



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

**AGENDA TITLE: Community Benefit – Wildfire Mitigation – 2024 Projects**

**MEETING DATE: April 24, 2024**

**PREPARED BY: Robb Etnyre, General Manager**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve 2024 funding for identified priority community wildfire prevention program projects which were collaboratively developed by CalFire Truckee-North Tahoe Battalion, Northstar Fire Department, Truckee Fire Protection District, Olympic Valley Fire Department, and North Tahoe Fire Protection District as part of each jurisdiction Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and CalFire Burn Plan.

**Background:**

1. The Truckee Tahoe Airport District (“District”) has established a recent history, over the past ~8 years, of utilizing tax revenue to support community programs.
2. In 2023, the District updated the underlying Board Policy Instruction (PI311) to better define the use of tax revenue related to the “Purpose of an Airport”.
3. In 2023, the District adopted a new strategic plan, which identified the following focus area goals related to the use of tax revenue.
  - a. 1.D. Give Back: Develop a community investment strategy that aligns directly to airport vision, mission, values, and public purpose.
    - i. 1.D.1. Define budget allocation of community investments.
    - ii. 1.D.2. Review existing community investments to prioritize major projects that benefit the region and align with airport purpose and mission (see Focus Area 3, Goal A for more details).

4. The District approved a budget for 2024, which included funds for both community sponsorships, agency partnerships, and \$2M for Wildfire Mitigation. The Wildfire Mitigation line item was contingent on further research and briefing to the District Board for approval. As part of staff research, we engaged in several community conversations, including a hosted discussion at the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) with key nonprofit organizations and agencies. The meeting confirmed the growing need to fund regional forest management activities, as well as the potential for leveraging of funds thru coordinated efforts. Since that meeting, TTCF has secured a \$10 million commitment over the next five years, contingent on a regional match.
5. On January 25, 2024, the District Board held a workshop on the District’s community benefit policy. Guidance from that workshop was as follows.
  - a. “There was agreement to host another Board Workshop centered around Airport Capital Projects to take place in the Spring of 2024. And, to continue with Policy Instruction 311 in its current form for 2024, but to further discuss potential policy adjustments to take effect for calendar year 2025 (adjustment concepts included: transition Agency Partnership minimum project funding to \$50k, and explore a new methodology/formula to budget for the Agency Partnership Program, transition community sponsorships to more broad based community benefit programs, and review in-kind community dollars and the associated policy instructions.).”
6. The TTAD Board provided guidance during the March 27, 2024, Board meeting presentation on the same topic, which has resulted in the following identified projects for 2024.

**DISCUSSION:** On April 10, 2024, The District met with CalFire Truckee-North Tahoe Battalion, Northstar Fire Department, Truckee Fire Protection District, Olympic Valley Fire Department, and North Tahoe Fire Protection District to review established Community Wildfire Protection Plans and the CalFire Burn Plan to identify priority projects which were ready for implementation and without identified funding. The below listed projects were identified as the priority projects within District funding levels for 2024 to accelerate community wildfire protection across the entire District.

The previously discussed long term funding plans with the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation will be discussed separately as part of the Board Workshop related to Community Benefit. The focus of the identified 2024 projects here was scoped to align with District funding levels for District-wide community benefit. If approved, individual projects and fire districts will enter into partnership funding agreements with the District.

**Fiscal Impact:**

1. CalFire
  - a. Ward Project, Treated Acres - 130: \$390,000
2. Olympic Valley Fire Department

a. OV-4, 130 - Acre Shaded Fuel Break:	\$400,000
3. North Tahoe Fire District	
a. River Road Buffer, Treated Acres - 130:	\$400,000
4. Truckee Fire Protection District	
a. Sierra Meadows, 50 Acres:	\$100,000
b. Armstrong Tract: 20 Acres:	\$40,000
c. Martis Peak Road, 82 Acres:	\$165,000
5. Northstar Fire Protection District	
a. Highlands View Road, 44 Acres:	\$82,500
b. Western Boundary, 153 Acres:	\$357,555

**Total of 8 projects, ~685 Acres: \$1,934,500**

**2024 District Budgeted Item: \$2,000,000**

**Recommended Motion:** I move to (approve, deny) the eight individual Community Wildfire Prevention Plan projects presented above in the amount of \$1,934,500, as presented in this staff report, and authorize the General Manager to enter into professional service agreements for each project for the duration not to exceed 18 months.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1. TTAD Board Policy Instruction 311**
- 2. International Association of Fire Chiefs briefing on beneficial fire. A Preview of the 2050 Wildfire Environment & Beyond.**
- 3. Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Project Presentation Slides**
- 4. Standard TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**