



STAFF REPORT: 2025 Replacement Reserve Fund Project – Water Truck - Diesel

RECOMMENDATION:

By Motion:

The Board of Directors authorizes the expenditure of the budgeted 2025 Reserve Replacement Fund component – Fleet Water Truck cost not to exceed \$115,000.00.

BACKGROUND:

The Reserve Replacement component, Water Truck - Diesel, is designated for the replacement of the Association's 2009 International water tender which has exceeded its 15-year useful life. This equipment was purchased for the Forestry department for dust mitigation and potential fire suppression on projects. It has also been utilized for dust mitigation at the Equestrian center as well as towing larger equipment such as the mini excavator and skid-steer.

While operational, the current water tender no longer meets the Truck and Bus Emissions Regulation of the California Air Resources Board (CARB). This regulation states that:

“as of January 1, 2023, all diesel-powered vehicles operating in California, with a gross vehicle weight rating over 14,000 lbs. must have a 2010 or newer engine and emission system with few exceptions. Affected vehicles that do not comply with the regulation will have their registration denied by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).”

This staff report is prepared for board consideration because the expense exceeds \$50,000, and thus, per Resolution 2026-9, requires Board of Directors authorization for expenditures beyond budget approval.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Prior to the development of the 2025 Capital Budget for the replacement of the Water Truck – Diesel, staff sought out several CARB compliance exemptions, including an agricultural exemption in an effort to keep the current truck and defer the component until it was needed. Staff was unable to obtain an exemption and therefore confirmed the need to keep the component with an estimated replacement value of \$205,213.80 in the 2025 Capital Budget.

Staff has researched numerous water tenders and found that purchasing a brand-new vehicle would start near \$170,000 before taxes and fees for a base model and not include many of the features desired for use at Tahoe Donner. Concern was raised regarding possible future emissions restrictions on engines if a used truck was found. Staff has reached out to CARB as well as the Commercial Vehicles Section of the California Highway Patrol, both agencies have confirmed they are not aware of any upcoming changes to the emissions regulations.

After significant research, staff has found a suitable truck replacement for \$115,000 including tax, registration, pre-purchase inspection, and transportation of the truck to Tahoe Donner from Fontana, CA. The water tank equipment is a new build, built to Cal Fire water tender apparatus requirements and consists of a 2,000-gallon water tank with ballasts, front, side and rear



sprayers, and rear hose reel. The equipment was built on a used 2015 Freightliner M2 truck with approximately 75,000 miles. The truck includes a pintle hitch rated to 45,000 pounds, and four-wheel drive. The used truck drivetrain will go through a full third-party inspection prior to purchase

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Water Truck – Diesel component is funded in the Replacement Reserve Fund. The Board of Directors approved the 2025 Replacement Reserve Fund budget for this component for \$205,213.80 during the annual budget process. The projected expenditure of \$115,000.00 is well within the approved budget. The remaining budget will remain in the replacement reserve fund, additionally, the sale of the current water tender will be deposited back into the Replacement Reserve Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

The recommended board action is as follows:

By Motion:

The Board of Directors authorizes the expenditure of the 2025 budgeted Reserve Replacement Fund Component Fleet Water Truck, not to exceed \$115,000.00.

Alternative(s) the Board may consider:

No alternative is suggested.

Prepared by: Ben Gwerder, Forestry Program Manager

Reviewed by: John Groom, Director of Land Management

Reviewed by: Jon Mitchell, Director of Capital Projects and Facilities

Reviewed by: Miguel Sloane, Director of Operations

Board of Directors Meeting: April 25, 2025