




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

DATE	March 5, 2024
TITLE	Authorization to Apply for Grant Funds from California Fire Safe Council's State Fire Capacity Grant Program for Fuels Management in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park in an Amount up to \$100,000
DIVISION	Finance and Management Services
FROM	Katy Hornbeck, Grants Manager Dr. Ana Alvarez, Deputy General Manager
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager



RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors authorize an application to the California Fire Safe Council's State Fire Capacity Grant Program for fuels management work in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park in an amount up to \$100,000.

BACKGROUND

The California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) announced the availability of approximately \$1,575,000 in grant funds to support hazardous fuels reduction, community wildfire prevention planning, and education and mitigation activities in California and the Tahoe region of Nevada. Funding for the 2023/2024 State Fire Capacity (SFC) Grants Program is provided through master grants to CFSC by the Cooperative Fire Program of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Pacific Southwest Region.

CFSC was originally formed in 1993 as a project of the Department of Forestry (CAL FIRE) to quickly move federal and state dollars directly into the hands of community-based organizations for wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts. CFSC's primary goal is to provide resources and support local wildfire resilience efforts. There are nearly 300 local Fire Safe Councils (FSC) active around the state, from the county wide down to the neighborhood level. CFSC's role as the statewide FSC is to support this network. In its twenty years of grant making, CFSC has provided over 1200 grants totaling \$125 million in nearly 400 communities located throughout California.

The State Fire Capacity Grant program emphasizes fire risk reduction activities by landowners and residents in at-risk communities to restore and maintain resilient landscapes and create fire-adapted communities. Fuel hazard mitigation work on non-federal lands, such as chipping, thinning, grazing, herbicide application, and mastication is eligible for grant funding. Projects must be in the wildland urban interface (WUI) and protecting an officially designated Community at Risk. Projects must also be completed within a 24-month grant term. The maximum request allowed is \$100,000. Award announcement will be made in June 2024.

ANALYSIS

After reviewing the grant program requirements, staff have determined hazardous fuels management work in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park would be the most competitive. This work is in support of the Park District's Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan. Project work would cover approximately ten acres, including the removal/thinning of eucalyptus trees in close proximity to the neighboring homes.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action approves a grant application in an amount up to \$100,000. The matching requirement is 1:1 (100%). If awarded grant funds, a new project would be created. Staff would return to the Board to seek appropriation of matching funds from Measure FF designated for these purposes or from the Fuels and Fire Management Program (CIP #55000). These hazardous fuels management projects would increase future operational costs of the Park District related to annual maintenance.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 03 -
MARCH 5, 2024**

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM CALIFORNIA FIRE
SAFE COUNCIL'S STATE FIRE CAPACITY GRANT PROGRAM FOR FUELS
MANAGEMENT IN WILDCAT CANYON REGIONAL PARK IN AN AMOUNT UP
TO \$100,000**

WHEREAS, the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) announced the availability of approximately \$1,575,000 in grant funds to support hazardous fuels reduction, community wildfire prevention planning, and education and mitigation activities in California and the Tahoe region of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) is seeking funding to complete hazardous fuels management projects; and

WHEREAS, the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan is a guiding tool for which fuels management approaches should be used throughout the east bay parks; and

WHEREAS, the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan describes fuels management projects to be completed in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, the Park District procedures require Board Approval for all grant applications and funding agreements; and

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

1. Authorizes an application with the California Fire Safe Council seeking grant funds for the Park District's hazardous fuels management project in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park; and
2. If awarded the grant, Staff will return to the Board to seek appropriation of funds from Measure FF designated for these purposes or the Fuels and Fire Management Program (CIP #55000); and
3. Appoints the General Manager or Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services/CFO as the authorized agent of the East Bay Regional Park District.
4. Authorizes and directs the General Manager or Assistant General Manager of Finance and Management Services/CFO, on behalf of the Park District and in its name, to accept grant funds and execute and deliver such documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and amendments and to do such acts as may be deemed or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution; and

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 March 5, 2024, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: