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VALLEJO TO PURCHASE SURPLUS FIREBOAT FOR ONE DOLLAR

VALLEJO – The Vallejo City Council will consider purchasing a fireboat from the Los Angeles Fire Department for \$1 at next Tuesday’s city council meeting.

The boat became available when the LA Fire Department replaced three of its existing fireboats last April. After making an inquiry about the availability of the boat, the City of Los Angeles authorized the sale of the boat to Vallejo for \$1.

The 34-foot fireboat will replace the existing 24-foot boat, the Neptune, currently in service.

“This will definitely enhance our level of protection in our waterways,” said Fire Chief Don Parker. “It’s a good deal for the City of Vallejo, one we could not pass up.”

If the City Council approves the purchase, cost for transporting the boat to Vallejo will be about \$3,000, which is covered in the existing Fire Department budget.

Fire department officials traveled to Los Angeles in March to determine if the condition of the vessels. The fireboat being purchased by Vallejo has been well maintained and had over \$200,000 in engine replacement and upgrades over the last two years.

“This new vessel will greatly enhance our response capabilities over the Neptune,” Parker said. “The Neptune has served us well, to be sure. But the new boat will be even better.”

Following the terrorist attacks of 9-11, the Coast Guard asked the City of Vallejo to assist with the patrol of various waterways in the area using the Neptune. The boat has also assisted in a fire in Benicia involving a long wooden pier as well as in other events.

“There’s no doubt there is a need for this type of equipment in our area,” City Manager David Martinez said, “especially in light of increased demands for service in dealing with homeland security issues.”