



Agenda Date: 5/3/2005
Agenda Placement: 6H

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Britt Ferguson for Nancy Watt - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office
REPORT BY: Patti DeWeese, Staff Services Analyst, 253-4197
SUBJECT: Agreement with Of The Woods tree service relating to the Firewise grant program

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer/Director of Emergency Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign an agreement with Of The Woods for a maximum of \$50,000 for the term May 3, 2005 through July 31, 2005 to provide brush chipping services for a Firewise grant program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The County Office of Emergency Services is currently administering the previously approved Firewise grant program for County Fire. This grant provides funds for, among other things, fire hazard mitigation within both city and county urban fire interface areas. Homeowners in selected rural, suburban and urban areas will have the opportunity to remove excess vegetative materials from around their residences and to pile it at the street access to their property. Of The Woods tree service will be responsible for pile removal, chipping of the material and transfer of the material to approved sites or allowing the homeowner to use the chipped material as a landscaping material on their property. The process converts dangerous flammable vegetation into usable mulch for either the homeowner or the community at large.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Emergency Services
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	Services provided by this agreement are an integral part of the overall Firewise hazard mitigation program.

Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	The term of this Firewise grant is through December 31, 2005; there is the possibility of additional grant funds being available in subsequent years.
Consequences if not approved:	The County will not be able to provide the fire hazard mitigation program.
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

The Firewise grant assists Napa County in creating a fire-planned and prepared county, by promoting a healthy watershed and other fire hazard mitigation measures, thus protecting the people and landscape from destruction. The projects planned using the Firewise grant include public education, community chipping services, GIS mapping and defensible space inspections.

One critical component of the grant assists homeowners in creating defensible space around their residences in designated rural, suburban and urban areas of the County. County Fire has preselected areas based on the factors of threat, need and community interest for the first year of these chipping services under the Firewise grant.

Through an RFP process, Of The Woods tree service was selected to provide chipping services. Homeowners clear vegetation from around their residences and place the piles along the public access roadway. Of The Woods will retrieve the material piled at the property owners' street access, chip the material and either transfer it to designated sites for distribution as mulch or leave it piled for the homeowners' own use.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Britt Ferguson