

Attachment A – Status Update on Wildfire Prevention Programs and Funding

Below is a status update on Wildfire Prevention Programs and Funding:

2019 California Earmark secured by Senator Dodd (\$1,900,000)

On September 26, 2023 the Board approved a reallocation of these funds and a list of projects with corresponding allocations is included in the table below. Updates to allocations have since been approved in the FY2024/25 Recommended Budget and will continue to be included in future Recommended Budgets. An updated funding allocation along with expenditures through April 30, 2025 is included below.

Project	Sept 2023 Allocation	Allocation Adjustments	Current Funding Allocation	Expenditures as of 4/30/25	Remaining Funds ⁴
Radios	\$938,079	(\$15,017)	\$923,062	\$923,062	
Fuels Reduction	\$520,000	(\$20,000)	\$500,000		\$500,000
Dead Tree Removal	\$250,000	(\$250,000) ¹			
Landowners Handbook	\$36,835	\$18,165	\$55,000		\$55,000
Pilot Signage Program / Community Messaging Boards	\$30,000	(\$22,500) ²	\$7,500		\$7,500
Ready, Set, Go Outreach	\$25,000	(\$25,000) ³			
Emergency Services Coordinator (Extra Help Staffing)	\$70,000	\$14,938	\$84,938	\$18,363	\$66,575
Community Wildfire Events	\$30,000	(\$30,000) ³			
Wildfire Community Preparedness Day and Public Outreach		\$95,000	\$95,000	\$13,483	\$81,517
Pilot Seasonal Firefighter Program		\$217,000	\$217,000	\$86,730	\$130,270
Green Waste Disposal Events		\$17,500	\$17,500	\$2,617	\$14,883
TOTALS	\$1,899,914	\$86	\$1,900,000	\$1,044,255	\$855,745

1. Now allocated to other projects.
2. Community Messaging Boards allocated in Public Outreach.
3. Allocated in Public Outreach.
4. These remaining funds will be budgeted in future Recommended Budgets including the FY2025/26 Recommended Budget (BU 2532).

The 2019 California Earmark funds support the following projects:

Radios (\$923,062): In October 2022 handheld radios for the fire protection districts through Motorola were purchased and distributed. The total purchase price was \$1,154,983, with \$231,921 being credited back from the 2020 Community Power Resiliency Program.

Fuels Reductions (\$500,000): This includes a Chipping Program, where OES plans to partner with a non-profit to provide chipping services to residents within the unincorporated area of the county to assist in the maintenance of defensive space around their respective homes and property, reducing wildfire risk. Additionally, OES is planning a Defensible Space Program, also partnering with a non-profit to provide services to reduce fuels to improve defensible space around homes by assisting with weed abatement, prioritizing properties within the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and residents who are seniors, disabled, and households on fixed incomes. Funding for the program is included in the FY2024/25 budget. Any unspent funding will be rebudgeted in FY2025/26.

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Landowners Handbook (\$55,000): This is a collection of resources for residents to understand the responsibilities of living in the SRA and resources available. The current version is available electronically and in three languages. This funding is for a Version 2 of the Living with Wildland Fire handbook and is included in the FY2025/26 Requested Budget. The current handbook can be found here:

https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/oes/grs/fire_ready/wildfire_preparedness_guide/default.asp

Pilot Signage Program (\$7,500): This effort is being led by the local fire safe council with support from OES. Local fire safe councils are conducting outreach to residents who might be interested in receiving and posting address signage to better identify dwellings down private driveways. Any residents that are not represented by a fire safe council can contact OES if they are interested in obtaining a sign. OES procured a vendor and is in the process of purchasing signage for resident pick-up and self-installation. Funding for the program is included in the FY2024/25 budget. Any unspent funding will be rebudgeted in FY2025/26.

Emergency Services Coordinator – Extra Help Staffing (\$84,938): This extra help position helps facilitate the Solano Fire Safe Council, research and applies for grants, and develops and implements additional wildfire prevention programs and projects. Estimated Salary and Benefit costs for the Wildfire Emergency Services Coordinator position are \$58,330 per year. The 2019 California Earmark funds are used to supplement other grant funds for this position. This position was funded with 2024 County Coordinator Grant Program through December 31, 2024. The earmark is currently being utilized to fund this position from January 1, 2025 through the end of the fiscal year. The 2025 County Coordinator Grant Program was recently submitted in the amount of \$151,500, if these funds are awarded, they will be used to offset the cost of this position prior to the use of the earmark. As of April 30, 2025, \$18,363 has been spent, with an additional \$5,876 in spending planned in FY2024/25. The projected remaining funding of \$60,699 has been included in the FY2025/26 Requested Budget.

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day and other Public Outreach (\$95,000): On Saturday, May 3, 2025 Solano County hosted the third annual Wildfire Community Preparedness Day at the Solano Town Center grounds to raise awareness and reduce wildfire risks. A fourth Wildfire Community Preparedness Day will be hosted in FY2025/26. The 2023 Annual Wildfire Community Preparedness Day took place on May 6, 2023. The 2024 Annual Wildfire Community Preparedness Day took place on May 4, 2024. Staff's goal is to get the primary costs for this event donated and then supplements the expenses with the 2019 California Earmark funds. As of April 30, 2025, \$13,483 has been spent, with additional \$1,517 in spending planned in FY2024/25. The projected remaining funding of \$80,000 has been included in FY2025/26 Requested Budget.

Advertising for events, community mailers, and other outreach materials are included in this allocation of funds. Community Messaging Boards are currently being donated by the cities; however, funding could be used to continue the community messaging boards, if needed.

Pilot Seasonal Firefighter Program (\$217,000): In the FY2024/25 Recommended Budget the Board approved up to \$185,000 in funding for a Pilot Seasonal Wildfire Program. On August 13, 2024 the Board approved the corresponding Memorandum of Understanding with the Suisun Fire Protection District (FPD), Vacaville FPD, and Montezuma FPD. From August to November 2024 the pilot seasonal firefighter program was utilized by Suisun FPD and Vacaville FPD; Montezuma FPD opted out of participation and was able to absorb the costs within their operating budget. This funding provided these Fire Protection

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Districts the ability to add temporary dedicated paid firefighters to augment volunteers and, together with the purchase of some equipment, response times were enhanced. As of April 30, 2025, approximately \$87,000 was spent in FY2024/25, it is anticipated that this program will continue in FY2025/26 with an additional \$130,000 included in the FY2025/26 Requested Budget. A new MOU will come back to the Board for approval at a later date.

Green Waste Disposal Events (\$17,500): On Saturdays, August 3 and 10, 2024 Solano County provided locations for residents to dispose of green waste materials. Locations included Vacaville Fire Protection District 67 on Cantelow Road, Montezuma Fire Protection District 52 on Collinsville Road, Fall School on Rockville Road, Suisun Fire Protection District 32 on Clayton Road, and Recology on Broadway Street in Vallejo. OES, in partnership with local fire safe councils and the Department of Resource Management, plans to host additional green waste events, and potentially host electronic waste and tire recycling events in the future. As of April 30, 2025, \$2,617 has been spent in FY2024/25. The remaining funding of \$14,883 has been included in the FY2025/26 Requested Budget to continue these events.

2019 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Funding (\$463,843)

The 2019 PSPS funds are fully expended and supported the following projects:

Portable Generators (\$62,794): Purchased both mobile and trailered generators to support critical infrastructure sites during PSPS outages.

Generator Connectors (\$3,225): Installed generator connections at Lake Solano. This site is used as a staging area for first responders during wildfire events.

Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) (\$119,764): Purchased UPS and related components for the County's Criminal Justice Data Center to ensure full redundancy.

Portable Radios (\$78,060): Purchase of multi-band portable radios for the Solano Sheriff's office to improve interoperability within the Operational Area.

Generator for Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County (\$200,000): Pass-thru funds to the food bank to install an outdoor diesel generator on a concrete pad to support maintaining emergency food supply.

2020 Community Power Resiliency Program – previously PSPS (\$231,921)

The 2020 Community Power Resiliency Program funds are fully expended. This amount was credited toward the 2019 California Earmark for purchase of handheld radio purchase for the fire protection districts (see "Radios" on page 1).

2021 CalFire Fire Prevention Grant Program (\$900,000 plus a local match of \$195,120)

The 2021 CalFire Fire Prevention Grant Program is complete and supported the following projects:

This funding was used for a contractor to draft a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), procure Zonehaven evacuation software, contract with Solano RCD to start and support three or more local fire

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safe councils, and conduct public outreach. The performance period on this grant ended March 15, 2024 and a total of \$757,687 of the State funds was expended plus \$176,099 of the local cost share via in-kind match. Both the CWPP and the RCD MOU ultimately came in under budget while staff attempted to get a mailer out (Solano Fire Preparedness Guide) to expend \$90,000 of the remaining funds, the vendor was unable to get it postmarked prior to the end of the performance period, CalFire was unwilling to extend the performance period; therefore, the County was unable to spend \$142,313 of the State funds. This mailer was ultimately paid for using other grant (EMPG) funding.

The Solano Fire Safe Council has an elected Council President and Vice-President and has adopted Solano Fire Safe Council bylaws. The Solano Fire Safe Council supports the local fire safe council, Solano County has three local fire safe councils. They are Green Valley, Pleasants Valley, and Glen Cove.

2021 County Coordinator Grant Program (\$175,000)

The 2021 County Coordinator Grant Program funds are fully expended and supported the following projects:

This funding was used to hire a consulting firm to support the County Administrator's Office and OES in launching the Solano Fire Safe Council and to provide technical assistance identifying mapping of priority locations for fuel break installations, as well as to assist in grant application development for conducting this work. This grant was fully expended and closed out.

2022 County Coordinator Grant Program (\$200,000)

The 2022 County Coordinator Grant Program is complete and supported the following projects:

This funding was originally allocated to hire an extra help employee to work in OES to work on the wildfire prevention and education programs. Due to a delay in hiring this position, a portion of the funds was reallocated to fund a Solano Fire Safe Council pop-up, a Living with Wildland Fire handbook (translated in English, Spanish, and Tagalog), and a countywide "Know Your Zone" mailer campaign. Due to the short performance period of this grant and the delays in hiring the extra help position, the County was unable to utilize \$44,849 in grant funds and had to return these funds to the State. A total of \$155,151 was expended and this grant was closed out.

An additional 2025 County Coordinator Grant Program has recently been applied for in the amount of \$151,500.

If awarded, this funding will be used to continue to pay for an extra help employee to work in OES to help facilitate the Solano Fire Safe Councils, research and apply for grants, and develop and implement additional wildfire prevention programs and projects. Additionally, these funds will be allocated to facilitate an update to the CWPP.