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BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 24, 2014
12:45 p.m., Board Room

The following agenda items are listed for Committee consideration. In accordance with the Board Operating Guidelines, no official action of the Board will be taken at this meeting; rather, the Committee's purpose shall be to review the listed items and to consider developing recommendations to the Board of Directors.

A copy of the background materials concerning these agenda items, including any material that may have been submitted less than 72 hours before the meeting, is available for inspection on the District's website (www.ebparks.org), the Headquarters reception desk, and at the meeting.

AGENDA

<u>STATUS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
R	12:45	1. Authorization to Transfer Board Contingency Funds: Buckeye Flats Staging Area, Briones Regional Park	O'Connor
I	1:00	2. Update on Concord Naval Weapons Station	Tong / Holt
I	1:20	3. 2015 Fuels Management Program and Fuels Costs Analysis	McCormick / Gallup
		4. Public Comments	

- (R) Recommendation for Future Board Consideration
- (I) Information
- (D) Discussion

Executive Committee Members

Ayn Wieskamp (Chair); John Sutter; Whitney Dotson
 Ted Radke, Alternate
 Robert E. Doyle, Staff Coordinator

Future Meetings:

January 9	July 10
February 27	August 14
March 13	September 11
April 10	October 9
May 7	November 13
June 12	December 11
June 24	

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Jim O'Connor



BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting of June 24, 2014

TO: Board Executive Committee

FROM: Robert Doyle, General Manager

STAFF REPORT PREPARED BY: Jim O'Connor, Assistant General Manager, Operations

SUBJECT: Authorization to Transfer Board Contingency Funds:
Buckeye Flats Staging Area, Briones Regional Park

Jim O'Connor, Assistant General Manager, will make a presentation on this agenda item.

BACKGROUND

In 1999, the Board of Directors adopted the Buckeye Ranch Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) for Briones Regional Park, Resolution No. 1999-2-36. The adopted LUPA identified the need for development of a public staging area and modest recreational facilities. The staging area development and improvements will be located at the site known as Buckeye Flats which is adjacent to the Girl Scout Camp on Springhill Road in Lafayette. Project costs have been estimated as follows:

Expand the graveled area 30 feet to form a parking lot	\$8,400
Upgrade to standard District wooden rail fence and ADA pedestrian gate	\$3,600
Install picnic tables and informational panel	\$4,100
Install CXT vault toilet	<u>\$23,000</u>
TOTAL	\$39,100

Recently, \$10,000 was transferred from the Assistant General Manager of Operations Contingency account to begin the improvements. The remaining funds needed to complete the project is being requested through several transfers; the General Manager has committed \$10,000 from the General Manager Contingency account and the Assistant General Manager of Operations has committed an additional \$4,100 from the Operations Contingency account. Staff is requesting the balance of \$15,000 from the Board Contingency account to complete the final phase of the project which includes installation of the CXT vault toilet.

The Buckeye Flats Staging Area improvement project has been long delayed due to lack of funding. The authorization to transfer \$15,000 from the Board Contingency account would ensure completion of this project in 2014.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Committee approve and recommend to the full Board the transfer of \$15,000 from the Board Contingency account to the Buckeye Flats Staging Area improvement project.

BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting of June 24, 2014

TO: Board Executive Committee

FROM: Robert Doyle, General Manager

**STAFF REPORT
PREPARED BY:** Brian Holt, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Concord Hills Regional Park (CNWS)

Brian Holt, Senior Planner, will make a presentation on this agenda item.

BACKGROUND

The 5,028-acre Inland Area of the Concord Naval Weapons Station was officially closed by the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) in November 2005. The City of Concord, acting as the Local Reuse Authority, initiated a multi-year community planning process culminating in the adoption of a Reuse Plan in 2010. This plan was further refined and integrated into Concord's General Plan through the adoption of the Concord Reuse Project Area Plan (Area Plan) in January 2012.

The adopted Area Plan provides for development of over 12,200 new housing units, over 6.1 million square feet of commercial floor space, and a variety of community facilities and city parks. The proposed development would primarily be clustered on the western portion of the former base. The adopted Area Plan also includes a new regional park of 2,537 acres located on the eastern portion of the site to be conveyed to the District through a public benefit conveyance.

The Board authorized submittal of an application for a public benefit conveyance through the National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks program on September 3, 2013. On May 8, 2014, the National Park Service informed the District that the Public Benefit Conveyance application for 2,540 acres of the former Concord Naval Weapons Station was approved and that they will grant a public benefit allowance of 100 percent of the fair market value of the property to be conveyed.

Prior to conveyance, the Navy must complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Navy is expected to release a draft EIS for public review in the fall of 2014. The Navy expects to complete a Record of Decision for the EIS and prepare a Finding of Suitability for Transfer (FOST) for the first phase of property conveyances by the end of 2015. Approximately, 2,453 acres of land to be conveyed to the District are included in the initial FOST boundaries. The remaining ~84 acres

would be retained by the Navy for ongoing remediation and conveyed once clean-up is complete.

The current schedule estimates that the initial transfer of the 2,453 acres found suitable for transfer within the proposed regional park area could be conveyed in the first or second quarter of 2016.

Staff is currently exploring the next steps for land use planning, including identifying the studies necessary to allow for the completion of a land use plan, to be coordinated with the conveyance schedule.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for the Committee's information only. Staff will present information on the program of utilization approved in the public benefit conveyance application, steps necessary to complete the conveyance, and the land use planning process.

BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting of June 24, 2014

TO: Board Executive Committee

FROM: Robert Doyle, General Manager

**STAFF REPORT
PREPARED BY:** Dan McCormick, Fire Chief
Dave Collins, AGM, Finance & Management Services

SUBJECT: 2015 Fuels Management Program of Work and Fuels Cost Analysis

Fire Chief Dan McCormick, Fire Captain Brad Gallup, Grants Manager Jeff Rasmussen, and Stewardship Manager Matt Graul will present this item to the Board Executive Committee for review and discussion.

BACKGROUND

On April 20, 2010, the District's Board of Directors approved the *Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan* (Plan) and the accompanying CEQA document which covers hill and shoreline parklands from Richmond to Castro Valley within the Measure CC funded area. The approved Plan recommends that a Fuels Treatment Plan be prepared, updated on an annual basis, and provided to the Board for consideration in advance of the annual budget process.

The Fire Department, Stewardship and other members of the District's Interdisciplinary Fuels Group prepare the annual fuels plan, which includes all fuels management projects to be conducted during the year, as well as prescribed burns to meet resource objectives. This includes projects both within the Measure CC area and the District as a whole.

The overall Fuels Management Program is complex, and the annual work plan is reviewed by the Board Executive Committee in advance of the annual budget process to provide an opportunity for the Board and interested members of the public to be well informed on the progress of this critical District function. This is also an opportunity for the Board to discuss the short and long-term goals, progress to date, and costs of the program in a focused setting.

This report recaps the overall status of fuels management work previously undertaken, the work underway in 2014, and projects anticipated for 2015 and beyond. The report is updated each year to reflect the continuing progress on permits, grant applications and awards, and discusses trends, funding sources, and management strategies. The report consists of this memo supported by exhibits providing additional details of the annual work plan.

A. The "Plan", Recommended Treatment Areas, Prescriptions, and Priorities

The Plan, as adopted, is available in its entirety on the District's website in the Stewardship/Resources section under Wildfire Hazard Reduction. Related information at this website includes a detailed location map of all of the recommended treatment areas (RTA),

with numerical identifiers that can be cross referenced with specific information about each one. Over the past 4 years, the Fire Department and staff from Stewardship and Operations have completed and posted fuels management prescriptions for each upcoming recommended treatment area, consistent with the Plan and based on site investigations by professional Stewardship and Fire staff.

The Fire Department and Stewardship staff use these RTA prescriptions to plan and prioritize annual treatments based on fire hazard, permitting, staff capacity, and funding availability. The annual fuels plan is assembled, reviewed, and undertaken to the extent that funds are available and/or are made available through the budget process. Following each treatment cycle for either initial entry or ongoing maintenance, Stewardship staff conducts site visits and records observations regarding vegetation changes, species of concern, or any related issues. Staff from the Fire and Stewardship Departments update the prescriptions for the following season if needed. All work proposed for the annual work plan complies with the adopted Plan protocols, and is in accordance with the prescriptions as they are updated on a continuing basis.

The Plan anticipates eventual initial entry and ongoing management of a total of 3,100 acres in the management zone by 2025. The District manages another 275 acres of eucalyptus and other vegetation in other parks for wildfire prevention purposes. By the end of 2015, with FEMA funding in place, it is expected that the acreage for which the District will be undertaking continuing maintenance (initial entry plus ongoing maintenance activities) will be approximately 1,230 acres in the management zone, plus 275 acres in other parks – or a total of 1,505 acres; approximately half-way to the long-term goal.

B. 2013 and 2014 Recap

In 2013, initial entry work was completed on several sites:

- 15 acres of ladder and surface fuel reduction at Kennedy Grove
- 19 acres of eucalyptus removal at the Sibley Triangle

The District's resource management prescribed broadcast burn program is continuing in 2014. Approximately 50 acres of native prairie grassland in Point Pinole are scheduled for burning this year.

By the end of 2014, a total of 80 acres of new, initial entry work is expected to be completed at Briones, Lake Chabot, Leona, Redwood, Tilden, and Wildcat Canyon. In the Fuels Plan area, approximately 700 acres across 9 parks will be maintained using goat grazing, prescribed burns, and chemical, mechanical, and hand labor in accordance with the prescriptions and treatment protocols adopted in the Plan. An additional 270 acres in 7 parks that do not fall under the Plan will also be maintained. The total area being maintained starting in 2015 will be 1,046 acres.

C. Grants and Permits

The District's Vegetation Management program is conducted in accordance with all applicable permits and is supported in part by financial assistance from Federal and State grant funding through FEMA and CalEMA. In 2010, following completion of the Plan and settlement of the CEQA lawsuit, FEMA awarded the District a \$3 million grant for vegetation work in Alameda Striped Racer (formerly Whipsnake) habitat. FEMA began drafting the Biological Opinion and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to provide endangered species clearance for the entire Plan (the review also includes approximately \$3 million in grants to the City of Oakland and UC Berkeley). In 2013, FEMA completed the Biological Opinion and released a 3,000-page EIS for public comment. The public hearing and EIS process is ongoing and could be completed by late 2014. The publishing of the Biological Opinion and the anticipated approval of the EIS are significant steps in providing the District with the ability to work in identified Alameda Striped Racer habitat, and will also lead to the release of grant funding to undertake the work. In exchange, however, the District will be required to conduct additional studies, establish permanent conservation easements, and perform additional monitoring and management work beyond that already established in the Plan.

For the above reasons, the anticipated work plan for 2015 and beyond includes provisional estimates of what work may be undertaken should the EIS be completed and FEMA grant funding released in time for the 2015 work season. Absent timely conclusion of this process and availability of funds, the work plan will be modified and reduced in scope.

D. 2015 Initial Entry

Out of the approximately 3,100 acres of treatment areas identified in the Plan, approximately 750 will have received initial treatment by the end of 2014. In 2015, using currently available Measure CC and General Fund-sourced monies, and expected FEMA grants, the District anticipates undertaking initial entry into an additional area of approximately 400 acres. Setting this very high acreage goal is necessary in order to stay on pace to complete grant requirements within the 3 year time line. Reaching this goal in one year (and repeating nearly the same initial treatment acres in 2016 and 2017) presents a daunting challenge to staff given our current capabilities, and staff and contract capacity may need to be increased. **Attachment A (Fuels Management Summary)** lists the RTA's, by park, both within and outside of the Plan area that are scheduled to be completed in 2014 and 2015.

E. Ongoing Annual Maintenance

Stewardship and Fire staff revisit each treated RTA annually to assess the condition of the vegetative cover as the tree canopy is removed or reduced and the latent seed bank emerges under the new conditions. As noted previously, staff updates and adjusts the prescriptions as appropriate to maintain a safe landscape per the plan, and to minimize the incursion of invasive, non-native species. **Attachment A (Fuels Management Summary)** also lists the maintenance RTA's, by park, and the acres that will be reviewed and maintained as required.

F. Costs

Initial entry work is expensive, usually due to the major tree work involved, but costs vary widely from site to site due to access, environmental conditions, vegetation type and density and other factors. Initial entry costs are considered to be "one time". However, as the District undertakes initial entry work in any RTA, we effectively assume the responsibility for perpetual annual monitoring and maintenance; therefore, a discussion of future costs must include an escalating expense for annual maintenance based on the accumulation of acres previously treated and new acres treated.

Annual maintenance work, as has been undertaken over the past several years, has averaged approximately \$1,200 per acre for annual treatments, and includes costs for mechanical treatments, hand crews, goats, and other vegetation management activities. It is hoped that as the preferred, more stable, mixes of vegetation are achieved under the plan, that this annual per-acre cost number will be reduced; however, for the next several years, this per-acre cost will be used to estimate the projected future cost of the program.

Attachment B (Estimated Costs) models the expected costs of the program, for initial entry and ongoing annual maintenance presuming that the District receives the permits and FEMA grant money is available in 2015. The District currently has some Measure CC funding remaining, and the FEMA grant money can fund both initial entry and ongoing expense (for the three years of the grant); however, the Committee should be aware that, under current assumptions, by 2020, the District will need to plan on appropriating an annual amount of funding in excess of \$3 million for the annual maintenance of the treated areas, and up to \$4 million by 2025 when all designated Plan RTA's have been addressed. Staff will continue to seek grants, and plan for the renewal of Measure CC to assist in funding these anticipated expenses.

Recommendation and Conclusion

Staff responsible for the Plan implementation will present the materials to the Committee, answer questions and support the Committee's review of the program. Staff welcomes the Committee's comments and will seek to incorporate interests raised by Committee Members into the 2015 Work Plan and the Preliminary 2015 Annual District Budget.

Attachment A: Fuels Management Summary for 2013, 2014, and 2015
Attachment B: Estimated Costs for Fuels Management 2014-2025

FUELS MANAGEMENT SUMMARY 2013-2014-2015

Attachment A

	Year 2013 (Actual)	Year 2014 (Planned)*	Year 2015 (Planned)*						
PARK	Maintenance RTAs	Maint. Acres	Initial Treatment Acres	Maintenance RTAs	Maint. Acres	Initial Treatment Acres	Maintenance RTAs	Maint. Acres	Initial Treatment Acres
WITHIN PLAN AREA									
Anthony Chabot	AC001, AC004, AC006, AC007, AC008b, AC013, Poly603	291		AC001, AC004, AC006, AC007, AC008b, AC013, Poly603	291		AC001, AC004, AC006, AC007, AC008b, AC013, Poly603	291	180
Claremont Canyon	CC001, CC002, CC003, CC004, CC008, CC009	40		CC001, CC002, CC003, CC004, CC008, CC009	40		CC001, CC002, CC003, CC004, CC008, CC009	40	115
Huckleberry Kennedy Grove			15	KG002, KG003, KG004	15		KG002, KG003, KG004	15	
Lake Chabot	LC009	14		LC009, LC010	14	9	LC009, LC010	23	
Leona	LE001, LE003, LE004	18		LE001, LE003, LE004	18	5	LE001, LE003, LE004, LE005	23	43
Miller/Knox	MK001, MK002, MK003, MK005	11		MK001, MK002, MK003, MK005	11		MK001, MK002, MK003, MK005	11	
Point Pinole	PP001	50		PP001	50		PP001	50	
Redwood	RD001, RD004	63		RD001, RD004	63	1	RD001, RD002, RD004	64	64
Sibley	SR002a, SR002b, SR003, SR005	37	19	SR002a, SR002b, SR003, SR005	56		SR002a, SR002b, SR003, SR005	56	
Sobrante Ridge	SO002	13		SO002	13		SO002	13	
Temescal									

*Note: All planned work is subject to change, based on grant fund availability

FUELS MANAGEMENT SUMMARY 2013-2014-2015

Attachment A

PARK	Year 2013 (Actual)		Year 2014 (Planned)*		Year 2015 (Planned)*				
	Maintenance RTAs	Maint. Acres	Initial Treatment Acres	Maintenance RTAs	Maint. Acres	Initial Treatment Acres			
Tilden	TI002a, TI006, TI008a, TI008b, TI009, TI010, TI011, TI012, TI015, TI022	71		TI002a, TI006, TI008a, TI008b, TI009, TI010, TI011, TI012, TI015, TI022	71	46	TI002a, TI004, TI006, TI007a,b,c, TI008a,b, TI009, TI010, TI011, TI012, TI015, TI022	117	
Wildcat	WC001, WC002, WC004, WC005, WC009, WC011	56		WC001, WC002, WC004, WC005, WC009, WC011	56	14	WC001, WC002, WC004, WC005, WC009, WC011	70	
Subtotal, Within Plan Area		664	34		698	75		773	402
OUTSIDE PLAN AREA									
Ardenwood	Poly998, Poly999	41		Poly998, Poly999	41		Poly998, Poly999	41	
Bishop Ranch	Poly924	35		Poly924	35		Poly924	35	
Briones						5		5	
Camp Arroyo	Poly918, Poly919, Poly920	16		Poly918, Poly919, Poly920	16		Poly918, Poly919, Poly920	16	
Carquinez	Poly992, Poly941-Poly947	44		Poly992, Poly941-Poly947	44		Poly992, Poly941-Poly947	44	
Cull Canyon	Poly925	32		Poly925	32		Poly925	32	
Garin	Poly926-Poly929, Poly993, Poly996	66		Poly926-Poly929, Poly993, Poly996	66		Poly926-Poly929, Poly993, Poly996	66	
Las Trampas	Poly923, Poly980	34		Poly923, Poly980	34		Poly923, Poly980	34	
Round Valley	Poly960, Poly962	32			0			0	
Subtotal, Outside Plan Area		300			268	5		273	

*Note: All planned work is subject to change, based on grant fund availability

FUELS MANAGEMENT SUMMARY 2013-2014-2015

Attachment A

	Year 2013 (Actual)		Year 2014 (Planned)*		Year 2015 (Planned)*	
PARK	Maintenance RTAs	Maint. Acres	Initial Treatment Acres	Maintenance RTAs	Maint. Acres	Initial Treatment Acres
		964	34		966	80
	GRAND TOTAL				1,046	402

*Note: All planned work is subject to change, based on grant fund availability

Fire Department's Estimated Costs for Fuels Management 2014 through 2025

Attachment B

(assumes approx \$3M in grants, tied to FEMA's ROD)

Year	New Initial Treatment - Fuels Plan Area		Maintenance - Fuels Plan Area		Maintenance - Outside Fuels Plan Area		Total - Initial Treatment and Maintenance		Total Funding Available (CC, Grants, & GF)	Projected Deficit
	Acres	Cost	Acres	Cost	Acres	Cost	Acres	Cost		
2012	125	\$500,000	600	\$720,000	270	\$324,000	995	\$1,544,000		
2013	25	\$400,000	725	\$870,000	270	\$324,000	1,020	\$1,594,000		
2014	80	\$450,000	750	\$900,000	275	\$330,000	1,105	\$1,680,000		
2015	400	\$1,405,000	830	\$996,000	275	\$330,000	1,505	\$2,731,000	\$2,731,000	-
2016	350	\$1,229,500	1,230	\$1,476,000	275	\$330,000	1,855	\$3,035,500	\$3,035,500	-
2017	350	\$1,229,500	1,580	\$1,896,000	275	\$330,000	2,205	\$3,455,500	\$1,696,500	(\$1,759,000)
2018	170	\$1,700,000	1,930	\$2,316,000	275	\$330,000	2,375	\$4,346,000	\$641,000	(\$3,705,000)
2019	170	\$1,700,000	2,100	\$2,520,000	275	\$330,000	2,545	\$4,550,000	\$200,000	(\$4,350,000)
2020	170	\$1,700,000	2,270	\$2,724,000	275	\$330,000	2,715	\$4,754,000	\$200,000	(\$4,554,000)
2021	170	\$1,700,000	2,440	\$2,928,000	275	\$330,000	2,885	\$4,958,000	\$200,000	(\$4,758,000)
2022	170	\$1,700,000	2,610	\$3,132,000	275	\$330,000	3,055	\$5,162,000	\$200,000	(\$4,962,000)
2023	170	\$1,700,000	2,780	\$3,336,000	275	\$330,000	3,225	\$5,366,000	\$200,000	(\$5,166,000)
2024	150	\$1,500,000	2,950	\$3,540,000	275	\$330,000	3,375	\$5,370,000	\$200,000	(\$5,170,000)
2025	-	-	3,100	\$3,720,000	275	\$330,000	3,375	\$4,050,000	\$200,000	(\$3,850,000)