

## TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Title: County Supervisors and Town Council Discussion and Direction on Wildfire Related Programs, Prevention, and Preparedness.

Meeting Date: May 16, 2023

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Discussion and Direction on Wildfire Related Programs, Prevention, and Preparedness and any action on providing cash flow support and/or other support to enhance fuels reduction efforts.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Wildfire preparedness, prevention, and response continues to be an area of ongoing concern, planning and near- and long-term actions. Staff and area land managers will provide updates on fuels reduction efforts planned for the near term. This includes work on the Inyo National Forest and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. There are also projects planned on non-federal lands. The Mammoth Lakes Fire Safe Council is planning to continue fuels reduction work in the Lakes Basin.

The Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District will be using grant funds to initiate some defensible space work in the Town. Information on seasonal fire crew staff in the area will be presented. County staff will provide an update on work efforts related to County areas. This past year the Town and County have implemented the ZONEHAVEN evacuation tool. We are continuing to work on the notification process of discrete areas.

An update will be given on the larger Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project (ESSCCRP). This project is designed to treat 56,000+/- acres of land to reduce fuel loading and to enhance watersheds and habitat environments.

The Town, County, and local fire departments are working together to improve public safety communications. This includes partnering with the State to utilize the California Radio Interoperable System, which would include new sites to extend the Statewide trunked communications system to cover Mono County. The plan includes retaining communications system backup and to retain interoperability with federal partners.