

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM
3.73
(ID # 5070)


MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, August 29, 2017

FROM : FIRE DEPARTMENT:

SUBJECT: FIRE: Authorization to Apply for 2016-2017 State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund (SRAFPF) and Tree Mortality (TM) Grant Program; [District All]; [up to \$200,000 available]; 100% State Funds

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors authorize Riverside County Fire Department to apply for the 2016-2017 State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund (SRAFPF) and Tree Mortality (TM) Grant Program.

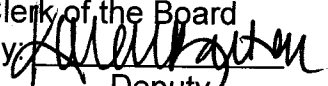
ACTION: Policy


John Williams, Chief of Fire Riverside County 8/16/2017

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Ashley, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Washington, Perez and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: Tavaglione
Date: August 29, 2017
xc: Fire

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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| FINANCIAL DATA | Current Fiscal Year: | Next Fiscal Year: | Total Cost: | Ongoing Cost |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------|
| COST | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| NET COUNTY COST | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| SOURCE OF FUNDS: 100% State Funds | | | Budget Adjustment: No | |
| | | | For Fiscal Year: 17/18 & 18/19 | |

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund (SRAFPF) and Tree Mortality (TM) Grant Program has grant funding available for projects that focus on supporting local efforts to remove dead and dying trees that pose a threat to public health and safety and for projects that reduce the wildfire threat to habitable structures within State Responsibility Areas (SRA). In FY 16/17, using state funds and fees collected from homeowners who live in California's urban-wildland interface, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) awarded the \$15.75 million in 107 grants to fire safe councils, resource conservation districts, cities, counties, park districts, fire departments, and other entities.

Qualifying projects and activities will help rural California cope with a tree mortality crisis connected to an ongoing five-year drought. An estimated 102 million trees have died in California forests since 2010, according to the U.S. Forest Service, elevating the threat of wildfires. Since January 1, 2016 Cal Fire has responded to over 5,700 wildfires, an increase of 23 percent over last year to date. The funds are targeted to communities in the State Responsibility Area (SRA), where the state is financially responsible for the prevention and suppression of wildfire. Examples of qualifying projects and activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Hazardous fuel reduction
- Fire prevention education
- Fire prevention planning
- Removal of dead or dying trees

The maximum grant request is \$200,000 of which capital equipment may not exceed \$100,000. The department plans to apply for SRAFPF grant funding to replace our aging wood chippers which are significantly worn and outdated. The department is also considering applying for funding to enhance our defensible space inspections program by requesting funding for personnel to increase the number of properties inspected. These projects will assist in the department's efforts to reduce hazardous fuels in the areas of the county that have the highest risk of significant fire activity.

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If the Fire Department is awarded funding, we will seek acceptance of the award from the Board of Supervisors.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

These funds are dedicated to protecting the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire related hazards in the unincorporated area.

SUPPLEMENTAL:

Additional Fiscal Information

The SRAFPF and TM program does not require cost share match. Any budget adjustment that might be necessary to spend any new funding will be considered if and when the grant is awarded.

Contract History and Price Reasonableness

On April 2, 2015, the department was awarded \$296,000 in SRAFPF funding to reduce hazardous fuels in the Idyllwild/Pine Coves communities. The Board of Supervisors action on May 7, 2015 (3-57) authorized the acceptance of the grant and the terms of the grant were satisfied.