



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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Fire
Department No.: 031
Agenda Date: February 3, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Garrett Huff, Fire Chief/Fire Warden
Contact: Fred Tan, Fire Marshal
SUBJECT: **Grant Agreement #5GG25232 between the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department**

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) Adopt a Resolution (Attachment A) approving Grant Agreement (Agreement) 5GG25232 (Attachment 1 to the Resolution) with the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for the acceptance of \$904,677.00 in grant funds to purchase equipment and implement various fuel treatments designated by the Santa Barbara County Unit Strategic Fire Plan and Agreement from the grant approval date December 12, 2025 through February 15, 2029; and
- b) Approve and authorize the Fire Chief, or designee, subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time to:
 - i. Conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to, agreements, amendments, budget adjustments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project; and
- c) Approve Budget Revision Request #BJE-0010950 (Attachment B); and
- d) Determine this action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the action is a creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

The Agreement requires a copy of the CEQA document must be approved by and provided to the State before any grant funds are made available for any Project activity that could directly impact the environment.

Summary Text:

The Agreement authorizes the Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBCFD) to accept and deploy \$904,677.00 in State grant funding to implement the *Santa Barbara County Unit Fuel Reduction Equipment* project.

SBCFD proposed this project to acquire four (4) pieces of equipment to support vegetation management crews and personnel. The approved equipment, including a rubber-tracked excavator, skid steer, remote-controlled (RC) mulcher, and RC mower will be utilized by SBCFD personnel to complete fuel reduction treatments on 115 acres identified in the grant application. In addition, SBCFD intends to deploy this equipment on more than 30 fuel reductions and prescribed fire projects across the County during the grant period. Over the lifespan of the equipment, its continued use will further reduce wildfire impacts throughout Santa Barbara County.

This project is consistent with the California Strategic Fire Plan and the Santa Barbara County Unit Strategic Fire Plan and directly supports the goals and objectives of the Santa Barbara County Vegetation Management Program.

Discussion:

SBCFD was awarded grant funding for a project proposing fuel reduction treatments on 115 acres in various locations throughout the County, as well as the purchase of specialized equipment identified by SBCFD's vegetation management sections to support these treatments. In addition, SBCFD intends to utilize the equipment for the duration of its service life across all SBCFD fuel reduction and vegetation management projects. SBCFD's Unit Fire Plan currently identifies projects totaling more than 10,650 acres and 283 miles of treatment across the County.

The availability of grant funding enables SBCFD to acquire smaller, more nimble equipment capable of operating in constrained areas while minimizing environmental impacts. The approved equipment including a rubber-tracked excavator, skid steer, remote-controlled (RC) brush mower, and RC grass mower, along with their respective attachments has a combined estimated cost of approximately \$732,000. This equipment was proposed to complete the 115 acres of grant-funded treatments and to increase the overall pace and capacity of SBCFD's fuel reduction efforts. SBCFD anticipates purchasing the four (4) approved pieces of equipment during the first half of 2026 and completing the identified treatments by the end of 2027. SBCFD will continue to own the equipment after the term of the grant ends.

Approval of the attached resolution and Agreement with CAL FIRE will allow SBCFD to continue advancing critical fuel reduction and fire prevention work as outlined in the Santa Barbara County Unit Strategic Fire Plan.

Background:

On June 25, 2025, CAL FIRE opened the application period for \$135 million in available grant funding for hazardous fuel reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education. SBCFD submitted an application entitled *Santa Barbara County Unit Fuel Reduction Equipment*.

This multi-year project was proposed to purchase critical equipment to support fuel reduction efforts and to implement treatments on 115 acres identified in the application. The equipment will also be utilized, as needed, across all SBCFD fuel reduction projects where production can be increased and work made more efficient. SBCFD's Unit Fire Plan identifies numerous projects throughout the County designed to protect more than 813,000 acres of State Responsibility Area lands and surrounding communities.

On December 12, 2025, CAL FIRE approved the *Santa Barbara County Unit Fuel Reduction Equipment* project for funding and requires the Agreement to be signed and returned by January 30, 2026. CAL FIRE approved returning the signed agreement after approval by the Board of Supervisors at its February 3, 2026 meeting. The grant performance period will run through February 15, 2029. Grant funds and purchased equipment will be used to maintain and enhance previously completed project work, improve roadside fuel reduction treatments, and implement SBCFD's prescribed fire and fuel reduction projects.

Performance Measure:

None for the County and SBCFD. As weather conditions and personnel availability can be variable throughout the year, SBCFD is only required to complete the purchase of the equipment, document accomplishments and spending through the State's software applications eCivis and CALMapper until the funding is expended.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No, Fire Department is requesting approval of Budget Revision 0010950 to capture the programmatic revenue and expenditures associated with this grant award.

The CAL FIRE California Climate Investments (CCI) Fire Prevention Program Grant will cover 100% of grant-eligible direct costs and fund a 12% administrative rate, which will be applied to applicable direct costs. The SBCFD Fire and Fuels Crews, Construction Section, and Prevention staff will be the main workforce for maintenance projects listed in the Agreement. As a result, startup costs, including chainsaws, weed whips, blowers, hand tools, vehicles, and uniforms, have been incurred through the regular budgeting process, and no additional startup costs are anticipated.

First year FY 25/26 grant expenditures are estimated at approximately \$740,800 for the purchase of equipment. The remaining balance of \$163,877 will be budgeted in Fiscal Year 2026-27; any unspent funds will be carried over into Fiscal Year 2027-28, which is part of the performance period.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	Total
State	\$740,800	\$163,877	\$904,677.00
Total	\$740,800	\$163,877	\$904,677.00

Staffing Impacts:

No additional staffing is required for this grant project. All existing SBCFD personnel, FTEs and Extra-Help are sufficient to implement this project.

Special Instructions:

Upon Board approval and execution, the Clerk is asked to please return a copy of the minute order and duplicate original Grant Resolution attention: Frederick Tan.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Grant Resolution Santa Barbara County Unit Fuel Reduction Equipment

Attachment B - Budget Revision Request #BJE-0010950

Contact Information:

Fred Tan, Division Chief - Ftan@countyofsb.org