



OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



EXHIBIT F-7
4 Pages

EVACUATION ROUTE ROADSIDE HAZARD FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT (OV-3/S-TURNS) CONTRACT APPROVAL

DATE: August 27, 2024

TO: District Board Members

FROM: Charley Miller, General Manager; Brad Chisholm, Fire Chief;
Jessica Asher, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Contract Approval – OV-3 Fuel Reduction Project

BACKGROUND: The District was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the TTCF's Forest Futures Program to fund fuels management on the 2.7-acre area adjacent to Olympic Valley Road at the S-Turn. This project area is dominated by young-growth Lodgepole Pine in excess of 1,800 stems per acre, whereas appropriate stand density should range between 25-50 trees per acre. The existing stand density leads to gradual drying of the meadow and conversion to conifer forest, which increases the vertical and horizontal continuity of hazardous fuels immediately adjacent to Olympic Valley Road, a key emergency ingress and egress route for the community.

The project was initiated in December 2021 by the Friends of Squaw Creek using funding from Trout Unlimited. Hand cutting and chipping were used to reduce growth on approximately 0.7 acres of the total 2.7 acre project area. Additional thinning on the 0.7 acres is needed to achieve the project objective as well as full treatment on the remaining 2 acres.

Project benefits include reducing hazardous fuel loading adjacent to the community's evacuation route and within close proximity to homes, protecting the meadow system from conifer encroachment, improving access to the meadow, and increasing sun exposure on a historically shady and icy area, resulting in safer conditions on the bike path and Olympic Valley Road.

DISCUSSION: In September, 2022 the Board approved the District to enter into a contract a successful bidder not-to-exceed \$50,000 to complete Phase II of the OV-3 (S-Turns) Fuels Reduction Project. Unfortunately, significant early precipitation made operations infeasible. In 2023, significant snowfall and late snow melt again delayed operations. This season, the project area has dried sufficient to

allow a timber operator to complete the prescription. Given the significant time since the Board provided approval, Staff seek to have the Board re-consider the contract.

Staff and Registered Professional Forester Danielle Bradfield have been working with Cross Check Services to negotiate the scope of services within the funded budget. Cross Check Services has the appropriate experience, expertise, and low-impact equipment to operate in compliance with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Category 4 Timber Waiver.

Most of the Project is well suited for mechanical thinning, which will achieve better compliance with the prescription at a lower cost than hand thinning operations; however, some hand thinning will be required. Low-impact harvesters and forwarders will be used to execute the majority of the Project. In general, all trees less than 16" DBH will be cut, chipped, and removed from the site. All slash and woody debris will be removed with a residual chip depth not to exceed an average of 2 inches. The project must adhere to the best management practices for environmental protection and fire suppression within the Project's specifications. The contractor will also be responsible for appropriate traffic control of the adjacent bike trail and Olympic Valley Road. It is expected that bike trail traffic will need to be rerouted. Impacts to vehicular traffic are not anticipated. The project should occur over a one-week duration.

- ALTERNATIVES:**
1. Authorize the General Manager to execute contract documents with the successful bidder for an amount not-to-exceed \$45,000.
 2. Do not authorize the General Manager to execute contract documents.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS: A \$50,000 grant from TTCF's Forest Futures Program will cover the cost of the contractor's work on the S-Turns Forest Fuels Reduction Project—Phase II Project.

RECOMMENDATIONS: 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 \$45,000.

ATTACHMENTS: OV-3 Map, Historic/Present Day Photo Comparison


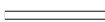

DATE PREPARED: August 23, 2024

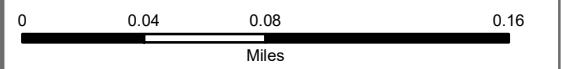
Map of Project Area Details:
 - Project Area does not include WBBZ.
 - Paved Bike Path will be used for landing.
 - Project does not include watercourse crossings or over the snow skid trail crossings.



Washesu Creek, Class I Watercourse

**Olympic Valley "S Turns" Fuel Reduction Project
 Project Detail Map
 T16N, R16E, S28, MDBM**

-  S Turns Project Area
-  Paved Bike Path
-  Existing Road, Permanent, Public



1:4,000
 1 inch = 333 feet



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**OV-3 (S-Turns) Fuel Reduction Project - Evacuation Route Roadside Hazard Reduction
Historical and Present Day Photo Comparision**

