

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



ITEM
3.23
(ID # 8554)

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

FROM : FIRE DEPARTMENT:

SUBJECT: FIRE DEPARTMENT: Authorization to Apply for 2018-2019 Forest Health Program Grant; [District 3]; [up to \$155 million available]; 100% State Funds

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors authorize Riverside County Fire Department to apply for the 2018-2019 Forest Health Program Grant.

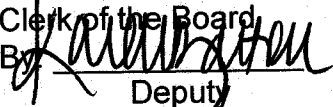
ACTION:


Shawn Newman, Chief Cal Fire Riverside County 11/28/2018

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Tavaglione, seconded by Supervisor Jeffries and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Washington, Perez and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: December 11, 2018
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% States funds			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: 19/20, 20/21 & 21/22	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) for the California Climate Investments (CCI) allocates grant funding that is administered by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The Forest Health Program Grant (FHPG) funding is available for projects that proactively restore forest health to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs), protect upper watersheds where the state's water supply originates, promote the long-term storage of carbon in forest trees and soils, minimize the loss of forest carbon from large, intense wildfires, and to further the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32, Health and Safety Code Section 38500 et seq.) (AB 32). The 2017-2018 Budget allocated a total of \$155 million CCI funding towards CAL FIRE Forest Health and Fire Prevention activities. The amount to be allocated towards the Forest Health Program will be based on priority and need.

The emphasis of the Forest Health Program is to increase the carbon stored in living trees and protect forests, fish and wildlife habitats, native plant species and water. This requires preventing epidemic tree mortality, protecting water quality in upper watersheds, and creating forests consisting of optimally spaced trees that are resilient to disturbances such as wildfire and tree mortality. Forests with these attributes will be able to store carbon for long time periods with lower risk of loss to wildfire or insects and disease. With the uncertainty of the future climate, the goal of the program is to deploy a wide range of management activities and maintain options for any future management situation that may materialize.

Qualifying projects and activities will help rural California cope with a tree mortality crisis connected to an ongoing five-year drought and elevated fire hazards. 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 and are also available to non-SRA lands so long as they provide a benefit to SRA lands. Examples of qualifying projects and activities include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

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- Reforestation, fuel reduction, pest management, and conservation
- Biomass utilization intended to increase forest health
- Restore watershed health and function
- Support biodiversity and wildlife adaptation to climate change
- Increase carbon storage in forests
- Reduce wildfire emissions, and
- Protect upper watersheds

The grant does not have minimum or maximum application amounts and does not have a cost share match requirement. The department plans to apply for FHPG grant funding for a multifaceted program to address the high fire hazard caused by non-native insect infestation in Pine Cove, Idyllwild, and surrounding communities in the San Jacinto mountains. Project components will include survey and mapping of tree health and mortality, treatment of trees and forest fuels, and other related forest restoration projects.

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

Impact on Citizens 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 FHPG does not require cost share match.

Contract History and Price Reasonableness

The department was authorized to accept two grant awards for the Fire Prevention Grant Program on November 6, 2018 (3-20 and 3-21) and these projects are ongoing. This funding source replaces the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund (SRAFPF) and Tree Mortality (TM) Grant Program previously funded by CAL FIRE. On April 2, 2015, the department was awarded \$296,000 in SRAFPF funding to reduce hazardous fuels in the Idyllwild/Pine Coves areas. 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.


Diane Sinclair, Deputy Director-Fire Admin 12/3/2018


Ryan Carter, Principal Management Analyst 12/4/2018