as may be amended from time to time.

Sec. 1-54--1-57. Reserved.

ARTICLE VI. CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Sec. 1-58. Contract terms and conditions.

All Fire Authority contracts shall include provisions necessary to define the responsibilities and rights of the parties to the contract. The Chief Procurement Officer shall have the authority to establish and modify any such terms and conditions.

Secs. 1-59--1-61. Reserved.

ARTICLE VII. COST PRINCIPLES

Sec. 1-62. Cost principles.

The Chief Procurement Officer shall establish cost principles which shall be used to determine the allowability of incurred costs for the purpose of reimbursing costs under contract provisions which provide for the reimbursement of costs.

Sec. 1-63. Cost or pricing data.

The submission of current cost or pricing data may be required in connection with any award, change order or contract modification.

Secs. 1-64, 1-65. Reserved.

ARTICLE VIII. MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Sec. 1-66. Definitions.

In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

Sec. 1-66(1). "Property" means controlled fixed assets including supplies, materials or equipment with a useful life of more than one (1) year and value greater than \$5,000.

Sec. 1-66(2). "Property transfer" means the transfer of controlled fixed assets between using agencies or transfer of property to or from the surplus property program.

Sec. 1-66(3). "Surplus property" means property no longer needed by using department for their operations, property in poor or non-working condition, or property that is a by-product (e.g. scrap metal, used tires and oil, etc.).

Sec. 1-67. Materials management guidelines.

The Chief Procurement Officer shall establish guidelines as may be required governing:

Sec. 1-67(1). The transfer of surplus property and operation of the surplus property program.

Sec. 1-67(2). The sale or disposal of surplus property, by auction, competitive sale or other authorized method.

Sec. 1-67(3). The trade-in of surplus property for purchase of new equipment.

Sec. 1-68. Inventory management.

The Chief Procurement Officer shall manage the Fire Authority service center which provides warehousing services including inventory management, shipping, receiving, storing, issuing and servicing of supplies and inventory for the Fire Authority. The Chief Procurement Officer will establish policies and procedures required for efficient and effective operation of the inventory system including the purchase of inventory, sale or other disposal of inventory items no longer needed, delivery and other services provided to using agencies.

Sec. 1-69. Disposition of surplus property.

Sec. 1-69(1). The Chief Procurement Officer will operate a surplus property program for the purpose of receiving, storing, transferring, or selling surplus property no longer needed by using agencies.

Sec. 1-69(2). Using agencies shall request department authorization to transfer controlled fixed assets to another using department, or to request transfer of property into or from the surplus property program.

Sec. 1-69(3). Unless otherwise provided for, surplus property no longer needed by any using department shall be offered through competitive sale to the highest responsible bidder.

Sec. 1-69(4). Unless otherwise provided, all proceeds from the sale of surplus property will be deposited into the Fire Authority's general fund. Proceeds from sale of enterprise, federal, grant or other special designation property will be reimbursed, less pro-rated selling expenses, to the appropriate fund, after completion of each sale.

Sec. 1-69(5). If surplus property has an estimated value of less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and it is proposed that the property may be donated, the Chief Procurement Officer has the authority to determine whether the proposed donation of the surplus property to another local agency or non-profit organization meets the intent of the California Constitution whereby when a public agency gives a surplus item to another organization, the item must be used for a public purpose of interest and benefit generally to the people of the agency's jurisdiction and in keeping with the agency's purpose. Said donations shall require the prior approval of the Fire Chief and a release of liability to the Fire Authority from the agency accepting the donated surplus property. Any request for donation with a fair market value exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) shall require prior approval by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee.

Sec. 1-69(6). If surplus property is deemed to have historical significance by the Fire Chief and or/his designee, the historical property will be transferred and placed in the custody of a designated section manager for safe keeping.

Secs. 1-70--1-74. Reserved.

ARTICLE IX. LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL REMEDIES

Sec. 1-75. Definitions.

In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

Sec. 1-75(1). "Adequate evidence" means more than mere accusation but less than substantial evidence. Consideration shall be given to the amount of credible information available, reasonableness in view of surrounding circumstances, corroboration, and other inferences that may be drawn from the existence or absence of affirmative facts.

Sec. 1-75(2). "Contract claim" means a written demand or written assertion by one of the contracting parties seeking, as a matter of right, payment in a sum certain, adjustment or interpretation of contract terms, or other relief arising under or relating to the contract.

Sec. 1-75(3). "Filed" means delivery to the contract officer or to the Chief Procurement Officer, whichever is applicable. A time and date of receipt shall be documented in a verifiable manner for purposes of filing.

Sec. 1-75(4). "Governing instruments" means those legal documents that establish the existence of an organization and define its powers including articles of incorporation or association, constitution, charter and by-laws.

Sec. 1-75(5). "Interested party" means an actual or prospective bidder, respondent or offeror whose economic interest may be affected substantially and directly by the issuance of a solicitation, the award of a contract or by the failure to award a contract. Whether an economic interest exists will depend upon the circumstances of each case. An interested party does not include a supplier, subconsultant or subcontractor to an actual or prospective bidder, respondent or offeror.

Sec. 1-75(6). "Receipt" means the earlier of actual receipt or the first attempted delivery by certified mail, or by any other means that provides evidence of the attempt, to the persons last known address.

Sec. 1-75(7). "Substantial evidence" means such relevant evidence as a reasonable person might accept as sufficient to support a particular conclusion.

Sec. 1-76. Authority of the Chief Procurement Officer.

The Chief Procurement Officer shall have the authority to settle and resolve protests and contract claims. Appeals from the decisions of the Chief Procurement Officer may be made to the Fire Chief pursuant to the provisions of this article.

Sec. 1-77. Right to protest.

Any actual interested party who is aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of a contract may protest to the Chief Procurement Officer.

Sec. 1-78. Filing of a protest.

Sec. 1-78 (1). "Content of protest". The protest shall be in writing and shall include the following information:

- (a) The name, address, telephone number and email address of the protestant;

- (b) The signature of the protestant or its representative;
- (c) Identification of the solicitation or contract number;
- (d) A detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of the protest including copies of relevant documents; and
- (e) The form of relief requested.

Sec. 1-79. Time for filing protests.

Sec. 1-79(1). Protests concerning improprieties in a solicitation. Protests based upon alleged improprieties in a solicitation that are apparent before the solicitation due date shall be filed not less than five (5) working days before the solicitation due date.

Sec. 1-79(2). In cases other than those covered in subsection (1) of this section, protests shall be filed within seven (7) days after the aggrieved person knows or should have known of the facts giving rise thereto; however, in no event shall the protest be filed later than seven (7) days after issuance of intent to award.

Sec. 1-79(3). The Chief Procurement Officer, without waiving the Fire Authority's right to dismiss the protest for lack of timeliness, may consider any protest that is not filed timely.

Sec. 1-79(4). The Chief Procurement Officer shall give notice of the protest to the successful contractor if award has been made or, if no award has been made, to all interested parties. Interested parties have the right to intervene.

Sec. 1-80. Stay of procurements during the protest.

In the event of a timely protest under Section 1-79, the Fire Authority may proceed further with the solicitation or with the award of the contract unless the Chief Procurement Officer makes a written determination that there is a reasonable probability that the protest will be sustained or that the stay of procurement is not contrary to the substantial interests of the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-81. Confidential information.

Sec. 1-81(1). Material submitted by a protestant shall not be withheld from any interested party except to the extent that the withholding of information is permitted or required by law or as determined pursuant to Section 1-6.

Sec. 1-81(2). If the protestant believes the protest contains material that should be withheld, a statement advising the Chief Procurement Officer of this fact shall accompany the protest submission in accordance with Section 1-6.

Sec. 1-82. Decision by the Chief Procurement Officer.

Sec. 1-82(1). The Chief Procurement Officer shall issue a written decision within fourteen (14) days after a protest has been filed pursuant to Section 1-78. The decision shall contain an explanation of the basis of the decision.

Sec. 1-82(2). The Chief Procurement Officer shall furnish a copy of the decision to the protestant, by e-mail and/or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by any other method that provides evidence of receipt.

Sec. 1-82(3). The time limit for decisions set forth in subsection (1) of this section may be extended by the Fire Chief for a reasonable time not to exceed thirty (30) days. The Chief Procurement Officer shall notify the protestant in writing that the time for the issuance of a decision has been extended and the date by which a decision will be issued.

Sec. 1-82(4). If the Chief Procurement Officer fails to issue a decision within the time limits set forth in subsection (1) or (3) of this section, the protestant may proceed as if the Chief Procurement Officer had issued an adverse decision.

Sec. 1-82(5). The Chief Procurement Officer's decision shall contain a statement regarding the appeals process that is available pursuant to this article.

Sec. 1-83. Remedies.

Sec. 1-83(1). If the Chief Procurement Officer sustains the protest in whole or part and determines that a solicitation, evaluation process, proposed contract award, or contract award does not comply with the procurement code, the Chief Procurement Officer shall implement an appropriate remedy.

Sec. 1-83(2). In determining an appropriate remedy, the Chief Procurement Officer shall consider all the circumstances surrounding the procurement or proposed procurement including, but not limited to:

- (a) The seriousness of the procurement deficiency;
- (b) The degree of prejudice to other interested parties or to the integrity of the procurement process;
- (c) The good faith of the parties;
- (d) The extent of performance;
- (e) Costs to the Fire Authority;
- (f) The urgency of the procurement; and
- (g) The impact of the relief on the using department's mission.

Sec. 1-83(3). An appropriate remedy may include one or more of the following:

- (a) Reject all bids, responses or proposals;
- (b) Terminate the contract;
- (c) Reissue the solicitation;
- (d) Issue a new solicitation;
- (e) Award a contract consistent with the procurement code;
- (f) Such other relief as is determined necessary to ensure compliance with the General Law and this code.

Sec. 1-84. Appeals to the Fire Chief.

Sec. 1-84(1). Appeal. An appeal from a decision entered or deemed to be entered by the Chief

Procurement Officer shall be filed with the Fire Chief within seven (7) days from the date the decision is issued. The appellant shall also file a copy of the appeal with the Chief Procurement Officer.

Sec. 1-84(2). Content of appeal. The appeal shall contain:

- (a) The information set forth in Section 1-78, including the identification of confidential information in the manner set forth in Section 1-81;
- (b) A copy of the decision of the Chief Procurement Officer; and
- (c) The precise factual or legal error in the decision of the Chief Procurement Officer from which an appeal is taken.

Sec. 1-85. Notice of appeal.

Sec. 1-85(1). The Fire Chief shall give notice of the appeal to the successful contractor if award has been made or, if no award has been made, to interested parties. Such interested parties shall have the right to request copies of the appeal and to intervene in the proceedings.

Sec. 1-85(2). The Fire Chief shall, upon request, furnish copies of the appeal to those named in subsection (1) of this section subject to the provisions of Section 1-81.

Sec. 1-86. Stay of procurement during appeal.

If an appeal is filed during the procurement and before an award of a contract and the procurement or award of the contract was stayed by the Chief Procurement Officer pursuant to Section 1-80, the filing of an appeal shall automatically continue the stay unless the Fire Chief makes a written determination that the procurement or award of the contract without delay is necessary to protect substantial interests of the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-87. Chief Procurement Officer's report.

Sec. 1-87(1). Report. The Chief Procurement Officer shall file a report on the appeal with the Fire Chief within seven (7) days from the date the appeal is filed. At the same time, Chief Procurement Officer shall furnish a copy of the report to the appellant by e-mail and/or certified mail, return receipt requested or any other method that provides evidence of receipt, and to any interested parties who have responded to the notice given pursuant to Section 1-85(2). The report shall contain copies of:

- (a) The appeal;
- (b) Any other documents that are relevant to the protest; and
- (c) A statement by the Chief Procurement Officer setting forth findings, actions, recommendations and any additional evidence or information necessary to determine the validity of the appeal.

Sec. 1-87(2). Extension for filing of report.

- (a) The Chief Procurement Officer may request in writing an extension of the time period setting forth the reason for extension.
- (b) The Fire Chief's determination on the request shall be in writing, state the reasons for the determination and, if an extension is granted, set forth a new date for the submission of the report. The Chief Procurement Officer shall notify the appellant in writing that the time for the submission of the report has been extended and the date by which the report will be submitted.

Sec. 1-87(3). Comments on report.

- (a) The appellant shall file comments on the Chief Procurement Officer's report with the Fire Chief within seven (7) days after receipt of the report. Copies of the comments shall be provided by the appellant to the Chief Procurement Officer and all other interested parties. The comments must contain a statement or confirmation as to the appellant's requested form of relief.
- (b) The Fire Chief may grant an extension on the time period to file comments pursuant to a written request made by the appellant within the period set forth in subsection (3)(a) of this section stating the reason an extension is necessary. The Fire Chief's determination on the request shall be in writing, state the reasons for the determination and, if the extension is granted, set forth a new date for the filing of comments. The Fire Chief shall notify the Chief Procurement Officer of any extension.

Sec. 1-88. Dismissal by the Fire Chief.

The Fire Chief shall dismiss, upon a written determination, an appeal if:

Sec. 1-88(1). The appeal does not state a valid basis, including a detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds, for protest; or

Sec. 1-88(2). The appeal is untimely pursuant to Section 1-84(1).

Sec. 1-89. Remedies.

If the Fire Chief sustains the appeal in whole or part and determines that a solicitation, evaluation process, proposed award, or award does not comply with the general law and/or this code, remedies may be implemented pursuant to Section 1-83.

Sec. 1-90. Filing of a contract claim.

Sec. 1-90(1). "Content of claim". The claim shall be in writing and shall include the following information:

- (a) The name, address, telephone number and email address of the claimant;
- (b) The signature of the claimant or its representative;
- (c) Identification of the solicitation or contract number;
- (d) A detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of the claim including copies of relevant documents; and
- (e) The form of relief requested.

Sec. 1-91. Chief Procurement Officer's decision.

Sec. 1-91(1). *Written decision.* If a contract claim cannot be resolved by mutual agreement, the Chief Procurement Officer shall, upon a written request by the contractor for a final decision, issue a written decision no more than sixty (60) days after the request is filed. Before issuing a final decision, the Chief Procurement Officer shall review the facts pertinent to the contract claim or controversy and secure any necessary assistance from legal, financial, procurement, and other advisors.

Sec. 1-91(2). *Final decision.* The Chief Procurement Officer shall furnish a copy of the decision to the contractor, by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by any other method that provides evidence

of receipt. The decision shall include:

- (a) A description of the claim;
- (b) A reference to the pertinent contract provision;
- (c) A statement of the factual areas of agreement or disagreement;
- (d) A statement of the Chief Procurement Officer's decision, with supporting rationale;
- (e) A statement regarding the appeals process that is available pursuant to this article.

Sec. 1-92. Issuance of a timely decision.

Sec. 1-92(1). The time limit for decisions set forth in Section 1-91(1) may be extended for good cause. The Chief Procurement Officer shall notify the contractor in writing that the time for the issuance of a decision has been extended and the date by which a decision is anticipated.

Sec. 1-92(2). If the Chief Procurement Officer fails to issue a decision within sixty (60) days after the request on a claim is filed or within the time prescribed under subsection (1) of this section, the contractor may proceed as if the Chief Procurement Officer had issued an adverse decision.

Sec. 1-93. Appeals to the Fire Chief.

Sec. 1-93(1). Appeal of final decision. An appeal of a final decision of a Chief Procurement Officer on a claim shall be filed with the Fire Chief within five (5) days from the date the decision is received. The appellant shall also file a copy of the appeal with the Chief Procurement Officer.

Sec. 1-93(2). Content of appeal. The appeal shall contain a copy of the decision of the Chief Procurement Officer and the basis for the precise factual or legal error in the decision of the Chief Procurement Officer from which an appeal is taken.

Sec. 1-93(3). Final decision, mediation service or arbitration. The Fire Chief may make the final decision in accordance with Section 1-97 or to refer to mediation services in accordance with Section 1-95 or refer to arbitration in accordance with Section 1-96.

Sec. 1-94. Fire Authority claims against a contractor.

All contract claims asserted by the Fire Authority against a contractor that are not resolved by mutual agreement shall promptly be referred by the Chief Procurement Officer to the Fire Chief for a final decision in accordance with Section 1-97, or mediation, in accordance with Section 1-95, or arbitration in accordance with Section 1-96.

Sec. 1-95. Mediation.

Contract claims may be resolved utilizing mediation services if the Fire Chief determines the use of such services is in the best interest of the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-96. Arbitration.

Contract claims may be resolved utilizing arbitration if the Fire Chief determines the use of arbitration is in the best interest of the Fire Authority. The claim shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the current construction industry arbitration rules of the American Arbitration Association or, at the option of the Fire Authority, in accordance with the provisions of the California Arbitration Act (CAA) (Cal. Civ. Proc. Code §§ 1280-1294.2) or the Federal Arbitration Act (FAA) (9 U.S.C. §§ 1-16, 201-208, 301-307).

Sec. 1-97. Final decision by the Fire Chief.

Sec. 1-97(1). The Fire Chief may affirm, modify, or reject the Chief Procurement Officer's decision in whole or in part, or make any other appropriate disposition.

Sec. 1-97(2). A decision by the Fire Chief shall be final. The decision shall be sent to all parties by e-mail, certified mail, return receipt requested or by any other method that provides evidence of receipt. If a stay was issued, the final decision by the Fire Chief shall lift any such stay, unless the Fire Chief determines that the continued stay is necessary to protect the substantial interest of the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-98. Judicial review of protests or claims.

Any decision of the Fire Chief regarding a protest (§ 1-77 et seq.) or claim (§ 1-90 et seq.) under this code shall be final. Exhaustion of the procedures set forth in this code shall be a condition precedent to any person seeking judicial review of a final decision by the Fire Chief.

Sec. 1-99. Exclusive remedy.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, this article shall provide the exclusive procedure for asserting a claim or cause of action against the Fire Authority arising in relation to any procurement conducted under this code.

Secs. 1-100--1-115. Reserved.

ARTICLE X. COOPERATIVE PURCHASING

Sec. 1-116. Definitions.

In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

Sec. 1-116(1). "*Cooperative purchasing*" means procurement conducted by, or on behalf of, more than one public procurement unit.

Sec. 1-116(2). "*Eligible public procurement unit*" means any state, county, city, town, and any other political subdivision, public authority, educational, health or other institution, and to the extent provided by law, any other entity which expends public funds for the procurement of supplies, services and construction, and any not-for-profit entity.

Sec. 1-117. Applicability.

Agreements entered into pursuant to this article shall be limited to the areas of procurement, warehousing or materials management.

Sec. 1-118. Cooperative purchasing authorized.

The Fire Authority may participate in, sponsor, conduct or administer a cooperative purchasing agreement for the procurement of any materials, services, or construction with one or more eligible procurement units in accordance with an agreement entered into between the participants. Such cooperative purchasing may include, but is not limited to joint or multi-party contracts between public procurement unit and open-ended public procurement unit contracts that are made available to other public procurement units. Parties under a cooperative purchasing agreement may:

Sec. 1-118(1). Sponsor, conduct or administer a cooperative agreement for the procurement or disposal of any materials, services, or construction.

Sec. 1-118(2). Cooperatively use materials or services.

Sec. 1-118(3). Commonly use or share warehousing facilities, capital equipment and other facilities.

Sec. 1-118(4). Provide personnel, except that the requesting eligible procurement unit may pay the public procurement unit providing the personnel the direct and indirect cost of providing the personnel, in accordance with the agreement.

Sec. 1-118(5). On request, make available to other eligible public procurement units informational, technical or other services that may assist in improving the efficiency or economy of procurement. The public procurement unit furnishing the informational or technical services has the right to request reimbursement for the reasonable and necessary costs of providing such services.

The activities described in paragraphs (1) through (5) do not limit the activities of parties under a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Sec. 1-119. Cooperative purchasing source selection methods.

All cooperative purchasing conducted under this Article shall be through contracts awarded by a public agency through full and open competition, including use of source selection methods substantially equivalent to those specified in Article III (Source Selection and Contract Formation) of this code.

Secs. 1-120, 1-121. Reserved.

**ARTICLE XI.
RESERVED**

Secs. 1-122--1-126. Reserved.

**ARTICLE XII.
ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING**

Sec. 1-127. Procurement Ethics Standards

Sec. 1-127(1). The Chief Procurement Officer, as well as those involved in Fire Authority procurement shall discharge their duties in accordance with high ethical standards by practicing their profession with integrity, honesty, truthfulness and adherence to the absolute obligation to safeguard the public trust.

Sec 1-127(2). The Chief Procurement Officer, as well as those involved in Fire Authority procurement, shall be subject to the Conflict of Interest Code and subsequent amendments adopted by the Fire Authority.

Sec. 1-127(3). The Chief Procurement Officer shall adopt a Procurement Ethics Policy and Procedures applicable to all Fire Authority procurement functions.

Secs. 1-128--1-130. Reserved.

