



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Planning Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Pump Station Fire Hardening Project
From: Alex Anaya, Director of Engineering
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: February 10, 2026

AA
BF

TYPE OF ITEM: Approve X Review and Comment

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on the proposed Pump Station Fire Hardening project

SUMMARY: At the December 2024 Planning Committee, staff presented the findings of the above ground infrastructure fire hardening assessment, which is part of Goal 2, Objective 1 of the Five Year Strategic Plan. These findings resulted in the development of the Pump Station Fire Hardening project, which proposes to address fire hardening deficiencies identified during the 2024 assessment to increase fire resiliency of pump stations.

DISCUSSION: In 2024, staff conducted a comprehensive above ground infrastructure fire hardening assessment in collaboration with the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA). As part of this effort, defensible space around pump stations was evaluated to identify practical measures to improve fire resilience. Defensible space refers to the area around a structure and extends up to a distance of 100 feet or the nearest property line. There are three Defensible Space Zones each corresponding to a distance away from the nearest structure; Zone 0 which is 0-5 feet from the nearest structure, Zone 1 which is 5-30 feet from the nearest structure, and Zone 2 which is 30 to 100 feet to the nearest structure or property line.

This project prioritizes improvements within Defensible Space Zones 0 and 1, which are the areas closest to pump station facilities and most vulnerable to wildfire impacts. The proposed actions are intended to reduce ember intrusion, limit combustible materials, and strengthen structural protection from the risk of wildfires. In Zone 0, the project includes installing non-combustible aggregate base around pump stations, upgrading to fire-rated doors, adding 1/8-inch fire-rated screens to vents, and sealing gaps around utility penetrations with approved non-combustible materials. In Zone 1, the project will focus on vegetation management measures, removal of debris piles, and reduction of ladder fuels to slow fire spread and reduce intensity near the pump stations.

Summaries of the estimated Project costs and schedule are provided below.

Estimated Budget:

Engineer Estimate:	\$ 600,000
Contingency (10%):	\$ 60,000
District Labor/Inspection:	\$ 75,000
Total Budget:	\$ 735,000
Budget Category:	A1A07

Estimated Project Implementation:

Project Advertisement:	March 2 nd , 2026
Bid Opening	April 15 th , 2026
Project Award	May 2026
Estimated Completion Date	October 2026
Duration:	180 days

District staff intend to make a recommendation for consideration of project approval and contract award for this item at a future regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: The Director of Engineering has determined that this project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.49, as the proposed project creates defensible space and fuel breaks around pump stations. The project also qualifies for exemption pursuant to the following CEQA Guidelines sections 15301, Existing Facilities, and 15304, Minor Alteration to land, as the project will include repair and maintenance work of existing structures, that does not result in an expansion of use, and involve minor alteration to the condition of land and vegetation, with no negative impact to existing scenic trees.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total estimated cost to complete the Pump Station Fire Hardening project is \$735,000, which includes District labor, construction costs, and contingencies. The project is funded through the adopted FY 2025-2027 Two-Year Capital Improvement Budget.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.