



STAFF REPORT

CITY of YORBA LINDA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2021

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMIE LAI, P.E., DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS/ CITY ENGINEER

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. 2021-5769 APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF THE CITY'S APPLICATION FOR CLIMATE INVESTMENT FIRE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING AND APPOINT THE CITY MANAGER OR A DESIGNEE TO ACT AS AUTHORIZED AGENT FOR THE YORBA LINDA FUEL REDUCTION PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Adopt Resolution No. 2021- 5769 (**Attachment A**), approving the submission of the City's application for the California Climate Investment Fire Prevention Grant Program Funding; and
- 2) Appropriate grant reimbursable funds in the amount of \$866,610.00 to the CIP Fund and Miscellaneous Grant Fund; and
- 3) Appoint the City Manager or designee to act as authorized agent for the Yorba Linda Fuel Reduction Project.

BACKGROUND

In May 2021, the City applied for and has now been chosen to receive an \$866,610 Cal Fire Community Fire Prevention Grant. CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grants Program provides funding for local projects and activities that address the risk of wildfire, reduce wildfire potential, and increase community resiliency. Funded activities include hazardous fuel reduction, fire prevention planning, and fire prevention education with an emphasis on improving public health and safety while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Projects were evaluated based on the overall benefit to reduce the threat of wildfires to the greatest number of habitable structures, State Responsibility Area (SRA), (i.e., Chino Hills State Park), and people. Projects were selected on a competitive basis.

The City applied for this grant in partnership with the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA). They have been involved in the development of this proposed project from initial discussions through the final application by participating in multiple planning meetings, providing relevant data and background information, and reviewing materials as they were developed. In addition, and in true partnership form, OCFA has also pledged continued support and

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advocacy through the implementation process. They will provide staff resources to assist with oversight that is above and beyond their participation as the Yorba Linda fire department, as well as assistance with vegetation management with hand crews and heavy equipment as appropriate in certain areas.

The City also received letters of support from Chino Hills State Park, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Southern California Edison, Yorba Linda Water District, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, and the Orange County Conservation Corps.

DISCUSSION

The City of Yorba Linda has been approved for an integrated fuel reduction project in seven strategic sites within Yorba Linda as seen in the CCI Fire Prevention Grant Application (**Attachment B**) that will also help to reduce the risk of wildfire to State Responsibility Areas (SRA), (i.e., Chino Hills State Park). The integrated project includes goat grazing, hand crews, and mechanical abatement depending on slope, accessibility, and density. Work also comprises developing a wildfire evacuation plan for an at-risk community, developing a Restoration and Sustainability Plan, and conducting wildfire prevention education and messaging. An estimated 78 acres based on surface area will be treated over the approximately four-year project life.

The target sites contain some of the heaviest stands of fine fuels and non-native trees and are adjacent to SRA lands and in close proximity to residential neighborhoods, high intensity power lines, water facilities, and community facilities including schools, parks, and churches. The fuel biomass in these areas contributes to increased fuel load and fire frequency. By prioritizing (within the grant fund allowance) these areas for removal of hazardous fuels, a reduction in the frequency and intensity of wildfires will be realized along with a reduction in GHG emissions.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City has received the Grant Agreement (5GG20162) from the State of California CAL FIRE Program. Funds will be reimbursed as they are expended up to \$866,610.00. Expenses will be charged to the C.I.P. project account LI221007 – Yorba Linda Fuel Reduction Project.

ALTERNATIVES

Do not accept staff's recommendation and do not adopt Resolution No. 2021- 5769; however, this will forfeit the City's application and ability to receive funds for the Yorba Linda Fuel Reduction Project.

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ATTACHMENTS

A. Resolution No. 2021- 5769

B. CCI Fire Prevention Grant Application – Yorba Linda Fuel Reduction Project