City of Carson City Agenda Report

never had issues funding the match.

Date Submitted: August 27, 2013		Agenda Date Requested: Sept. 5, 2013 Time Requested: Consent		
To:	Mayor and Supervisors	,		
From:	Fire Department			
Nevada Di		Carson City to submit a grant application to the Nevada State Fire Assistance Program in the		
application departmen		cy. The grant will provide funding for the reduction program, for wildland property		
(_	<u> </u>	Ordinance Other (Specify)		
Does This	Action Require A Business Impact St	tatement: () Yes (X) No		
the Nevad		e Carson City to submit a grant application to the Nevada State Fire Assistance Program in		
provides for assistance	to property owners to reduce/remove ha trailers/dumpsters that can be loaded with	Ildland/urban interface and for education and zardous wildland fuels. The program provides		
Applicabl	e Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regul	ation: N/A		
Fiscal Imp	pact: The Fire Department will receive \$	646,000 to be used for this program.		
departmen		Forestry will provide funding to the fire natch requirement of this grant of 2:1 (for Match can be hard or soft dollars. We have		

Funding Source: Various general fund accounts within the Fire Department and Public Works Department.

Supporting Material: Grant application and overview docu	ument
Prepared By: R. Stacey Giomi, Fire Chief Reviewed By: Stacey Giomi, Fire Chief (Fire Chief)	Date: 8/27/13 Date: 5/27/13
(City Manager) (District Attorney) (Finance Director)	Date: 8/27/13 Date: 8/27/13
Board Action Taken:	
2)	Aye/Nay
(Vote Recorded By)	

Alternatives: Do not accept the grant award and discontinue the program.

CARSON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT



"Service with Pride, Commitment, Compassion"

August 20, 2013

Kacey KC Nevada Division of Forestry 2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, NV 89706

Dear Kacey:

On behalf of Mayor Robert Crowell and the Carson City Board of Supervisors, the Carson City Fire Department is happy to submit the attached grant for the 2013/2014 Nevada State Fire Assistance Program. We have a strong history of conducting wildland fuel reduction work and building collaborative efforts with our citizens. Should this grant be awarded, you can be assured we will continue the same level of effort.

Carson City has experienced significant wildland fires over our history, particularly over the last ten years. Since our most recent large fire event (in June of 2005), we've seen a reduction in the severity of the wildland fires we have had. Certainly some of this is attributable to circumstances, but we feel that a large portion of this reduction in severity is due to the success of our citizens' fuel reduction efforts and our educational efforts.

Thank you for considering our grant application. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

S. Homi

Sincerely,

R. Stacey Giomi

Fire Chief

Attachment

State Fire Assistance Grant Application

FOR OFFICIAL	L USE ONLY
State Submitting Project:	
State Priority Number:	
Dollar Amount Requested:	\$46,000.00
Matching Share:	\$23,000.00

^{*}For guidance on filling in each box in this application, refer to the Criteria and Instructions

	Applicant Information			
	Applicant:	Applicant: City of Carson City		
	Contact Person: R. Stacey Giomi, Fire Chief on behalf of Mayor Robert Crowell Address: 777 S Stewart St			
1				
	City/Zip Code:	Carson City, NV 89701		
	Phone (Work/Cell):			
	Email:	sgiomi@carson.org		
	Fax:	775-887-2209		
	Federal Tax ID\DUNS #:	88-6000189		

		Project Information		
	Name of Project:	Carson City Furels Reduction Project		
2	Community Name:	City of Carson City		
	County(ies):	Consolidated Municipality of Carson City		
	Congressional District:			
	Latitude: 39.14	Longitude: 119.74		

3	Total Project Expense				
	Budget Detail (Provide additional information in Block 4)	Grant Share (\$ Amount Requested)	Match		TOTAL
			Dollars	In-Kind	
	Personnel / Labor:	\$28,000.00	\$20,000.00		\$48,000.00
4	Fringe Benefits:				\$0.00
	Travel:				\$0.00
	Equipment:			1.	\$0.00
	Supplies:	\$8,000.00	\$3,000.00		\$11,000.00
-	Contractual:	\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
	Construction:				\$0.00
	Other:				\$0.00
	Indirect Costs:				\$0.00
	TOTAL:	\$46,000.00	\$23,000.00	S0.00	\$69,000.00

Budget Narrative

The grant monies requested will dedicate \$28,000 toward personnel costs to employ retired firefighters to deliver and pick up the fuels collection trailers, as well as a Fuels Management Officer who will be conducting wildfire threat reduction evaluations, defensible space prescriptions, coordinating fuels mastication efforts, and attending community education activities. We are also requesting funds in the amount of \$4,100 to purchase a new dumpster to help with increased demand and workload. Operational costs in the amount of \$3100 will be dedicated to fuel costs for the truck delivering the trailers, and \$800 for signage advertising the program to be painted on the new dumpster, minor equipment costs, and the purchase of print material for disbursement during residential evaluations and public events. Additionally, we are requesting \$10,000 to employ defensible space contractors to perform mastication work.

The Project

The affected/targeted areas have a considerable fire history of down-slope wind-driven fires through a heavy mixture of sage, bitter brush, pinyon-juniper, and timber with a cheat grass under story that abut and intersperse with residential parcels. The most recent CWPP assessment gave several neighborhoods within our community high to extreme risk/hazard ratings with the potential for severe fire behavior due to topography and fuel loading. While fuel load ratings are varied, some areas rated from 3.5 to 10 tons per acre. These factors, coupled with the high incidence of lightning strikes that occur in the foothills surrounding the municipality, create a significant wildland fire threat to the infrastructure, property, and safety of citizens and firefighters of Carson City.

Relation to Forest Action Plan/CWPP

In 2009 Carson City updated their CWPP, which analyzed thirteen separate neighborhoods within Carson City's wildland urban interface and provided recommendations to reduce wildfire hazards specific to each. In every analyses, these recommendations were consistent; conduct annual defensible space and hazardous fuels evaluations on private and public lands, distribute copies of "Living With Fire," encourage homeowners to follow the UNR Cooperative Extension's recommendations for fire safe landscaping, and continue the defensible space dumpster program to provide homeowners with an easily accessible biomass removal option. The first three recommendations are met in our program through the job duties of our Fuels Management Officer, who also develops community-specific defensible space prescriptions and coordinates mastication and reseeding efforts that are based on objective guidelines identified in our community's CWPP. The last recommendation addresses our dumpster program directly. With an 80% return rate, this program has helped to meet the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy's goal of creating fire adapted communities that are actively participating in defensible space efforts that protect their own and others property in the event of a wildland fire.

Proposed Activities

Funds from this grant will be used to employ a Fuels Management Officer who will be conducting wildfire threat reduction evaluations on residential properties, with additional funds used to purchase print material such as "Choosing the Right Plants For Northern Nevada's High Fire Hazard Areas" to distribute along with the "Living With Fire" publication. He will also be directly involved in developing community-specific defensible space prescriptions and coordinating mastication work by private contractors on proposed projects based on objectives and guidelines identified in our community's CWPP. Matching funds in this regard will be provided from salaries expended on fuels mitigation work conducted by Carson City's seasonal wildland firefighters.

Funds from this grant will also be utilized for the salary of the trailer drivers, fuel for their truck, and small equipment needs. Carson City will be providing matching funds for the administration of the program, salary for the drivers and fuel for the delivery of the dumpsters, maintenance and repair of all the receptacles and vehicles, as well as loss of revenue for the Carson City Landfill in the collection of fuels. This allows us to provide the receptacles at no cost to the property owners.

By incorporating face-to-face inspections and free receptacles to accomplish the task, our project provides property owners the education and incentive to take proactive steps towards reducing hazardous fuels on their properties. Past years' data has shown these functions to be so effective that we are requesting additional funds to purchase a new dumpster to meet increased demand. In calendar year 2012 use of our receptacles jumped 33%, with requests for use booked out one to two months in advance from June to October and a collected waste 39% higher than the previous year's collection. In the year 2013 to date we have seen a 25% increase compared to the same period in 2012, with requests again booked out from six weeks to two months in advance. This does not account for the numbers of property owners we could not accommodate in a timely manner. It is our goal each year to maintain a return rate of no less than 80%, an indication that previous property owners are maintaining their defensible space, as well as an increase of no less than 5% in use for new property owners.

Landscape

The wildland interface areas around and within Carson City include lands owned and/or administered by several public agencies to include the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, City of Carson City, University of Nevada Board of Regents, and Washoe Tribe of Nevada. The mix and distribution of land ownership in Carson City is a checkerboard where privately owned land can sit between land owned by the State on one side and a federal agency on the other. Since Carson City's Fuels Reduction project has a direct impact upon private and City-owned lands, it serves to have a positive impact on neighboring State and federally owned property immediately adjacent to them. In addition, Carson City has six recognized Fire Safe Chapters. These chapters continue to work on community projects within their respective boundaries, utilizing our Fuels containers and personnel for greater efficiency.

Additionally, BLM and the USFS have projects scheduled or have completed projects within several locations around Carson City. The USFS has a long-standing project in Clear Creek that has been scheduled for several years. These two federal agencies have completed (or are scheduled to complete) work in areas that are immediately adjacent to private property that this project will cover, to include Eagle Creek, Timberline to Long Ranch, Kings Canyon, C-Hill, and Voltaire Canyon.

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Project Collaboration

The Municipality of Carson City's contribution to this project will be provided primarily in the form of labor, with operational costs and loss of revenue playing a lesser role. The administration of this program is conducted within the Fire Prevention Division of the Carson City Fire Department. This includes taking requests for and scheduling the delivery of the trailers and dumpsters, work schedules and payroll for the trailer drivers, and data entry and recording keeping. The Public Works Department plays a major role as well. The Streets Division provides labor in the use of their drivers to deliver the dumpsters, as well as operational costs in the form of fuel for their trucks. Additionally, their Vehicle Maintenance Division provides labor and parts for maintenance and repair of the delivery trucks, trailers and dumpsters. And lastly, in the Operations Division of the Fire Department, seasonal firefighters are employed as hand crews to create fuels breaks and thin shrub as prescribed by our Fuels Management officer.

Project Timeline

The Fuels Reduction Project is an ongoing program, operating on a 12-month schedule. We monitor community response and fuel load collections on a monthly basis, using comparison data from previous years to track our progress. While fuel loads tell us the impact we are having per parcel, our primary goal is to increase per parcel demand each year. This indicator signifies that ongoing maintenance of defensible space is occurring, as well as additional growth in reaching new WUI residents.

Project Sustainability

Our community's CWPP, updated in 2009, provides us a blueprint for the specific requirements and long-term goals needed to address wildland fire threat reduction for each neighborhood residing in the WUI. It emphasized the need to continue this program "..to encourage willing property owners to reduce fire risk on private property." Our primary goal is to affect and educate every property owner in the WUI. By giving property owners the tools to actively participate in creating defensible space on their properties, the impetus to maintain that space has continued. This is especially important, since Carson City has incurred increased risk and protection responsibilities due to land acquisitions of approximately 6,000 acres from USFS and BLM. On a community-wide level, we implemented stringent WUI and Weed Abatement ordinances to provide a guideline as well as enforcement capability for defensible space and hazard reduction practices. Administration and monitoring for this project is performed by Loralei Barr, Fire Prevention Division, Carson City Fire Department, with fuels collection and total trips recorded weekly, and assessment of maintenance and growth in targeted areas performed quarterly.

ALL INFORMATION MUST FIT INTO THE BOXES PROVIDED. ATTACHMENTS AND/OR MODIFICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE.



