

RESOLUTION NO. 12-

RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SEEKING STATE REIMBURSEMENT FOR SPECIAL EXPENDITURES INCURRED BY THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO AS A RESULT OF THE 2011 APPREHENSION OPERATION FOR AARON JAMES BASSLER

WHEREAS, from late August 2011, through the 1st of October, law enforcement entities from throughout California, assisted by fellow emergency responders, engaged in an unprecedented 36-day search operation for double-homicide suspect, Aaron James Bassler; and

WHEREAS, upon learning of the shooting death of Fort Bragg City Councilmember, Jere Melo, on August 27, 2011, officers of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deployed immediate law enforcement resources approximately four (4) mile east of Fort Bragg, California, in remote and rugged terrain, in an effort to apprehend the suspect; and

WHEREAS, at the onset of the operation, law enforcement officials learned that Aaron James Bassler was alleged to have committed another homicide on August 11, 2011, involving the shooting death of community member, Matthew Coleman; and

WHEREAS, the personnel of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, aided by fellow law enforcement entities, responded swiftly in an effort to prevent further loss of life, providing 24/7 surveillance and conducting ground and aerial searches in the mountainous terrain and forestlands where the suspect was last reported to have been seen; and

WHEREAS, the extended 36-day multi-agency search operation, the parameters of which were focused along the Highway 20 corridor, between Willits and Fort Bragg, into the Noyo Basin, depleted the scarce financial resources of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, provisions for mutual aid between CalEMA and other first responders, (pursuant to the California Fire Assistance Agreement) allows for reimbursement to local government agencies for the use of their resources; and

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office incurred special expenses for outside agencies that came at Mendocino County's request for mutual aid, including lodging, food, and logistical expenditures in the amount of \$40,827.29 (see attachment); and

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office also incurred extraordinary overtime costs in the amount of \$227,433.04 for this operation; and

WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino desires to seek reimbursement of allowable costs to recover the resources expended by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office for this unforeseeable and unprecedented incident.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Mendocino hereby respectfully requests reimbursement by the State of California, in the amount of \$40,827.29 for logistical expenditures resulting from the 2011 Apprehension Operation for Aaron James Bassler, incurred August 27, 2011 - October 1, 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors hereby designates the Mendocino County Chief Executive Officer and the Sheriff/Coroner as the County's authorized representatives in this matter.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, and carried this 24th day of January, 2012, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.

ATTEST: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board

JOHN MCCOWEN, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Deputy

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JEANINE B. NADEL, County Counsel

BY: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board

Deputy