



OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



EXHIBIT F-1
2 Pages

FUELS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

DATE: May 30, 2023

TO: District Board Members

FROM: Allen Riley, Fire Chief; Mike Geary, General Manager; and Jessica Asher, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Fuels Management Program – Update

BACKGROUND: Since November 2020, the District has worked to expand the Fire Department's Fuels Management Program. The Board of Directors directed staff to provide progress reports at its monthly meetings. A comprehensive update was provided at the November 2021 Board Meeting and is here: https://www.ovpsd.org/sites/default/files/F-1_2021-11-16_Fuels%20Management%20Program%20Board%20Mtg%20-%20Compiled-Rev.pdf

DISCUSSION: Community Buffer (OV-4) Fuels Reduction Project
Staff, with contracted support from Danielle Bradfield from Feather River Forestry, applied to the Truckee North Tahoe Forest Management Program (TNTFMP) for funding to design and permit the OV-4 Fuels Reduction Project. One of five hazardous fuel reduction projects within the 2022 Community Wildfire Protection Plan, this project will address wildfire risk by completing layout, design, and CEQA compliance for a minimum 150-foot-wide fuel break surrounding the perimeter of residential properties, buildings, and other structures in the valley. The area contains native forest land exhibiting a high degree of vertical and horizontal fuel continuity immediate adjacent to the residential areas of Olympic Valley, presenting significant wildfire risk to the community. This project will work on private parcels greater than 3 acres totaling approximately 100-acres.

Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) – Forest Futures informed the District that the TNTFMP Application Review Committee fully supports the application and scope of work but that budget items for staff labor in support of the CEQA process, property owner outreach, and grant administration; and outreach supplies (press releases, signage) can not be covered through program

funding. We advised TTCF that if approved for the remaining \$45,125 for the Registered Professional Forester scope, the District would cover the ineligible costs to move the project forward. The TTCF Board is scheduled to review the committee recommendations on June 9th. If approved, Feather River Forestry is scheduled to work on the project planning this year.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience
Directed Grant Program

Staff, with Feather River Forestry, evaluated application to the subject grant and decided not to pursue the program this year. Danielle Bradfield has worked with the program and said they are excellent partners, and the program should be considered for future funding. However, the program is quite competitive, and the application process is arduous. While a variety of project types are eligible for funding, the focus areas are high-impact, landscape-scale, multi-benefit projects. We agreed that we should focus on the two, possible three, fuels management projects currently underway (OV-1, North-ridge, OV-Road, S-Turns; and OV-4, Community Buffer). We hope to convene with adjacent landowners, such as the Forest Service, in the fall to evaluate how to plan larger projects in collaboration with our partners.

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

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS: The District was awarded a grant in the amount of \$31,898 from CALFIRE for the preparation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), a grant of \$539,888 from CALFIRE to perform forest fuels reduction on 120-acres (OV-1), and a grant of \$50,000 from TTCF for fuels reduction work on 3-acres at the S-Turns on Olympic Valley Road. The District has an on-call contract with Danielle Bradfield (Feather River Forestry) for grant writing and consulting services for a not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000 annually. Staff spend a significant amount of time developing our Fuels Management Program and preparing and managing grant funds.

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

ATTACHMENTS: None.

DATE PREPARED: May 24, 2023