

**MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES
COUNTY OF PLACER**

To: **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Date: **OCTOBER 21, 2008**

From: **JAMES DURFEE / ALBERT RICHIE**

Subject: **SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY GRANT – HIDDEN FALLS
REGIONAL PARK FUEL LOAD MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended your Board take the following actions related to Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Funds and the Hidden Falls Regional Park Fuel Load Management Project:

1. Approve a Budget Revision appropriating Proposition 84 grant funds in the amount of \$506,207, from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for Hidden Falls Regional Park fuel load management projects and related equipment; and
2. Authorize the purchase of one (1) all terrain mower in the amount of \$40,000, to be purchased from the grant funds; and
3. Approve the addition of a one (1) all terrain mower to the Master Fixed Asset List.

BACKGROUND: Hidden Falls Regional Park is a 1,181-acre site located between Auburn and Lincoln. In October 2006, the easterly 221 acre portion of the park was opened to the public for hiking, bike riding, horseback riding and other passive recreational pursuits. Public access to the park is provided by way of Mears Road, north of Mt. Vernon Road. Planning efforts, including the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), preliminary schematic design and EIR support/permit studies, and connectivity studies to Placer Land Trust (PLT) owned parcels are currently under way to support expansion of public access and amenities to the westerly 961 acre portion of Hidden Falls Regional Park and to the PLT parcels to the north-east.

Proposition 84 (Prop 84), the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coast Protection Bond Act of 2006 designated the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) as administrator of \$17 Million in 2007/08 fiscal year grant funding for projects related to the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land water, and other natural resources and/or provide increased opportunities for tourism and public recreation. The subject grants have been competitively awarded to Placer County through this SNC Prop 84 Grant program and have executed Agreements in place.

Recognizing the high priority of providing fire safety amenities at the Hidden Falls Regional Park, the Department of Facility Services contracted with a registered forester through the Placer County Resource Conservation District (RCD) in 2006, to provide recommendations for vegetation, fuels, and range management. The recommendations include the establishment of 93 acres of strategic shaded fuel breaks and 24 acres of perimeter access clearing. Facility Services and RCD staff have worked closely with fire

officials and the Office of Emergency Services in the development and implementation of the management measures. Initial establishment of fuel breaks and perimeter clearing began in 2007, on the portion of the property currently open to the public and has progressed as funding and resources have become available. Thick vegetation and steep terrain require a higher than normal resource allocation to complete the vegetation clearing. The Fuel Load Grant provides funding to complete all of the recommended shaded fuel breaks and perimeter clearing zones. In addition, the Grant provides funding for an all-terrain mower that will be suitable to efficiently control grass, weeds, and light brush in open areas of the designated fuel breaks and access zones both during establishment and follow-up operations. According to the Resources at Risk from Fire assessment provided by RCD of the most likely fire scenarios associated with the Hidden Falls property, completion of the fire safety amenities would help protect 6,467 acres over 364 parcels with \$55 Million worth of structures and improvements in the project vicinity.

In order to begin utilization of these grant funds, a Budget Revision is required to appropriate the funding to the project account. It is anticipated this shaded fuel break project will be completed by spring of 2010.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE: For the work associated with the Fuel Load Grant, a Notice of Exemption was filed with the State Clearinghouse and County Clerk on November 13, 2007. This project conforms to the definition and criteria of Class 1, 7, and 8 Categorical Exemptions. Class 1 (Section 15301(h)), provides for existing facilities including “maintenance of existing...native growth...” Class 7 (Section 15307) provides for actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources. Class 8 (Section 15308) provides for actions by regulatory agencies for the protection of the environment.

The work associated with the Connectivity Grant conforms to the definition and criteria of a Class 6 Categorical Exemption, (Section 15306), “Information Collection” and is, therefore, categorically exempt from CEQA review.

FISCAL IMPACT: All project costs associated with this fuel load reduction project will be funded by Proposition 84 grant funds. In addition, the County has completed approximately 20 acres of shaded fuel breaks and perimeter clearing that will be utilized as an in-kind match. Approval of this request will not affect the County General Fund. By utilizing the SNC grant funds, Placer County is able to perform work that otherwise would be deferred.

ATTACHMENT: BUDGET REVISION

JD:AR:JR:DB

CC: COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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PAS DOCUMENT NO. _____

BUDGET REVISION

POST DATE:

DEPT NO.	DOC TYPE	Total \$ Amount	TOTAL LINES
12	BR	1,518,621.00	5

Cash Transfer Required

Reserve Cancellation Required

Establish Reserve Required

Auditor-Controller

County Executive

Board of Supervisors

ESTIMATED REVENUE ADJUSTMENT

APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

DEPT NO.	T/C	Rev	Fund	Sub Fund	OCA	PCA	OBJ 3	PROJ.	PROJ. DTL	AMOUNT	DEPT NO.	T/C	Rev	Fund	Sub Fund	OCA	PCA	OBJ 3	PROJ.	PROJ. DTL	AMOUNT
12	006		140		991078	91078	7199			506,207.00	12	014		140		991078	04831	4151			466,207.00
											12	034		140		991078	04831	4151	704831	001000	466,207.00
											12	014		140		991078	04831	4451			40,000.00
											12	034		140		991078	04831	4451	704831	001000	40,000.00
TOTAL										506,207.00	TOTAL										1,012,414.00

REASON FOR REVISION: TO APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY FOR THE HIDDEN FALLS PARK FUEL LOAD MANAGEMENT PROJECT 704831.

Prepared by Valerie Bayne Ext 6803 Date: 10/21/08

Department Head Valerie Bayne Page: _____

Board of Supervisors _____

2008 OCT -2 PM 2:23

Budget Revision # _____ FOR INDIVIDUAL DEPT USE

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