



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 09/20/2022

ITEM NO: 11

DATE: September 6, 2022
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Receive an Update on a Roadside Fuel Reduction Federal Grant of \$750,000
and Recognize a Future Match Commitment of \$750,000

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on a roadside fuel reduction federal grant of \$750,000 and recognize a future match commitment of \$750,000.

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, the Town commissioned SWCA consultants to develop a roadway vegetation management plan (Plan) for the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) in Los Gatos. The report examined 31.09 miles of Town-owned WUI roadways that provide critical ingress/egress routes for residents and emergency responders in the event of wildfire.

These Town-owned roadways identified in the Plan include evacuation routes and other collector, neighborhood, and hillside collector roads that currently provide narrow access for emergency response during a wildfire. Of note, the report identified approximately 19 miles of Priority 1 and 2 roadways of very high concern for safe evacuation of the hillsides. The remaining 12 miles of roadways were identified as Priority 3 and prioritized last for clearing roadside vegetation.

Under the Plan, roadside vegetation management seeks to achieve a clearance of 20 feet horizontally and 13 feet, 6 inches vertically above roadways, as well as clearance of non-fire-resistant vegetation within 10 feet of the roads.

PREPARED BY: Arn Andrews
Assistant Town Manager

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Town Attorney, Parks and Public Works Director, and Interim Finance Director

BACKGROUND (continued):

To date, the Town has completed two years of progress on the Plan. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2020/21, the Town Council allocated \$500,000 toward the project which achieved approximately 6.5 miles of fuel mitigation along Priority 1 and 2 roadways. In FY 2021/22, the Town Council allocated an additional \$500,000 toward the project which achieved an additional 4.5 miles of fuel mitigation along Priority 1 and 2 roadways.

Road Name	Priority Level	Mileage	Year Completed
Foster Road	1	1.03	2021
Kennedy Road	1	1.17	2022
Kennedy Road	1	1.00	2021
Shannon Road	1	2.61	2021
Arnerich Road	1	0.96	2022
Blackberry Hill Road	1	1.19	2021
Cleland Ave	1	0.21	
Fairview Ave	1	0.11	
Francis Oaks Way	1	0.68	
Hicks Road	1	0.97	2022
Kimble Ave	1	0.49	
Larga Vista Drive	1	0.44	
Manzanita Ave	1	0.27	
Oak Hill Way	1	0.49	
Paseo Carmelo	1	0.07	
Ravinia Way	1	0.09	
South Kennedy Road	1	0.50	2022
Santa Rosa Drive	1	0.45	2022
Twelve Oaks Road	1	0.68	
Wood Road	1	0.61	
Suview Drive	2	0.67	
Top of the Hill Court	2	0.49	
Top of the Hill Road	2	0.26	
Aztec Ridge Drive	2	0.15	
College Ave	2	0.42	
Cross Road	2	0.07	
Cypress Way	2	0.54	2021
Eugenia Way	2	0.20	2021
Johnson Ave	2	0.12	
Mireval Road	2	0.15	
Shady Lane	2	0.29	
Sky Lane	2	0.17	
Teresita Way	2	0.19	
Tourney Road	2	0.25	2021
Wooded View Drive	2	0.59	
Dittos Lane	2	0.25	2021
Status	Miles		
Completed 2021	7.07		
Completed 2022	4.05		
Pending Work	7.71		

DISCUSSION:

In March 2021, staff submitted a \$1.0 million Federal Budget Earmark Grant request to implement the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan at the behest of Congresswoman Eshoo. In March 2022, the House passed a bipartisan Omnibus bill which included \$750,000 for the

DISCUSSION (continued):

Town's grant request as one of 10 community projects funded in the Congressional District. Knowing that the grant had been accepted, Town Council did not allocate any Town funding toward the Plan for FY 2022/23. This third phase for FY 2022/23 funded by the federal grant would conclude the remaining 7.71 miles of Priority 1 and Priority 2 roadside vegetation management. Later phases would address the next level of priority.

When staff submitted the grant request, it was understood that the prior years' investments would constitute the required one-to-one match for the grant. Subsequently, staff learned that the match must come from funds allocated during the grant performance period which started March 15, 2022. This means that the Town has two years to provide the match funding toward the federal grant of \$750,000 which could be allocated \$375,000 in FY 2023/24 and \$375,000 in FY 2024/25 to complete Priority 3 roadways.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS:

Staff is nearing completion of the required federal documentation. When staff receives confirmation that the Town's grant is being released, the Council will be asked to accept the grant to ensure the continuation of the roadside vegetation management plan and reduce the total project cost to the Town by \$750,000.

COORDINATION:

This staff report was coordinated with the Town Manager, Town Attorney, Director of Parks and Public Works, and Interim Finance Director.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Future acceptance of the grant necessitates future budget allocations totaling \$750,000. Staff will bring budget recommendations in the proposed Capital Improvement Program Budgets for FY 2023/24 and FY 2024/25 as part of the balanced budget process.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This roadway vegetation management project is categorically exempt from CEQA Guidelines section 15301, because it involves minor alterations to existing right of way, and section 15304, because it involves minor alterations to land.