



OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



EXHIBIT F-1
4 Pages

FUELS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

DATE: November 28, 2023

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: OV-1 – Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project
Cross Check Services has completed work on the OV-1 project for this season. Road work has been completed along with 30% of the 120-acre project area. Approximately 50-acres have been operated upon, 35-acres are fully treated. All equipment was removed, and all state required BMPs were installed prior to November 13th. The road system accessing the site and within the work area has significant clay content and the wet weather could not support continued operations. The project will restart next year when ground conditions permit and should take about one month. The grant terms require completion by March 15, 2026. Given the weather and project progress, staff decided to host a site visit of the project next summer rather than this fall.

OV-3 – Evacuation Corridor, S-Turns Fuels Reduction

The meadow did not fully dry out this year. The Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation has granted an extension to the grant terms such that the project can be completed in the fall of 2024 when conditions may be more favorable.

OV-4 – Olympic Valley Community Buffer Design and Permitting Project:

All landowners whose properties are eligible for grant funding signed participation interest forms and Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Bradfield completed field reconnaissance work in October and November. Bradfield, Chisholm, and Asher met with interested landowners on site to discuss the project and all directly affected property owners appear to support the project.

After much coordination with Placer County, the District was informed that the parcels held in charitable trust with Placer County as the public administrator (above Sandy Way) are not included in the County's fuels management plans and the Public Administrator is not willing or able to contribute any funds to this project as there are insufficient funds in the Trust. The District decided to fund design and permitting of the OV-4 project on those parcels from the general services contract with Feather River Forestry with the understanding that this does not set a precedent to fund future projects, or responsibility for the land. The work is estimated to be \$3,000-\$4,000. In addition to field reconnaissance, archeological survey, and permitting work; it will be important any fuel thinning on these parcels is evaluated by a geologist given the avalanche and mudslide risk. In the coming months, the District's legal counsel will need to work with the County to identify if it will be possible to implement fuel management projects on the property and the necessary steps to protect all parties involved.

Placer County informed staff that the county-owned properties in the OV-4 project (mainly the 25 acres including Olympic Valley Park) are included in the County's three-year plan to treat all county-owned priority parcels. The Placer County Board of Supervisors has allocated sufficient funding, and those parcels are currently scheduled for treatment in 2024.

OV-5 – South Ridge Fuels Reduction

The District is considering applying to the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant funding program dependent on staff and consultant availability. This project, approximately 90 acres on the south ridge of the Valley, was initially included in the OV-1 grant application. Staff feel the project will be competitive given the adjacency of the Alpine Meadows/Olympic Valley United States Forest Service (USFS) project and positive feedback from the previous application.

United States Forest Service (USFS) Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley Fire Protection Project

The Tahoe National Forest (TNF) invited comments on the scoping notice for the Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley Fire Protection Project. The project proposes fuel reduction and thinning on up to 1,080 acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands near Highway 89 and the communities of Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley.

During the scoping notice period, letters of support are welcome, however, the primary purpose of the scoping comment period is to reveal any information that the Forest Service may not be aware of, and to share any concerns regarding potential effects of the proposed action. The project's scope and footprint can change because of comments received during the scoping period. However, the project's scope typically does not change because of the forthcoming 45-day public comment period. While general comments and support are welcome during the scoping comment period, the 45-day public comment period later in the process is when comments supporting the project will be more critical than at this scoping phase.

With the Five Creeks Project, we voiced support of the project and asked the Forest Service to consider expanding the scope of treatment areas toward private properties, to the Highway 89 evacuation corridor, within the Truckee River riparian zone, and towards projects identified within the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Looking at the boundaries of the Alpine Meadows/Olympic Valley project, staff did not have any scope comments. The project extends to the boundary of Forest Service owned land to the District's OV-5 project and appears to have reasonable extents towards Highway 89.

Staff intend to provide a letter of support during the 45-day public comment period and share that information with the community when it is available.

Defensible Space Inspections:

Residential: We performed only six residential DSI since the last report. Once we get measurable snow, we will end DSI for the season.

Commercial: We were able to inspect, and eventually pass, all properties who made requests. HOA (homeowners association) interest was driven by the requirement that for any single unit to pass (a requirement for STR (Short Term Rental) permit), the entire complex must pass.

Short-Term Rental / AB-38: We had 23 STR DSI requests, which was an unexpectedly high number. We will continue to accommodate Real Estate DSI requests as able.

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: None.

DATE PREPARED: November 20, 2023