



BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: February 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6A: Board Discussion and Support for the District to Assist the Project Managers of the Tuolumne County FireSafe Council in Implementation of the Defensible Space for Seniors and Disabled in Tuolumne County project

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends the following action:

I move to authorize the General Manager and Staff to assist the Tuolumne County FireSafe Council in Implementation of the Defensible Space for Seniors and Disabled in Tuolumne County project.

BACKGROUND:

The Tuolumne County Fire Safe Council (TCFC) has been awarded funding from the CAL FIRE Climate Investment Grant to create defensible space around the homes of low-income seniors and disabled residents in Tuolumne County. The Grant amount is \$879,000 which will be spread over 5 years, 2024-2029. The TFSC plans to start this program in the Groveland area. There is a direct nexus between the GCSB goal of maximizing the fire safety of the communities and the defensible space to be developed under this program.

The Defensible Space for Seniors and Disabled in Tuolumne County project will provide defensible space for low-income seniors age 65 and older and disabled individuals who are economically and/or physically unable to do this work or hire a contractor to do the work.

Reducing vegetation fuels can lessen a fire's intensity and speed and will allow for quicker control of wildfires. Wildfires burn at a lower severity where fuel loads have been reduced. This program is intended to help individuals create defensible space (maximum 100 feet or to property lines) around the primary residence. It may not be used for clearing acreage or vacant parcels. Participation in this program is voluntary and at no cost to the applicant.

The TCSC has approached GCSD for assistance, cooperation and partnership in the implementation of this program in the Groveland/Big Oak Flat area. GCSD's role is envisioned to involve the following:

- Assist in program outreach, conducting community meetings and identification of collaborating entities and eligible recipients of the work
- Provide property information from our GIS program
- Social media campaigns and information
- Host or link information on the GCSD website such as informational flyers, forms and press releases

In this partnership, GCSD assumes no overall responsibility to conduct the work above, but will endeavor to assist to the best that it can with available staff and social media consultant. GCSD assumes no responsibility, expense or liability for the work being done in the field, securing rights-of-entry, handling complaints, conducting inspections or administering any of the day-to-day work or program finances.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no anticipated expense or other fiscal impact associated with this partnership, however there will be a few hours weekly spent by existing GCSD management and administrative staff, and within the existing social media consulting agreement.