



**TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR STAFF REPORT**

AGENDA TITLE: Approval of Proposal by Wildephor to Conduct a Bioenergy Project Scoping Study in Partnership with Town of Truckee and Truckee Fire Protection District.

MEETING DATE: July 28, 2021

PREPARED BY: Kevin Smith, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Wildephor Consulting Services, LLC to complete a Bioenergy Project Scoping Study, in partnership with the Town of Truckee and Truckee Fire Protection District, to evaluate the potential to use biomass from defensible space and forest fuels management activities to produce heat and/or power for the cluster of municipal and district facilities near the Truckee Tahoe Airport/Town Hall and Fire District.

BACKGROUND: One of the District Goals and priorities for 2021 is to *“Research and implement achievable greenhouse gas emissions reduction programs and projects including significant education and outreach to local pilots, passenger, and corporate operators. Continue to follow Carbon Reduction Strategies in District Green House Gas Reduction Plan.”* To assist in achieving this goal, staff request the Board consider a proposal to partner on a study to consider biomass solution to create heat and/or power for District facilities. Given the regional interest in biomass and the influx of federal and state funding opportunities, staff engaged in regional conversations to help move biomass forward in addition to more localized conversations with area partners.

Over the past several months, the General Manager, in partnership with staff from Town of Truckee (Town) and Truckee Fire Protection District (TFPD), began exploring the idea of a demonstration facility that could help with some of the green waste disposal needs in a clean, environmentally friendly way, as well as provide an alternative thermal and potential power source for the included facilities. The conversations began with meetings with Northstar

Community Service District (NCSO) General Manager Staudenmayer to learn about the NCSO proposed biomass facility. General Manager Staudenmayer provided us with the feasibility study completed for the Northstar project and recommended the consultant Wildephor who completed their analysis. TTAD, TFPD and Town staff then met with Jonathan Kusel from the Sierra Institute who led the Biomass Project in Quincy, which provides heat to the County's Health and Human Services Building. The 3 partners (Town, TTAD, TFPD) had the opportunity to tour the facility and ask questions of Mr. Kusel. Wildephor Consulting also completed the feasibility assessment and analysis work for the Quincy Biomass project and was recommended by Mr. Kusel.

With project partner (TFPD, TTAD and Town of Truckee) agreement, staff contacted David Featherman, Principal with Wildephor Consulting Services and project consultant for both the Northstar and Quincy facility, to discuss a potential partner project to service the municipal and district facilities along Truckee Airport Road. Based on these discussions, Mr. Featherman provided a scoping study proposal for consideration.

DISCUSSION: In partnership with the TOWN and TFPD, staff recommends the District enter into an agreement with Wildephor Consulting Services, LLC to conduct a Bioenergy Project Scoping Study (Attachment 1). Staff recommends proceeding forward with Wildephor Consulting, specifically David Featherman, given his familiarity with the region, available green waste and projects of similar size and scope within the area. The scoping study would evaluate the potential for using biomass from defensible space and forest fuels management activities to produce heat and/or power for the municipal facilities within the Town Hall, TFPD and TTAD facilities along Truckee Airport Road. Explained in more detail in Attachment 1, the scope study would do the following:

1. Define specific problem to be solved – defining the “triple bottom line” economic, environmental and social objectives of the project partners
2. Collect and compile relevant data – identify potential heating and power loads as well as the type and quantity of biomass feedstock
3. Develop range of candidate solutions – evaluate a range of potential viable technology solutions to address the defined problem to be solved
4. Establish appropriate evaluation criteria – assessment of triple bottom line evaluation criteria
5. Evaluate candidate solutions – summary of attributes each candidate solution offers
6. Identify preferred solution(s) – identify potentially viable solutions that may be used as a basis for more rigorous feasibility assessment and conceptual design development

The scoping study is a preliminary study which, depending on the outcome of the scoping study, could lead into further analysis under a feasibility study. The proposal provided totaled \$19,200 and schedules work to begin on August 1, 2021 and completed by November 30, 2021. With the project being a partnership between the Town, TTAD, and TFPD, the three entities have discussed equal cost sharing to complete the scoping study totaling \$6,400 per entity. It is Wildephor's preference to have a contract with one of the partner entities. Town staff have facilitated this and indicated they would be the contracting entity with Wildephor for the scoping study. TTAD and TFPD would provide their share of the scoping study payment to the Town. Chief Seline presented this item to the TFPD Board of Directors on July 20, 2021 with the Board unanimously supporting moving this study forward in coordination with the project partners. Town Manager Jen Calloway is preparing to bring this item forward to the Town council on July 27, 2021. Staff will provide an update at the Board meeting regarding the Town's action on this item.

In that the TTAD is a large land owner in the area, the District has an ample supply of biomass as well as a need to dispose of it in an environmental sustainable manner. A local biomass facility may provide a solution to our District as well as partner agency biomass disposal needs. It has the potential to provide a clean, local alternate form of thermal heat and power that utilizes green waste and align nicely with identified priorities, goals, and objectives of the TTAD, the Town, and TFPD.

Should the Board move forward with the TFHD land lease, TFHD would likely be a great candidate to include in this project.

FISCAL IMPACT: The District portion of the study will be \$6,400 or 1/3 of the cost of the study. The District currently has \$75,000 set aside for GHG Initiatives with approximately \$10,000 of those funds committed to other projects.

MOTION: I move to authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Town of Truckee and the Truckee Fire Protection District to retain Wildephor Consulting Services, LLC to complete a Bioenergy Project Scoping Study per the attached agreement with the District contribution to the study being \$6,400.

ATTACHMENTS:

Wildephor Bioenergy Project Scoping Study Proposal

(Special Thanks to Town Manager Jen Calloway for providing some of the materials and content for this Staff Report)