



OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



EXHIBIT F-10
2 Pages

FUELS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

DATE: June 29, 2021

TO: District Board Members

FROM: Allen Riley, Fire Chief and Mike Geary, General Manager

SUBJECT: Fuels Management Program Development – Update

BACKGROUND: While the District's Defensible Space Program has been successful over the past several decades, the severity of wildfires in the West in recent years indicates that throughout the State, more needs to be done. As such, the District is proactively expanding its role to address wildfire risks by expanding its current efforts and creating a new Fuels Management Program. The first step is preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) which will identify and prioritize the fuels reduction and wildfire prevention strategy for the Valley, a portion of the Truckee River corridor, as well as surrounding wildlands. The purpose of this report is to generate a discussion with the Directors, staff, and the community about the District's progress to create a Fuels Management Program and to complete a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This report is expected to be a standing item on the Board agenda for the next several months.

DISCUSSION: District staff have continued to coordinate with Deer Creek Resources and Wildland Rx on the CWPP. Over the past month staff have worked with the consulting team to set an agenda and dates for the first stakeholder meeting. This will be a two-hour meeting scheduled between July 21st and 23rd, which all Directors are invited to join. Attendees will include representatives from local agencies, large landowners, and decision makers in our Valley. This meeting will be facilitated by Barry Callenberger and Jeff Dowling, who, along with Spencer Holmes at Deer Creek Resources are helping the District prepare the CWPP. The purpose of this meeting is to familiarize stakeholders with the CWPP process, to gather data needed for the GIS mapping, and to identify potential fuel reduction projects for high-hazard areas with a known hazard of structural ignitability. Stakeholders will be asked to share their issues, concerns, and opportunities, and contribute their knowledge of the firescape.

A Fire Prevention Program Grant Application with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and California Climate Investments was submitted by staff on May 12, 2021 for \$31,898 in grant funding to support the preparation of the CWPP. The grants will be reviewed and selected between May and July of 2021 and awarded between August and November of 2021.

Staff included information about Defensible Space and provided an update on the Fuels Management Program in the Summer Newsletter, attached to this month's Administrative Report.

Additionally, the Fire Department included \$10,000 in the FY 2021-2022 budget to hire a consultant to write a grant application leveraging the DRAFT version of CWPP to apply to the May 2022 grant cycle for the CalFIRE/CA Climate Investments Fire Prevention Program.

ALTERNATIVES: This report is informational only; no action is requested from the Board.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS: The District committed \$10,000 to the total project cost of \$28,800 to prepare the CWPP, the results of the Fire Prevention granting funding for the CWPP is pending. The District included \$10,000 for third-party consultants in the FY 2021-2022 budget for fuels management grant writing.

RECOMMENDATION: This report is informational only; no action is requested from the Board.

ATTACHMENTS: None.

DATE PREPARED: June 24, 2021