



OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



EXHIBIT F-1
6 Pages

FUELS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

DATE: April 30, 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 directed staff to provide progress reports regarding Fuels Management at its monthly meetings for items not otherwise addressed within the Board agenda. 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-4 Community Buffer Project Update

One of five hazardous fuel reduction projects identified in the 2022 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), the OV-4 project will address wildfire risk by creating a minimum 150-foot-wide shaded fuel break surrounding the perimeter of residential properties, buildings, and other structures in the valley. Design and permitting for the project was initiated in Fall 2023 in hopes of having a shovel-ready project that would be more competitive for future implementation funding.

The Truckee North Tahoe Forest Management Program (TNTFMP) funded project design and permitting for private parcels greater than 3-acres. Separate from the TNTFMP funding, the District has funded design and permitting for land held in charitable trust with Placer County as the public administrator (above Sandy Way); and the Washoe Tribe has participated to include approximately three acres of their land which overlaps with the conceptual OV-4 project boundaries.

In the fall of 2023, Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Bradfield completed field reconnaissance work. The layout and design to spatially define treatment area boundaries, resource protection zones, and treatment methodologies is well underway. The current proposed total project treatment area is 127 acres. Bradfield is now completing the necessary Cal Fire permitting to bring the project to “shovel ready” status. The project will likely operate under two CAL FIRE timber harvesting exemptions, the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption and the 10% dead/dying/diseased exemption. Design and permitting are expected to be completed this spring (2024).

On October 17, 2023, the Eastern Placer County Fire Chiefs Joint Powers Authority and Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation representatives convened with the Truckee Tahoe Airport District's (TTAD) General Manager, Robb Etnyre, and Board Member, David Diamond, to discuss allocating a \$2 million fund from TTAD for fuel reduction. TTAD focused on protecting life and community property, creating shaded fuel breaks, reinforcing defensible zones, and projects ready to begin implementation this summer. In the subsequent months, the Chiefs periodically convened to review and prioritize projects from all local departments (Northstar, North Tahoe, Olympic Valley, and Truckee), focusing on the highest priority projects identified in each District's CWPP that do not have funding. In March, CAL FIRE was included in this working group. On April 10th, representatives of these fire agencies met with Robb Etnyre to discuss and select appropriate projects, which included OV-4 in Olympic Valley.

On April 24th, the Airport Board of Directors approved a \$400,000 grant from TTAD for the first phase of the OV-4 Fuels Management Project. If the funding agreement with TTAD is approved, the District will begin working with RPF Bradfield on phasing the project, additional community outreach, and eventually bidding the work for completion this summer.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS: The District has been awarded \$1,085,911 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	30%
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	30%
	Implementation – Truckee Tahoe Airport District	April 2024	\$400,000	0%

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

Expenses related to the Green Waste Days (GWD) are paid from rates and the Garbage Fixed Asset Replacement Fund, the current balance of the Garbage FARF is approximately \$139,000. The costs estimated for this program include TTSD's delivery, pick-up, and disposal of three (3) 30-cubic yard containers per GWD, administration, and labor and expected to be approximately \$3,300/event if FoOV and the Firewise Community can provide volunteers on the six District-sponsored GWDs.

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

ATTACHMENTS: CWPP Project Map; TTAD Press Release

DATE PREPARED: April 26, 2024



TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Truckee Tahoe Airport District Allocates Nearly \$2 Million for Vital Wildfire Mitigation Projects

Truckee, California 4/25/2024 - In a resounding display of commitment to community safety and environmental stewardship, the Truckee Tahoe Airport District (TTAD) has announced the approval of \$1,934,500 in funding for eight district-wide wildfire mitigation projects. The decision, approved unanimously in a 5-0 vote at this week's Airport District board meeting, marks a significant step forward in proactively addressing the threat of wildfires in the Truckee Tahoe region.

The approved funding will support collaborative efforts between TTAD and local fire departments, including CalFire Truckee-North Tahoe Battalion, Northstar Fire Department, Truckee Fire Protection District, Olympic Valley Fire Department, and North Tahoe Fire Protection District. These projects, identified as priority initiatives within their individual Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and CalFire Burn Plan, are aimed at implementing strategic measures to enhance community resilience and mitigate the risk of devastating wildfires.

Among the funded projects are critical initiatives such as the establishment of shaded fuel breaks, vegetation management in high-risk areas, and the creation of buffer zones to safeguard residential areas from encroaching wildfires. These efforts, spanning a total of approximately 685 acres across the district, are designed to create a layered defense against the spread of wildfires, thereby safeguarding lives, property, and natural resources.

"The allocation of nearly \$2 million for wildfire mitigation projects underscores our unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community," stated Robb Etnyre, General Manager of the Truckee Tahoe Airport District. "By partnering with local fire departments and leveraging collaborative expertise, we are taking proactive steps to mitigate the threat posed by wildfires and protect the Truckee Tahoe region."

The decision to approve funding for these vital projects comes after extensive research, community engagement, and collaborative planning efforts. The TTAD Board, guided by a strategic focus on community investment and public purpose, recognized the urgent need to allocate resources towards wildfire prevention. The approved funding aligns with the district's broader mission of serving as a responsible steward of public resources and fostering a safe and resilient community. Wildfire mitigation to protect aviation and airport assets, and keeping our skies smoke free, meets the eligibility criteria within the airport's definition of a "public purpose" as set forth in the California Airport District Act and other applicable California law.

"These wildfire mitigation projects represent the first step in collaborative engagement to address the challenges posed by wildfires which do not recognize traditional boundaries," remarked board member David Diamond who helped champion this initiative of the Truckee Tahoe Airport District. "By investing in strategic initiatives that enhance our community's resilience, we are taking concrete steps towards ensuring the long-term safety and sustainability of the Truckee Tahoe region."

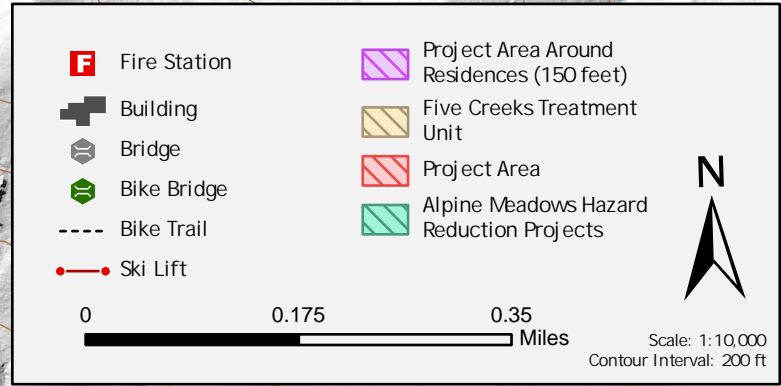
The approved funding will enable immediate work on these crucial wildfire mitigation projects, with each initiative being overseen through professional service agreements to ensure efficient implementation and adherence to established timelines. The collaborative efforts between TTAD and local fire departments underscore the power of cross jurisdictional partnerships in addressing complex environmental challenges and building a more resilient community.

For more information about the Truckee Tahoe Airport District and its wildfire mitigation projects, please visit truckeetahoeairport.com or contact Robb Etnyre, General Manager, Truckee Tahoe Airport District.

About Truckee Tahoe Airport District:

The Truckee Tahoe Airport District is a public agency established to provide a safe, secure, and environmentally responsible airport facility to meet the needs of the diverse communities of Truckee, North Lake Tahoe, and the surrounding region. Committed to excellence in aviation services and community stewardship, TTAD serves as a vital hub for transportation, economic development, and emergency response in the Truckee Tahoe area.

Figure 21: Major Fuels Projects



OV-1: Olympic Valley North Forest Thinning IN PROGRESS
Funded by a grant from CAL FIRE (Project Tracking Number: 21-FP-NEU-0209), this shaded fuel break will cover 120 acres on the ridgeline north of the community using primarily mechanical thinning and mastication methods. The licensed timber operator completed approximately 30% of the work in 2023 and the project will restart in the spring/summer of 2024 when ground conditions allow.

OV-2: North Valley Prescribed Burns and Thinning
Project area OV-2 (between the OV-4 community buffer and the OV-1 north forest thinning project) is a recommended place to use prescribed burning. Mechanical and hand thinning of fuels is also recommended in this area. This project would be a focus after the OV-1 and OV-4 shaded fuel breaks have been completed.

OV-3: Roadside Wildfire Safety - IN PROGRESS
In the event of a fire emergency, movement into and out of the Valley is of paramount importance. Currently, there is one ingress/egress route for the Valley. The S-Turns Forest Fuels Reduction Project has already been funded and began in November, 2021 to reduce a 2.7 acre stand of lodge pole pine on the south side of Olympic Valley Road in the Washeshu Creek meadow. The next phase of work will be bid when the ground conditions are dry enough to allow for continued work.

OV-4: Olympic Valley Community Wildfire Buffer Project - IN PROGRESS
A fuels reduction project surrounding the perimeter of homes, buildings, and other structures in the valley. In the event of an encroaching fire, this will provide the community an additional layer of safety on top of individual lot maintenance. This buffer would be constructed through a combination of hand cut piling and burning, chipping and mechanical thinning.

In 2023 the District received a grant from the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Wildfire Resilience Program to complete layout, design, and CEQA compliance for a minimum 150-foot wide fuel break surrounding the perimeter of structures on private parcels greater than 3 acres. Separately from the grant, the CEQA documentation is being completed for lands held by the Washoe Tribe and on lands held in charitable trust with Placer County serving as the public administrator. The entire OV-4 project, approximately 127 acres, should be shovel-ready in Spring 2024.

OV-5: Olympic Valley North Forest Thinning
This break will cover approximately 120 acres on the ridgeline south of the community using mechanical thinning methods. The District applied for funding from the 2024 CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program.