



**City Manager's Report**  
**May 11, 2021 City Council Meeting**  
**Prepared by: Terry Zeller, Director of Community Services**  
**Item #: 12.5**

**Subject:** Adopt a Resolution Approving the filing of an application for "California Climate Investment Fire Prevention Grant Program" with the CALFIRE for the purposes of contracting out fuel reduction of City property and for the purchase of fuel reduction equipment for ongoing maintenance.

**Purpose:** To apply for a competitive grant being offered through the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) which, if successful, would fund contracted projects for the removal of ladder fuels and the limbing up of trees on forested City property and slopes, and for the purchase of a tractor with a side mower attachment for the cutting of trail and roadside areas, and the purchase of a skid steer loader with a masticator attachment for the cutting down and shredding of small trees and large brush as part of an ongoing fire fuels reduction maintenance program by the City.

**Background:** The City was made aware of the available grant program early in 2021, and made the decision to apply for funding that could go towards continuing the work of reducing scrub in the lower and mid canopy of forested areas of City property. If awarded, the grant would completely fund (through reimbursement) the contracting out of clearing and removing ladder fuels (small trees and various mid-canopy plant material) on vacant land, park property, and other right-of-way under the City's control. This work will be in conformance with CAL FIRE's 2020 Unit Strategic Fire Plan for Amador/El Dorado Fire Unit, with the goal of reducing the amount of available fuel on our local public land that could contribute to fire spread and speed.

**Discussion:** Specifically, the grant will focus on the following City properties:

1. The City's Wastewater facility
2. Vacant sloped land on Ray Lawyer Drive
3. Lower Placerville Drive slope under the El Dorado Trail
4. Sections of the El Dorado Trail
5. The City Corporation Yard
6. Rotary Park
7. Gold Bug Park
8. Lumsden Park
9. Lions Park
10. Various small overgrown City-owned parcels throughout Placerville

The application will be requesting an amount not yet calculated for the contracted ladder fuels reduction, and will be applying for the purchase of fuels reduction equipment not to exceed \$250,000. The grant also allows for a maximum of 12% reimbursement of total grant award for indirect and administrative costs.

There are also a number of requirements under CEQA and NEPA, and projects will require the guidance and consultation of Arborists or Registered Professional Forester (RPF) to ensure that the environmental impact is within the State's limits.

If awarded, all projects will need to be complete by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This award would be a great help in advancing forest fire resilience in our community, and would allow the City to lead by example in taking actions to mitigate fire damage to Placerville.

**Options:** The Council can:

- 1.) Approve the Resolution allowing the City to apply for this CAL FIRE grant.
- 2.) Direct staff to take no actions.
- 3.) Direct staff to take other actions.

**Cost:** A finalized cost analysis will be prepared based on the City property on a cost-per acre calculation, and the MSRP for all equipment.

**Budget Impact:** None from this Resolution, but funds will need to be expended prior to reimbursement by the State of California.

**Recommendation:** Adopt a Resolution Approving the filing of an application for "California Climate Investment Fire Prevention Grant Program" with the CALFIRE for the purposes of contracting out fuel reduction of City property and for the purchase of fuel reduction equipment for ongoing maintenance.



M. Cleve Morris, City Manager



Terry Zeller, Dir. of Community Services

Attachments:

- A. Resolution