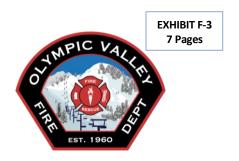


OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



FUELS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

DATE: September 24, 2024

TO: District Board Members

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

SUBJECT: Fuels Management Program – Update

BACKGROUND: 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-3 Olympic Valley Road Fuel Reduction Project Update

The OV-3 Project is a 3-acre hazardous fuel reduction project, primarily located on privately owned lands in Olympic Valley near the "S-Turn" on Olympic Valley Road. In August, 2024 the Board of Directors approved the District to contract with Cross Check Services to perform this work. Staff have been coordinating with the two property owners to secure right-of-entry agreements and with Placer County to refine the scope of work, including tree thinning between Olympic Valley Road and the Bike Trail. Staff is also working with Placer County to determine the level of traffic control needed to ensure safe conditions for bike trail users and secure an encroachment permit. The Contractor expects the project to take approximately one week and be completed this fall.

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 around residential areas in the Valley. It is funded by the District, the Truckee Tahoe Airport District, and the Truckee North Tahoe Fire Management Program (through Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation and CAL FIRE).

In August, an 80-acre Phase 1 project was publicly bid, but proposals came in significantly higher than estimated. Staff worked with the low-bidder and Feather River Forestry to adjust the project within the funded budget. As a result, the reduced Phase 1 area includes 67 acres focused on areas that could only be completed with hand-thinning. The areas removed from the Phase 1

area were generally less complex or were already close to the prescription. Ultimately, the Contractor declined the project due to the change in area. Staff had a positive experience with the Contractor and are hopeful they remain interested in the opportunity. The project will be re-bid this fall, with the intention of entering into a contract this calendar year so that the work can be started in the spring once soil conditions allow.

Given the high bids on Phase 1, RPF Bradfield will evaluate a different approach to Phase 2, the northern portion of the project. The OV-2 project is a large area adjacent to OV-1 (completed this summer); and OV-4. By combining OV-2 and OV-4, mechanical treatment may be feasible on a more significant portion of OV-4, potentially lowering costs and improving effectiveness. Bradfield plans to conduct a field evaluation this fall and prepare updated permit documents to make the area shovel-ready should future grant funding be awarded.

In addition, Staff have finalized the right-of-entry agreement which will be executed with each of the six affected property owners, and developed the contract language that will be used as a template for future Fuels Management projects.

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.

	GREEN WASTE COLLECTED (CU. YD)			
Event	2023	2024		
June	210	150		
July	150	90		
August	120	120		
September	120	60		
October	60			
	660	420		

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	29	36	3
Reimbursed Expense	Valley	\$1,524	\$3,006	\$4,844.07	464
	River Rd.	\$523	\$950	\$438.09	\$0
	Total	\$2,046	\$3,956	\$5,282	\$464

Since the rebate was introduced in 2021, **86 rebates** have been provided for a total expense of **\$11,748**.

<u>Defensible Space Inspections (DSI):</u>

Crews continue to conduct DSI on residential, STR and commercial occupancies. OVFD will enforce PRC 4291 and note Zone Zero deficiencies and Home Hardening opportunities. OVFD is aiming to complete 100% of inspections for all single-family residences in Olympic Valley.

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	Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF)	July 2022	\$50,000	0%
O.V. Road – OV-3 (3 acres)	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: CWPP Project Map. OV-4 General Vicinity Map.

DATE PREPARED: September 20, 2024

