

**CALAVERAS COUNTY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(CCRCD)**

Issued: April 26th, 2026



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

For Hunter Connectivity Project (PG&E 2026)

Deadline for Submission of Proposals:

May 4th, 2026 at 5:00 PM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
 FOR FUELS REDUCTION SERVICES
 CONTRACTED SERVICES TO
 CALAVERAS COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CCRCO) TO ACCOMPLISH TASKS OF
 THE
 Project Name: Hunter Connectivity Project (PG&E 2026)
 Grant: CCRCO 2026-1

CONTACT FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT	Kaylee Tanner Dillashaw, Project Manager, kdillashaw@calaverasrcd.org or Erin Livernois, Forestry Technician, elivernois@calaverasrcd.org Phone: (209) 768-1603
RFP RELEASE DATE	April 16 th , 2026
PRE-BID TOUR	The Pre-Bid Tour is optional; if you would like to schedule a time to tour the project areas before April 23 rd , 2026, contact Erin Livernois at elivernois@calaverasrcd.org This RFP package includes <u>2</u> attachments. The CC-RCD Fire Plan and the project map. Questions received by the Project Manager before noon on April 23 rd , 2026 will be answered and distributed to all bidders by email and posted on the CCRCO website on April 24 th , 2026.
RFP CLOSING DATE	Proposals must be submitted electronically to the dedicated CCRCO proposals email proposals@calaverasrcd.org and cc elivernois@calaverasrcd.org by 5pm on May 4th, 2026 .
CONTRACTOR SELECTION	Project Contractor(s) will be selected no later than May 14 th , 2026. All bidders will be notified by email of Contractor selection.
PROJECT COMMENCEMENT DATE	Immediately upon execution of the Contract
PROJECT COMPLETION DATE	November 15 th , 2026

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Hunter 2026 Connectivity Project will treat the remaining parcels within the Hunter Reservoir Fuel Reduction Project, a fuelbreak constructed in 2025 in Avery, CA, integral to the Highway 4 Strategic Wildfire Defense System, made up of a series of fuelbreaks and forest health projects spanning east to west from Camp Connel to Murphys along the Highway 4 corridor in Calaveras County. The Hunter Reservoir Fuels Reduction Project was designed and constructed to prevent catastrophic wildfire within and around the Stanislaus River Watershed by removing dense surface and ladder fuels, decreasing crown density, and retaining large fire-resistant trees to reduce the risk of fire ignition, slow fire spread, and increase the chance of success on initial fire suppression attack by keeping potential fires small and on the ground. The larger scale project protects wildlife habitat, thousands of homes and businesses, and critical water and power infrastructure including fire flow to over 1,100 fire hydrants.

CEQA was completed on the entire project area before implementation of fuels treatment however, the fuels on two parcels within the larger Hunter Reservoir Fuel Reduction Project footprint remain untreated. Between the two parcels, approximately **23 acres** of untreated private land require treatment. The CCRCD has secured additional funding to reduce or remove fuels on these parcels, improving the overall effectiveness of landscape-level wildfire prevention efforts. Treatment will be done using mechanical mastication and if needed, a small amount of handwork.

Treating these parcels will improve the landscape consistency in fuel loading across the entire project and help to improve connectivity along the Highway 4 Wildfire Defense System.

ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

Activity	Date
Release of RFP	April 16 th , 2026
Pre-Bid Tour	Contact Erin to schedule tour, must take place before April 23 rd . elivernois@calaverasrcd.org
Deadline for RFP responses	5pm, May 4 th , 2026
Review Committee evaluates proposals	May 6 th - May 8 th , 2026
Contract Award by Committee	May 14 th , 2026
Notice of contract award	May 15 th , 2026

Contract executed	May 20 th , 2026
Project start date	As soon as possible after contract execution

II. GRANT BACKGROUND & RESPONSIBILITIES

GRANTOR: The project is funded by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), who may conduct inspections of the project area periodically upon invoice submittals. Invoice submittals and expected payments to contractor are dependent upon Grantor guidelines and procedures. Lag time between invoice submittal and payment is dependent upon grantor.

GRANTEE: The CCRCD was granted funds from the Grantor and is responsible for financial management, implementation oversight, and reporting requirements. CCRCD is the only entity authorized to enter into or terminate this contract, modify any term or condition of this contract, waive any requirement of this contract, or accept nonconforming work. CCRCD has assigned Kaylee Tanner-Dillashaw as Project Manager and additional staff/contractors for on-site technical monitoring of the Contractor's performance and deliverables. CCRCD will execute the contract with the selected contractor. CCRCD will submit contractor invoices to Grantor for payment and in turn process payment to the contractor.

Please note, pre-treatment acreages are estimated based on GIS; final determination of treated acres will be made by Project Manager based on actual on-the-ground measurement during certification inspections. Contractor is encouraged to conduct the inspections with Project Manager. Payments will only be made on actual acres treated. Invoices can be submitted as needed, but no more frequently than every two weeks. Contractor's invoices will be paid upon the CCRCD's receipt of the funds from Grantor. CCRCD will not be responsible for delays in receiving funds from Grantor.

PROJECT MANAGER. The Project Manager is an employee of the CCRCD and will serve as the lead contact for the Project, including relations with the contractor(s), landowners, the CCRCD, and additional staff.

III. PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The primary goals of this Project include:

- Increase protection from catastrophic wildfire in and around the Stanislaus River Watershed
- Complete the fuel reduction treatment within the Hunter Fuel Reduction Project, increasing its overall effectiveness.
- Improve the Highway 4 Defense System, a landscape-scale series of fuel breaks and forest health projects designed to protect homes, businesses, wildlife habitat, communities, and critical water and power supply along the Hwy 4 corridor.

The primary objectives of this Project include:

- Remove understory brush and overloaded ground fuels across 23 acres of private land
- Provide direct protection to homes within and adjacent to the project area in the event of potential wildfire
- Produce an openly spaced stand of trees targeting approximately 25' x 25' for both hardwoods and conifers

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The project lays just east of Hathaway Pines off Highway 4 and south of Hunter Reservoir in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of Calaveras County. The project was designed to reduce hazardous fuel loading on two separate properties within the vicinity of the larger Hunter Reservoir Fuels Reduction Project footprint. It consists of a smaller 5-acre parcel primarily accessed by Segale Road and the larger 22-acre parcel primarily accessed by Candy Rock Road, however, treatable acreage totals approximately 23 acres. Each parcel may be more accessible by adjacent private and National Forest lands pending entry approval.

The current site conditions consist of overstory vegetation that would best be described as mixed conifer forest combined with oak woodlands predominantly made up of California black oak, gray pine, ponderosa pine, canyon live oak, valley oak, blue oak, and interior live oak with an understory of manzanita, ceanothus, toyon, yerba santa, blackberry, and poison oak. Targeted vegetation includes all understory brush, trees up to 12" dbh, and dead, diseased, dying, and downed trees of any size.

Retained trees and vegetation will aim to achieve a target spacing of 25x25 feet. Residual trees will be pruned up the bole 10 feet or 50% of the tree if smaller than 20 feet in height. Treatment methods may include mechanical mastication, chipping, and/or other hand treatments as proposed by bidders. Project challenges may include treating around homes, non-participating adjacent property, overhead power/phone lines, along public and private roads, and around abandoned water infrastructure including an un-used portion of the Utica canal. No recorded arche sites exist in the project area.

V. PRESCRIPTION

Project: Hunter Connectivity Project (PG&E 2026)

Estimated Acres: up to 23 acres or as funding allows

Prescription

- Fuels to be treated include the mastication of all ground fuels (including existing piles), brush and small trees <12" dbh.
 - Brush, most seedlings, and saplings are targeted for removal, resulting in a stand that is openly spaced. Small trees under the canopy of larger trees will be removed.
 - Retain seedlings and saplings of conifers and black oaks at roughly a 30' x 30' spacing where no other trees exist in the pre-treatment stand.
 - The target residual spacing for both hardwoods and conifers is approximately 30' x 30'.
 - Dead, dying, and downed trees of any species and any size must be felled and/or treated, including on moderate-to-steep slopes and in confined areas, except those that have been designated for retention.
 - Groups of live oaks growing from a common root crown will either be totally removed or totally retained. There will be no partial removal of these groups. If the group is composed mostly of stems more than 12" dbh, the group will be left. If the group is composed mostly of stems 12" or less dbh, the group will be removed, if consistent with spacing guidelines.
- Mastication requirements:
 - A minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) of the vegetation treated by mechanical mastication shall be ground into shreds <36" in length.
 - Shredded vegetation shall be spread out as evenly as possible to suppress the regrowth of brush and to retain soil moisture.
 - The maximum allowable mulch depth is 12".
 - Dangerous "punji sticks" are not allowed post-operation. A punji stick is a dense, woody stub at least 1" in diameter and 6" high.
 - To the greatest extent possible, Contractor should prevent woody debris from entering the canal/ditch and roads.
- Limbs of remaining conifer trees shall be pruned along the main bole vertically up to 10 feet from the ground level or 50% of trees 20' or less in height. All pruned material will be chipped or masticated. Pruning up the bole is not considered hand work.
- Remaining stumps shall be <6" on the uphill side.

VI. PROJECT PROVISIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

- Do not operate under saturated soil conditions when compaction is likely.
- Blackberries need to be targeted.

- Hazards within the project area include un-used water infrastructure, poison oak, steep drop offs, large rocks and outcroppings, and power/phone lines.
- Snags to be retained will be flagged.
- All cut and masticated vegetation should be kept within the unit boundaries. Any cut vegetation falling into ditches, roads, road banks, trails or adjacent properties should be removed the same day.
- Equipment shall be cleaned before entering the Project Area to prevent spread of noxious weeds and pathogens.
- Equipment should be free of leaks, in good operating condition and have spark arrestors or turbochargers to prevent fires.
- If work is conducted along roadways, traffic control will be required to warn vehicles of active fuels treatment operations. All traffic control and signs will be the responsibility of the Contractor and shall conform to Calaveras County requirements.
- All roads shall be left in the same, or better condition than found. Contractor will take every measure possible to limit potential damage to private roads.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Sensitive Areas. Sensitive Areas to be avoided will be discussed on-site only with the selected Contractor for confidentiality purposes.

Nesting Birds: If an active nest is observed within the project area, a buffer or installation of appropriate barriers shall be established between the construction activities and the active nest so that nesting activities are not interrupted. The buffer(s) shall be determined based upon the life history of the individual species, including their sensitivity to noise, vibration, ambient levels of human activity and general disturbance, the current site conditions (screening vegetation, terrain, etc.) and the various project-related activities necessary to implement the project.

Snags: The project area may contain standing snags that provide cavity nest habitat for birds and peeling bark for roosting bats. These trees may include bird nest cavities and trees with peeling bark; actively used snags will not be removed during operations.

Woodrats: Woodrats are important forage for California spotted owls and other raptors. Woodrat nests encountered during operations will be protected via avoidance.

Watercourses: The project area contains Swales and Class III watercourses; for any incised Class III water courses, machinery may be prohibited on these steep slopes. Crossings of the Class III channels can occur on existing roads within the project area or on gentle slopes when soils are dry. The Swales transport stormwater within the project area, but do not support physical characteristics typical of defined stream channels. These swales do not require equipment exclusion and may be crossed at any location during project operations during dry

conditions.

Identification of Protected Species or Other Critical Resources. To protect environmentally sensitive areas, identification and avoidance during project implementation is required. If any sensitive resources are located during project implementation, Contractor should notify the Project Manager, and the area shall be avoided until mitigation measures of the situation are determined. Known sensitive areas to be avoided (not treated) will be designated and marked prior to operations.

VII. BID EVALUATION CRITERIA & SCORING

The contract award will be issued to the Contractor based on best value, not necessarily based on the lowest bid. One award will be made to the qualified proposer whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the CCRC, with price and all other factors considered. The proposer is cautioned that it is the proposer’s sole responsibility to submit information related to the evaluation categories and the CCRC is under no obligation to solicit such information if it is not included with the proposal. Failure of the individual or firm to submit such information may cause an adverse impact on the evaluation of the proposal. A Selection Committee shall be responsible for performing the evaluations of each proposal based on the following criteria:

1	Completeness of Proposal	Pass/Fail
2	Required Insurance/Licenses	Pass/Fail
3	Qualifications & Experience & Workability	30 points
4	Approach/Strategy	30 points
5	Cost	30 points
6	Local Benefit	10 points
	Total	100 points

Pass/Fail Line Items: Items in rows 1 - 2 above must receive a “pass” score to be considered for contract award.

Completeness of Proposal: Bid must adequately describe all items listed in rows 3-6 above.

Insurance:

1. **Workers Compensation Coverage** – Worker’s Compensation Insurance and Employer’s Liability Insurance for employees in accordance with the laws of the State of California (including requiring any authorized subcontractor to obtain such insurance for its employees).
2. **General Liability Coverage** – Commercial general liability insurance with a minimum liability limit not less than \$2,000,000 for personal injury and property damages per occurrence)

3. **Automobile Liability Insurance** – with a minimum limit of liability per occurrence of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury and \$100,000 for property damage. This insurance shall cover all vehicles including hired cars, owned and non-owned vehicles
4. Contractors are encouraged to purchase ‘Broad Form B’ insurance.

Selected Contractor(s) shall add CCRCO to said insurance policies named as “additionally insured” and provide CCRCO with proof of insurance certificates for all insurance policies prior to implementation of the contract and throughout the full duration of the Agreement.

Qualifications & Experience:

Please Provide:

- Contractor name
- Proof of current California Contractor License (CA C61/D49) or Licensed Timber Operator (LTO-A)
- Insurance Policies: See Section Above
- A short description of each piece of machinery including fire suppression equipment, that will be dedicated to this project (don’t describe machinery that won’t be working this project).
- The names/years of experience of each operator.
- Include the name and experience of the Contractor’s representative who will be on-site managing the project daily.
- Provide a minimum of three references with at least one being within the last 18 months and current contact information for each.

Fire Plan: Describe ability to meet the provided CCRCO Fire Plan requirements.

Approach:

- Describe the strategy and sequence of operations for treatment units.
- Treatment on steep slopes (over 40% grade) will depend on contractor’s ability to treat and maintain safety standards. How these steep slopes are to be treated needs to be addressed in the bid.
- Focus on the use of equipment and operator expertise in all areas of fuels reduction (i.e.: masticating, chipping, and erosion control).
- Finally, describe your most recent jobs that included mastication/chipping of trees and brush, including the date that each contract was executed, the date the contract was closed, and the acreage treated.

Cost: Provide your cost per acre in your bid; costs include services for both machine mastication and handwork of the entire project acres (having separate line items for costs of machine mastication and handwork mastication is required).

Local Benefit: In the interest of supporting local business, 10 points will be given to contractors based in Calaveras, Tuolumne, Amador, and Alpine Counties.

Proposers will receive emailed Award/Non-Award notification.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Public Records Access: Proposers should be aware that submitted proposals are subject to the California Public Records Act and may be disclosed to members of the public upon request. It is the responsibility of the proposers to clearly identify information in their proposals that they consider to be confidential under the California Public Records Act. To the extent that the CCRCDC agrees with that designation, such information will be held in confidence whenever possible. All other information will be considered public.

Non-Discrimination: The Contractor selected through this RFP shall provide services without discrimination based on race, creed, color, ethnic or linguistic identification, gender or sexual preference, disability or handicap or any other basis prohibited by law.

All information regarding the proposals will be held as confidential until such time as the Review Committee has completed its evaluation and, or if, contract negotiations are completed.

VIII. PROTEST/APPEAL PROCESS

The following procedure is provided in the event a proposer wishes to protest the CCRCDC evaluation and selection process or appeal the recommendation to award a contract for this contract award once the Notices of Award/No-Award have been issued.

- Any protest must be submitted in writing to:
CCRCDC, Attention:
Project Manager
PO Box 1041
San Andreas, CA 95249
- The protest must be submitted or postmarked before 6:00 p.m. on the 10th calendar day following the date of the Notice of Award.
- The protest must contain a complete statement of the basis for the protest. The protest must include the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the person representing the protesting party.
- The procedure and time limits are mandatory and are the proposer’s sole and exclusive remedy in the event of a bid protest.

Proposer’s failure to comply with these procedures shall constitute a waiver of any right to

further pursue the protest, including filing a claim or legal proceedings.

Informal Response: Within ten (10) calendar days of receiving a timely written protest/appeal, the CCRCDC will contact the protesting party and provide an opportunity to settle the protest/appeal by mutual agreement.

Formal Response: Within ten (10) calendar days following contact with the protesting party for informal resolution, the CCRCDC will provide a written response to the protesting party. This written response shall be considered the final decision of the CCRCDC.