

**City of Placerville**  
**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: May 12, 2010

TO: City Council

FROM: Steve Youel, Director of Community Services

SUBJECT: **GOLD BUG PARK FIRE SAFE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

---

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the City Council adopt a resolution to approve the application for grant funds through the California State Department of Parks and Recreation to complete the implementation of the Fire Safe Plan for Gold Bug Park and utilize the services of the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District to assist City staff with project management.

**BACKGROUND**

At the regular meeting of the City Council on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2005, Council approved a comprehensive plan to protect Gold Bug Park and the surrounding neighborhoods from wildfire. The Fire Safe Plan for Gold Bug Park is the City's strategy for reducing the damage and loss from wildfires by placing emphasis on what needs to be done before a wildfire starts. The Plan looks to reduce natural resources and property loss, both inside and adjacent to the park, increase firefighter safety and contribute to the ecosystems health. The scope of the Plan encompasses the following:

1. Fuel Treatment along roads, trails, around structures and mature trees.
2. Construction of shaded fuel reduction zones.
3. Construction of a fuel break.
4. Ignition prevention.
5. Fuel Treatment maintenance.

Council also directed staff to return with recommendations for the funding and implementation of the plan. Since the plan's adoption, staff has been working closely with the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council and the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District to develop a strategy to both fund and implement the plan.

The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District has submitted a \$50,000 State Grant application on the City's behalf as part of the California Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002. The grant is currently under review by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Grant and Local Services. As part of the application process, it has been requested that the City by resolution (see attached), approve the filing of the application with the following conditions; a) the City will have sufficient funds to complete the project, b) the City will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project, c) the City has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the general provisions contained in the contract, and d) the City delegates the authority to the

District Manager of the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the grant scope.

### **ANALYSIS**

Given the magnitude of this project combined with its technical aspects, it is staffs opinion that technical assistance is necessary to implement this project. This assistance can be provided by the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District.

The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District (1938) - (RCD) is a local independent, non-enforcement, non-regulatory, self-governed district organized under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code. The RCD advises and assists individual landowners and public agencies in planning and implementation of conservation practices for the protection, restoration, or development of land, water, and related natural resources.

As the City embarks on the implementation of the Gold Bug Park Fire Safe Project, the RCD recognizes the need and importance of this project and is willing to convey their support. RCD is willing to dedicate their resources to administer this project from start to finish. The RCD is prepared to administer grant funding, conduct informational workshops, develop an implementation plan and supervise construction through completion.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no local match requirement associated with this program. All work will be completed within the scope of the project not to exceed \$50,000 in grant funds provided by the State of California. An estimated \$6,000 is identified for administration and \$44,000 is estimated for implementation of the plan that includes fuel treatment along roads, trail, around structures and mature trees, construction of shaded fuel reduction zones, construction of a fuel break ignition prevention, and fuel treatment maintenance.

Once the project has been completed, it will be incumbent upon the City to maintain the integrity of the project. Treated areas of the park will require routine maintenance to ensure the park does not return to its current condition. The estimated cost associated with routine maintenance within the first year of the completed project is \$2,000. This estimate must be added to the overall maintenance and operation budget for the park. The amount of resources needed to maintain the integrity of the project annually may decline over time as excess fuel loads diminish throughout the park.

With City Council's authorization to utilize the services of the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, it is staffs intention to keep the direct costs associated with the implementation of this plan to a minimum.

Attachment: Resolution

---

Steve Youel,  
Director of Community Services

Approved for Submittal to City Council:

Reviewed for Fiscal Analysis:

---

John Driscoll, City Manager/Attorney

---

Dave Warren, Director of Finance