

**Sierra County
Board of Supervisors'
Agenda Transmittal &
Record of Proceedings**

MEETING DATE: May 17, 2022	TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Timed <input type="checkbox"/> Consent
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DEPARTMENT: Public Works & Transportation
APPROVING PARTY: Tim H. Beals, Director
PHONE NUMBER: 530-289-3201

AGENDA ITEM: : Approval for letter to be transmitted to the USFS regarding fuel treatment projects for Sierra County during calendar year 2022 and 2023.

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED: Memo Resolution Agreement Other

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: See attached background.

FUNDING SOURCE:
GENERAL FUND IMPACT: No Additional General Fund Impact
OTHER FUND:
AMOUNT: \$ N/A

ARE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, -- -- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	IS THIS ITEM ALLOCATED IN THE BUDGET? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No IS A BUDGET TRANSFER REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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SPACE BELOW FOR CLERK'S USE

BOARD ACTION: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Action Taken	<input type="checkbox"/> Set public hearing For: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Direction to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Continued to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Authorization given to: _____	Resolution 2022- _____ Agreement 2022- _____ Ordinance _____ Vote: Ayes: Noes: Abstain: Absent: <input type="checkbox"/> By Consensus
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COMMENTS:

CLERK TO THE BOARD _____	DATE _____
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Agenda Item: Approval for letter to be transmitted to the USFS regarding fuel treatment projects for Sierra County during calendar year 2022 and 2023.

Background: The US Forest Service was notified of a funding allocation to make immediate fire fuel reduction projects and in an effort to assure that County priorities are well-stated, a letter to the Acting Forest Supervisor and copy to the North Yuba Forest Partnership is suggested to confirm these priorities. This list has been discussed with County Forester Danielle Bradfield and she will also be providing any input needed to memorialize any Fire Safe Council projects that are an immediate and high priority. Projects being identified are considered to be “shovel ready” or in a position to be organized and implemented in a short period of time with all NEPA and/or CEQA work completed or a determination of exemption in place. Proposed projects include:

- 1) Completion or substantial progress on the Yuba Project and the portion that is funded by Sierra County (\$500k).
- 2) Greene Acres Project status is that this planning grant from the SNC will be completed this summer and the site cleared for an implementation project to provided landscape-based fuel treatments around the Greene Acres development and surrounding developed lands at Bassetts. This is a difficult site and a lot of commercial timber and I would estimate this project to be in the range of \$750k to \$1.5 Million.
- 3) Forest City National Register Living Historic Community-this national register community is sitting in an environment surrounded by biomass and thick timber stands that have not been managed in decades. The USFS has an adopted Forest City Management Plan and the direction in the plan for fuel treatments, fire planning, and such have not been implemented at all by the Forest Service leaving this community at severe risk of total loss should a wildfire occur in this area. The Management Plan is adopted, is sitting and available to be implemented regarding fire treatments, and this is an excellent project that could be implemented immediately. A cost estimate needs to be created but it can easily range between \$500k and \$1Million.
- 4) Cooperating with the dubious Caltrans Fire Fuel Treatment project could have a measurable and positive impact on the quality of this proposed project and on State Highway corridors in Sierra County (SR49, SR89, US395).
- 5) Fuel treatments along most Sierra County Highways is a clearly exempt category of work and could be implemented almost immediately using contract work and in-house work as well. My conclusion is that this work could be easily estimated between \$400k and \$750k.

In addition to any “shovel ready” projects, the County needs an immediate dialog with the NYFP to fully engage the goals of the Partnership and the implementation of the “master stewardship agreement” between the County and USFS, stressing the need to develop on-site and landscape-based projects to protect the County’s communities.

Recommendation: Discuss and approve the transmittal of a letter to the Acting Forest Supervisor and all District Rangers containing high priority fire fuel treatment and biomass reduction projects.