



OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



EXHIBIT F-3
5 Pages

FUELS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

DATE: August 27, 2024

TO: District Board Members

FROM: Brad Chisholm, Fire Chief; Jessica Asher, Program Manager & Board Secretary

SUBJECT: Fuels Management Program – Update

BACKGROUND: The Board of Directors has instructed staff to provide progress reports regarding Fuels Management at its monthly meetings for items not otherwise addressed within the Board agenda. Comprehensive 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: OV-1: Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project
Cross Check Services completed the OV-1 project in July, successfully reducing fuel loading on 120 acres following the project’s prescription. Staff has received numerous comments praising this work and encouraging more such projects. During the Board Meeting, staff will share Drone footage of the post-project treatment.

OV-3 Olympic Valley Road Fuel Reduction Project Update

The OV-3 Project is a 2.7-acre hazardous fuel reduction project located on privately owned lands in Olympic Valley at the “S-Turn” on Olympic Valley Road. The project area contains a 2.7-acre assemblage of dense Lodgepole Pine regeneration encroaching upon the natural meadow system. This project will remove all conifer regeneration encroaching upon the meadow system while retaining the largest, best phenotypes present in the preharvest stand. Removal of excessive conifer regeneration will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire within the wildland urban interface, reduce stand density, increase crown separation of residual trees, and enhance meadow function and forest health. This project will also help fortify Olympic Valley Road as the main evacuation corridor out of the Valley. All cut woody material shall be removed from the site. No trading, bartering, selling, or exchanging of woody material shall occur related to this project.

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). In September, 2022 the Board authorized the General Manager to execute contract documents with the successful bidder for an amount not-to-exceed \$50,000. Due to wet weather the project has not been able to be completed during the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

Staff have been working with RPF Bradfield and negotiating with a contractor, that has the appropriate equipment to complete this work in accordance with the prescription in the sensitive meadow environment. All timber operations will comply with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Category 4 Timber Waiver.

Staff have been working on a right-of-entry agreement and contract documents with legal counsel, traffic control and potential encroachment permits from Placer County for potential impacts to Olympic Valley Road and the bike path.

Staff are hopeful the project will be completed by October 15th of this year.

OV-4 Community Buffer Fuel Reduction Project

The OV-4 project aims to reduce wildfire risk by establishing a minimum 150-foot-wide shaded fuel break surrounding the perimeter of residential properties, buildings, and other structures in the valley. After securing \$400,000 of funding from the Truckee Tahoe Airport District, staff began working on implementation and released bid documents for the project's first phase in July, 2024. Two bids were received on August 19th with the intention of requesting the Board consider entering a contract at the August 27th Board Meeting. The two bids received were \$10,697/acre and \$14,300/acre. This significantly exceeded the project budget, which had conservatively estimated costs at \$5,000/acre. Staff are in discussions with RPF Bradfield, peer agencies, and contractors to determine the next steps, including potentially re-bidding the project with more outreach, modifying the specifications, or reducing the project scope. Concurrently the District continues to work on the design and planning for OV-4 Phase 2. Staff remain optimistic that the entire project can be bid and contracted this fall, allowing operations to be completed in 2025.

OV-5 South Ridge Fuel Reduction Project

In January, 2024 Staff worked with RPF Bradfield to apply for CALFIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grant for the "OV-5" fuel reduction project. The subject fuel break is one of five priority projects in the Olympic Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan and will create a 100-acre fuel break adjacent to the Olympic Valley community. CAL FIRE provided notice on August 19th that the project was not granted any funding in this cycle. Staff will continue to look for funding opportunities for this important work.

Green Waste Days

The Friends of Olympic Valley (FoOV) and OV Firewise Community have committed to staffing the site with volunteers to monitor waste disposal. Palisades Tahoe will stage the event on Olympic Valley Road, across from the Fire Station. District staff collaborates with the FoSV/Firewise Community to publicize the events and provides 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	2024
June	210	150
July	150	90
August	120	120
September	120	
October	60	
	660	360

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 of renting 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, allowing one rebate per garbage customer per year. The funds are primarily from the Garbage Fixed Asset Replacement Fund (FARF) and property tax for non-garbage customers

	FY '21-22	FY '22-23	FY '23-24	FY '24-25	
Rate	\$128.93	\$136.67	\$146.03	\$154.76	
Number of rebates	18	30	34	0	
Reimbursed Expense	Valley	\$1,524	\$3,144	\$3,959	\$0
	River Rd.	\$523	\$950	\$1,022	\$0
	Total	\$2,046	\$4,094	\$4,981	\$0

Since the rebate was introduced in 2021, **82 rebates** have been provided for a total expense of **\$11,121**.

Defensible Space Inspections (DSI):

Crews continue to conduct DSI on residential, STR and commercial occupancies, systematically working from east to west in the Valley. OVFD will enforce PRC 4291 and note zone zero violations and home hardening opportunities. OVFD is aiming to complete 100% of inspections for all single-family residences.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS: The District has been awarded almost \$1.4M in grant funding to plan and implement 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: North Ridge – OV-1 (120 acres)	CAL FIRE	Nov. 2022	\$539,888	99%
Fuels Reduction: Evacuation Corridor O.V. Road – OV-3 (3 acres)	Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF)	July 2022	\$50,000	0%
	Trout Unlimited / Friends of Squaw Creek	Nov. 2021	\$19,000	100%
Fuels Reduction: Community Buffer – OV-4 (127 acres)	Design and Permitting - TTCF / CAL FIRE	July 2023	\$45,125	65%
	Implementation – Truckee Tahoe Airport District	April 2024	\$400,000	0%
	Implementation - TTCF / CAL FIRE	August 2024	\$350,000	0%

The District has an on-call contract with Danielle Bradfield, a Registered Professional Forester and Owner of Feather River Forestry, for grant writing and consulting services. This contract has a not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000 annually. Staff dedicate significant time to developing our Fuels Management Program and administering grant contracts.

Expenses related to the Green Waste Days (GWD) are funded through rates and the Garbage Fixed Asset Replacement Fund (FARF), which currently has a balance of approximately \$139,000. Estimated costs for this program include the Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD) delivery, pick-up, and disposal of three 30-cubic yard containers per GWD, along with administration and labor. These costs are expected to be approximately \$3,300 per event, assuming Friends of Olympic Valley (FoOV) and the Firewise Community can provide volunteers for the six District-sponsored GWDs.

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

ATTACHMENTS: CAL FIRE Grant Request Response Letter (1 Page).

DATE PREPARED: August 19, 2024



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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August 19, 2024

Jessica Asher
Olympic Valley Public Service District
PO Box 2026
Olympic Valley, CA 96146

RE: PROJECT APPLICATION FOR THE CAL FIRE CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS (CCI) WILDFIRE PREVENTION (WP) GRANTS

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for submitting your project application for the California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants Program. We appreciate your interest in applying to fund your project titled, **Olympic Valley South Ridge Fuel Reduction Project (23-WP-NEU-58492108)**.

We regret to inform you that your project application was not selected for funding in this grant cycle. The decision on the current grant cycle does not preclude you from applying for future grants should there be other opportunities. Any future grant opportunities available in the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program as well as the list of successful applicants will be posted on CAL FIRE's grant website <https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/wildfire-prevention-grants/>.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Natalie B.".

Natalie Burke
Staff Services Manager I
Wildfire Prevention Grants Program Manager