



**County Fire Department
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four

MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: December 11, 2018

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
County Counsel Sign-Off	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT PERSON: Steven Murch, ASO PHONE: 559-802-9800				

SUBJECT: Tulare County's Local Assistance for Tree Mortality Program Report

REQUEST(S):
That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive a presentation by the Tulare County Fire Department, regarding the Local Assistance for Tree Mortality Program; and
2. Authorize the Fire Chief to hire ten (10) additional Extra Help Seasonal Firefighters; and
3. Authorize the Fire Chief, or his designee, to procure Tree Mortality project related tools, equipment, and personal protective gear in an amount not to exceed \$31,000; and
4. Authorize the Fire Chief, or his designee, to provide safety training in an amount not to exceed \$24,000; and
5. Approve the necessary budget adjustments, per the attached AUD 308 (4/5ths vote required).

SUMMARY:

In February 6, 2018 the Board approved the Fire Department's participation in the Local Assistance for Tree Mortality Grant Program (LATM). The County has committed to perform \$2.2 million worth of tree mortality related fuel reduction

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activities to be performed with reimbursement for eligible costs via the California Disaster Assistance Act (FEMA funds) and CalFire funding provided by the Local Assistance for Tree Mortality grant program.

Tulare County and nine other Southern Sierra regions are currently faced with a large scale forest die-off as the result of drought and pine-bark beetle infestation, commonly known as "Tree Mortality." Tulare County continues to be the County with the highest number of dead and dying trees in California.

The Fire Department has successfully implemented the Local Assistance for Tree Mortality program over the last ten months and has removed 4,555 trees at a cost of \$201,308 or \$44 per tree as of November 10, 2018. Completed LATM-funded Tree Mortality project areas include Parker Pass and Ponderosa.

Tree removal activities that are reimbursable with CDAA/LATM funding have largely been performed by the County Fire Fuels Crew, a ten person team of Extra Help Seasonal Firefighters, dedicated to fuel reduction activities. These funding sources only allow reimbursement for activities performed by contractors or temporary workers. To date, the County has only engaged private tree fallers for the removal of extremely difficult or unusually dangerous hazard trees; the vast majority of grant-funded tree removal work has been performed by the Fuels Crew.

Given the immense amount of dangerous fuel loads that remain to be removed, and the proven efficiencies realized by utilizing the Fuels Crew, County Fire is requesting the formation of a second Fuels Crew in order to accomplish the hazard tree removals still needed to better protect mountain communities and forested areas. In order to maximize the use of available grant-funding for tree removals and to accelerate the scope and scale of safety-related fuels reduction, it is necessary to double the available Extra Help Seasonal Firefighter workforce.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Board of Supervisors receive this presentation by the Fire Department regarding progress made with the Local Assistance for Tree Mortality Program Report.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

This request requires \$55,000 from the General Fund to pay for equipment and safety training. The attached budget adjustment (AUD 308) provides the budget accounts to be utilized. All expenses will be incurred before December 2019 to meet grant requirements.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Safety and Security initiative. This action helps provide for the safety and security of the public by reducing hazardous fuels and increasing the protection of public infrastructure in the urban wild land interface.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:



Charlie Norman
Fire Chief

Cc: Auditor-Controller
County Counsel/Risk
County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment(s): LATM Presentation
Aud 308

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF TULARE COUNTY'S) Resolution No. _____
LOCAL ASSISTANCE FOR TREE)
MORTALITY PROGRAM REPORT)
)
)
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

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4. Authorized the Fire Chief, or his designee, to provide safety training in an amount not to exceed \$24,000; and
5. Approved the necessary budget adjustments, per the attached AUD 308 (4/5ths vote required).



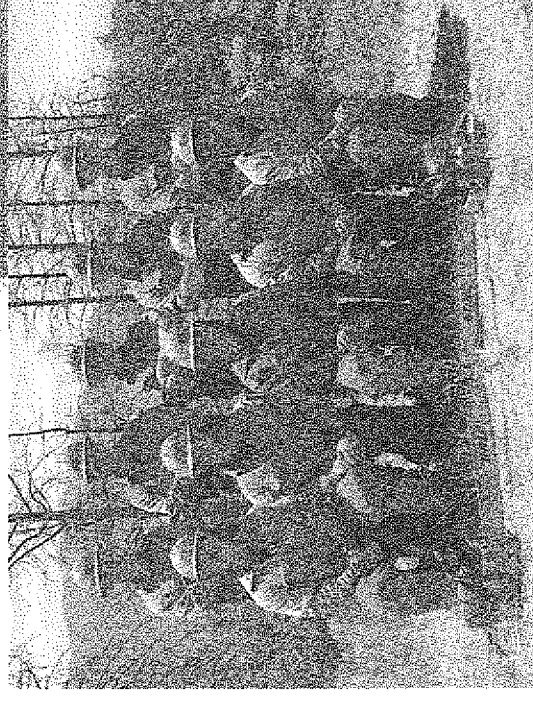
Tulare County Fire Department

Local Assistance for Tree Mortality Program Update



Tulare County Tree Mortality History

- ▶ Tree Mortality Status in Tulare County
 - ▶ 29.2 million dead trees in Tulare County
 - ▶ On February 6, 2018 the BOS committed to perform \$2.2 million in tree removals using CDAA and State LATM grant funds
- ▶ Current Status
 - ▶ To date 4,555 trees have been removed
 - ▶ Total project cost to date - \$201,308
 - ▶ Tulare County Average cost per tree - \$44
 - ▶ State wide cost per tree - \$570



Approved Tree Mortality Projects

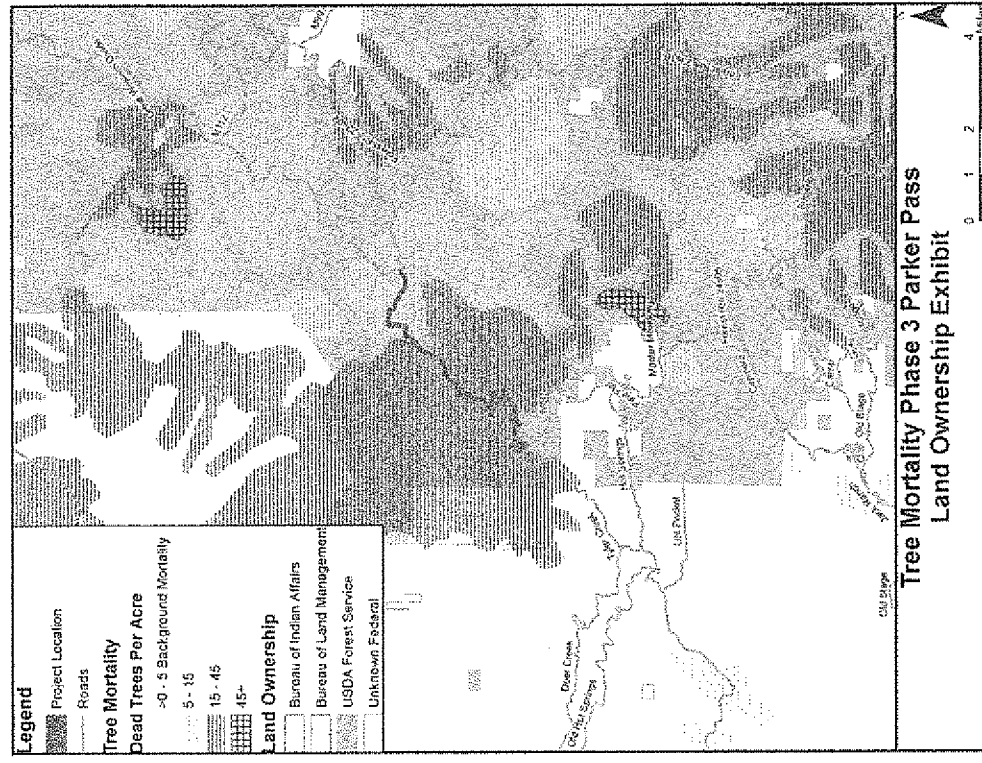
- ▶ Parker Pass - Completed
 - ▶ Ponderosa - Completed
 - ▶ Western Divide 1B - Scheduled for Spring 2019
 - ▶ Western Divide 1A - Scheduled for Summer 2019
 - ▶ Eshom Valley - Scheduled for Fall 2019
-
- ▶ Fuels Crew labor cost for Tree Mortality work is 100% reimbursable by CDAA/LATM



Parker Pass Project

Completed

- ▶ Total Trees Removed: 3,800
- ▶ Total Acres Treated: 425
- ▶ Budgeted Project Cost: \$292,000
- ▶ Actual Project Cost: \$122,188
- ▶ Savings: \$169,812
- ▶ First project using a Contracted Tree Faller

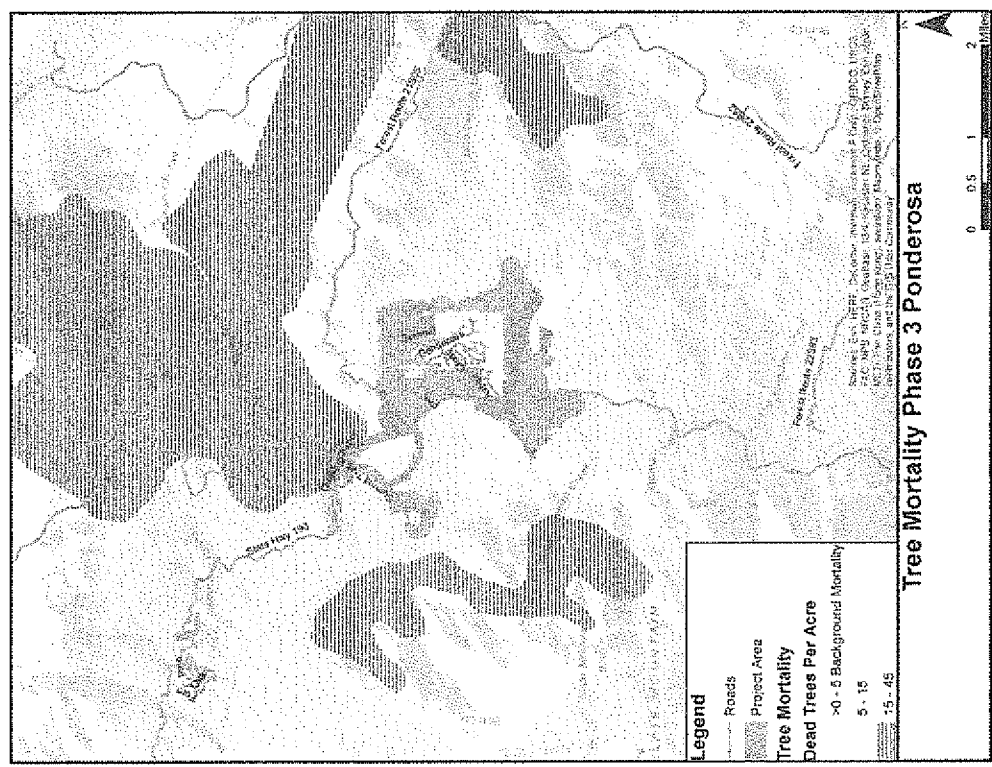


Ponderosa Project

Completed

- ▶ Total Trees Removed: 700
- ▶ Total Acres Treated: 45
- ▶ Budgeted Project Cost: \$195,000
- ▶ Actual Project Cost: \$79,120
- ▶ Savings: \$115,880

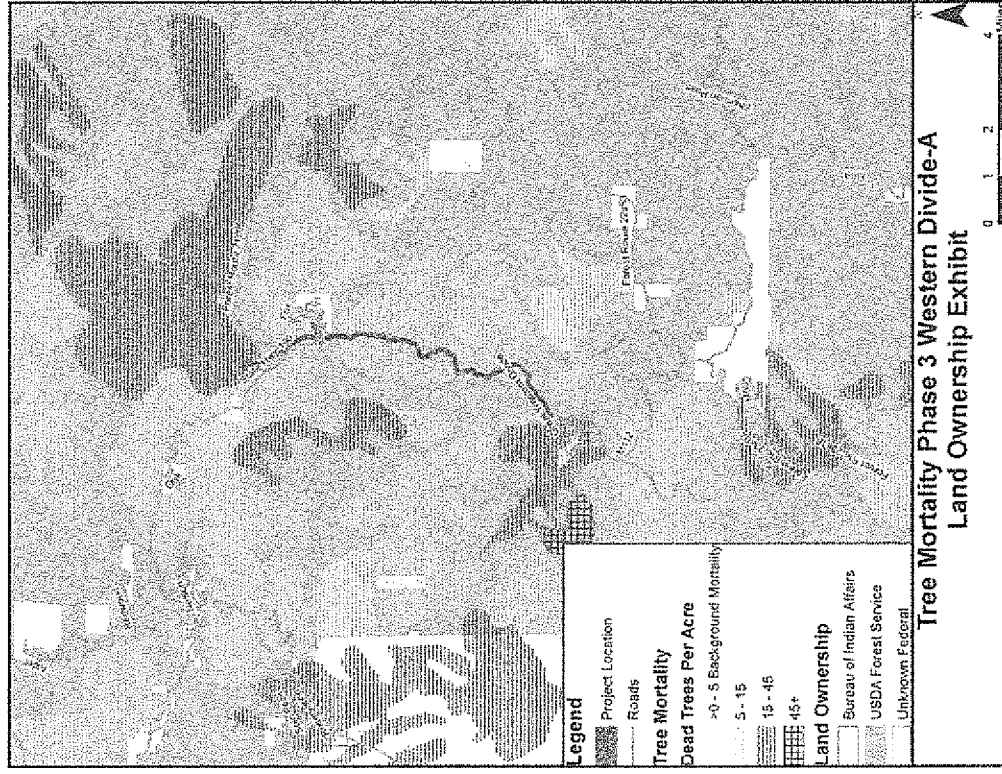
- ▶ Contracted Tree Faller assisted Fuels Crew



Western Divide 1A Project

Great Western Divide Road

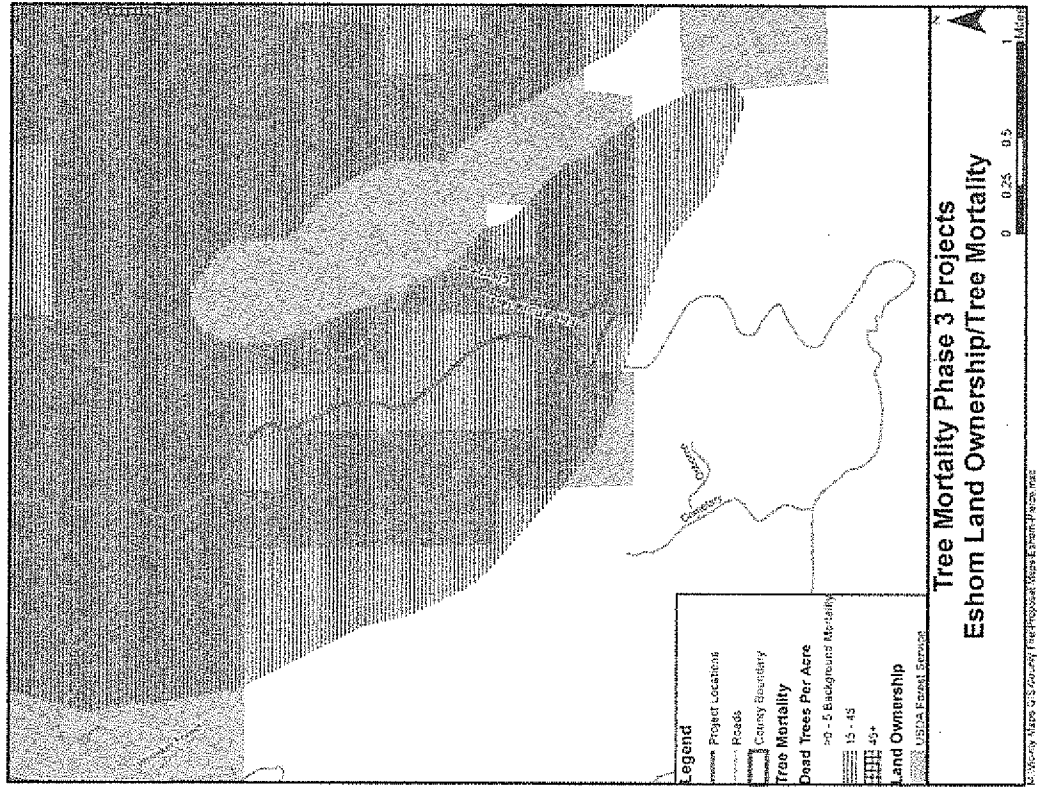
- ▶ Proposed Start Date : Summer 2019
- ▶ Proposed Trees to be Removed: 3,575
- ▶ Proposed Acres to be Treated: 650
- ▶ Budgeted Project Cost: \$520,000



Eshom Valley Project

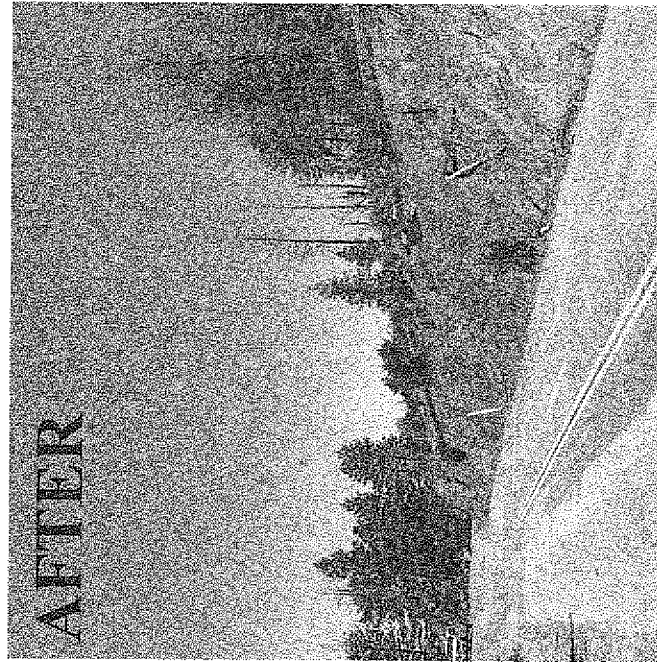
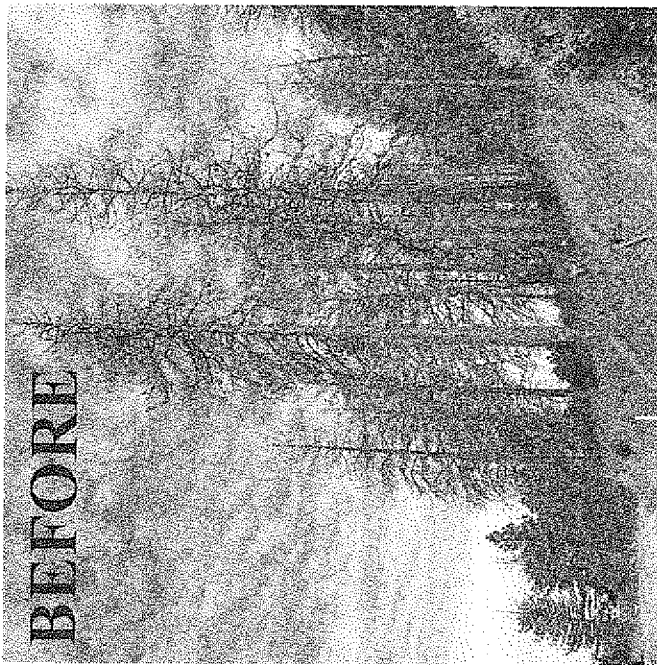
Eshom Valley Drive

- ▶ Proposed Start Date: Fall 2019
- ▶ Proposed Trees to be Removed: 3,500
- ▶ Proposed Acres to be Treated: 580
- ▶ Budgeted Project Cost: \$580,000



Protecting Evacuation Routes

Safety Rationale for Tree Mortality Projects



Parker Pass - Mountain Road 50

Protecting Evacuation Routes

Safety Rationale for Tree Mortality Projects

BEFORE



AFTER



Parker Pass - Mountain Road 50

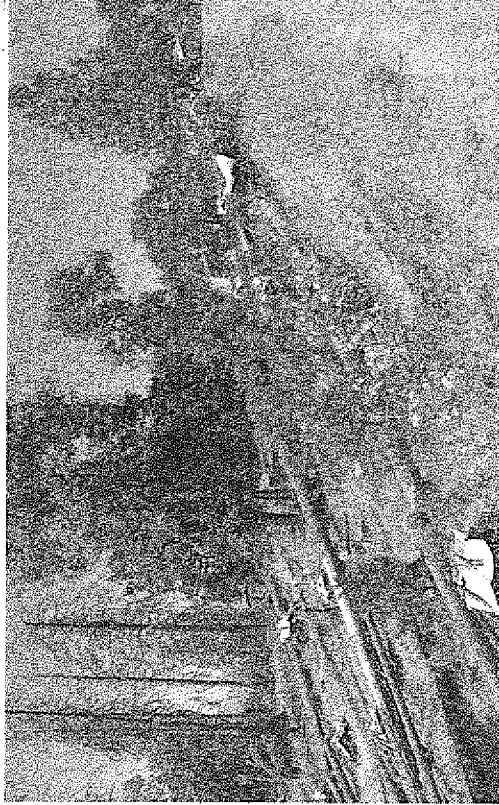
Protecting Evacuation Routes

Safety Rationale for Tree Mortality Projects

BEFORE



AFTER



Parker Pass - Mountain Road 50

Protecting Evacuation Routes

Safety Rationale for Tree Mortality Projects

BEFORE



AFTER



Parker Pass - Mountain Road 50

Protecting Evacuation Routes

Safety Rationale for Tree Mortality Projects

BEFORE



AFTER



Parker Pass - Mountain Road 50

Accomplishments

- ▶ Improved roadside safety for thousands of travelers and residents
- ▶ Successfully secured Parker Pass as a viable evacuation route
- ▶ Reduced the threat of wildfire to the community of Ponderosa
- ▶ Fuels Crew also assisted on a number of emergency incidents including a Technical Rescue of a minor
- ▶ Fuels Crew experienced only one reportable injury : 14,800 hours worked
- ▶ Under budget approximately \$285,692
- ▶ Average of thirty trees removed per day
- ▶ Fuels Crew Program has created an experienced workforce for future County Fire recruitment

Next Steps

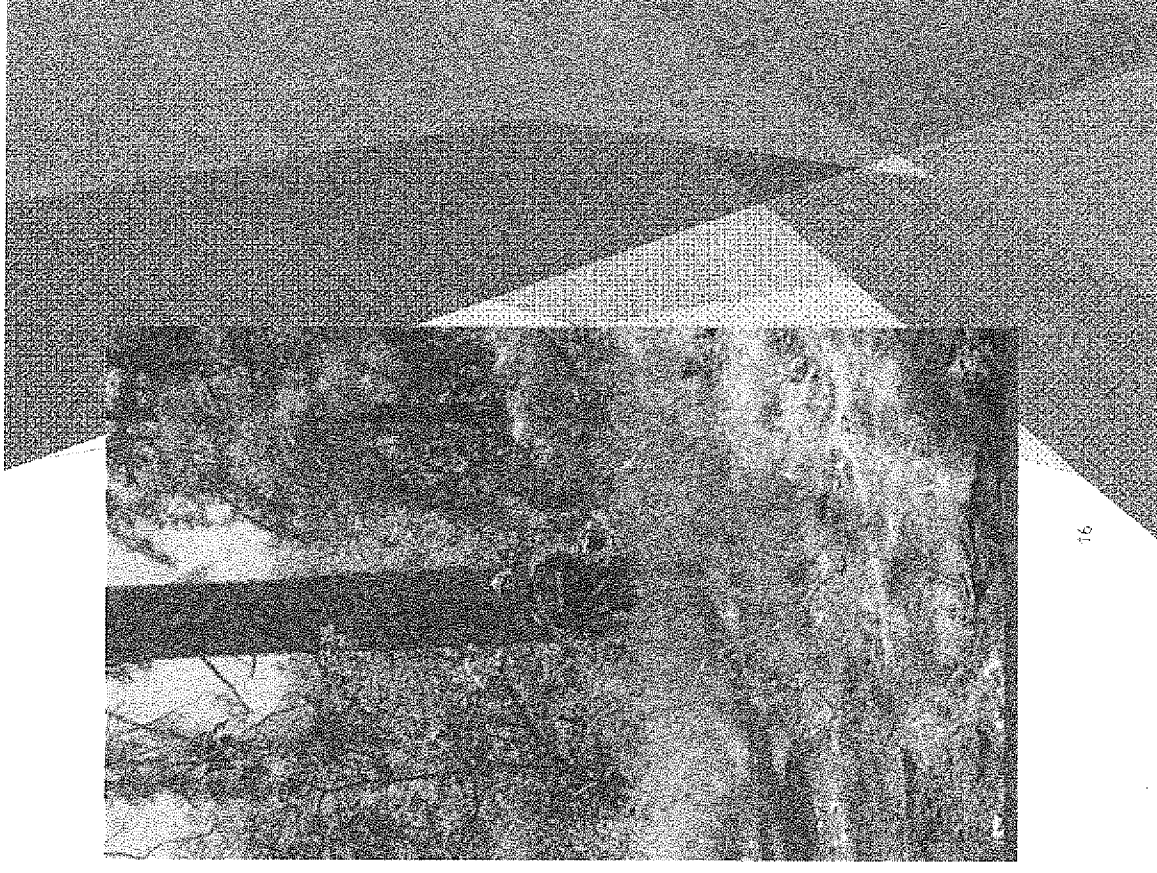
As part of the approved CCI Grants

- ▶ Attain two (2) Ford F250's at an estimated cost of \$45,000 each
- ▶ Attain one (1) Wood Chipper at an estimated cost of \$120,000
- ▶ Chief Norman will begin discussions with the CAO to include these capital assets in the FY 2018/19 Mid Year Review Process or in the FY 2019/20 Budget Process

- ▶ Five (5) CCI grants were approved by the Board on October 30, 2018; Resolution No. 2018-0898

Requested Actions

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Questions and Comments

AUD-308 - Budget Adjustment Form

10:45 AM

12/11/2018				06/19	2019
Date		Document ID Number		Accounting Period	Budget Fiscal Year

Tulare County Fire Department			Steven Murch	802.9804	----
Agency Name			Contact Person	Phone	Extension

Action** A,C,D	Fund	Dept	Appr #	LEVEL 1 Finish Here			Current Amount	Revised Amount	Inc / Dec Amt	
C	001	012	012INTRA				22,760,985	22,815,985	55,000	
C	001	012	012SSUP				7,763,182	7,708,182	(55,000)	
C	013	245	245SSUP				2,167,092	2,198,092	31,000	
C	013	245	245SSBEN				14,743,758	14,767,758	24,000	
									-	
									-	
									-	
									-	
Appropriations Total							<i>Need Not Equal Zero</i>	47,435,017	47,490,017	55,000

Action** A,C,D	Fund	Dept	Appr #	Unit	Object	Rev	LEVEL 2 Start Here	Current Amt	Revised Amount	Inc / Dec Amt
C	001	012	012INTRA	1010	9113			8,000,000	8,055,000	55,000
C	001	012	012SSUP	1010	7066			7,046,568	6,991,568	(55,000)
C	013	245	245SSUP	2100	7066			450,886	481,886	31,000
C	013	245	245SSBEN	2100	6002				14,000	14,000
C	013	245	245SSBEN	2100	6005			125,000	135,000	10,000
C	013	245		2100		9213		7,915,000	7,970,000	(55,000)
										-
										-
										-
										-
										-
										-
										-
										-
										-
Line Total							<i>Must Equal Zero</i>	\$ 23,537,454	\$ 23,647,454	\$ -

Reason for Adjustment (To Avoid Correspondence, State Reason in Detail)

Per 12/11/2018 Board Agenda Item - Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget Modification
 Tulare County's Local Assistance for Tree Mortality Program Report
 Contact Steven Murch with any questions - 559.802.9804 sdmurch@co.tulare.ca.us



Affected Dept Head Signature

Other Affected Dept Head Signature

Checked By: _____
 County Executive Office Action: No. _____ Date: _____
 () Approved () Disapproved

Entered By: _____
 Date: _____
 Distribution: 1: BOS/CAO/Auditor

By: _____
 Board of Supervisors Action: No. _____ Date: _____

**** Action Codes: A=Add, C=Change, D=Deactivate**
 * Whenever a 93XX account budget is adjusted, a corresponding 94XX account budget must be adjusted in the billing agency, except for ISFs
 * Whenever a 95XX account budget is adjusted, a corresponding 96XX account budget must be adjusted in the billing agency, and vice versa
 * Whenever a 97XX account budget is adjusted, a corresponding 98XX account budget must be adjusted in the billing agency, and vice versa

(Revised 3/3/14)