



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 08/20/2019

ITEM NO: 8

ADDENDUM

DATE: August 19, 2019
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Authorize a FY 2019/20 Expenditure Budget Adjustment in the Amount of \$300,707 for the Vegetation Management – Town Wide Project

REMARKS:

A Council Member had the following inquiry and staff's response is provided below.

I would like to ask a question about the chips laid down in an even spread to reduce erosion as per the report. Is chipped wood not a fire hazard in itself? Where in the fire ladder does chipped wood start to burn? After bushes have caught?

The chips are beneficial for a number of reasons. They have a very low flame spread, so in terms of hazard, are not a big concern on their own. They tend to smolder, but not burn. In addition, they help keep down the return of undergrowth, which is the biggest of concerns and ongoing maintenance of new growth can be a challenge. Organizations like the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council actually run chipping programs as a service to the community in reducing fire hazards.

In addition, the project includes consultant services to provide a plan for the initial treatment and a plan for ongoing maintenance to ensure the Town uses best practices.

PREPARED BY: Matt Morley
Director of Parks and Public Works

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director
