



To: Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

From: Jennifer Johnson, Director of Operations

Date: April 18, 2019

Re: Recommendation to rollover funding for Fixed Asset Contract with the Hueneme School District for a preschool facility

Background

The Hueneme/South Oxnard Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL) has been working on expanding preschool opportunities since its inception and has helped create over 275 new spaces over the years through one-time investments in facilities, playground, classroom set-up, and ongoing operating funds. In the past years, 46 NfL funded spaces have been converted to more sustainable California State Preschool Program (CSPP) funds. In FY 2018-19, the NfL continues to provide on-going operating funds for 26 spaces.

Finding available facilities that can appropriately house preschool programs has been a significant barrier in expanding preschool opportunities and in leveraging new CSPP funding. The FY 2016-19 Hueneme/South Oxnard NfL contract intentionally set aside unspent funds from preschool conversion to address the unmet preschool need, while exploring new possibilities in light of the lack of facilities. The NfL and Hueneme School District identified an opportunity to collaborate on expanding preschool opportunities. The Commission approved the NfL's request in September 2018 to utilize \$418,203 from their FY 2016-19 allocation for the construction and installation costs of the new portable facility at the Sunkist Elementary School, through a fixed asset contract. The District is providing land at Sunkist Elementary and contributing over \$300,000 towards construction costs for this new portable preschool facility. The operating costs for the new spaces will be funded through additional CSPP funding.

Due to unforeseen barriers in obtaining regulatory approval, the project has faced delays. While the expenditures were originally anticipated to be incurred by June 2019, additional time is necessary to complete the project. As a result, it is estimated that the majority of expenditures will occur in FY 2019-20, rather than in FY 2018-19. If approved, this action will update the Commission's FY 2019-20 operating budget accordingly.

Recommendation:

The recommended action will authorize a rollover of up to \$400,000 in funds from FY 2018-19 to FY 2019-20 for the fixed asset contract with the Hueneme School District to complete the preschool facility at Sunkist Elementary School. As these funds were budgeted in FY 2016-19 but not expended, no new allocation is needed.