



OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



EXHIBIT F-6
3 Pages

S-TURNS FOREST FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT – PHASE II

DATE: September 27, 2022

TO: District Board Members

FROM: Mike Geary, General Manager

SUBJECT: Contract Approval – S-Turns Forest Fuels Reduction Project - Phase II

BACKGROUND: In March 2021, at the Board’s direction, staff started to build a framework for a Fuels Management Program to proactively expand its role to address wildfire risks. Some highlights of the program include preparation of the Olympic Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), securing funds to implement forest fuels reduction projects in forested areas in Olympic Valley and along the Truckee River corridor, providing support to the Olympic Valley Firewise Community, hosting and supporting monthly green waste disposal days, and providing rebates for green-waste-only dumpsters.

As part of the program, a fuels thinning project located at the S-Turns on Olympic Valley Road was identified as high priority. The 2.7-acre project site is dominated by young growth Lodgepole Pine in excess of 1,600 stems per acre, whereas appropriate stand density should range between 25-50 trees per acre. This variant of Lodgepole has non-serotinous cones and are known to be especially prolific in their seed production ability. The Washeshu Creek meadow system has provided an excellent medium for the Lodgepole to encroach upon, and without disturbance factors to naturally thin the Lodgepole stands, the conifers have begun to capture the site.

The objective of this project is to reduce the density of young growth Lodgepole Pine through hand cutting and chipping. Thinning was started on 0.7 acres shortly before the onset of winter in December 2021. Additional thinning to help achieve this objective on the full project site will reduce the presence of flammable fuels within the community and within close proximity to homes, increase flows in Washeshu Creek, and protect the meadow system from conifer encroachment. Other benefits of the project include improving access to the meadow and reducing icy conditions on Olympic Valley Road and the bike trail by increasing sun exposure on the typically shady area. The District also believes

that the central, highly visible location of the project will generate additional interest and support for the Fuels Management Program.

Phase I of the S-Turns Forest Fuels Reduction Project was completed in December 2021 in collaboration with the Friends of Squaw Creek and Trout Unlimited. Grant funds in the amount of \$19,000 was spent on hand cutting and chipping to thin trees on 0.7-acres on the western edge of the project site.

In June 2022, the Board of Directors approved a fuels reduction grant contract in the amount of \$50,000 from *Forest Futures*, a program sponsored by the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF). *Forest Futures* is a 3-year, \$30M campaign, to protect the North Tahoe/Truckee community from the devastation of forest fires by aligning local organizations around fire mitigation and investing in forest infrastructure and innovation.

DISCUSSION: Phase II of the S-Turns Forest Fuels Reduction Project is scheduled to be completed on a compressed schedule in autumn 2022. Feather River Forestry and Registered Professional Forester Danielle Bradfield is providing consultant support and distributed a Request for Proposals (RPFs) for Phase II in late September. Pursuant to the District's Purchasing and Procurement Policy, staff is seeking proposals from three bidders. Responses have not been received yet.

The contract will be developed by staff and Feather River Forestry and will include the scope of work, schedule, and cost. It will be reviewed and approved by District counsel prior to execution. The contract amount will not exceed the \$50,000 in grant funds provided by TTCF's *Forest Futures* Program.

The Board is requested to authorize the General Manager to execute contract documents with the successful bidder for an amount not-to-exceed \$50,000 in advance so that the work can commence as soon as possible and before significant snow fall makes it impossible to complete the project by the end of the calendar year.

ALTERNATIVES: 1. Authorize the General Manager to execute contract documents with the successful bidder for an amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.

2. Do not authorize the General Manager to execute contract documents.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS: The District executed a professional services agreement with Danielle Bradfield (Feather River Forestry) for grant writing and consulting services for a not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000.

Costs for the contractor to perform work on the S-Turns Forest Fuels Reduction Project - Phase II Project are provided by a \$50,000 grant from TTCF's *Forest Futures* Program.

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the General Manager to execute contractual documents with the selected bidder to perform work to complete the S-Turns Forest Fuels Reduction Project - Phase II Project for an amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.

ATTACHMENTS: None.

DATE PREPARED: September 22, 2022