



DATE: April 2, 2019

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Authorization for the City Manager to Accept and Appropriate up to \$92,000 in Grant Funding from the California Fire Safe Council for the City's Chipping and Defensible Space Program

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the attached resolution (Attachment II) authorizing the City Manager to accept and appropriate up to \$92,000 in grant funding from the California Fire Safe Council for the City's Chipping and Defensible Space Program.

SUMMARY

The Fire Department's chipping program has been successfully funded by a California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) grant source since its inception in 2015. CFSC recently awarded the City \$92,000 to run the chipping program during the summers of 2019 and 2020. Staff is requesting that Council authorizes the acceptance and appropriation of this funding source to continue providing the chipping program.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The City's no-cost chipping program is open to any residential property east of Mission Blvd, which is considered a high-hazard fire area because of its proximity to open space areas. The program is on a first-come-first-serve basis. Residents are responsible for cutting and stacking the debris, and the City's contractor comes to the front of each property to do the chipping. Chipping dates will coincide with residents getting ready for fire season in the spring and when awareness is heightened in the late summer to fall. To announce the program and raise awareness, postcards will be mailed to every home in the High Fire Area (approximately 8,600 households).

Additional grant funding is available to help seniors, disabled, or low-income residents with cutting, trimming, and stacking. The resident assistance program was successfully piloted in fall of 2017, when it served 8 homes on 5 acres. It assists those with limited physical abilities or economic resources with preparation of materials for chipping. Our goal is to serve 5 additional acres in 2018 and 2019. Hayward Fire Department staff and the contractor will

meet with the home owners to prioritize fuel reduction needed for defensible space. The contractor will complete the work and cut and stack fuel for chipping or removal as green waste.

The outreach and marketing of the above programs will also include materials to build awareness of the factors that increase the potential for wildfire damage in the high fire areas of the Hayward hills and Fairview. The ultimate goal is to focus residents on the things they can do to reduce hazards.

FISCAL IMPACT

The match from this grant will come from in-kind services, including East Bay Regional Park's District goat grazing, staff hours, and volunteer hours. This grant will have no impact on the City's funds.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

This agenda item is a routine operational item and does not directly relate to one of the Council's Strategic Initiatives.

Prepared by: Mary Thomas, Management Analyst

Recommended by: Garrett Contreras, Fire Chief

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. McAdoo', is written over a horizontal line.

Kelly McAdoo, City Manager