



## Maintenance & Resources Management Committee

# ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Aug. 19, 2020 – Sept. 15, 2020

### Environmental Resources Program Overview:

During the last month, the Environmental Resources Program activities have included document revision and preparation; contracting for upcoming fire fuels treatment to create defensible space; a slowdown period for fuels treatment due to weather and wildfire risk; CABY regional planning and collaboration, including project submission on behalf of NID; and grant reporting and closure. Cameron Townsend continues to provide field support for fire fuels treatment projects, including responding to requests from neighbors regarding fuels conditions, PG&E vegetation work associated with line hardening, and Scotts Flat Reservoir project implementation.

**District property at Orr Creek Reservoir, before fire fuels treatment, Sept. 2020.**



## **GENERAL WATERSHED AND HEALTHY FORESTS PROGRAM UPDATE**

### Scotts Flat Reservoir Selective Timber Harvesting

Scotts Flat Timber Harvest Plan activities are finished and complete the cross-canyon fuel break at the Scott's Flat Dam. We will continue working with Kevin Whitlock, our consulting Forester, to close the areas that have been selectively thinned under this Harvest Plan.

### Fire Fuels Treatment and Hazard Tree Removal on District Property

Environmental Resources Staff is working at Orr Creek Reservoir to prepare site for fire fuels treatment on 1 acre immediately adjacent to the neighboring residence. We will treat to accomplish a minimum defensible space of 100 ft. adjacent to buildings.

### Forest Management Plan for District-owned lands

Under development.

### English Meadow

The Forest Management Plan is completed. Due to wildfire and smoke, the site has been inaccessible and equipment retrieval is planned for Sept.-October, 2020.

## **GRANTS UPDATE**

### Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant, Yuba Headwaters/English Meadow Grant

Grant closure is complete and retention check is forthcoming.

### CAL FIRE CFIP Grant for Rollins and Scott's

CAL FIRE contract is executed for \$145,000 in funding through the California Forest Improvement Program for fire fuels treatment on an additional 103 acres at Orchard Springs and Long Ravine Campgrounds. Project will begin fall 2020. No activity in last 30 days due to wildfire risk, however site preparation will begin within next 30 days.

### SNC Fuels Treatment at Scotts Flat Phase 4

Project implementation is underway and additional acres have been treated along the trail between Gates 1 and 2 at Scotts Flat. As previously reported, public use of the District's trails near Scotts Flat continues to increase and fuels treatment will be critical to avoid wildfire spreading and to minimize ignition potential. This grant agreement is executed with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for \$981,000 at Scott's Flat Reservoir to masticate fire fuels and improve forest health by creating a multi-species, multi-aged, properly spaced community. This project will improve watershed health while protecting water system infrastructure, terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and communities from elevated fire risk. In total, we will treat 300 acres by Jan. 1, 2022.

### Wildlife Conservation Board English Meadow Floodplain Enhancement & Restoration Project- Pending

An application was submitted for \$1.2M to WCB's Forest Conservation Program (Prop 68) to complete instream channel modifications (woody debris jam

installation, filling of dewatering ditches, and headcut repairs on tributaries) and forest treatment to improve meadow floodplain functionality, to reduce accumulated fire fuels, and to thin the adjacent forested watershed of the Middle Yuba River headwaters. Notification of project selection is scheduled for Sept. 3-10, 2020.

## **OUTREACH, COLLABORATION & EDUCATION**

### CABY

The CABY IRWM Plan update is nearing completion, and an Administrative Draft is publicly available at [www.cabyregion.org](http://www.cabyregion.org). Comments were received, and Environmental Resources staff are preparing NID projects for inclusion in the plan update. The list of projects that have been submitted are included under a separate staff report to the Maintenance and Resources Management Committee meeting for consideration at the Sept. 2020 meeting.

### Education & Outreach

All activities for 2020 are postponed due to the public emergency declaration and protective policies about COVID-19.

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