

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

To: **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Date: **MARCH 11, 2008**

From: **JAMES DURFEE / ALBERT RICHIE**

Subject: **2008 CLEAN AIR GRANT APPLICATION**

ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the Department of Facility Services to apply for grant funds in the amount of \$100,000 for the purchase of a self-propelled, track driven chipper from the 2008 Clean Air Grant Program administered by the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and appoint the Director of Facility Services as an agent of the County to execute all necessary documents associated with the Grant Program.

BACKGROUND: The annual Clean Air Grant Program is administered by APCD to provide funding for projects that will help reduce emissions and assist the six-county Sacramento Federal Ozone Non-Attainment Area in achieving health-based ambient air quality standards. This program is funded by a combination of the State Department of Motor Vehicle Registration Fees and from off-site air pollution mitigation fees paid by new development. Over the past few years, changes in clean air regulations have forced the Department of Facility Services to find alternatives to vegetation control that would achieve fire safety and land management objectives while minimizing emissions.

Last year your Board granted Facility Services authority to apply for the 2007 Clean Air Grant Program for the purchase of a masticator unit. The department was successful with that grant and was able to fund the purchase of the masticator unit primarily with grant funds. The masticator unit will assist greatly in establishing and maintaining the shaded fuel breaks at Hidden Falls and other sites throughout the County.

Facility Services, working with the local fire agencies, has placed a high priority on reducing fuel loads on County owned parcels on the eastern slope of the County to reduce the likelihood of a catastrophic wildfire. The current priority is the Squaw Valley Park property, but there are several other County owned parcels and facilities on the Eastern Slope that will be evaluated in the near future. County staff has determined a self-propelled, track driven chipper would contribute significantly in accomplishing the objectives of fuel load reduction while minimizing emissions. This track driven chipper would supplement efforts already under way including volunteer and staff labor, California Conservation Corps hand crews and the County Chipper Program utilizing Cal Fire crews. Once on site, the unit is self-propelled and has the ability to navigate a certain amount of uneven terrain. These efforts would, at a minimum, be consistent with the Hazardous Vegetation Abatement Ordinance adopted by your Board for the Eastern Slope (County Code Section 9.32 Part 4).

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of: **A RESOLUTION OF THE PLACER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS UNDER THE 2008 CLEAN AIR GRANT PROGRAM**

Resol. No: _____
Ord No: _____
First Reading: _____

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Attest:
Clerk of said Board

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS, the Placer County Air Pollution Control District administers the Clean Air Grant Program and provides funding to help reduce emissions and assist the six-county Sacramento Federal Ozone Non-Attainment Area in attaining health based ambient air quality standards; and

WHEREAS, Placer County is responsible for an ongoing program of fuel load and vegetation management on natural areas of County property to reduce fire danger and maintain accesses; and

WHEREAS, Placer County seeks support from the Clean Air Grant Program to acquire equipment in order to reduce emissions from burning vegetation by means of mechanical reduction; and

WHEREAS, if successful, Placer County will enter into Contract with the Placer County Air Pollution Control Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Placer County Board of Supervisors hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an Application for funds under the Clean Air Grant Program; and
2. Finds that the reduced emissions that will result from funding equipment acquisition are not required by any local, state, and/or federal rule or regulation; and
3. Finds that the proposed application is consistent with one or more of the qualifying categories specified in the Clean Air Grant Program Information and Guidelines; and
4. Appoints the Director of Department of Facility Services as agent to execute and submit all necessary documents required and associated with the 2008 Clean Air Grant Program.

In addition to efforts required on the Eastern Slope, the County has created approximately 43 acres of shaded fuel breaks and access corridors at the Hidden Falls Regional Park and has an additional 47 acres of steep, thick and hard to access terrain identified within the planned vegetation management areas at this site that will require a variety of equipment. The purchase of a tracked driven chipper will be instrumental in vegetation reduction in these more difficult areas at Hidden Falls and other priority vegetation management areas throughout the County.

To be eligible for the 2008 Clean Air Grant Program, your Board's adoption of the attached Resolution is required. This Resolution will give staff the authority to execute all necessary documents associated with the Grant Program.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE: Adoption of this Resolution by definition does not constitute a project as defined by Section 15378(b)(4&5) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Should the grant application be successful, any subsequent fuel load reduction projects will be evaluated for CEQA compliance on a project by project basis.

FISCAL IMPACT: If the application is approved by APCD, Facility Services will return to your Board with a request to purchase the track driven chipper. The Department anticipates minimal maintenance costs and probable efficiencies by the addition of a versatile piece of equipment such as this.

JD:AR:SS:DB

ATTACHMENTS: RESOLUTION

cc: COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

T:\FAC\BSMEMO2008\APCD CHIPPER GRANT

