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Corporate Plan Output: Unauthorised Expenditure	

The purpose of this report is to update Councillors on the action taken by the Subcommittee elected to consider assistance to the Taiwan earthquake and victims of the unrest in East Timor.

#### **THE APPEAL**

The October meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee was advised that an appeal for funds would be put in place through the Council's suburban delivery points for the three week period to 29 October 1999. This appeal has now been extended by the Appeal Subcommittee to 26 November. The Subcommittee has liaised with the aid agencies who have been represented in both countries. World Vision Executive Director, Colin Prentice, and Christchurch District Manager, Don Lord, met with the Subcommittee and reported on World Vision's fundraising programmes and the liaison with other agencies particularly Red Cross, CARITAS, and OXFAM who have workers in both areas.

The reports through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and through the aid agencies indicate that the agencies are coping with the situation in Taiwan but that with the developing situation in East Timor agencies have been restricted in the assistance they can give until the community's infrastructure is re-established.

The RedR (the Register of Engineers for Disaster Relief NZ) is currently compiling a register of engineers who may be available to assist in East Timor. The Water Services Manager has reported separately on this issue.

The Council's staff mufti day on 15 October raised approximately \$500.

The Council's publicity of the plight of the Taiwanese community following the earthquake gave support to collections undertaken by the Haw-Hsin Society and the service clubs collecting on their behalf. Yi Yi Ku, the liaison person with the Society, has attended all meetings of the Subcommittee.

#### **COUNCIL GRANTS**

The Auckland City Council has provided a grant of \$20,000 for East Timor as a catalyst to the people of Auckland, organisations and individuals to contribute as well.

The Subcommittee has been advised that the Council may make such grants pursuant to section 323K of the Local Government Act and as an indication of the city's support of the fundraising programme has recommended that grants be made to both funds.

#### **FUTURE ROLE OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE**

A future role for the Subcommittee in coming together at short notice to respond to emergencies and appeals for funds was discussed. An earlier response to a developing situation may assist a fundraising programme. However it was considered that with the experience gained by both staff and Subcommittee members in this appeal project that the group could readily come together informally at short notice.

The Subcommittee will meet again on 26 November to consider how best to distribute the appeal funds.

**Recommendation:** That the Council contribute \$5,000 to both the appeal for East Timor and the appeal for Taiwan and encourage organisations in the city to contribute.