



OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



EXHIBIT F-1
4 Pages

FUELS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

DATE: October 31, 2023

TO: District Board Members

FROM: Brad Chisholm, Fire Chief; Mike Geary, General Manager; and Jessica Asher, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Fuels Management Program – Update

BACKGROUND: The Board of Directors directed staff to provide progress reports regarding Fuels Management at its monthly meetings for items not otherwise addressed within the Board agenda. Information about the program can be found on the Department's Prevention website under the Wildfire Preparedness and Wildfire Prevention tabs. <https://www.ovpsd.org/ovfd/prevention>

DISCUSSION: Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project (OV-1)
Cross Check Services is approximately 20% complete with the OV-1 project. Work will continue until it is complete or until weather conditions require demobilization. Staff are hopeful the project will be completed this season, however, there is a possibility it will need to be completed in 2024. The grant conditions require completion by March 15, 2026. RPF Bradfield will alert staff approximately one week before conditions are favorable for a site visit with interested parties, which is anticipated to be in mid-November. Staff will immediately share the information with staff and the community. The Department is also working with Cross Check Services to allow tree falling training on site.

Olympic Valley Community Buffer (OV-4) Design and Permitting Project:

A community meeting was held September 28th to provide information to the community about the project. Eleven of the thirteen landowners whose properties are eligible for grant funding have signed participation interest forms and staff hope to secure interest from the remaining landowners soon.

RPF Bradfield and Chief Chisholm will meet property owners, perform site reconnaissance, and complete archeological surveying this fall if weather conditions allow. Assuming field work can be completed, completion of layout and design, and preparation of the CEQA Notice of Exemption and CAL FIRE Forest Fire Prevention Exemption permits (as needed) will be completed this winter. Next year, staff expect to have a shovel-ready project, that will be competitive for implementation funding through grants.

O.V. Evacuation Corridor – S-Turns Fuels Reduction

The meadow did not fully dry out this year. Feather River Forestry and Cross Check Services performed a site visit on October 24th and are considering alternate methodologies to complete the fuel thinning project this year. These strategies may include more hand falling, the use of mini excavators, and processing the material on the bike path and in one-lane of Olympic Valley Road. Staff are concurrently working with Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation to understand if the funding can be extended to complete the work in the fall of 2024 when conditions may be more favorable.

Green Waste Disposal Days

The District hosted five Green Waste Days in 2023. The Friends of Olympic Valley (FoOV) and OV Firewise Community staffed the site with volunteers, and Palisades Tahoe staged the event on Olympic Valley Road, across from the Fire Station. District staff worked with the FoOV/Firewise Community to publicize the events and provided the labor and equipment necessary to clean-up and load the green waste into dumpsters on the Monday following each event.

EVENT	GREEN WASTE COLLECTED (CU. YD)	
	2023	2022
1. May	0 – Canceled, Snow	150
2. June	210	150
3. July	150	60
4. August	120	90
5. September	120	120
6. October	60	60
TOTAL	660	660

Green Waste-Only Dumpster Rebate Program

In July 2021, following the termination of curbside green-waste collection by TTSD, the PSD Board approved a rebate program to fully reimburse the expense to rent a six-cubic-yard green-waste-only dumpster. This program has been continued through FY '24. The program is first-come, first-served and has a cap of \$10,000 for FY '24. One rebate per garbage customer per year is allowed. The funds are primarily from the Garbage Fixed Asset Replacement Fund (FARF). For non-garbage customers, the source of funds is property tax revenue.

		July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023	July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024
Rate		\$128.93	\$136.67	\$146.03
Number of rebates		18	30	7
Reimbursed Expense	Valley	\$1,524	\$3,144	\$730
	River Rd.	\$523	\$950	\$292
	Total	\$2,046	\$4,094	\$1,022

Since the rebate was introduced in 2021, **55 rebates** have been provided for a total expense of **\$7,162**.

Placer County Chipper Days

Six residential chipping service days were scheduled with Placer County from July through September, 2023. Placer County has not informed us of any reservations for this service. We believe this option has low interest only due to the success of the Green Waste Days. The Department will work with Placer County to determine the availability and necessity of chipping services for 2024.

Defensible Space Inspections:

Residential: Inspected 100% of the properties in Olympic Valley. Roughly 50% in the River Corridor. 100% of STR inspection requests to date completed for both.

Commercial: We initially had many failed inspections, however, we have been diligently working with these stakeholders to bring all properties into compliance.

Short-Term Rental / AB-38: We have performed 25 STR inspections since Sept. 19th. That is a very significant number and reflective of the frenzy ahead of a change in the weather. Captain DeDeo and Nicole Whiteman have provided a remarkable level of service, the entire summer, to accommodate this special interest group. We are not making STR/DSI reservations beyond November 14th, but inspections will ultimately be dictated by the weather.

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

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS: The District has been awarded \$685,911 in grant funding dedicated to planning and implementation of fuels management projects as summarized below.

Project	Grantor	Date Awarded	Funding	% Complete
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	CAL FIRE	Oct. 2021	\$31,898	100%
Fuels Reduction - OV-1 (120 acres)	CAL FIRE	Nov. 2022	\$539,888	20%
Fuels Reduction – Evacuation Corridor- O.V. Road (3 acres)	Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF)	July 2022	\$50,000	0%
	Trout Unlimited / Friends of Squaw Creek	Nov. 2021	\$19,000	100%
Design and Permitting OV-4 (100 acres)	TTCF / CAL FIRE	July 2023	\$45,125	10%

The District has an on-call contract with Danielle Bradfield (Registered Professional Forester and founder of 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 administering grant contracts.

Expenses related to the Green Waste Days are paid from rates and the Garbage Fixed Asset Replacement Fund, the current balance of the Garbage FARF is \$139,165. The costs estimated for this program include TTSD's delivery, pick-up, and disposal of three (3) 30-cubic yard containers per GWD, administration, and labor and expected to be approximately \$3,300/event if FoSV and the Firewise Community can provide volunteers on the five District-sponsored GWDs.

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

ATTACHMENTS: None.

DATE PREPARED: October 26, 2023