



MEMORANDUM

August 26, 2021

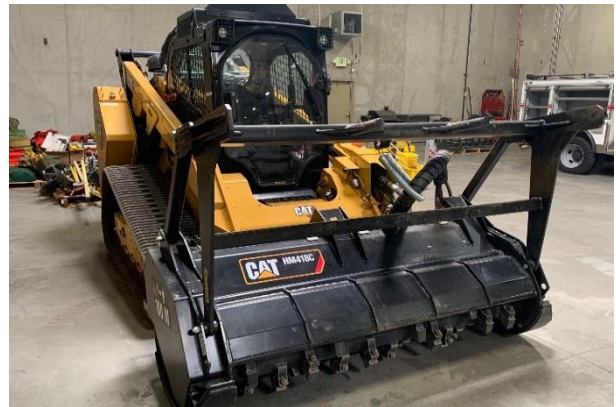
To: Board of Fire Commissioners
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District8

Fm: Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief

Re: **Chief's Monthly Report for September 2021**

A.1.1 Grant Award

The District has taken delivery of a new track-masticator for fuels reduction work. The \$140,000 machine comes by way of a grant through NV Energy. The District also took delivery of two more type V brush engines funded by grant proceeds from NV Energy and the State of Nevada by way of 508 funds. The value of the equipment altogether is approximately \$580,000.



A.1.2 Grant Award

The Nevada Division of Forestry awarded TMFR a grant for \$36,000 to treat invasive species around the community of Pebble Creek. Staff will bring that grant award to the Board for approval at a future meeting.



A.2 Fall Green Waste

Planning for green waste events are underway. We anticipate events in October and November. Staff will announce specific dates later in September. Staff is planning to hire a contractor to masticate the material using a high-volume horizontal grinder at the end of the event. I want to minimize pile burning to the greatest extent possible. Wait times for off-loading material will also be minimized.

A.3 Air Quality and Wildfire Smoke

Senator Cortez-Masto invited me to participate as a panelist in two roundtable discussions about wildfire and the resulting degradation of air quality. Dr. John Watson from Desert Research Institute presented some findings of wildfire smoke that are concerning.

Smoke from biomass-burning (including uncontrolled wildfires) contains several toxic characteristics, including small particle PM^{2.5} and PM^{4.0} that penetrate deep into the respiratory tract and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which are known carcinogens. A HEPA filter will remove the particles - but not the gases. Dr. John Watson of DRI presented findings that suspended particulate matter is the most critical hazard to the general population to try and eliminate.

One of the panelists was a mother of a child with respiratory issues. Her home does not have air conditioning, so air quality of outdoor air often translates to indoor air quality. I am sure many others may have similar situations.

I found a relatively inexpensive and straightforward way for individuals to build a simple do-it-yourself HEPA filter for about \$25. This filter could help some homeowners improve their indoor air quality during this period of degraded air quality. Staff will give a quick demonstration at the meeting.

This filter is effective to about 90%.

A.4 Budget Update

Staff will provide a budget update at the Board Meeting. Attached is a budget summary.

A.5 Wildfire Update

Staff will provide a summary of fire activity at the meeting. At the time of this Memorandum, the Caldor fire continues to approach the town of Meyers.