



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

CITY HALL

CITY OF SONORA 94 N. WASHINGTON STREET, SONORA, CA 95370 P: (209) 532-4541

SERVICE, INNOVATION, INTEGRITY, COLLABORATION, RESPECT, LEADERSHIP

DATE: April 21, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Tyler Summersett, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Dragoon Gulch Fuels Reduction Project Update

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the Dragoon Gulch Fuels Reduction Project Update.

BACKGROUND:

Dragoon Gulch is a vital community resource that is one of the gems of the City. The area is nearly a hundred acres with approximately 4 miles of natural surface and paved trails available. This oak studded woodland is centrally located and widely appreciated by surrounding neighbors, visitors and those coming to and through the downtown, in addition to cross country participants at Sonora High and local mountain bike club Sonora MTB. The City has a caretaker who helps manage and maintain the area and an agreement with Columbia College to utilize the area for student training and development.

DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS:

The Dragoon Fuels Reduction is a 90-acre project in the interface of the Local Responsibility Area (City of Sonora) and the State Responsibility Area. Dragoon Fuels Reduction is located approximately half in the City of Sonora, including City-owned and private property, and half in the surrounding SRA. The Dragoon Gulch area is high wildfire risk for wildfire ignition and the greatest risk in the City of Sonora. The project has three treatment components— maintenance/mastication of the existing fire break/dozer line that was constructed to protect Sonora during the 2021 Washington Fire; a 17 acre, approximately 200 feet wide Shaded Fuel Break along Dragoon Circle/Ponderosa Lane/Cottage Court to protect those homes and the Sonora Knolls Subdivision; and fuels reduction, mainly mastication, along the ridge from the edge of the dozer line to Race Track Road. Mastication treatment is 73 acres and hand treatment 17 acres. The Dragoon Fuels Reduction will provide protection to a minimum of 6,000 habitable structures.

Project Timeline-

Landowner access – current

Environmental surveys – to start by end of April

CEQA (environmental) approval by Fall

Treatment to begin late Fall if all goes well (ambitious)



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FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact, this project is being funded by Cal Fire and managed by the Fire Safe Council, along with the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District. Some staff time will be involved in reviewing and approving of final fuels reduction proposal for Dragoon Gulch, but these costs will be covered in existing budgets.

The Project award is \$510,496.00

ATTACHMENTS:

Landowner Agreement and Cover Letter