



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dustin Gardner

Fire Chief

2400 Conejo Spectrum Street, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

Website: **VCFD.org**
Twitter: **@VCFD**
Facebook: **@VenturaCountyFire**
Instagram: **@VenturaCountyFire**

Contact: **Dustin Gardner**
Fire Chief
Phone: **(805) 389-9704**
Email: **dustin.gardner@ventura.org**

June 3, 2025

Board of Directors, Ventura County Fire Protection District

SUBJECT: Approval and Ratification of the Participation in, Acceptance of, and Execution of the Grant Proposal with Ventura County Fire Protection District (Fire District) as a Sub-Recipient for a Grant Application Submitted by Central Ventura Fire Safe Council (CVFSC) to the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) FY2024/2025 Community Wildfire Defense Grant, with a submission deadline of March 31, 2025 to fund two extra-help retired fire prevention personnel for a fixed term of 5 years, working 960 hours per year; each member will be paid \$57,600 per year for a total aggregate for of \$576,000.
(RECOMMENDATION NO. 2 REQUIRES 4/5THS VOTE)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve and ratify participation in, acceptance of, and execution of the grant proposal with the Fire District as a sub-recipient for a grant application submitted by CVFSC to the USFS FY2024/2025 Community Wildfire Defense Grant, with a submission deadline of March 31, 2025, to fund two extra-help retired fire prevention personnel for a fixed term of 5 years, working 960 hours per year; each member will be paid \$57,600 per year for a total budget of \$576,000.
2. Authorize the Auditor-Controller's Office to process the necessary accounting transactions to establish the following revenue and appropriations.
(RECOMMENDATION NO. 2 REQUIRES 4/5THS VOTE)

Increase/Decrease	Budget Division	Account Level	Amount
Increase	2700	Intergovernmental Revenue	\$115,200
Increase	2700	Salaries & Benefits	\$115,200

REASON FOR RATIFICATION:

The Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program, USFS, announced their funding opportunity for applications in late January 2025, with a submission due date of March 31, 2025. The narrow window for proposals did not allow the Fire District adequate time to collaborate with CVFSC and regional stakeholders to prepare and submit an application prior to obtaining formal Board approval. Therefore, the Fire District petitioned the County Executive Office and received approval to submit the grant application without formal Board approval to meet the deadline.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no cost share match required. However, the Fire District will provide an in-kind contribution of \$655,416 with approximately 19,000 fire hazard inspections that occur annually.

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Revenues	\$ 115,200	\$115,200
Costs	\$ 115,200	\$115,200
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0

Funding Source(s): USDA Forest Service

Match Requirement: None

DISCUSSION:

The Fire District's portion of the grant proposal is for the implementation of prevention projects before wildfires occur. Although the Fire District has a multi-faceted wildfire prevention and education program in place, collaboration with regional stakeholders and utilizing science-based pre-mitigation methodologies for fire hazard reduction, fire adaptative and resistant landscaping, and proven education strategies will enhance our ability to suppress and reduce the effects to life, property, and environments throughout our community.

The lead agency for this grant is CVFSC and is seeking an aggregate total of \$4,282,697 to fund the proposed Community-Scale Wildfire Resilience in Ventura County project. The intent of the project is to engage and empower Ventura County's most vulnerable populations and high fire risk communities to create long-term

mitigations from the effects of wildfires. This will be accomplished through educating homeowners, offering professional training to landscapers, removing dead vegetation, and suggesting retrofitting of landscaping around homes with fire adaptative and resistant plant specimens to enhance home hardening. During wildfires this will increase defensible spaces. The Fire District is participating as a sub-recipient and is requesting funding for two retired Fire District prevention personnel to assist in the implementation and delivery of the project.

Additionally, our collaboration and proposal expands community engagement and benefits adjacent stakeholders towards mitigating and educating the region about wildfires. If the grant proposal is awarded by USFS, the period of performance is 5 years from the time of the award notification. (Exhibit 1)

The Fire District's fiscal bureau will ensure its local competitive bid process conforms to applicable Federal Office of Management and Budget policies during the lifecycle of the grant. Additionally, all invoices, tracking, and required reporting and documentation will be adhered to during the performance period of the grant. We ask that your Board approve the sub-recipient participation.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This item supports the County's Strategic Plan for providing Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities. The grant award will be used for staffing costs to enhance community education and wildfire home hardening through retrofitting landscaping around homes with fire adaptative plant specimens. The Fire District promotes the prevention of wildfires by engaging and empowering Ventura County's most vulnerable populations in high fire risk communities.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact me at (805) 389-9704 or Tom Kasper at (805) 389-9764.



DUSTIN GARDNER
Fire Chief

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DG/TK/GF:dm

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – FY2024 Community Wildfire Defense Grant Application