



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Fire  
Department No.: 031  
For Agenda Of: July 14, 2020  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Time:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: 4/5

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Mark Hartwig, Fire Chief, 805-681-5507  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Rob Heckman, Deputy Chief of Administration, 805-681-5501  
**SUBJECT:** Grant Agreement #5GG19137 between the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve the attached Resolution (Attachment A) authorizing the Fire Chief or designee to approve and execute Agreement #5GG19137 (Attachment B) with the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for the acceptance of \$179,000.00 of grant funds to purchase equipment to implement fuel reduction maintenance projects in the area designated by the Agreement; and
- b) Approve Budget Revision Request #0007025 (Attachment C); and
- c) Determine that the above-recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the actions are the creation of a governmental funding mechanism or other government fiscal activity, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The Agreement allows the Santa Barbara County Fire Department to use \$179,000.00 in State grant money to purchase fuel reduction maintenance equipment to support maintenance of existing fuel

reduction projects. In addition, the equipment will be used to support future fuels management projects as needed.

The equipment consists of a chipper and a pick-up truck to tow the chipper. This equipment will be used by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department to dispose of cut vegetation from various fuels reduction projects as well as community chipping programs throughout the county.

This project is consistent with both the California Strategic Fire Plan, Santa Barbara County Unit Strategic Fire Plan and supported by the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council. The project supports the goals and objectives of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department Vegetation Management Program (VMP).

**Background:**

In December of 2019, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department submitted a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) California Climate Investment (CCI) Fire Prevention Program Grant Application requesting grant funding to purchase fuel reduction maintenance equipment to support the fire department vegetation management program.

This equipment will be utilized throughout Santa Barbara County on current and new fuel reduction projects identified in the Santa Barbara County Unit Strategic Fire Plan, and consistent with the California Strategic Fire Plan. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department has 25 fuel reduction and VMP projects either in maintenance or in current implementation. Used in concert with existing capabilities, the equipment will be used on the above-mentioned fuel treatment projects by the SBC Hand Crew Program. Total acres maintained annually will vary widely due to weather conditions and the length and severity of our annual fire season. All Fire Department projects are coordinated efforts involving private landowners, wildland fire agencies and non-profit groups, including the Fire Safe Council and the Range Improvement Association. Every project is evaluated for potential impacts to the environment pursuant to CEQA and the County of Santa Barbara's CEQA Guidelines.

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department has been selected to receive the State grant in an amount not to exceed \$179,000.00.

**Project Implementation Plan:**

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department will purchase the fuel reduction maintenance equipment in FY 20/21. The Fire Department will train and familiarize personnel with the equipment, including addressing:

- Health and safety concerns when engaged in fuels management activities
- Equipment familiarization
- Care, storage and maintenance of equipment
- Usage as it pertains to the Unit Strategic Fire Plan and other pertinent strategies
- Practical hands-on deployment of equipment
- Limitations of equipment

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

In addition to the chipper and tow vehicle that will be funded through the grant, the County Fire Department will purchase a skid-mount water pumper. This piece of equipment is to insure that any inadvertent fire start resulting from fuel reduction activities is rapidly controlled and extinguished.

For FY 20/21, a total budget for this project of \$209,000 is identified. State funding is anticipated to cover \$179,000 of the total budget amount, leaving a total of \$30,000 as the County Fire Department share for equipment purchased with Fire District fund balance.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
General Fund			
State	\$ 179,000.00		\$ 179,000.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other: Fire District	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00
Total	\$ 209,000.00	\$ -	\$ 209,000.00

Narrative:

Total state funding for this multi-year grant is \$179,000.00 with total estimated Fire Department/District project funding at \$30,000.

**Special Instructions:**

Upon Board approval and execution, the Clerk is asked to please return:

1. A copy of the minute order
2. Duplicate original grant resolution
3. Triplicate original grant agreement to the Fire Department, attention: Chief Rob Hazard.  
Upon return from the State, we will return one original agreement to the Clerk.

**Attachments:**

- A. Grant Resolution
- B. SBC Fuel Reduction Maintenance Equipment Project Grant Agreement #5GG19137
- C. Budget Revision Request #0007025

**Authored by:**

Rob Heckman, Deputy Chief of Administration

**cc:**

Shawna Jorgensen, Chief Financial Officer  
Rob Hazard, Division Chief