



OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



EXHIBIT F-3
14 Pages

FUELS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

DATE: January 30, 2024

TO: District Board Members

FROM: Brad Chisholm, Fire Chief; Mike Geary, General Manager; and Jessica Asher, Program Manager

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: 2024 CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant
Staff worked with RPF Bradfield to apply for CALFIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grant for the "OV-5" fuel reduction project. The proposed project will create a 100-acre fuel break strategically located adjacent to the Olympic Valley community of. The subject fuel break, "OV-5", is one of five fuel breaks identified as priority projects in the Olympic Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This fuel break will be implemented utilizing mechanical and hand thinning methods with mastication of surface and ladder fuels, where needed, such that flame length, rate of spread, and potential duration of wildfire will be significantly reduced. The total project budget is \$505,565 and the District intends to provide in-kind contributions of 10% of the labor costs and 100% of the mailing costs, totaling \$6,620. The project received a letter of commitment from Everline Resort and Spa, which owns the subject property and letters of support from the Eastern Placer County Fire Chiefs JPA; Supervisor Gustafson; Placer County Department of Agriculture, Parks & Natural Resources; Olympic Valley Firewise Community; Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation; Olympic Valley Mutual Water Company; Olympic Valley Watershed Alliance; the Mountaineer; Palisades Tahoe; the Homesites at Squaw Creek Owners Association; Olympic Village Inn; and Red Wolf Lodge.

The scope of work, project map and budget are attached. The District will continue to work with RPF Bradfield to identify upcoming grant opportunities available to the District.

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

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS: The District has been awarded \$685,911 in grant funding dedicated to planning and implementation of fuel 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 - OV-1 (120 acres)	CAL FIRE	Nov. 2022	\$539,888	30%
Fuels Reduction – Evacuation Corridor- O.V. Road (3 acres)	Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF)	July 2022	\$50,000	0%
	Trout Unlimited / Friends of Squaw Creek	Nov. 2021	\$19,000	100%
Design and Permitting OV-4 (100 acres)	TTCF / CAL FIRE	July 2023	\$45,125	10%

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 are paid from rates and the Garbage Fixed Asset Replacement Fund, the current balance of the Garbage FARF is \$139,165. 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 FoSV and the Firewise Community can provide volunteers on the five District-sponsored GWDs.








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

ATTACHMENTS: OV-5 Grant Application- Map, Scope of Work, and Budget.

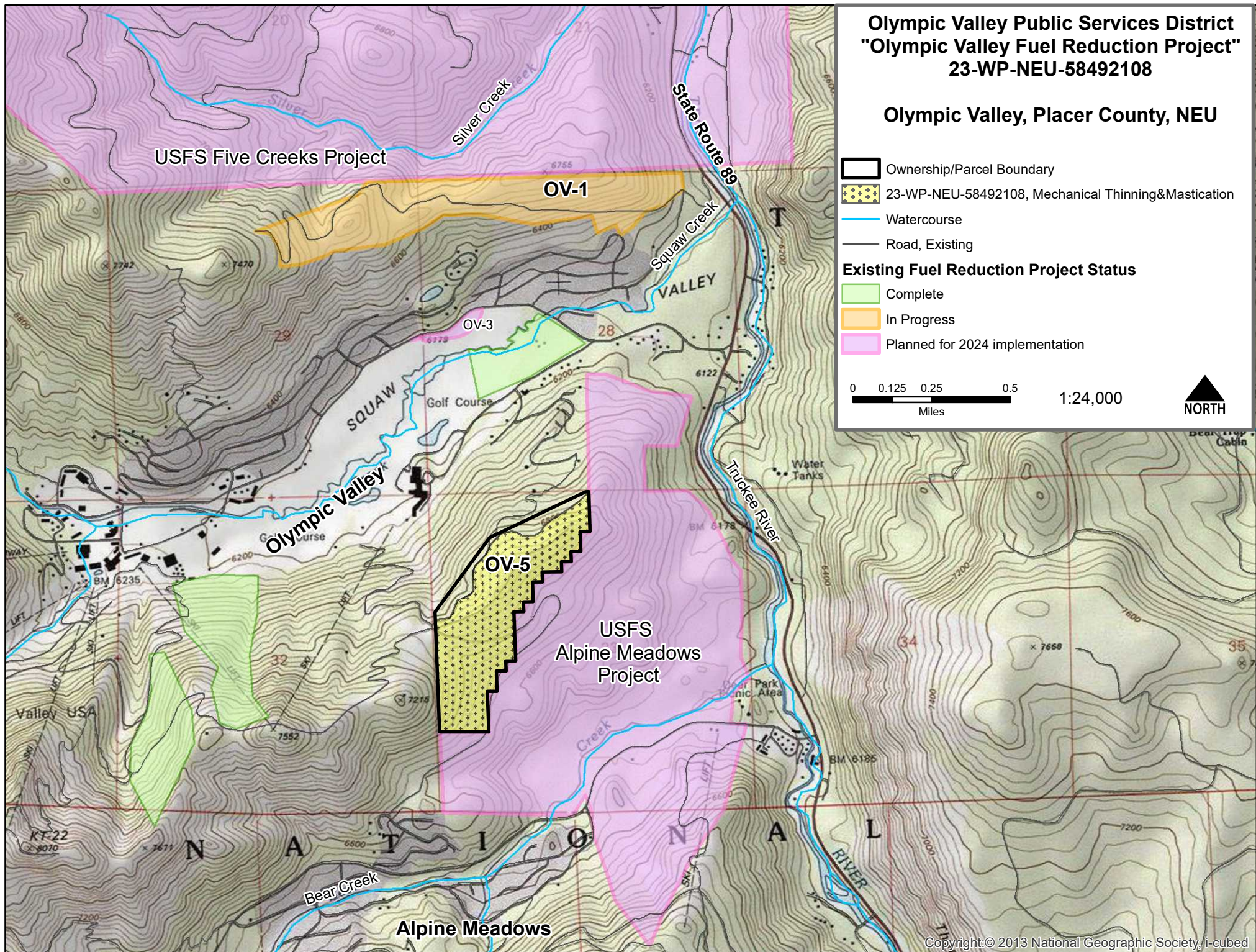
DATE PREPARED: January 22, 2023

**Olympic Valley Public Services District
"Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project"
23-WP-NEU-58492108**

Olympic Valley, Placer County, NEU

-  Ownership/Parcel Boundary
-  23-WP-NEU-58492108, Mechanical Thinning&Mastication
-  Watercourse
-  Road, Existing
- Existing Fuel Reduction Project Status**
 -  Complete
 -  In Progress
 -  Planned for 2024 implementation

0 0.125 0.25 0.5
Miles
1:24,000



SCOPE OF WORK

PROJECT NAME

Olympic Valley South Ridge Fuel Reduction Project

PROJECT TRACKING NUMBER

Please use the Tracking Number that was automatically assigned by Grants Portal. The format will be 23-WP-UUU-XXXXXXXX

23-WP-NEU-58492108

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please provide a comprehensive project description including the location, habitable structures, acres treated, etc. (please note there are no space limitations)

The proposed Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project will create a 100-acre fuel break strategically located adjacent to the community of Olympic Valley in Placer County, California. The subject fuel break, "OV-5", is one of five fuel breaks identified as priority projects in the Olympic Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Cumulatively, the fuel breaks will total approximately 400 acres located upon ridgelines immediately north and south of the community, along the Wa She Shu Creek corridor and adjacent to the community's residential areas. Implementation and CEQA compliance have begun on three of the four other fuel breaks. The current grant application is for CEQA compliance and implementation of the OV-5 project, the 100-acre fuel break located along the south ridge of the community of Olympic Valley.

This fuel break will be implemented utilizing mechanical and hand thinning methods with mastication of surface and ladder fuels, where needed, such that flame length, intensity, rate of spread, and potential duration of wildfire will be significantly reduced. This project provides protection for the approximately 900 habitable structures in Olympic Valley as well as improved safety along the major evacuation routes of Olympic Valley Road and State Route 89. OV-5 also connects to the US Forest Service's "Alpine Meadows Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project", a 1,080-acre project located along the southern edge of OV-5. Further, the proposed project will also compliment the 144-acre Cabin Creek Fuels Reduction and Community Safety Project located north of OV-5.

SECTION I - PRIMARY ACTIVITY TYPE

Hazardous Fuels Reduction

1. Describe the geographic scope of the project, including an estimate of the number of habitable structures and the names of the general communities that will benefit.

The geographic scope of the project is the community of Olympic Valley, California, bound by the Granite Chief Wilderness to the west, the community of Alpine Meadows to the south, the Truckee River corridor and state route 89 to the east, and US Forest Service lands to the north. The Olympic Valley community, nearby Alpine Meadows community, and Lake Tahoe Basin will benefit from the improved public safety along Highway 89, the main evacuation route for each, and increased wildfire resilience resulting from proposed project.

The Olympic Valley community contains approximately 900 habitable structures with an assessed value for land and improvements in the Olympic Valley Fire Protection District over \$1.5 billion dollars. The total assessed value of single-family homes is approximately \$790 million with the average single family home value just over \$1 million dollars.

Placer County's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) estimates the permanent population of the community to be 950 and peak visitor population of 3,500-12,000. Per the 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, both resident and visiting populations are housed in approximately 663 residential units, 1,180 condominiums, and approximately 20 commercial entities consisting of private residences, ski resorts, hotels and supporting businesses.

2. Describe the goals, objectives, and expected outcomes of the project.

The goal of the Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project is creation of one of five fuel breaks at strategic locations adjacent to and within the community of Olympic Valley as identified in the Olympic Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Project objectives include 1) Creation of the OV-5 fuel break upon 100 acres adjacent to the community of Olympic Valley located along the ridgeline to the immediate south of community, and adjacent to the arterial evacuation route for the community and region, 2) reduce wildfire's risk to human health and safety, and 3) reduce the risk of adverse wildfire effects and potential fire behavior (flame length, intensity, rate of spread, duration) through reduction of fuel loading and arrangement within the Defense Zone of the Olympic Valley Wildland Urban Interface.

The fuel break pretreatment areas are dominated by Sierra Mixed Conifer stand type of excessive stand density ranging from 180-220 square feet basal area per acre. Species composition is approximately 60% White Fir, 30% Jeffrey Pine, 6% Sugar Pine, and 4% Red Fir, with an average of 240 trees per acre over 8 inches DBH. The average stand diameter at breast height (DBH) of White Fir is 12.0", Jeffrey Pine is 14.3", Sugar Pine is 18.0", and Red Fir is 22.4". Cumulative pretreatment quadratic mean diameter is 13 inches DBH. Openings in the conifer overstory are dominated by native shrub species including manzanita and whitethorn and young growth White Fir regeneration under 3" DBH.

Following fuel break implementation utilizing mechanical thinning and mechanical mastication, stand conditions in each fuel break will exhibit reduced horizontal and vertical continuity of fuels such that wildfire intensity, including potential flame length, rate of spread, and duration of wildfire will be significantly reduced. This reduction in potential fire behavior provides for increased safety of residents and emergency personnel in a wildfire situation through reduced fire behavior.

Post-treatment stand conditions will exhibit reduced stand density of 75-100 square feet basal area per acre, depending on slope position, as a means to achieve these goals. The stand quadratic mean diameter will be increased approximately 5 inches DBH as trees retained will generally be larger, more fire tolerant trees. The residual stand will contain a species composition that provides for increased stand vigor and resilience to future disturbance such as fire, insects, disease, and drought. To this end, the relative site occupancy of White Fir will be reduced in favor of the more drought and fire tolerant native pine species. The residual stand will also exhibit lower crown bulk density and an increase in crown base height as a means to reduce fuel continuity and the probability of crown ignition and/or sustaining a running crown fire. Surface and ladder fuels will largely be removed through a combination of mechanical and hand thinning, and mechanical mastication.

Improved public safety through fuel reduction along arterial forest roads is another expected outcome of the project. This improved access will also provide for firefighter safety during ingress in the event of wildfire. Access roads leading from the Olympic Valley community to the ridgelines to the south and into the community of Alpine Meadows will be improved as part of forest product extraction involved with fuel break implementation. This improvement will likewise support ingress and egress of emergency personnel during a wildfire event.

3. Provide a clear rationale for how the proposed project will reduce the risks associated with wildfire to habitable structures.

Olympic Valley is situated between two ridgelines north and south of the community, the Granite Chief Wilderness to the west, and Highway 89/Truckee River Corridor to the east. Generally unmanaged timberlands exist to the north, east, and south of the community, presenting the risk of wildfire entering the community from these areas. Fuel breaks OV-1 and OV-5 along the northern and southern ridgelines, in conjunction with USFS fuels reduction projects, will preemptively allow for wildfire to be held outside of the community should it potentially enter from these directions. OV-1 has been implemented, is 30% complete with remaining acres to be completed during summer 2024.

Related, a wildland fire approaching either of the subject ridgelines will expose the Olympic Valley community to potentially significant ember cast, presenting the risk of fire spread within the WUI. Wind and convection columns can transport embers over considerable distances and cause susceptible structures to ignite even without active fire spread in the immediate area. Given that, reducing potential ember cast by keeping wildfire as far as feasible from the community, and reducing wildfire intensity, is paramount to protecting the high-density residential setting within Olympic Valley.

Implementation of the OV-5 fuel break will enhance existing ingress and egress from the wildlands south of Olympic Valley. Existing access roads will be cleared and made passable for forest product extraction, leaving these roads in an improved condition for use by emergency response personnel should a wildfire event occur. Further, hazardous fuels will be reduced along roads within the fuel breaks, further improving safety for fire suppression personnel. Collectively, these project outcomes will reduce the risks associated with wildfire to habitable structures.

4. Identify any additional assets at risk from wildfire that will benefit from the proposed project. These may include, but are not limited to, domestic and municipal water supplies, power lines, communication facilities and community centers.

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan contains a list of critical facilities, infrastructure, and other District Assets within Olympic Valley which are additional assets at risk to wildfire that will benefit from the proposed project including 1) high voltage power lines and associated electric power substation, 2) AT&T Pac Bell Switching Station, 3) Olympic Valley Public Services District infrastructure including vertical and horizontal wells, two wellhouses, one above ground booster pump station, one below ground booster pump station, five RTU sites, three sewer flow meters, backup power and servers, water and sewer lines, 4) the Olympic Valley Fire Protection District, 5) Mutual Water Company infrastructure including structures and tanks, vertical wells, horizontal wells, one wellhouse, one above ground booster pump station, and water service lines, 6) Palisades Tahoe Ski Resort infrastructure including lifts, irrigation, and domestic water supply, 7) Everline Resort water systems for irrigation, 8) Thirteen bridges on public and private roads within the community, 9) communication lines, and 10) The Truckee River, a Bistate/Federally regulated water way that is a major recreation area, provides habitat to the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, and is a scenic source of domestic water for around 400,000 people.

5. How will the project/activity utilize the left over woody biomass? Will the project/activity use a biomass facility to reduce greater greenhouse gas emissions?

The project will remove targeted woody material to the greatest extent possible given market conditions, biomass facility availability, and wood product demand. Small logs removed from the fuel breaks will be delivered to purchasing mill(s) and/or firewood facilities in the region. The removal of firewood material from the project areas will allow for logs and tree tops down to a smaller end diameter to be removed, leaving less slash on site. Should a biomass energy facility be available within a feasible haul distance of the project area (of which two are currently proposed) and be actively pursuing woods-produced chips at the time of project implementation, delivery of such chips will be prioritized to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions.

6. Does the project include grazing as a component of the hazardous fuels reduction project?

No

SECTION II - DEGREE OF RISK

1. Discuss the location of the project in relation to areas of moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zone as identified by the latest Fire and Resource Assessment Program maps.

Fire hazard severity zone maps can be accessed by copying and pasting the link or right-clicking to open in a new tab: <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-hazard-severity-zones>

The proposed OV-5 fuel break is located entirely within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) as identified by the current Fire Resource Assessment Program Maps. The residential areas of the Olympic Valley community are also within the VHFHSZ. At the landscape level, the project areas are situated amongst contiguous miles of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone within Placer County.

2. Describe the geographic proximity of the project to structures at risk to damage from wildfire in the WUI.

The proposed project includes the creation of the OV-5 fuel break adjacent to and within the community of Olympic Valley. OV-5 is located 280 feet from structures at risk to damage from wildfire in Olympic Valley. This unit is located along a ridgeline that separates the residential areas of Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows. The distance of this unit from structures at risk to damage ranges from 280 feet to 1,300 feet, respectively, between the two stated residential areas.

SECTION III - COMMUNITY SUPPORT

1. Does the project include any matching funds from other funding sources or any in-kind contributions that are expected to extend the impact of the proposed project?

The project contains in-kind contributions from the grantee, Olympic Valley Public Services District, for labor and supplies. These in-kind contributions will provide for external communication mailings to all residents within the Olympic Valley Public Services District, involvement and coordination with District staff during the life of the project, and grant management and administration.

2. Describe plans for external communications during the life of the project to keep the effected community informed about the goals, objectives and progress of the project. Activities such as planned press releases, project signage, community meetings, and field tours are encouraged.

The Olympic Valley Public Services District will provide planned press releases to three local publications including the Sierra Sun, Moonshine Ink, and Reno Gazette. The initial press release will introduce the project goal, funding source, project objectives, deliverables, and approximate timeline. Subsequent press releases may include project status, next steps, expectations, and implementation timing, location details and details about the completed project such as acres treated or amount of woody biomass removed. Additionally, information about the project will be included in the District's newsletters, biannually sent via US Postal Service to all property owners, approximately 1,300 households, and approximately quarterly sent to the OVPSD distribution list of 1,000 residents and related stakeholders. Project signage will be provided at a conspicuous location within or adjacent to each fuel break unit. Temporary and permanent signage will provide information related to the funding source, as well as succinct information on fuel break location/extent, general silvicultural objectives, estimated timeline, and OVPSD contact information. Temporary signage will be placed prior to and during operations, and will address topics current to implementation. Permanent signage will address a project overview including goals, objectives, outcomes, cost, and implementation statistics. Upon grant award, a community meeting will be scheduled to present the project goals and objectives to the public along with project deliverables, timelines for each project component, and a question-and-answer period. Site visits for the public will also be scheduled following project layout and during project implementation. The site visits will be facilitated by the project Registered Professional Forester and OVPSD staff and will provide for public education on the purposes of the fuel break, design rationale, silvicultural prescription, implementation methodology, and a question-and-answer session.

3. Describe any plans to maintain the project after the grant period has ended.

The silvicultural prescription for the proposed fuel break intends to return the landscape to a condition within the natural range of variability, allowing for low intensity management actions to maintain the integrity of the initial treatment. Maintenance of the OV-5 fuelbreak will be achieved through either prescribed fire or mechanical mastication based on vegetation type, aspect, amount of regrowth, and proximity to habitable structures. Prescribed fire is planned to maintain treatment efficacy to the greatest degree possible. Should a specific area of fuel break not be feasible for prescribed fire due to potential smoke impacts or other valid public or resource concern, mechanical mastication will be used to reduce the volume and regrowth of fuels.

Visual monitoring of the fuel breaks performed by the OVPSD contract Registered Professional Forester (RPF) will dictate timing and location of maintenance treatments, and environmental compliance needs for identified maintenance actions. Depending on the results of the RPF's monitoring, appropriate and available funding sources will be considered as an overall strategy of the OVPSD fuels management program.

4. Does the proposed project work with other organizations or agencies to address fire hazard reduction at the landscape level?

The proposed project compliments three existing fuel reduction projects sponsored by Olympic Valley Public Service District. OV-1 is a 120-acre fuel break located on the northern ridgeline of Olympic Valley, it is 30% complete with final completion expected by July 2024. OV-3 is a roadside vegetation reduction project which is also about 30% complete with final completion expected by November 2024. OV-4 is a fuels reduction project surrounding the perimeter of homes, buildings, and other structures in the valley; design and permitting is expected to be completed by June, 2024.

Additionally the OV-5 project compliment projects with other agencies. The US Forest Service "Five Creeks" Project is located immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of fuel break OV-1. The southern boundary of OV-5 joins the US Forest Service's "Alpine Meadows Fuel Reduction Project", planned for implementation in fall of 2024. Cumulatively, the Five Creeks and Alpine Meadows projects represent 7,231 acres of treatment designed to mitigate the potential for high severity fire within the WUI while maintaining habitat and ecosystem services through a series of actions that address forest restoration, fuels reduction, habitat enhancement and roads management. These Federal project areas align with the Truckee River and the SR 89 corridor, south of the town of Truckee and north of Olympic Valley. The US Forest Service has identified these project areas and vicinity as a high use areas, adjacent to the Town of Truckee along the Truckee River/ State Route (SR) 89 corridor which experiences significant visitation and contains critical infrastructure including developed campgrounds, private residences, recreation residences, transmission lines, the Placer County Eastern Regional Landfill, mountain biking, hiking, and fishing trails, back country winter recreation, rock climbing destinations, and vehicles traveling from Interstate 80 to Lake Tahoe. The SR 89 corridor also serves as a major evacuation route for the Lake Tahoe Basin. In order to promote safe conditions while maintaining and enhancing the ecosystem services provided by the area, treatment has been warranted by the agency due to the high use nature of the area, its proximity to urban areas, the potential for high severity fire, and forest health issues.

Due to the proximity of the Five Creeks and Alpine Meadows Projects to the urban core of Olympic Valley and neighboring communities, management objectives for forests closest to the urban core and the WUI defense zone are to create or maintain an open forest structure, dominated by larger, fire tolerant trees. The resulting open-canopied forest and discontinuity of crown fuels, both horizontally and vertically, would result in a very low probability of sustained crown fire. Within the WUI threat zone, the objectives are to establish and maintain a pattern of area treatments that are effective in modifying wildfire behavior while maintaining or enhancing ecosystem services.

OV-5, the proposed fuel break, is aligned with the south ridgeline of the community of Olympic Valley. This fuel break is located approximately 3000 feet east of an existing, 100-acre fuels project completed in 2014 by the Palisades Tahoe ski resort and also connects to existing ski runs within the resort.

These runs are seasonally maintained to reduce vegetation utilizing thinning and mastication methods, thereby extending the impact of the proposed project on the landscape level.

Additionally, the proposed project will compliment the Cabin Creek Fuels Reduction and Community Safety Project, a 144-acre project on Placer County-owned lands surrounding the Cabin Creek Eastern Regional Landfill and waste transfer station.

Further, in year 2023 the Olympic Valley Firewise Community recorded 2,472 hours of home hardening/defensible efforts and additionally spent \$195,4030.00 on defensible space and home hardening. Likewise, in 2021, Valley View Town Homes, a commercial entity in Olympic Valley, invested \$1.2 million to reside its residential complex's wood siding with fire resistant metal and composite siding, metal eaves, and the removal of all flammable landscaping with non- flammable hardscape. The combined efforts of the proactive community members and commercial investors within Olympic Valley will complement the goals and objectives of the proposed project, ultimately extending the impact of the proposed project.

The objectives of the Olympic Valley South Ridge Fuel Reduction Project are consistent with those of the neighboring Placer County and US Forest Service projects as well as the Palisades Tahoe fuels management efforts. Due to the close proximity of each aforementioned project to one another, the efficacy of each will be compounded, providing for hazard reduction at the landscape level. This application is one of a suite of applications from Placer County entities to the Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention Grant Program representing a coordinated approach to community/WUI/resource protection that includes countywide wildfire protection planning, chipping services, and shaded fuelbreaks around the Olympic Valley community WUI and critical community infrastructure.

SECTION IV - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

1. Discuss the anticipated timeline for the project. Make sure to take seasonal restrictions into account.

The first year of grant funding will be dedicated to the design, layout, and permitting of the OV-5 fuel break. This time period allows for required resource surveys, identification of treatment areas and all required resource protection zones through flagging, creation of GIS maps to be used in permitting, identification of trees to be removed (timber marking), and completion and approval of the appropriate Cal Fire harvest document(s) and CEQA document.

Years 2-4 of the grant will be the operational seasons. The Olympic Valley South Ridge Fuel Reduction Project is located at elevations ranging from 6,100' to 7,470' above sea level. The operational season conducive to mechanical methods of fuel break implementation generally occurs during a six-month window from May through October annually. Utilizing two operational seasons will require 50 acres to be treated annually, which has proven feasible for similar projects in the area with the same operational timeframe restrictions. Due to the valid term of the grant through March 2030, an additional operational season is provided as shown below, should it be needed.

The timeline below is consisted with the aforementioned approach:

Grant Component Timeframe

- Project design, layout, permitting Up to one year from grant award, estimated to be July 2024 through May 2025.
- External Communications Upon grant award(est. 8/2024) through project completion (3/2030) with public field tours scheduled following project layout and during project implementation. Project signage to be placed prior to project implementation.

- Fuelbreak implementation June – October 2025, May – October 2026, and May-October 2027 (if needed) taking advantage of any other suitable operational conditions outside of this estimated window, should they exist.
- Quarterly Grant Reporting Annually on 4/30, 7/30, 10/30, and 1/30 during the valid term of the grant.
- Final Grant Reporting January – March 2030.

2. Verify the expected timeframes to complete the project will fall under the required completion dates depending on the source of the funds awarded.

The expected timeframe for the Olympic Valley Project is feasible based on the implementation of fuel breaks at similar elevations and within similar fuel types within the Truckee and Tahoe Basins. The contract RPF for the Olympic Valley Public Services District has completed the required design, layout, surveys, and permitting for similar fuel breaks within the one-year limitation established by the grant guidelines, including CEQA documents and Cal Fire Forest Fire Prevention Exemptions. The same documents are planned for use with this project.

Related, the Olympic Valley PSD's contract RPF has administered the timber operations associated with fuel break implementation under similar grant processes in the same general area as the subject proposed project. This prior experience has provided relevant production rates for the fuel type and treatment methodologies planned for subject project. Based on these known production rates, implementation of the Project is anticipated to take two operational seasons. Due to the valid term of the Fire Prevention Grant through March of 2030, and additional operational seasons are available, should it be required for any reason. Based on these factors, full completion of all grant components will fall under the required completion dates for the CCI Fire Prevention Grant funding.

3. Please list the milestones that will be used to measure the progress of the project.

- Project unit design, layout, flagging/timber marking, submission and receipt of approved Cal Fire Forest Fire Prevention Exemption for OV-5: Completion Date: June 1, 2025
- Project advertisement/Request for Bids released/Bidder's Tour: Completion Date: June 30, 2025
- Bid selection and award: Completion Date: July 30, 2025
- Press release and advertisement of public field tour of project area: July 30, 2025
- Commencement of timber operations: August 15, 2025
- Completion of operational 2025 season: estimated to be October 31, 2025 (operations will continue through 2025 with the goal of 50 acres of treatment per operational season to complete project in 2 seasons; If an additional season is necessary, all remaining acres will be completed during 2027).
- Completion of press release regarding project commencement, expectations, timelines; Schedule and advertise public tour of active operations: August 30, 2025
- Completion of OV-5 fuel breaks: October 31, 2026
- Final grant reporting: Completion date: March 31, 2027

4. Please list the measurable outcomes (i.e. project deliverables) that will be used to measure the project's success.

- Receipt of approved Cal Fire harvest document and CEQA document.
- Public involvement and education through field tours of project area before and during project implementation.
- Creation of 100 acres of fuel break within and adjacent to the community of Olympic Valley.
- Increased stand resiliency to wildfire as measured through reduction of stand density and increase in stand quadratic mean diameter within fuel break units.

5. If applicable, how will the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) be met? If CEQA is not required, please type Not Applicable in the text box.

A Cal Fire Forest Fire Prevention Exemption will be used to meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the OV-5 fuel break.

6. List any existing forest or land management plans; Conservation Easements; Covenant, Conditions & Restrictions (CC&R's); matters related to zoning; use restrictions, or other factors that can or will limit the wildfire prevention proposed activity?

No, there are no existing forest or land management plans; conservation easements, CCR's, matters related to zoning; use restrictions, or other factors that can or will limit the wildfire prevention proposed activity.

SECTION V – ADMINISTRATION

1. Describe any previous experience the project proponent has with similar projects. Include a list of recent past projects the proponent has successfully completed if applicable. Project applicant or manager having no previous experience with similar projects should discuss any past experiences that may help show a capacity to successfully complete the project being proposed. This may include partnering with a more experienced organization that can provide project support.

The District is currently managing a CalFIRE Fire Wildfire Prevention Grant for implementation of the 120-acre OV-1 fuel break (CAL FIRE Grant Agreement 5GG21226). In 2022 the District also received funding for the planning and implementation of the OV-3 fuel break from the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, and has brought the project into shovel ready status with implementation planned for fall 2024. During 2023 the District received grant funding from the Truckee North Tahoe Forest Management Program made possible through a grant from the Cal Fire Wildfire Resilience Block Grant Program for the planning of the OV-4 fuel break and will continue to administer that grant through delivery of the CEQA document in June 2024. The Department has previously administered a "Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response" (SAFER) Grant and regularly administers several water/sewer grants such as those from Placer County Water Agency and the CA Department of Water Resources. The District is currently managing grant funds up to \$550,000 per project and has managed numerous large planning and implementation projects such as the Olympic Valley Creek/Aquifer Interaction Study, redundant water supply project, and Truckee River Siphon construction project.

2. Identify who will be responsible for tracking project expenses and maintaining project records in a manner that allows for a full audit trail of any awarded grant funds.

The Olympic Valley Public Service District, which oversees the Olympic Valley Fire Department, would manage the project and be responsible for tracking project expenses and maintaining project records. As a government agency, the District manages all projects in a manner to allow for a full audit trail.

SECTION VI – BUDGET

A detailed project budget should be provided in the online budget included in this solicitation. The space provided here is to allow for a narrative description to further explain the proposed budget.

1. Explain how the grant funds, if awarded, will be spent to support the goals and objectives of the project. If equipment grant funds are requested, explain how the equipment will be utilized and maintained beyond the life of the grant.

The grant amount requested is based on the acres included in the proposed fuel breaks OV-5 fuel break. Acreage was determined from field reconnaissance using global positioning system technology. RPF knowledge of 2023 per-acre costs for RPF and LTO services for similar projects in the region were used to estimate the approximate per-acre costs during the valid term of this grant. In the event that revenue is generated from wood product removed from any of fuel breaks, the RPF will work with the Unit to document any such revenue and its application to further the project objectives.

2. Are the costs for each proposed activity reasonable for the geographic area where they are to be performed? Identify any costs that are higher than usual and explain any special circumstances within the project that makes these increased costs necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the project.

The costs for each proposed activity are reasonable for the geographic area where the project will be implemented. Olympic Valley is located adjacent to the Truckee and Tahoe Basins. Regionally, this area is known for inflated costs of services, a high cost of living, and high fuel prices. These circumstances have proven to result in historically higher per-acre costs of fuels reduction treatments. The costs included on the proposed budget reflect per-acre treatment costs seen in year 2023 within the region, adjusted for anticipated inflation in costs during the grant term. Following project advertisement to prospective bidders, should the per acre cost come in under the anticipated costs reflected in the budget sheet, additional acres can be treated within the same parcels where the current treatments are located.

3. Is the total project cost appropriate for the size, scope, and anticipated benefit of the project?

The total project cost is within the range of costs normally experienced for the Truckee and Tahoe Basins. Given the extent of the project along the south ridgeline that binds Olympic Valley, the project cost is both feasible and valuable in regard to achieving the anticipated benefits. The Olympic Valley Project has the added benefit of tying directly into the Tahoe National Forest's "Five Creeks" and Alpine Meadows Projects, as well as private lands near Olympic Valley Rd that will continue to receive fuel reduction during the 2024 summer through a privately funded Cal Fire Forest Fire Prevention Exemption. Thus, the impact of the proposed project will be extended as it connects to existing planned fuel reduction projects to address fire hazard reduction at the landscape level.

4. Please list each object category amount that you are requesting and the detail of how that would support meeting the grant objectives.

Salaries/Wages (\$27,091.62) and Employee Benefits (\$10,885.77):

Internal District staff including the Fire Chief, General Manager, Prevention Officer/Fire Captain, Project Manager, administrative assistant and finance manager for administrative responsibilities for the project. Example tasks include leading external communication including being readily available to the community for public input and questions, providing local knowledge as part of project layout, writing and distributing press releases, writing, formatting, and sending project information mailers, planning and attending community meetings and site visits, maintaining a website with information for the public, providing bid administration support, and invoicing. This administrative leadership will be important to ensuring that the grant objectives and timelines are met, and that the community is kept informed of the project details.

Contractual- RPF (\$21,000.00): The OVPSD contract RPF will support meeting the grant objectives by providing professional forestry advice and services as it applies to fuel break design and layout, silvicultural prescriptions, appropriate treatment methodology. The RPF will also complete all required environmental compliance documents, including the Cal Fire Forest Fire Prevention Exemption and CEQA document, and will provide administration of operations. This professional advice provides for the design of an effective project in full compliance with all state and local regulations, and provides professional guidance and administration of implementation operations to ensure meeting the grant objectives.

- Contractual – Licensed Timber Operator for OV-5 (\$436,000.00): The Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) will implement the silvicultural prescription(s) developed by the RPF within the fuel break units. The LTO will be responsible for tree removal, processing, transportation, and slash abatement to meet the vegetation treatment goals and objectives identified in this grant.
- Supplies: (\$3,950.00) Mailing and handling of press release and project updates to Olympic Valley Public Services District property owners and residents, and temporary and permanent project signage.
- Program Income: Estimated \$40,000.00 in small log revenue resulting from thinning operations. Estimated value of \$200/MBF @ 2MBF/ac on 100 acres.

5. Does your project include the purchase of capital equipment (more than \$5,000 per item)?

No

SECTION VII - CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS

The space provided here is to allow for a narrative description to further explain how the project/activity will reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions.

1. How will the project/activity reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions?

The goal of the proposed project is to create a strategically located fuel break immediately adjacent to the community of Olympic Valley. The community is situated between two ridgelines to the immediate north and south, and generally unmanaged timberlands exist beyond those ridgelines. The proposed fuel break OV-5 is intended to reduce the risk of wildfire entering the community across the south ridgeline. The fuel break location along the subject ridgetop will preemptively allow for wildfire to be held outside of the community should it potentially enter from the south. These ridgeline fuel breaks also establish control lines that could be used during fire suppression to keep fire from entering the wildland setting should an ignition occur within the community.

Implementation of the subject fuel break will enhance existing ingress and egress from the wildlands south of Olympic Valley. Existing access roads will be cleared and made passable for forest product extraction, leaving these roads in an improved condition for use by emergency response personnel should a wildfire event occur. Therefore, the proposed project will support improved access to the fire perimeter such that the fire can be extinguished more quickly, and will support suppression efforts that result in smaller scale fires that reduce carbon emissions and the overall carbon footprint of a potential wildfire event.

Further, a wildland fire approaching the south ridgeline will expose the Olympic Valley community to potentially significant ember cast, presenting the risk of fire spread within the WUI. Reducing potential ember cast by keeping wildfire as far as feasible from the community and reducing wildfire intensity is paramount to protecting the high-density residential setting within Olympic Valley, ultimately preventing the needs for the clean-up and rebuilding of the community after wildfire damage.

The stand density reduction within the proposed fuel break will enhance stand resilience to severe disturbances and foster development of species composition appropriate for slope position. The specific thinning objectives for the proposed project include reducing stand density, reducing ladder fuels, preparing stands for the safe reintroduction of fire, enhancing species composition, and accelerating growth of the residual stand. Generally, conditions will encourage fire resilient pine species, larger diameter trees, and more open stand conditions.

These actions reduce intertree competition and redistribute growth onto fewer stems per acre, hastening conifer growth and increasing the overall stand resilience to wildfire and damaging biotic agents. This increase in conifer growth will provide for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by increasing carbon sequestration. Providing for an increase in stand resilience to damaging agents also supports suppression efforts as the fuel reduction will reduce the flame length, intensity, rate of spread, and duration of potential wildfire. This result supports a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by providing for smaller scale fires that reduce carbon emissions and the overall carbon footprint of a potential wildfire event.

Budget Report

Passthrough Agency: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
Program: FY 2023-2024 Wildlife Prevention Grants
Project Name/Title: Olympic Valley South Ridge Fuel Reduction Project
Org Name: Olympic Valley Public Service District
Stage: Pre-Award

Report Date: 01/22/2024
Requested By: Jessica Asher
jasher@ovpsd.org

Budget Items

Category	Title	Description	Units	Unit Cost	Extended Cost	Direct Cost	Indirect Cost	GL Account	Cost Share
Salaries & Wages									
	Use Titles to briefly describe each item. Cost Share from the grantee and from a partner can be tracked on separate lines. Note that your indirect cost rate setting (which must be between 0 and 12%) will automatically apply to each line	In each row Description, enter the unit of measurement and choose from only the following labels: Hours, Days, Each, Report, Contract, Miles, Daily, Acres	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
	Fire Chief	Hours	90	\$89.90	\$8,091.00	\$8,091.00	\$0.00		\$809.10
	General Manager	Hours	60	\$134.90	\$8,094.00	\$8,094.00	\$0.00		\$809.28
	Prev. Officer/Captain	Hours	20	\$44.30	\$886.00	\$886.00	\$0.00		\$88.60
	Project Manager	Hours	160	\$69.00	\$11,040.00	\$11,040.00	\$0.00		\$1,104.94
	Admin. Assistant	Hours	30	\$31.50	\$945.00	\$945.00	\$0.00		\$94.59
	Finance Manager	Hours	10	\$104.80	\$1,048.00	\$1,048.00	\$0.00		\$104.77
Salaries & Wages Total			370	\$474.40	\$30,104.00	\$30,104.00	\$0.00		\$3,010.18
Employee Benefits									
	Use Titles to briefly describe each item. Cost Share from the grantee and from a partner can be tracked on separate lines. Note that your indirect cost rate setting (which must be between 0 and 12%) will automatically apply to each line	In each row Description, enter the unit of measurement and choose from only the following labels: Hours, Days, Each, Report, Contract, Miles, Daily, Acres	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
	Fire Chief	Hours	90	\$45.20	\$4,068.00	\$4,068.00	\$0.00		\$406.44
	General Manager	Hours	60	\$45.20	\$2,712.00	\$2,712.00	\$0.00		\$271.20
	Prev. Officer/Captain	Hours	20	\$29.80	\$596.00	\$596.00	\$0.00		\$59.66
	Project Manager	Hours	160	\$26.10	\$4,176.00	\$4,176.00	\$0.00		\$417.44
	Admin. Assistant	Hours	30	\$8.70	\$261.00	\$261.00	\$0.00		\$25.98
	Finance Manager	Hours	10	\$29.80	\$298.00	\$298.00	\$0.00		\$28.81
Employee Benefits Total			370	\$184.80	\$12,111.00	\$12,111.00	\$0.00		\$1,209.53
Contractual									
	Use Titles to briefly describe each item. Cost Share from the grantee and from a partner can be tracked on separate lines. Note that your indirect cost rate setting (which must be between 0 and 12%) will automatically apply to each line	In each row Description, enter the unit of measurement and choose from only the following labels: Hours, Days, Each, Report, Contract, Miles, Daily, Acres	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
	Reg Prof Forester	Acres	100	\$210.00	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
	Lic Timber Operator	Acres	100	\$4,360.00	\$436,000.00	\$436,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Contractual Total			200	\$4,670.00	\$457,000.00	\$457,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Travel & Per Diem									
	Use Titles to briefly describe each item. Cost Share from the grantee and from a partner can be tracked on separate lines. Note that your indirect cost rate setting (which must be between 0 and 12%) will automatically apply to each line	In each row Description, enter the unit of measurement and choose from only the following labels: Hours, Days, Each, Report, Contract, Miles, Daily, Acres	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Travel & Per Diem Total			0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Supplies									
	Use Titles to briefly describe each item. Cost Share from the grantee and from a partner can be tracked on separate lines. Note that your indirect cost rate setting (which must be between 0 and 12%) will automatically apply to each line	In each row Description, enter the unit of measurement and choose from only the following labels: Hours, Days, Each, Report, Contract, Miles, Daily, Acres	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
	Newsletter Mailing	Each	2	\$1,200.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$0.00		\$2,400.00
	Temporary Signage	Each	4	\$50.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
	Permanent Signage	Each	3	\$1,250.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Supplies Total			9	\$2,500.00	\$6,350.00	\$6,350.00	\$0.00		\$2,400.00
Equipment									
	NOTE: Indirect cost rates do not apply to Equipment. Use Titles to briefly describe each item. Cost Share from the grantee and from a partner can be tracked on separate lines.	In each row Description, enter the unit of measurement and choose from only the following labels: Hours, Days, Each, Report, Contract, Miles, Daily, Acres	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Equipment Total			0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Other Costs									
	Use Titles to briefly describe each item. Cost Share from the grantee and from a partner can be tracked on separate lines. Note that your indirect cost rate setting (which must be between 0 and 12%) will automatically apply to each line	In each row Description, enter the unit of measurement and choose from only the following labels: Hours, Days, Each, Report, Contract, Miles, Daily, Acres	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Other Costs Total			0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Indirect Cost									
	To be used by CAL FIRE staff only	To be used by CAL FIRE staff only	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Indirect Cost Total			0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Other									
Category	Title	Description	Units	Unit Cost	Extended Cost	Direct Cost	Indirect Cost	GL Account	Cost Share
Other									
Other Total			0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Grant Total			949	\$7,729.20	\$505,565.00	\$505,565.00	\$0.00		\$6,619.71

Program Income

Category	Title	Description	Income	Cost Share
Program Income				
Wood Product Revenue	Wood Product Revenue	Revenue from wood product removed during implementation, estimated at 2MBF/ac x 100 ac x \$200/MBF	\$40,000.00	
Program Income Total			\$40,000.00	