



Agenda Date: 3/13/2007
Agenda Placement: 6A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Loveless, Ernie - Fire Chief
County Fire Department
REPORT BY: Bradford Kerry, ,
SUBJECT: Acceptance of grants for the County's Firewise Chipper Program

RECOMMENDATION

County Fire Chief requests the following actions relating to two grants for the County Firewise Program:

1. Acceptance of two grants and authorization for the Chair to sign the grant agreements for the purchase of a Commercial Wood Chipper, chipper related safety and operating equipment, and chipper related community outreach and advertising expenses in the amount of:
 - a. \$23,000 from the Fireman's Fund; and
 - b. \$17,500 from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD); and
2. Approval of Budget Transfer No. 50, increasing appropriations in the Fire Department budget by \$40,500 with offsetting revenues from the Fireman's Fund and the BAAQMD grants, and establishment of a fixed asset in the amount of \$31,500 for the purchase of a Commercial Chipper. (4/5 vote required)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The County Fire Chief requests approval of the acceptance of two grants from community partners of the Napa Firewise program. These grants will allow the Napa Firewise program to purchase a chipper to be used for chipping materials cut by residents of Napa County. The grants will also provide funds for the purchase of required chipper safety equipment and funding for public outreach and advertising for the community chipping program.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
What is the revenue source?	Grant funding
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary

Discretionary Justification:	Acceptance of the grants and the purchase of a chipper will enhance the County's Firewise chipping program.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	The commercial chipper will be maintained and operated by the County Fire Department within the Firewise budget line item.
Consequences if not approved:	The Napa Firewise community chipping program will be very limited in the services it is able to provide.
Additional Information:	None

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Napa Firewise is a community-based program designed by city and county fire professionals to educate the residents of Napa County on the dangers wildland fire poses to them and their community. The program also provides specific steps each person can take to protect themselves, their family and their neighbors in the event a wildland fire occurs.

An extremely important component of the Napa Firewise program is fuel reduction. Napa County residents have chipped nearly 20,000 cubic yards of dangerous fire fuels from high risk communities during the last two years as part of Napa Firewise's free community chipping program.

During the last two years Napa Firewise has funded community chipping through Federal Wildland Urban Interface grants. Grant funds were used to pay a private contractor for forty days of chipping throughout the county each year. We believe by purchasing a chipper through grant funding from our community partners the Fireman's Fund and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District we will be able to provide a better service to the community.

The purchase of this chipper will allow Napa Firewise to increase the number of chipping days from forty to one-hundred and twenty days and to provide a more user friendly service for the residents of Napa County. The community chipper program will use Napa County Corrections Department inmates to operate the chipper. These inmates will be supervised by a contract employee funded through the County Firewise program, while the overall operation of the program will be managed and monitored by the County Fire Marshall.

The purchase price for the chipper is approximately \$31,500. The remainder of the grant funds will be used to purchase chipper safety equipment and to fund a community outreach/public information program concerning the community chipping program.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey