

DATE: JUNE 16, 2026

FROM: PORT POLICE

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO AXON ENTERPRISES, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF A TRAILER MOUNTED DRONE DETECTION UNIT

SUMMARY:

Staff requests approval of a Contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. of Scottsdale, Arizona, for the purchase of a trailer mounted drone detection unit. The Contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. is outlined in Formal Bid Request Number F-1268. Flying drones in the Port of Los Angeles is prohibited by a City Municipal Code that is enforced by the Port Police unless a permit is issued by the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department). A key tool for this enforcement is a state-of-the-art drone detection system consisting of sensor units that communicate alerts and information regarding detected drones to monitors through computer software. The purchase of a trailer mounted unit will result in increased sensor capability and provide the ability to rapidly deploy a detection unit during an emergency response or for a large public event.

The total Contract amount is \$460,688.85 which includes a trailer mounted drone detection unit and applicable taxes. The Harbor Department will be financially responsible for payment of expenses incurred under the proposed Contract.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board):

1. Find that the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article II Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines;
2. Find that in accordance with City of Los Angeles Code Section 10.15(a)(10), competitive bidding would be undesirable and impractical;
3. Award and approve the Contract (Bid No. F-1268) with Axon Enterprises, Inc. for the purchase of a trailer mounted drone detection unit in the amount of \$460,688.85;
4. Authorize the Executive Director to execute and the Board Secretary to attest to the Contract for and on behalf of the Board; and

DATE: JUNE 16, 2026

PAGE 2 OF 3

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5. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

DISCUSSION:

Background/Context – The operation of drones on Harbor Department property is regulated by Los Angeles Municipal Code, which prohibits drone operations unless approved through a permitting program. The enforcement of the Code is conducted by the Port Police.

The Port Police use electronic drone detection equipment to conduct this mission. This is a system that uses sensors and AI based software analysis to identify drones in flight and locate the position of the operator.

In 2020, the Port Police purchased two Axon Dedrone sensor units and entered into a subscription contract for use of the proprietary Axon Dedrone Tracker software. These units are monitored by the Port Police Security Officers in the Threat Detection Center, located in Port Police Headquarters. Upon receiving a signal of a drone, the Security Officer notifies the Port Police Dispatcher, and an Officer is dispatched to the location of the drone operator. Depending on the scenario, the operator may be issued a warning or a citation. Under certain circumstances operators may be placed under arrest. Additionally, in certain cases the drone may be confiscated. The technology in the existing units is limited to detection of a single drone manufacturer.

The trailer mounted unit to be purchased will include different types of sensors than the sensors on the existing units, including radar and pan-tilt-zoom cameras. Additionally, this unit will have the capability to detect all types of drones. For certain types of operations, the Port Police will mount one of the existing units on to the trailer. This arrangement will provide complete drone detection capability. The trailer can be placed at various locations around the Port, depending on the specifics of the operation.

Selection Process – On October 20, 2025, Port Police submitted purchase request REQ 17056 to the Contracts and Purchasing Division for the purchase of a trailer mounted drone detection unit. This purchase request was submitted as a sole source purchase because the communications and analysis programming for this system is proprietary. In order for the Port Police to have this piece of equipment work with the system currently in use, it must be purchased from this manufacturer. Sensors sold by other companies will not work with the system in place. Additionally, this manufacturer's system is currently being used by the U.S. Coast Guard, which enables sharing of data between agencies.

DATE: JUNE 16, 2026

PAGE 3 OF 3

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is the approval of a Contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. for the purchase of a trailer mounted drone detection unit, which is an administrative activity. Therefore, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively exempt from the requirements of CEQA in accordance with Article II Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the proposed one-time purchase order Contract authorizes the amount of \$460,688.85 for the purchase of a trailer mounted drone detection unit.

Fiscal Year 2026/27 funds in the amount of \$460,688.85 have been budgeted within Account 161210 (Capital Equipment Purchase), Division 52010 (Port Police).


CITY ATTORNEY:

The Office of the City Attorney has reviewed and approved this Contract (Bid No. F-1268) as to form and legality.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Bid No. F-1268

FIS Approval: JS
CA Approval: SO


GREG MCMANUS
Deputy Chief of Police


THOMAS E. GAZSI
Chief of Public Safety and
Emergency Management

APPROVED:

 for

EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director