




**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	December 19, 2023
TITLE	Authorization to Apply for Grant Funds from California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Wildfire Prevention Grant Program for Fuels Management Projects District-Wide in an Amount up to \$2,200,000
DIVISION	Finance and Management Services
FROM	Katy Hornbeck, Grants Manager Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors authorize a grant application be submitted to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Wildfire Prevention Grants program for Fuels Management projects in an amount up to \$2.2 million.

BACKGROUND

As part of the Governor Newsom's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Strategy, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is announcing the availability of up to \$117 million in funding for local projects that address the risk of wildfire and reduce wildfire potential to communities, through the Department's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program. These grants allow the state to invest in local projects that protect, engage, and educate individuals and entire communities, increasing prevention and preparedness efforts across California. CAL FIRE strives to provide a consistent level of funding annually to implement and sustain wildfire prevention projects across the state—ultimately making California a more resilient place to live, do business, and recreate.

Projects are reviewed and scored based on their ability to reduce the threat of wildfires to the greatest number of habitable structures in the State Responsibility Area and surrounding populations. Projects that benefit or focus on assisting those with disadvantaged and low income, disabled, or elderly populations will receive additional priority. Projects that demonstrate a carbon benefit by reducing the carbon emissions during the implementation of the project will also be prioritized. These projects support the goals and objectives of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, as well as the Strategic Fire Plan for California. Projects are selected on a competitive basis.

ANALYSIS

Last year, CAL FIRE awarded \$113 million in Wildfire Prevention Grants to 96 projects, including a \$2.8 million grant to the Park District for the Grizzly Peak Strategic Fuel Management Collaborative project.

The Grizzly Peak Strategic Fuel Management Collaborative project proposes fuels treatment and management in areas along and near Grizzly Peak Boulevard. This collaborative project will be implemented with UC Berkeley, City of Berkeley, and East Bay Municipal Utility District. Total project cost is approximately \$5 million. The East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) submitted an application in the last round requesting \$5 million to cover the full scope of the project; however, CAL FIRE awarded a partial amount (\$2.8 million). The Park District and partners reduced the scope of the project until additional funding could be secured.

In continued support of the Park District's Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan, staff proposes an application for the Grizzly Peak Strategic Fuel Management Collaborative project, in an amount up to \$2.2 million, which would close the funding gap and allow for the full scope of work to be completed.

This project supports and aligns with California's 30x30 Conservation Initiative. If awarded these grant funds, it would help advance and accelerate the work in the Fuels Management program. The project advances key objectives, specifically to protect and restore biodiversity and mitigate and build resilience to climate change.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action proposes approval of a grant application in an amount up to \$2.2 million. No matching funds are required. These projects would increase future operational costs of the Park District related to annual maintenance in the project areas. If awarded grant funds, the Park District would appropriate the funds into a new project.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-12-
DECEMBER 19, 2023**

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION'S WILDFIRE
PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM FOR FUELS MANAGEMENT PROJECTS
DISTRICT-WIDE IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$2,200,000**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California in cooperation with the California State Legislature has enacted State of California Climate Investment, which provides funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for fire prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary procedures governing application by local agencies, non-profit organizations, and others under the program; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by CAL FIRE require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the Grizzly Peak Strategic Fuel Management Collaborative project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District:

1. Approved the filing of an application for "California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants Program"; and
2. Certifies that said application has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the projects; and
3. Certifies that funds under the jurisdiction of Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District are available to begin this project; and
4. Certifies that said application will expend grant funds prior to March 15, 2030.
5. Appoints the General Manager, Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services/CFO, or a designee, to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services/CFO or Budget Manager is hereby authorized to amend the current year's budget, without further Board action, upon receipt of the executed contract from the Grants Manager. The budget amendment will include an increase in budgeted revenue and a corresponding increase in appropriation for the amount stipulated in the contract.

Moved by Director _____, and seconded by Director _____, and adopted December 19, 2023, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: