



Wildfire Prevention Report



Board Report & Measure T Update – January 2024

To: Truckee Fire Protection District Board of Directors
From: Eric Horntvedt, Wildfire Prevention Manager

Greenwaste – Curbside Pick-Up Program – CLOSED For the Season

- The Pick-Up program will be available again starting May 2024 on www.truckeefire.org/greenwaste
- Staff is working diligently to support the procurement process and is preparing to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a multi-year, District-wide Greenwaste Pick-Up Contract. This will ensure consistent service & availability of a Measure T funded pick-up service, provide economies of scale by running a larger program, and provide security for contractors to bid on a multi-year contract so that they can confidently purchase the equipment needed. Staff also wants to leave disposal options open and controlled by the discretion of the Fire District in order to incentivize economical disposal and utilization of this residential biomass stream.

Defensible Space

With snow on the ground, nearly all on-the-ground defensible space inspections efforts are concluded until snowmelt. Staff is still available to assist residents with reviewing their online inspection reports and preparing for spring.

- Season Defensible Space Inspector Recruitment and Application Period: The Wildfire Prevention Division will be preparing to open up and advertise for multiple Defensible Space Specialist Position openings and start in May 2024.
- Planned Areas to inspect in the 2024 Season: Final 1/3 of Glenshire (Northern portion near the school and up to the Meadows), Hirschdale, Martis Peak Rd, Juniper Hill, Ponderosa Golf Course area, Martis Valley (Schaffer's Mill, Lahontan, Martis Camp, HWY 89 S, Seren Lakes, and Palisade Lake. TFPD may also assist Tahoe Donner with inspections.
- Ordinance Update: Maria has been digging in heavily to develop and coordinate the defensible space ordinance update. After many versions and drafts we have a solid working draft ordinance that will be sent out to partner agencies and stakeholders to receive initial input and feedback on to make sure we develop a functional ordinance that serves internal & external needs. This initial draft will be sent to: Multiple departments of Town of Truckee, Nevada County, Placer County. As well as Neighboring Fire Agencies, CATT, Tahoe Sierra Board of Realtors, HOAs that have known defensible space policies & rules, and some other organizations. We plan to give them 2 weeks for comments and feedback and to host 2 virtual meetings to present the first draft, purposes, goals, and major changes. Following this, we will take all feedback provided, make changes and revisions, and then share another working draft version with our general

community primarily via our Firewise community email list and other methods. The goal is to have notified the community, offered information workshops on the draft ordinance, receive and process feedback, and bring a well-rounded ordinance back to TFPD Board of Directors when we conduct the first reading at either our February or March Board Meeting.

Home Hardening

NEW program is launched! Check out www.truckee-fire.org/hardenyourhome for all of the information. Up to \$500 available via rebate to help upgrade vent screening, replace attached combustible fences...etc. Staff will be working diligently over the winter months to refine the program language and communications to set our residents up for a clear and smooth process to utilize this great program.

Update on Community Wildfire Prevention Grants

- **Projects Awarded in 2023**

All projects awarded in 2023 are moving forward as anticipated. Current weather and wet soil conditions will force us to pause further implementation until next spring/summer on some projects. No changes in status since last Board meeting.

- **2024 Community Wildfire Prevention Grants**

Staff is aiming to release a funding opportunity and application period in late February or early March. There will be some minor changes to the grant guidelines based on lessons learned and to better support small private landowners. Staff plans to host at least one recorded & required grant workshop (applicants will be required to attend or watch recording and certify), as well as host several application development workshops & office hours to best support those interested in applying for project funding. More updates to come at the February Board Meeting.

CWPP implementation projects

As we continue to increase the pace and scale of forestry and fuel reduction projects in our region, we are recognizing the need to create a wildfire prevention projects web page to capture a summary of our Measure T Projects. (grant funded, and CWPP implementation projects). We will work on this webpage this winter and will plan to have it live by the new year. This will allow us to keep our constituents updated on all of our efforts with these projects.

Grant Applications

Forester Sheedy submitted the Forest Health Grant on 1/15/2024 for the *Nevada and Placer County Cooperative Landscape Resilience Project* to the CALFIRE Forest Health Grant Program. Total grant ask will be \$7 million dollars. Partners are bringing \$1 Million dollars in match. The project would treat 2,627 acres. We were unsuccessful last year, but were encouraged by CALFIRE to re-apply for this round. We should know by March 2024 if we will be awarded this grant.

Community Wildfire Prevention Plan Update (CWPP)

The CWPP update project has continued to go well, the draft CWPP is almost ready to host on our website and share with stakeholders and the community. We hosted two project team/stakeholder meetings. One in October and one in early December. Eric & Dillon reviewed the admin draft CWPP

document, and now the Project Team/Stakeholder Group will have the opportunity to review this revised admin draft CWPP now through the holidays. Anticipated timeline of next steps:

- 1/5/2024: Receive feedback from project team & stakeholder group.
- Mid-late January: Release the public draft CWPP and public meeting dates.
- Early-Mid February: Host 2 virtual and 2 in-person meetings.

Our project team has great representation from partner agencies within the Fire District and we will continue to meet at least monthly. The draft CWPP, online story telling application, survey, schedule of meetings, and other documents will be made available online to the public on www.truckee-fire.org/cwpp.

Purpose:

The Truckee CWPP will serve as a framework, and wildfire mitigation roadmap to identify and prioritize future wildfire protection projects, and foster a community wide collaborative approach to reduce wildfire risk and hazards to life, property, community, and natural resources.

Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC)

The next annual COC meeting will take place on March 4th, 2024. The meeting will be at 1:00PM in TSD's Board Meeting room at 2304 Joerger Dr. All COC Members & Alternates, Staff, and Legal Counsel have been sent an email and calendar invite for the meeting. Agenda packet and public notification will commence following public meeting laws.

Staff will be preparing the agenda, finalizing the 2023 annual accomplishment report, and financial report(s) for the COC to review to ensure that Measure T is being managed fiscally appropriate & responsibly.

Annual Accomplishments Report & Update to the Measure T Implementation Plan

We are working on the annual report to capture our 2023 season accomplishments and what's coming up in 2024. We will also be performing an update to the Measure T – Community Wildfire Protection Fund Implementation Plan to provide an outline for continued programming through 2024, 2025, and 2026. This is a good time to reflect on the original implementation plan, and roll out an updated implementation plan that aligns with the original Measure T ballot measure and provides a clear and transparent outline to the community on Measure T programs, projects and shows alignment with spending the tax dollars appropriately and increasing our capacities and goal of creating a ***Wildfire Resilient Truckee!***

Budget

Truckee Fire Protection District received their first Measure T tax revenues in late January from both Placer and Nevada Counties. This was approximately half of the total taxes collected, and we are projecting that the annual Measure T revenues will be just over \$3.6 million for the year. The District used the first revenues to reimburse the operational reserves that were expended last FY and this current FY to begin implementing some of the major wildfire prevention programs that were identified in the Measure T Implementation Plan. Any remaining revenues will be transferred to Measure T

reserves to be used to support financial stability of the Wildfire Prevention Division as we continue the momentum with a productive and actionable 2023 fire season. Staff has been engaged in the fiscal year budgeting processes to ensure a smooth transition between fiscal years, proper expense tracking, and planning additional program expenditures once Measure T parcel tax money is received in 2023. Finance met with staff and has developed the preliminary budget for FY 23/24.

Measure T Staffing

Current staff consists of: 4

1 Wildfire Prevention Manager

1 Assistant Wildfire Prevention Manager/Forester

1 Wildfire Prevention Specialist II

1 Wildfire Prevention Administrative Assistant

With direct support from Truckee Fire Executive, Administrative, and Prevention staff.

