



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Public meeting to continue the discussion of Fire Resiliency and Vegetation Management and an acceptable level of risk relating to wildfires and extreme weather conditions.

CEQA: Not a Project.

Recommendation: That Council 1) receive additional information from staff relating to Fire Resiliency and Vegetation Management including responses to some of the questions raised to date; 2) present and receive input on some very conceptual expenditure plans for a potential sales tax; 3) gain additional input from the community on Fire and Vegetation Management and a potential tax; and 4) review a schedule of next steps with City Council.

Prepared by: Timothy M. Kiser, City Manager

Council Meeting Date: September 26, 2023

Date Prepared: September 19, 2023

Agenda: Administrative

Background Information: The purpose of this gathering is to discuss mitigating the risks of wildfires and extreme weather events in Grass Valley through fire and vegetation management. This meeting is part of a series of discussions that the City Council and staff will have in the coming weeks.

Staff has received consistent inquiries about fire resiliency, and has found two papers written by Eric Saylor, a firefighter with a Master's Degree in Security Studies from the Naval Post Graduate School. The first paper, "Fire Department and Response Models, Not Production Models," published in Elite Command Training in December 2016, discusses how fire departments should prioritize resilience over fragility. The second paper, "How much is additional Firefighter on an engine worth? About \$600,000," published in Elite Command Training in May 2017, shows that a firefighter may cost around \$120,000 in total costs, but saves the community nearly \$600,000 from fire loss. Both papers have been attached for Council consideration and general information.

In addition, the staff has developed two preliminary expenditure plans to continue the conversation about a potential sales tax and placing a tax on the ballot for March 2024. The first step is to determine what is an acceptable level of risk for the community regarding fires and extreme weather conditions. The goal of these draft tax expenditure plans is to facilitate a productive conversation and reach a decision on these issues. The staff will review the draft plans and provide more information at the Council meeting.

After receiving additional input and comments, the staff will talk about upcoming meetings (including the Town Hall Meeting scheduled for October 3rd at 6 p.m. at Sierra College) and the next steps to meet the deadline for putting something on the ballot in March 2024.

Council Goals/Objectives: The execution of this action attempts to achieve Strategic Goal #5 - High Performance Government and Quality Service.

Fiscal Impact: At this point, there is very little fiscal impact. The Fiscal Impact will come about if the Council decides to move forward with a Special Election in March 2024, which could easily exceed \$100,000, but there are sufficient funds in City reserves if the City Council deems this issue to be a fiscal emergency.

Funds Available: Yes

Account #: General Fund Reserves

Reviewed by: Tim Kiser, City Manager

Attachments:

- "Fire Department and Response Models, Not Production Models," published in Elite Command Training in December 2016 written by Eric Saylor
- "How much is additional Firefighter on an engine worth? About \$600,000," published in Elite Command Training in May 2017 written by Eric Saylor
- Two sample/draft tax expenditure plans