



**TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
STAFF REPORT**

Board Meeting Date: February 4, 2025

DATE: December 23, 2024

TO: Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: August Isernhagen, Division Chief
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THROUGH: Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program award from the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency, in an amount up to \$992,036.00 with a match component of up to \$330,678.67 over a 36-month period to treat hazardous fuels in the Joy Lake Road area within Washoe County. (Commission Districts 1 and 2) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Recommendation to accept a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMPG) award from the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in an amount up to \$992,036.00 with a match component of up to \$330,678.67 over a 36-month period to treat hazardous fuels in the Joy Lake Road area within Washoe County, known as the Joy Fire Project for a total of \$1,322,714.67 for the entire grant.

This project will be awarded in phases. Phase I has been awarded, and the total project cost for Phase I is \$71,637.00. As shown in the enclosed Obligation Report -Supplement 1, the 74.9 percent Federal share is \$53,727.75, and the 25.1 percent non-Federal share is \$17,909.25. We are obligating \$3,581.85 for the 100% Federal share Subrecipient Management Costs. In Phase I, the project is expected to take 20 days to complete the project surveying for the usual 10-hour day of work. This position is responsible for ensuring all surveying is complete, buffers are created for sensitive areas, and all processes are met before proceeding with work. The SHPO survey will be conducted by a contractor.

Phase II, once awarded, would be for the remainder amount of the total for a full grant application. In Phase II, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) will work with the communities of Galena Estates 1 and Galena Estates 2 HOAs to inform the communities of the importance of defensible space that is achieved through fuel reduction work and to work closely with homeowners that are willing to have hazardous fuels removed. The focus of the fuel reduction work will be to open drip lines of brush and smaller trees, remove branch encroachment within ten feet of rooftops, and reduce fuel loading near and around the

homeowner's property to help achieve the recommendations for Zones 0, 1, and 2 set by the Living with Fire Program and International Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code, and mitigate invasive species where found. Work will also be focused on Timber stand improvement by creating proper crown density with the removal of marked trees, removal of diseased or dying trees, and elimination of mistletoe from tree canopies to decrease the growth of witches' broom that helps support fire establishment in the crowns of trees.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None

BACKGROUND

During catastrophic wildland fires, fire agencies are encouraged to request Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) funding. Once an FMAG is approved, 75% percent of suppression costs are reimbursed by FEMA. Subsequently, after an approved FMAG occurs, FEMA earmarks funding for hazard mitigation after the fire. These funds are associated with the Joy Fire that occurred in 2022 in Washoe County.

This funding will cover cultural and environmental clearances related to the project, as well as staff and equipment costs to thin hazardous fuels on and around private property focused on defensible space and forest health.

While a match component is required, the majority of match funding will be covered by equipment use. Match funding related to survey work for environmental and Historic Preservation Act clearances will be paid for by Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Fuels Management Division.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total costs to provide the mitigation services under the terms of the grant are up to \$992,036.00 over a three-year period including matching requirements. Current staffing will provide the services under this grant award. All costs to provide the services will remain within the fiscal year 2025-2027 budgets. Acceptance of this grant award may change the sources of revenue included in the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget. However, total estimated revenues and expenditures under the fuels program will remain approximately the same. If total Federal expenditure exceeds \$750,000 in one fiscal year, the District may incur additional audit costs. If this occurs, the District will include those costs in the subsequent fiscal year's budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board accept the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program award from the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency, in an amount up to \$992,036.00 with a match component of up to \$330,678.67 over a 36-month period to treat hazardous fuels in the Joy Lake Road area within Washoe County.

POSSIBLE MOTION

If the Board agrees with Staff's recommendation a possible motion can be:

"I move to accept the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program award from the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency, in an amount up to \$992,036.00 with a match component of up to \$330,678.67 over a 36-month period to treat hazardous fuels in the Joy Lake Road area within Washoe County."