



Staff report for meeting date 5/19/2022

Prepared by Rae Bell – *disclaimer: any opinions expressed in this document belong to the author and do not represent the official stance of the district.*

Agenda item 4. a) Correspondence

**Incoming:** several disaster preparedness surveys, and firewise worksheets, oath of office for Pam Davis, customer update from Allegheny County Water District (ACWD) re tank situation and the need for a rate hike, 2021 Consumer Confidence Report from ACWD,

**Outgoing:** Thank you card and receipt to Chip Pardinini for \$100 donation, thank you card to Jim Buckbee for cooking for the firewise barbecue,

Agenda item 4. b) 5 Board member/Staff reports

- PGE ENERGY AUDIT – nothing to report
- Money for PGE community resource center in Pike – nothing to report
- NFIRS (National FIRE Incident Reporting System)- nothing to report

**Agenda item 4. b) 6 Firewise Communities** – – I talked to Sierra County Sherriff Mike Fisher after last month’s meeting and zone haven (the evacuation software) is close to ready. I talked to Jim Buckbee about possibly helping with maps, and he said that this is the County’s responsibility.

**Agenda item 4. b) 7 Firehouse Projects and ADA compliance**

**Agenda item 4. b) 8 Pending Grants**

- ❖ CDF 50/50 grant for Fiscal year 21/22 – Everything has been ordered, the hose has been paid for (\$1,916), the turn-outs have not arrived yet (\$8,665). We don’t have the exact split for hose yet (if it will be 50/50 between the departments). One set of turnouts for each dept. but Pike’s are EMS turnouts and will cost less than the structure turn outs for Allegheny. Grant total projected cost: \$10,581 (half to be paid by CDF)
- ❖ CDF 50/50 grant for Fiscal year 22/23 – An application for equipment for 10 hose packs was submitted timely. This will be split 50/50 between both depts. if awarded. Notifications of award or denial usually go out in August. Total projected cost \$10,328. (half to be paid by CDF)
- ❖ ~~Homeland Security Grants~~  
Upon talking to Lee Brown after the last PRCSD meeting, I was informed that the homeland security grant money was allocated to the Sheriff’s Department by the Sierra County Board of Supervisors. The fire departments have benefited greatly since the program went into place. Lee is looking into other possible funding sources.

~~SIREN FOR STATION 2 IN ALLEGHENY~~

~~LIFT KITS & THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA FOR PIKE FIRE~~

## Firewise email to County Forester Dannielle Bradfield dated 5/13/2022

Hi Danielle:

I browsed the Board of Supervisor's agenda for next week and was happy to see the list of potential fuel reduction projects that could be or are "shovel ready". I saw that you did include hwy corridors as exempt from the permitting rules (timber harvest plan etc) but noticed that clearing within 100 feet of existing structures is not listed. In my role with our local water district, I had a meeting a year or so ago with a CDF Forester and I thought that he said clearing can be done within 100 feet of an existing structure without a timber harvest plan or permit. Is that correct?

I have brought up the idea of using the County's pot of title III money that must be used up by Sept. 2023 to contract with the local fire districts (or it could be the firesafe council) to help residents who are interested in help to clear around their homes.

I thought that working with the local fire districts might be a good way to do it, since they have a close tie and intimate knowledge of their communities. Below is part of my March PRCSD Staff report on the topic of requesting title III funds from the BOS:

"It does look like fuel reduction in the home ignition zone for firewise communities is an authorized use [of the title III funds]. Assuming this is correct, I suggest asking for \$ for actual on-the-ground fuel reduction work in Pike and Alleghany. It could be handled by the district in a couple of different ways. I verified with the district's insurance company that we COULD use district employees (firefighters and pay them) to do this type of work. OR we could hire licensed and insured individuals/businesses to do the work. Because PRCSD is signed up under the Calif. Uniform Cost Construction accounting acct (CUCCA) we can negotiate contracts without having to go out to bid if they are under \$60,000 we can also use our own workforce for jobs under that amount. The district should expect to pay an on the ground project co-ordinator and an administrator to see the projects through, and that should be included in the funding request. "

NOTE: I am not sure if my interpretation of CUCCA in regards to outside contracts is correct. Something came up recently that made me wonder about that. I think that using volunteer fire fighters as district employees to do the work might be a way to enhance volunteer recruitment and retention for the fire departments.

I did have quite a bit of back-and-forth email correspondence with Van Maddox, Lee Adams and Tim Beals on the idea. Van said that a plan approved by the Forest Service was needed, and I was wondering if the firewise community assessments could be used?

Even if this does not work out for the title III money, I wanted to mention the rule about removing trees from around existing structures.

Thank you.

Rae Bell Arbogast