



MEMORANDUM REPORT

Meeting Date: October 15, 2019

TO: Board of Commissioners of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District

FROM: J. Logan, General Manager
Captain Denise Gluhan (Ret.), Emergency Services Manager

SUBJECT: Agreement for Program Services between Los Altos Hills County Fire District and Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 19-38 Authorizing Execution of Professional Services Agreement between the Los Altos Hills County Fire District and the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council for Program Services.

BACKGROUND

At the September 17, 2019 Commission meeting, Captain Denise Gluhan (Ret.) presented an overview of the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Program Services (Program) during the Emergency Services Manager Report. After the ensuing discussion, the Commission was supportive to move forward with further details about the Program as was the Fuel Reduction subcommittee.

On September 27, 2019, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) subcommittee met, were presented with details of the Program and cost associated with Program services. The CWPP subcommittee expressed its wish to contract with FireSafe Council for a Program that achieves many of the guidelines and projects in the Los Altos Hills County Fire District-CWPP. The CWPP subcommittee supported the recommendation for approval of the Program to the Commission at the Oct. 15, 2019 Commission meeting.

DISCUSSION

The FireSafe Council Program provides the platform to attain many of the goals set forth in the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD)-CWPP. The Program will also broaden the Fuel Reduction Program that includes the Residential components of dead/dying/Eucalyptus tree removal and brush chipping. These components will now be more closely aligned with the guidelines of CWPP fuel reduction and will utilize the principles of fire science thereby, creating a holistic approach to fuel and vegetation mitigation. This is in contrast to single source dead/dying/Eucalyptus tree and brush removal wherein trees or brush are removed by services render under District Programs without review or education to residents of the fire hazards on the property and remediation steps to improve fire safety by property hardening and property hygiene techniques.

1. LAHCFD Goals: The Program components will support and provide the resources to establish services to residents and promote fire protection and prevention.
 - Holistic approach to develop an informed, resilient community with respect to personal preparedness, emergency communication, defensible space, property hygiene, property hardening and general wildfire safety.
 - Community training for awareness, education, readiness in the event of a wildfire.
 - Identify and develop programs for fuel management for both residential and community-wide in order to reduce risk and secure life safety
2. The Program, provided through a partnership with Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, is developed in alignment with the LAHCFD-CWPP
 - Community education
 - Fuel Management and a holistic approach to property hardening
 - Access and egress
 - Safe zones and temporary refuge areas - established and published
3. The Program will emphasize collaboration with partner agencies and bring together individuals, public and private resources and organization that share a common, vested interest in preventing and reducing losses from wildfires.
 - Santa Clara County Fire Department
 - Santa Clara County FireSafe Council
 - Mid-Peninsula Open Space District
 - Palo Alto Fire Department; Fire Marshal
 - Woodside Fire Department
4. With approval of the Program, the Fuel Reduction subcommittee can align its FY2019/2020 Fuel Reduction Program with the FireSafe Council Program. Fuel Reduction Programs can be developed for both residential and community-wide hazardous vegetation management to include:
 - Residential dead/dying/Eucalyptus tree removal based on fire science principles and the LAHCFD-CWPP guidelines, and
 - Community-wide programs for
 - i. Improving access and exiting on roads during fire or disaster events
 - ii. Safety zones
 - iii. Shaded fuel breaks
 - iv. Temporary refuge Areas (TRAs)

The personnel and resources from FireSafe Council will be in place to support both the residential dead/dying/Eucalyptus tree removal Program in accordance with fire science and the LAHCFD-CWPP and as outline in Tree Removal Advisory 2 and, in addition, a community-wide hazardous vegetation management Program. In support of the goal of promoting fuel reduction in Los Altos Hills, the District will provide brush chipping services for residents who are clearing their property, for planned community fuel reduction projects and to support the establishment of "Firewise Communities" in Los Altos Hills. Residents will have the opportunity to use regularly scheduled rotations in their area, and may also request to have brush removed outside of their assigned rotational schedule as needed.

5. The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC)

The Program resources contracted between LAHCFD and SCCFSC will assist with wildfire planning, preparedness and education. SCCFSC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that specializes in Wildland Fire Safety. SCCFSC can provide LAHCFD with the following services:

- Up to sixty Home Ignition Zone Assessments will be supplied, based on resident requests, averaging five per month over the next twelve months
- Monthly SCCFC workshops where at least ten neighborhood addresses would be in attendance
- Support and set-up ten “organized” neighborhoods to become certified as National Fire Protection Association Firewise Communities by the SCCFC
- quarterly Community-wide meetings presented by SCCFC. The Community-wide meetings could include gathering of input from the community for development of the 2020-2015 Strategic Plan
- volunteer opportunities and training with SCCFC
- Alignment with Neighborhood Network Program

Other cities in Santa Clara County, such as Saratoga and Los Gatos, currently have programs with SCCFSC assisting in emergency planning, preparedness and fuel management. The SCCFSC is currently engaged in a large collaborative fuel management project on the Santa Clara side of Highway 17.

6. Community Hazardous Fuel Reduction for FY2019/20

Project implementation will dedicate weekly hours for project planning and implementation utilizing experienced SCCFC project managerial and administrative staff.

- A SCCFSC Project Manager will be allocated to work on planning and hazard tree removal projects as determined by the District for no more than five to eight hours per week.
- Employee and contractor costs will be billed to the town monthly at the rate of \$56.00 per hour and will be due upon receipt for the following projects.
- Complete two SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs) program projects for elderly or disabled residents.
- Additional project scoping and planning for larger fuel management projects.

It is recommended that the Commission adopt Resolution 19-38 Authorizing Execution of Professional Services Agreement between the Los Altos Hills County Fire District and the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council for Program Services.

Attachment: none