



Wildfire Prevention Programs Update to the Board

Presented to the Board of Supervisors
September 26, 2023
County Administrator's Office
Office of the Sheriff/Office of Emergency Services

Nancy Nelson, Senior Management Analyst
Robyn Rains, Emergency Services Manager



Funding Sources

- Wildfire Prevention Funding (Dodd Earmark)
 - Senator Dodd secured \$1,900,000 in State funding for wildfire prevention efforts, specifically for “fuels reduction, alert warning systems, fire preparedness, and public engagement and education” within budget trailer bill SB 129 (FY22/23 Supplemental Budget)

- PSPS Allocations for '19 & '20
 - As part of the State’s response to Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events, which involve PG&E proactively turning off power during severe weather events to help prevent wildfires, the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) funded Solano County with \$463,843 in 2019 and \$231,921 in 2020 to support counties and cities with resiliency efforts.



Current Wildfire Prevention Programs

- Address Signage Pilot Program (Launched)
 - Provide address signage to residents in State Responsibility Area (SRA) to better identify dwellings down private driveways
- Chipping Program (Under Development)
 - Provide curbside chipping services to property owners in the SRA to chip fuels materials cleared from their properties
- Green Waste Events (Exploring Fall/Spring schedule)
 - Provide locations throughout the county for residents to dispose of green waste materials



Proposed Wildfire Prevention Programs/Efforts

- Landowners Handbook (\$36,835)
 - A collection of resources for newer residents to understand responsibilities living in high fire threat areas and resources available
- Expand Address Signage Pilot Program (+\$20,000)
 - Additional signage made available
 - Community messaging boards
- Dead Tree Removal (\$250,000)
 - Explore Partnership with the Solano RCD/Team Rubicon
- Defensible Space Program (within Fuels Budget of \$520,000)
 - Prioritize SRA properties
 - Prioritize seniors, disabled, households on fixed incomes



Proposed Additional Funding

- Community Wildfire Prevention Day event (\$30,000)
- Ready Set Go Public Outreach Materials (\$25,000)
- Extra Help position (Emergency Services Coordinator) (\$70,000)
 - Staff Solano Fire Safe Council
 - Research and apply for grants
 - Develop and implement wildfire prevention programs
 - FY2023/24 Q3 & Q4 (\$25,000) with use from County Coordinator Grant through December 31, 2023 (Q2)
 - FY2024/25 (\$45,000)



Reallocation of Wildfire Prevention Funds

CURRENT ALLOCATIONS	PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS
\$1,900,000	\$2,131,921*
Completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ \$1,170,000 Radios Proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ \$520,000 <i>Fuels Reduction</i>▪ \$200,000 <i>Fall School Study (Fire)</i>▪ \$10,000 <i>Pilot Signage Program</i>	Completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ \$1,170,000 Radios Proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ \$520,000 <i>Fuels Reduction</i>▪ \$250,000 <i>Dead Tree Removal</i>▪ \$36,835 <i>Landowners Handbook</i>▪ \$30,000 <i>Pilot Signage Program</i>▪ \$25,000 <i>Ready Set Go Outreach</i>▪ \$25,000 <i>Extra Help Position FY23/24</i>▪ \$45,000 <i>Extra Help Position FY24/25</i>▪ \$30,000 <i>Community Wildfire Event</i>

* Includes a \$231,921 credit from the '20 PSPS Allocation



'19 PSPS Allocation

PG&E provided counties throughout the State with two rounds of funding allocations to address the impacts of PSPS events:

- The 2019 allocation project came in under budget, with a total of \$278,061 remaining. The recommendation before you would provide for the:
 - Purchase of two generators housed within the Office of Emergency Services:
 - Two trailer towed generators (\$78,061) that can provide redundancy to multiple locations, including:
 - Lake Solano Park
 - Mobile Command Unit vehicle (MC-1)
 - Contribution (\$200,000) toward the purchase of a generator that will provide power redundancy to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano - Fairfield location refrigeration system



'20 PSPS Allocation

- The 2020 allocation project was running out of time due to:
 - Delays to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano buildout of refrigeration system
 - Supply chain issues

- The Governor's Office of Emergency Services recommended a modification to the project, allowing the County to credit itself for the previous purchase of handheld radios used by fire protection districts for radio interoperability (Dodd Funds)



PSPS Allocations for '19 & '20

'19 PSPS ALLOCATION	'20 PSPS ALLOCATION
\$463,843	\$231,921
<div>Completed:<ul style="list-style-type: none">\$62,794 Portable Generator\$119,764 Uninterruptable Power Supply\$3,225 Connection at Lake Solano<div>Proposed:<ul style="list-style-type: none">\$78,061 Generators for OES (2)\$200,000 Generator for Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano to support Fairfield location refrigeration system</div></div>	<div>Received:<ul style="list-style-type: none">\$231,921 Credit toward radio purchase made in support of radio interoperability for Fire Protection Districts</div>



Recommendation

The County Administrator's Office recommends:

1. Receive a report on wildfire prevention programs;
2. Consider re-allocating the appropriation of funds for wildfire prevention programs;
3. Consider re-allocating the appropriation of remaining '19 PSPS allocation funds for the acquisition of generators for the Solano County Sheriff's Office/Office of Emergency Services and the Contra Costa and Solano Food Bank for refrigeration backup generation;
4. Ratify the re-allocation of appropriations from the '20 PSPS allocation funds for the acquisition of radios to support the county's fire protection districts;
5. Approve an Appropriation Transfer Request in the amount of \$278,061 for the Sheriff's Office/Office of Emergency Services to re-budget appropriations from FY2020/21 funded by the '19 PSPS allocation (4/5 vote required); and
6. Delegate authority to the County Administrator to make minor changes to allocations within budgeted appropriations.