

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

To: Board of Directors
From: John Friedenbach
Date: October 28, 2020

Re: Temporary Assistance for Wildfire Emergency Response

Discussion

The Board approved Resolution 2020-08 on October 8, 2020 declaring an emergency resulting from the August Complex wildfire in Trinity County affecting District property at Ruth Lake and the headwaters of the Mad River Watershed. As the Board is aware, staff has been pursuing FEMA disaster response and recovery funding, USDA Emergency Watershed Protection Plan funding and any other available sources for disaster recovery assistance. The scope of disaster response and recovery for the 3,000 acres District owned property as well as the Mad River watershed headwaters area exceeds the capacity of our current staffing levels at the District to effectively implement our recovery efforts.

Our emergency response will require interfacing with multiple agencies such as: FEMA, USDA, CalOES, DTSC, Trinity County Environmental Health and OES, Ruth Lake CSD, Lease Lot Holders, insurance companies and others. In addition, multiple vendors will be contacted for response supplies such as: straw wattle, silt fencing, erosion control blankets, timber removal and disposal, certified arborist for hazard tree removal, and others.

Anticipated Watershed Restoration Activities

- Additional Straw Wattle procurement and installation, both sides of lake (est. 10.5 miles).
 - Estimated \$77,300
- Silt Fence procurement and installation, both sides of lake (est. 14 miles).
 - Estimated \$37,400
- Erosion Control Blankets (straw/jute mats), both sides of lake (est. 5.75 miles)
 - Estimated \$42,500
- Additional temporary labor to assist with above installations.
 - Estimated \$200,000
- HydroSeeding/HydroMulch, both sides of lake (unknown at this time, contingent on above erosion control measures).
 - Unknown estimated cost currently (awaiting price quote).

Staff is proposing a temporary at will part-time position that would last for an approximate period of six months with monthly updates to the Board at our regular board meetings. This time frame should allow for program set up and implementation to a point where existing staff can maintain the ongoing activities. If not, staff will request and propose an extension with justification to the Board at that time. The position pay rate would be \$40.08 per hour which is Step 3 of the Assistant Supervisor position. No benefits would be paid as this would be a temporary part time position. Mileage reimbursement would be provided for business related and documented travel. As a condition of employment, this individual would be required to reside at the District's Ruth Cabin as needed to perform the required duties at Ruth Lake.

Proposed New Temporary Part-Time Emergency Response Position

Staff proposes that the Board approve a new temporary at will part-time Emergency Mad River Watershed Restoration Supervisor position to coordinate and facilitate our fire disaster emergency response efforts at Ruth Lake and in the headwaters of the Mad River Watershed for an approximate period of six months at an hourly rate of \$40.08 with District travel reimbursement for documented travel at the current District rate (\$0.575 currently). An employment contract would be required for this unique position. Staff will provide

monthly progress reports to the Board at our regular board meetings of the progress and activities by this temporary staff.

The estimated cost for the initial 6-month term is approximately \$50,000. Staff proposes that this would be funded initially by General Reserves. Staff will seek opportunities for cost reimbursement through disaster response funding.

Next Steps

Because of the temporary and unique circumstances surrounding this temporary staff position, if authorized, staff will request that District Counsel draft an employment agreement for Board consideration at our regular Board meeting on November 12th. The position would be filled after approval of the employment agreement.