



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023



Olympic Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The OVPSD Board recently approved the Olympic Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan which identifies and prioritizes fuel reduction and wildfire prevention strategies within the Olympic Valley Fire Department's service area. The plan addresses issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, home hardening, and structure protection. The CWPP will guide the activities of the District's *Fuels Management Program* and will allow our community to be eligible for wildfire prevention grants.

High wildfire hazard conditions exist throughout most of Olympic Valley. Reducing vegetative fuels within the community and adjacent to major travel ways, and hardening structures against wildfire are the highest priority mitigation efforts identified in the CWPP. Other strategies include providing public education measures, increasing road access for emergency response and evacuation, reducing forest density across large areas adjacent to assets at risk, expanding water supply and water delivery infrastructure, and improving communication and warnings in the event of a fire. A specific project list and map of land-based projects are included in the CWPP.

The Plan focused on the importance of defensible space which echoes the value the Fire Department has placed on the *Defensible Space program* over the past two decades. Despite challenges associated with staffing and a short season to perform and enforce inspections, the Valley's firefighters inspect every property annually, a more robust program than found in most of the State. However, the Program has been focused on compliance with Public Resource Code 4291, the State's minimum defensible space standards. This code requires that fuels be maintained so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure. Wildfire events over the past several years have shown that destructive wildfires typically occur in worst-case weather conditions, and extreme weather is becoming more common as the climate changes. It is in these conditions that defensible space, hardened homes, fuel breaks, robust evacuation routes, and ample water sources are especially critical. In response to the priorities outlined in the CWPP, the District is looking at ways to incentivize defensible space work including public education, grant funding for homeowners, and working with policymakers to strengthen defensible space standards and enforcement procedures.

The CWPP development was initially funded by the District, the Friends of Squaw Valley, Palisades Tahoe, and the Resort at Squaw Creek, all participating in a cost-share agreement. However, the

District secured a grant for \$31,898 from the California Climate Investments (CCI) Fire Prevention Grant Program to complete the Plan which allowed the generous in-Valley financial commitments to be returned and largely utilized for other fuels management work. The District has also leveraged information in the Draft CWPP to apply for funding for the Olympic Valley Fuels Reduction Project; a 120-acre project on the north side of the Valley with an estimated cost of \$540,000, which is underway and funded by CAL FIRE. Lastly, the District was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant for tree thinning along Olympic Valley Road, the Valley's major evacuation route. The District works with a Registered Professional Forester to support funding efforts, grant administration, and project management for the important work outlined in the CWPP.

The District is grateful for the Olympic Valley Firewise Community, who highlighted the importance of preparing a CWPP; the Friends of Squaw Valley, Palisades Tahoe, and the Resort at Squaw Creek for their support and community teamwork; Deer Creek Resources, who authored the plan; the United States Forest Service (USFS), CAL FIRE, Placer County, peer Fire Departments, the Washoe Tribe, large landowners, commercial entities, homeowner's associations, and residents who participated in the Plan development at various community meetings and through the public comment process. Our staff has learned extensively throughout the development of the CWPP and we are encouraged by the direction provided. At our recent Board of Directors appointment, all four candidates expressed that wildfire is the biggest existential threat to our community, highlighting the importance of these issues. The Board has shown strong support for prioritizing this work and the Department is excited to refine our efforts based on this Plan.

We encourage you to review the Final CWPP document and other Board Reports and reference documents online at: <https://www.ovpsd.org/ovfd/olympic-valley-community-wildfire-protection-plan>. We also urge you to check out Zeke Lunder's project, <https://the-lookout.org/> for education resources. We worked closely with Zeke to develop the OV CWPP and we are appreciative of the experience and mindset he provided.

Funding for this project was provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

OLYMPIC VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire and Safety Notes

Winter 2023

S-TURNS THINNING

In collaboration with the Friends of Squaw Creek and Trout Unlimited, the District coordinated to expend grant funds in the amount of \$19,000 to thin trees on the S-Turns on the south side of Olympic Valley Road in the Fall of 2021. The District was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation's (TTCF's) Forest Futures Program in the summer of 2022, which will fund the remaining fuels reduction work on the 3-acre area south of Olympic Valley Road at the S-Turns. Feather River Forestry (OVPSD's contracted Forester) received approvals from all permitting agencies and solicited bids for the project. The project is scheduled to be completed by fall of 2023.

CAL FIRE: FIRE PREVENTION GRANT— NORTH RIDGE FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT

The District received a grant of \$540,000 from CAL FIRE to fund the *Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project*. The project will create a fuel break on the North ridge of the Valley, thinning a 120-acre area. Feather River Forestry has completed the associated environmental and archaeological studies and it is anticipated that Feather River Forestry will have pre-bid documents completed by May 2023. The fuels work is projected to start early summer of 2023.

NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION (NFF) ALPINE MEADOWS- OLYMPIC VALLEY FUELS PROJECT

This project is located on the ridge between Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley, toward the Highway 89 corridor. TTCF granted NFF \$263,000 for environmental planning through its Forest Futures Initiative. With a completed NEPA analysis, NFF will have a "shovel ready" project and be able to seek funding for the implementation of the project. TTCF is seeking an additional \$185,000 in funding to expand the project area of treatment. The NEPA surveys and analysis will start in 2022 and run through the summer of 2023. On the ground work could start as early as 2024 and run through 2026.

Adopt a Hydrant

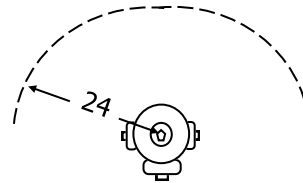
During winter months, maintaining access to fire hydrants is very important. It's also a real challenge. In Olympic Valley, access is generally maintained by the water purveyor, sometimes with assistance from the fire department. There are times, however, the job is practically overwhelming and requires the better part of a week before all of the hydrants have been shoveled out.

This is an area in which citizen involvement and assistance are most welcome. Do your firefighters and yourself a favor by adopting the hydrant closest to your home - make it **YOUR HYDRANT**.

The time that it takes to locate and dig out a hydrant seems like an eternity during a fire, but it won't take long to shovel out your hydrant before it is needed. No complicated paperwork is required and you can do your bit for neighborhood fire safety either under cover of darkness for anonymity or at high noon to earn the approval and gratitude of your neighbors.

Do your part for winter fire safety in Olympic Valley and **adopt a hydrant today!**

Also, when digging out a hydrant, please keep in mind that we need at least **24" clearance** in all directions from the center of the hydrant. Please see the diagram below for an ideal job!



STREET

FIVE CREEKS PROJECT


The proposed project would complete fuels reduction, forest restoration, habitat enhancement, invasive plant treatments, and road management actions on approximately 6,000 acres along the Highway 89 corridor south of Truckee, California. The Forest Supervisor has prepared a draft *Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact* (DN/FONSI) for the Five Creeks Project Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA and draft DN/ FONSI along with supporting documents and project record are available for review online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60390>.

The first phase of the project, called Cabin Creek, expects to begin implementation late in 2023 or 2024. This project will be adjacent to portions of Olympic Valley Fire Department's boundaries along the Truckee River corridor as well as along a portion of the North ridge of Olympic Valley.

Olympic Valley Groundwater Management Plan—Six Year Review and Report

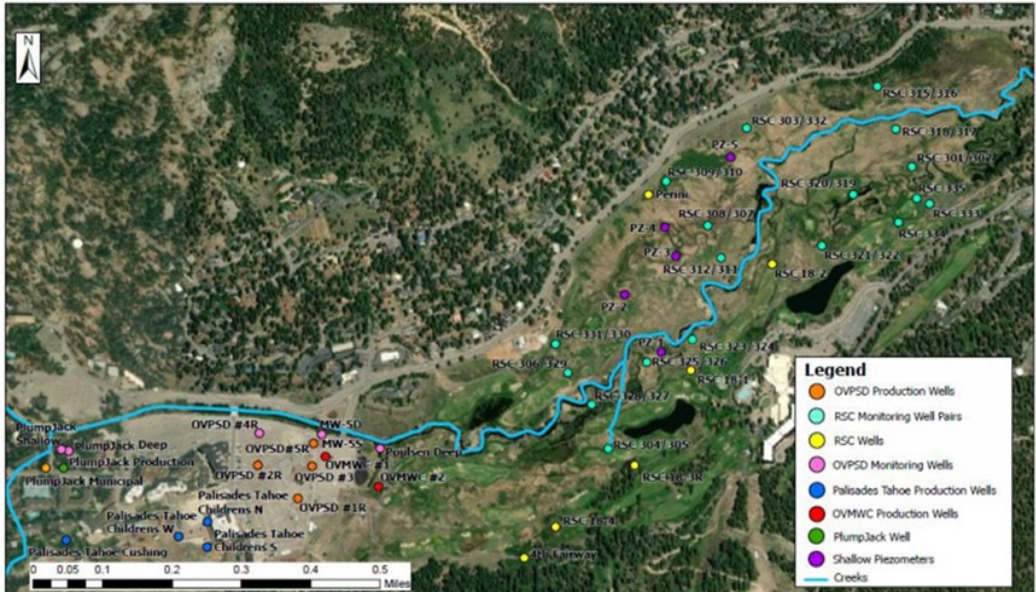
On May 29, 2007, the District's Board of Directors adopted the Olympic Valley Groundwater Management Plan (OVGMP), pursuant to the California Groundwater Management Act (Assembly Bill 3030) and Senate Bill 1938, as an effort to manage groundwater resources within the Olympic Valley aquifer. The OVGMP requires annual groundwater reporting. This year, the District, in coordination with all Olympic Valley groundwater pumpers, worked with hydrogeologists from McGinley and Associates to develop the Six Year Review and Report (SRR). The SRR is a part of a series of reports that started in 2011 to document groundwater trends and GMP activities.

The SRR reported on water years 2016 through 2021 and concluded the following key trends:

- Average annual groundwater pumping 2016-2021 was 211 million gallons (MG), a slight increase from 2011-2015 (203 MG) but less than historically observed averages (225-260 MG) owing to conservation measures, metering, and infrastructure repairs.
 - OVPSD and Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company (SVMWC) production wells exhibited stable trends 2016-2021. Water levels exhibit seasonal variance related to wet and dry weather and climatic conditions.
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Groundwater management activities completed 2016 through 2021 were documented and included:

- Completion of a segment of Washeshu Creek restoration.
- Continued successful collection of pumping level, groundwater level and monitoring data.



Bear Box Rebate Program

\$120 Rebate to Install a Bear Box!

The OVPD's Board of Directors approved an incentive program for Olympic Valley Garbage Customers to purchase and install bear boxes. The District will reimburse the \$120 administrative fee for residents that use Placer County's interest-free loan program to purchase and install a bear box.

More Information:

Placer County's Loan Program & Approved Vendor List:

<https://www.waste101.com/bear-aware/>

Info on Bear Boxes:

https://www.ovpsd.org/sites/default/files/F-8_%20Bear%20Box%20Rebate%20Incentive%20Program.pdf

Rebate Process:

1. Eligibility: One Rebate / Property up to \$120 for OV garbage customers. FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED, the rebate program has a cap of \$5,000.
2. Purchase between August 30, 2022, and October 31, 2023.

- Advancement of the Water Management Action Plan (WMAP) to refine definitions of thresholds and triggers for management actions.
- Completion of a new municipal water supply at PlumpJack for future water system integration by OVPSD.

The SRR also included recommendations for future groundwater management activities with one of the highest priorities being to advance the Water Management Action Plan (WMAP). Advancement of the WMAP is recommended to continue in 2023, seeking to arrive at an agreement amongst the primary water pumpers in the Valley about details for triggers and management actions that would take place when observable events occur within our aquifer. The scope of work for the WMAP update is to be considered by the OVGMP Implementation Group at the Dec. 13th OVPSD Board meeting. More information is available at www.ovpsd.org/olympic-valley-groundwater-management-plan.

3. Your receipt must include a copy of the Placer County Loan Documents, Proof of Payment, Property Address, Payee Name, and Mailing Address
4. Submit your receipt via any of the following methods:
 - Email: info@ovpsd.org
 - US Mail: PO Box 2026, Olympic Valley CA 96146
 - In Person: 305 Olympic Valley Road
 - Questions? Contact us at (530)583-4692 or info@ovpsd.org



OVFD Welcomes Newest Addition to the Department

And then there were Four...



Olympic Valley Fire Department's, Keith Erickson and his wife Emily, welcomed another sweet baby boy, Jett Erickson, on November 5, 2022. Axel is taking on the role of big brother wonderfully.

Congratulations to the Erickson Family!

OVPSD Welcomes New Operations Specialist I

Ben Procida



Ben began working at the District in November 2022.

Ben has lived in the Tahoe area since 2011, and recently moved to Reno with his wife, Katie. Ben previously worked for the Forest

Service with the Truckee Hotshots. When Ben is not working he enjoys skiing and mountain biking. From Ben, "Happy to be part of the Olympic Valley Public Service District and working in the valley".

Consumer Confidence Report: Now Available Online

The Olympic Valley Public Service District is proud to supply safe, reliable and healthy water that meets or exceeds State and Federal public health standards for drinking water. Annually, the District publishes a water quality report titled "Consumer Confidence Report" (CCR) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The purpose of the CCR is to raise customers' awareness of the quality of their drinking water, where it comes from, what it takes to deliver water to their homes, and the importance of protecting drinking water sources.

In recent years the District has mailed its customers a printed copy of the CCR to comply with the SDWA. The California Department of Public Health has expanded its interpretation of the SDWA to allow for electronic delivery of the CCR. To view our 2021 CCR and learn more about your drinking water, please visit the following URL:

<https://www.ovpsd.org/consumer-confidence-report-2021>

If you would like a paper copy of the 2021 CCR mailed to your mailing address or would like to speak with someone about the report, please call (530) 583-4692 x109.