

**ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT
STAFF REPORT**

For the meeting of: July 8, 2015

To: Board of Directors
From: Mark E. Mills, Fire Chief
Subject: Chipper Projects

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board receive and file the report.

DISCUSSION:

The Ross Valley Fire Department Board approved the purchase of a chipper and truck in 2014. The chipper was purchased with the assistance of the FIRESafe Marin. To date, FIRESafe Marin has utilized the chipper and truck a total of 8 days. The chipper has been staffed with cooperators that were employed by the individual homeowners associations of through FIRESafe Marin.

The participating towns/districts advertised the "chipper days" service through websites and mailers. Over 185 individual properties have participated. The property owners logged an impressive 1312 volunteer hours while clearing brush from their properties. The chipper ground up roughly 1600 yards of brush, which resulted in 370 cubic yards of chips.

As the project progresses additional grant opportunities will be pursued to allow for further involvement of department personnel. The ultimate end goal will be to provide chipping services throughout the entire jurisdiction without having to utilize external labor forces. Until those grant or funding opportunities are realized, agencies will need to work through FIRESafe Marin to provide funds for staffing or consult with local providers.

Please contact the program manager, Battalion Chief Dan Mahoney, for further questions and assistance in scheduling a "Chipper days" for your town.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None to the Department at this time.

AGENDA ITEM # 3
Date 7/8/15