

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

DATE: July 26, 2005

TO: City Council

FROM: Ron Mueller, Public Services Director

SUBJECT: **FIRE SAFE PLAN**

RECOMMENDATION

(Motion) Authorizing the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council to prepare a fire safe plan for Gold Bug Park, and authorize staff to provide assistance to the Fire Safe Council in preparing a plan.

BACKGROUND

Members of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council will be at the City Council meeting to offer their services in the development of a fire safe plan for Gold Bug Park. The plan would be a document that would be presented to the City Council for approval.

The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council is a California non-profit organization whose mission is to protect the people of El Dorado County and their property from the effects of catastrophic wildfire through education, cooperation, innovation and action. The Fire Safe Council is primarily a volunteer organization made up of residents throughout El Dorado County.

Education and community outreach is a top priority for the Fire Safe Council. They take on the role of making residents of the County aware of the risks of living within a wild land urban area and what residents can do to protect their home and property from wildfire.

In May and June of this year, Pat Cook, chairperson of the Gold Bug Park Development Committee and Steve Youel organized a meeting at Gold Bug Park attended by volunteers from the Fire Safe Council. The meeting was to discuss how best to protect the Park and its assets from the potential of a wildfire.

That initial meeting resulted in an almost immediate effort on behalf of the Fire Safe Council to assist the City in the protection of the Park. The Fire Safe Council (a) developed a plan designed to eliminate the fire hazard along Big Canyon Creek Road through the Park and along the road leading to the Stamp Mill; and (b) recruited an Americorp crew which spent over a week in June cutting slash and eliminating potential fuel, and then obtained a chipping crew to chip the material. This work was accomplished at no cost to the City and is a wonderful example of the Fire Safe Council's mission of cooperation and action.

There is much more to do at Gold Bug Park to protect the park and the surrounding community. A fire safe plan specific to the entire park area would provide the City a work program to create a fire safe area. In addition, grants may be available to fund such a plan.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council is offering their services on a volunteer basis to develop a fire safe plan for Gold Bug Park. They do need some minimal City staff time to assist them in their plan development. The plan would identify estimated costs to implement the various work programs within the plan. These costs would come to the City Council during the annual budget review.

Ron Mueller
Public Services Director

Approved for Submittal to City Council:

Reviewed for Fiscal Analysis:

John Driscoll, City Manager/Attorney

Dave Warren
Finance Director