

Agenda Item: 8C



STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

PREPARED BY: Steven Palmer, PE, General Manager

SUBJECT: Authorize a Letter Supporting the Donner Pass Forest Fuels Reduction Project Application to the Truckee Fire Community Wildfire Prevention Grant Program

RECOMMENDATION

By minute action, authorize the General Manager to submit a letter supporting the Donner Pass Forest Fuels Reduction Project Application to the Truckee Fire Community Wildfire Prevention Grant Program (Grant Program).

BACKGROUND

The Auburn Ski Club has requested that the District submit a letter supporting the Project Application to the Grant Program. The Auburn Ski Club is one of the property owners included in the Donner Pass Forest Fuels Reduction Project planned for this summer, and a grant application is being submitted to fund the Project.

The Auburn Ski Club provided the attached sample letter (Attachment 1) and a map of the Project area (Attachment 2). As shown in Attachment 2, the District has three facilities within the Project boundary: Boreal Pump Station, Reservoir 1, and Reservoir 2.

DISCUSSION

The Grant Program is funded by Measure T and administered by Truckee Fire (www.truckee-fire.org/grants). Applications are due Friday, May 2, 2025. A total of up to \$550,000 will be awarded for 2 to 5 high-quality projects. The Grant Program is intended to support forest management and fuel reduction projects/activities to reduce the threat and intensity of wildfire in the Truckee and Donner Summit Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The Grant Program lists the following qualifying project types and activities for forest fuel reduction:

- Creation or maintenance of shaded fuel breaks in strategic locations.
- Selective tree removal (thinning) and vegetation clearance to improve forest stand conditions and reduce wildfire intensity and severity.
- Modification of vegetation adjacent to private roads to improve public safety and ingress/egress.
- Reduction of forest fuels around critical infrastructure to maintain continuity of critical services during an emergency.
- Equipment purchases to support forest fuels reduction programs and activities within and around communities.
- Pest Management to improve forest health, while reducing pest-related mortality. (activities should focus on removing dead and/or diseased trees).
- Biomass utilization of wood products such as post and pole, dimensional lumber, plywood, firewood, or to generate energy through combustion or gasification.

- Prescribed fire activities which may serve multiple purposes including reducing fuel loads, creating heterogenous and diverse vegetation, maintaining cultural burning practices, promoting healthy ecosystem processes, etc.
- Technical assistance from a Licensed Registered Professional Forester.

This Project intends to reduce forest fuels in the area shown in Attachment 2. The total area shown is 52 acres.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no cost or fiscal impact to submitting a letter of support.

CEQA ASSESSMENT

This action is not a CEQA Project.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Sample Letter
2. Project Maps

LETTERHEAD

[Date]

Re: Truckee Fire Community Wildfire Prevention Grant Program application for the Donner Pass Forest Fuels Reduction Project

Dear Truckee Fire,

We are writing this letter to show support for the proposed Donner Pass Forest Fuels Reduction Project through Truckee Fire's Community Wildfire Prevention Grant Program on the I-80 corridor near Kingvale and Castle Peak. The locations and proposed practices would greatly benefit our community and resources which are rural, dispersed, and very vulnerable to wildfires.

The need for such a project has been overwhelmingly exemplified by the severity and rapid rate of spread of wildfires throughout the region in recent years, with this project lying between the Dixie and Caldor fire footprints. The proposed locations and scope of the project fits strategically and tactically with resource, infrastructure, and community protection. Furthermore, projects that treat private land are important to provide connectivity between federal, state, and other landowners to increase wildfire resilience in the region. *[entity name]* strongly support this Community Wildfire Prevention Grant project.

Sincerely,

[signature]

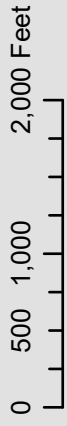
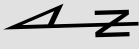
[entity name]

Donner Pass Forest Fuels Reduction Project Proposed Location

Ownership: Auburn Ski Club

Nevada county, CA
USGS 7.5' Quad Map: Norden
T17N R14E S13, 23 & 24 MDBM

Scale: 1:15,000



- DPFFRP Proposed Treatment Area
- Auburn Ski Club: 52 acres
- Roads
- Class III Watercourse
- Class II Watercourse
- Class I Watercourse
- Ownership

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Attachment 2

