



AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT

SUBJECT: Proclamation of the Ukiah City Council Recognizing CAL FIRE for Fire Prevention and Mitigation Efforts in the Ukiah Valley.

DEPARTMENT: City Manager / Admin **PREPARED BY:** Maya Simerson, Project & Grant Administrator

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proclamation 2 - CalFire

Summary: City Council to issue a proclamation recognizing CAL FIRE for fire prevention and mitigation efforts in the Ukiah valley.

Background: Over the past year, the City of Ukiah and the County of Mendocino engaged with CAL FIRE, and other key stakeholder groups to develop fire prevention and mitigation measures for the Ukiah Valley, including the western hills that border the city.

The citizens of the City of Ukiah recognize that this effort was bolstered by our local representatives and an Executive Order from Governor Gavin Newsom, which prioritized and funded fuel reduction work in the Ukiah Valley, along with 34 other priority communities.

This proclamation is being presented in tandem with a similar proclamation to CAL FIRE from the Board of Supervisors for the County of Mendocino on December 17, 2019.

Discussion:

The complete scope of the 26,541 acre Ukiah Fuels Reduction Project will better protect approximately 39,000 residents in the Ukiah area.

Work CAL FIRE has completed to date in the western hills includes:

- 14.1 miles of dozer fuel break using State and private equipment
- 3.25 miles of fuel break
- 223 total acres treated
- 11,650+ personnel hours

Beginning this month, and continuing into spring as weather and air quality conditions allow, CAL FIRE will conduct controlled burning around the Ukiah Valley. This controlled burning will include piles of vegetation, and broadcast burning of larger areas to strategically reduce fuel loads and lessen the intensity of future wildfire in the area. Broadcast burning of hillside lands immediately west of Ukiah will be visible from the city, and a CAL FIRE helicopter will be used to ignite controlled burns on hillsides. Burning activities will begin at approximately 10:00 a.m., and conclude at approximately 4:00 p.m. daily. Smoke will be visible throughout the surrounding areas as burning operations are conducted.

It is important to remember that residents have a critical role in creating defensible space around their own

homes and property. Fire Marshal Kevin Jennings of the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority has been meeting with neighborhood groups and interested property owners to provide them with information about steps that should be taken to improve fire safety. Local groups are encouraged to contact the Fire Marshall with questions or requests for information. Additionally, information about how you and your family can prepare for wildfire can be found online at www.readyforwildfire.org.

The State's Community Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Report (45 Day Plan), written in response to the Governor's Order can be viewed along with a project location web map viewer at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/about-us/45-day-report/> . To directly receive current information from CAL FIRE, including announcements about controlled burning in the Ukiah Valley, residents are encouraged to follow the CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit on Twitter: @CALFIREMEU and on Facebook @ CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit.

The City Council recognizes and thanks CAL FIRE for exceptional fire prevention and mitigation efforts in the Ukiah valley.

The Proclamation is Attachment 1.

Recommended Action: Issue a Proclamation of the Ukiah City Council recognizing CAL FIRE for fire prevention and mitigation efforts in the Ukiah valley.

BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUIRED: N/A

CURRENT BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

PROPOSED BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

FINANCING SOURCE: N/A

PREVIOUS CONTRACT/PURCHASE ORDER NO.: N/A

COORDINATED WITH: Greg Bertelli, Deputy Chief, CAL FIRE & Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager

Approved: 
Sage Sangiacomo, City Manager

P R O C L A M A T I O N

C I T Y O F U K I A H

RECOGNIZING CAL FIRE FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF UKIAH AND THE GREATER UKIAH VALLEY THROUGH SIGNIFICANT FIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, many areas of Mendocino County are at elevated risk levels for wildfire due to steep terrain, increased fuel loads and limited access, including the western hills adjacent to the City of Ukiah; and

WHEREAS, catastrophic fires of recent years made clear the need to create defensible space for communities on a landscape level just as we need to create defensible space for individual homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, beginning early this year CAL FIRE, the City of Ukiah, the County of Mendocino; the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority, the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Fire Safe Councils and private property owners began developing fire prevention and mitigation plans, including a grant application for \$1.6 million dollars, particularly for the western hills that border the City of Ukiah; and

WHEREAS, the Western Hills Fuels Reduction Project was conceived as a three-part project involving the renewal and extension of a shaded fuel break originally established in 2004 along the boundary of the local and state responsibility areas adjacent to the City of Ukiah; the renewal, extension and widening of ridge top fuel breaks; and the use of prescribed burning to achieve significant fuel reduction; and

WHEREAS, due to the successful advocacy of Assemblymember Jim Wood, Senator Mike McGuire, and local CAL FIRE personnel the Western Hills Fuels Reduction Project became a Governor's priority project and was expanded by local CAL FIRE personnel to include areas of the greater Ukiah Valley and submitted to Governor Gavin Newsom as the "Ukiah Fuels Reduction Project" who prioritized it along with 34 other priority community projects, allowing work to proceed in advance of grant funding being received; and

WHEREAS, this work was accomplished by the efforts of the CAL FIRE Ukiah Station, Parlin Fork Conservation Camp and Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp, along with other crews loaned to the project, including during fire season, who expended a total of over 11,650 hours on the project with additional support from private land owners and logistical support from the City of Ukiah and County of Mendocino; and

WHEREAS, the complete scope of the Ukiah Fuels Reduction Project includes 26,541 acres, providing enhanced fire protection to approximately 39,000 residents of the City of Ukiah and the Greater Ukiah Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Ukiah Fuels Reduction Project is a model of creating defensible space for communities at the landscape level based on multi-agency and public-private cooperation, including, in addition to the previous named agencies, support from the Bureau of Land Management and the Army Corps of Engineers; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County Deputy CEO Steve Dunncliff, Ukiah Valley Fire Authority Fire Marshall Kevin Jennings, Ukiah City Manager Sage Sangiacomo, Ukiah Project Administrator Maya Simerson, and Ruth Valenzuela of Assemblymember Wood's Office provided crucial support and encouragement for the Ukiah Fuels Reduction Project; and

WHEREAS, the leadership and dedication of CAL FIRE Unit Chief Brett Pinson and Battalion Chief Mike Maynard have been and continue to be instrumental to the development and implementation of the Ukiah Fuels Reduction Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Douglas Crane and my fellow Ukiah City Council members, Maureen Mulheren, Steve Scalmanini, Jim Brown, and Juan Orozco; do hereby recognize the exceptional service of Brett Pinson, Mike Maynard, and CAL FIRE to the Citizens of the City of Ukiah and the Greater Ukiah Valley, and extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for successful development and implementation of the Ukiah Fuels Reduction Project.

Signed and sealed, this 18th day of December in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen.