

CITY OF OAKLAND



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April 17, 2017

**Vegetation Management Unit Staff Report**

**WPAD Board Members,**

**Fire Suppression District Inspector Staffing:**

- Vegetation Management Supervisor - Vincent Crudele**
- Fire Suppression District 1 - Vincent Crudele**
- Fire Suppression District 2 - Adam Ball**
- Fire Suppression District 3 - Katherine McCain**
- Fire Suppression District 4 - Travis Hansen**
- Fire Suppression District 5 - Temp Part Time**
- Program Analyst II - Anette Boulware**
- TPT Administrative Staff - Vacant**

**STAFFING UPDATE:** Travis Hansen joined the team March 27, 2017 as a full time Fire Suppression District Inspector and has begun training with members of the Fire Prevention unit, Congratulations Travis!!!

**Vegetation Management Statistics** (see attached Matrix)

**Preparing for 2017 Residential Property Inspections-training:** The inspection forms and annual mailer with current code regulations and the conclusion of the WPAD were sent to the printer. The annual notice was mailed out Wednesday April 13, 2017 via United States Postal Service and the inspection forms are currently printing. Acting Assistant Fire Marshal Sworn, Maria Sabatini and Supervisor Vince Crudele have identified funding and are working to get current Fire Code updates added to the One-Step database.

**Update on status of fuel reduction for Chabot Space & Science Center project (\$216,000):** Our department is awaiting an updated project timeline for the removal/limbing of the remaining 35-40 trees from Davey tree, as the project was delayed due to weather conditions. The first invoice in the amount of \$163,962.50 is currently being processed by Fire Administration.

**Status of Vegetation Management Plan Progress and Work Schedule (see attached press release and fact sheet):**

The Oakland Fire Department (OFD) is leading the development of a Vegetation Management Plan ("Plan") to reduce fire hazard risks in the Oakland Hills. The City has contracted with Horizon Water and Environment, LLC to assist OFD in its planning efforts. As of March 20, 2017 the following has transpired:

- The Horizon consultant team hosted two informal meetings on March 29 & 30, 2017 for initial community discussion regarding the plan's elements and approach.
- The consultant team also launched a survey for interested parties to express their priorities and concerns about the Vegetation Management Plan. The survey may be accessed here:  
<https://oaklandvegmanagement.org/plan-feedback-survey/>.

The draft Plan is expected to be completed in late Spring/Early Summer 2017. Environmental analysis as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will commence upon completion of the draft Plan.

**Progress of implementing GIS systems for vegetation management:**

- **GIS mapping tool- review of next steps**

The project will move forward with the tool that was presented to the WPAD committee by the I.T department. The prioritized list of suggested action items from the WPAD committee has been finalized and forwarded to Ahsan of I.T. department for consideration of implementation. The expanded WPAD comments will be submitted to the Accela for consideration into the GIS module.

**City of Oakland Contract Compliance Requirements and Vegetation Management Contracts:**

**1. Civicorps-** Adam Cope is our designated contact at Civicorps in which we are sending contracts to, as a part of the City of Oakland's competitive bid process. We are awaiting a response for their next available dates of service.

Civicorps currently has crews of 5 - 8 people available to work a 4 day week for 2 -3 months, this fiscal year and again next fiscal year.

**2. Cal Fire Delta Crews-** Additional research is being done on the forward progression of this project especially since they are unable to submit bids for projects. The following information outlines the current updates:

- The OFD's Chief of Staff has sought direction from the City Administrator's Office, the Oakland City Attorney's Office and Office of Contract Compliance on how to establish an agreement with Cal Fire. As of this date, OFD's Chief of Staff is nearing completion of those tasks.
- The Delta crews require advanced scheduling and available dates can be limited due to Cal Fire competing priorities. Project areas will be scheduled by Cal Fire pending the crews' availability. The Fire Prevention Bureau's opinion is the Delta Crews would be a tremendous source of hazard mitigation in select areas.

**3. Contractors Meeting-** - Acting Assistant Fire Marshal Sworn, Maria Sabatini is working to schedule a meeting with the contact in Public Works who handles contracts. Public works advised that they have a streamlined contracting process that works well and are willing divulge this

information. To date, of the contractors we have contacted 6 want to be included in upcoming bid opportunities. Others are no longer in business or have not replied. All the responses have been positive about past experiences with the City of Oakland.

**Update of the Website:**

Acting Assistant Fire Marshal Sworn, Maria Sabatini and members of the Fire Prevention unit have started the initial phase of updates with the Fire Department's designated web designer for this project. A final completion timeline has yet to be determined.

**Thank you,**

/s/

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