



**CALAVERAS
COUNTY**
Resource
Conservation
District

PO Box 1041
423 E. St. Charles St
San Andreas, CA 95249

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

FOR FUELS REDUCTION SERVICES

CONTRACTED SERVICES TO

CALAVERAS COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CCRC) TO ACCOMPLISH TASKS OF THE

Project Name: **MOKELUMNE HILL FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT**

Grant: CALFIRE GRANT 5GG21172

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT	Name: Mary Cole, Interim Executive Director Email: mcole@calaverasrcd.org , proposals@calaverasrcd.org Phone: 209-743-8799
RFP RELEASE DATE	October 19, 2023
<p>PRE-BID TOUR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023 8:30 a.m. PST</p>	<p>Only contractors with an LTO A or a Contractors State License Board C61/D49 License are eligible to bid on projects administered by the Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (CCRC). Do not attend the pre-bid tour if you don't have one of these licenses. <u>When you RSVP for this event, please include your LTO A or state contractor C/61/D49 license number.</u></p> <p>Participation in the pre-bid tours is optional. However, bidders who attend will be awarded five points in the scoring process. The tour will originate at the Big Bar Mokelumne River take-out parking lot. This is directly adjacent to the Highway 49 bridge at the Mokelumne River between Mokelumne Hill and Jackson. You must RSVP to proposals@calaverasrcd.org on or before Monday, October 23, 2023. Note that each company is allowed only one vehicle on the tour.</p> <p>The project map and any related documents are on the Calaveras County RCD website, under the link called Request for Proposal. The link is noted here: https://www.calaverasrcd.org/request-for-proposals. Documents may continually be updated on the website, so check periodically prior to bid submission.</p> <p>This RFP covers the Mokelumne Hill Fuels Reduction Project in its entirety. When you bid on this RFP, you are bidding on a single unit. The Project covers approximately 319 acres. The Project will be done with a combination of mechanical mastication and hand treatments. This RFP covers only the mechanical mastication portion of the project.</p>

	Questions received by the Project Manager on or before October 25, 2023, will be answered and distributed to all bidders by email before noon on October 26, 2023.
RFP CLOSING DATE	Proposals must be submitted electronically to the dedicated CCRCD proposals email @ proposals@calaverasrcd.org by 12 noon PST on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 .
CONTRACTOR SELECTION	Project Contractor(s) will be selected no later than Thursday, November 9, 2023 . All bidders will be notified by email of the results.
PROJECT COMMENCEMENT DATE	Immediately upon execution of the contract
PROJECT COMPLETION DATE	February 28, 2026 . CCRCD wishes to have operations completed before the summer of 2024.,

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The CCRCD (Grantee) has received funding from CALFIRE (Grantor).

The Project Description:

The Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) has been awarded a grant from CALFIRE. This fuel reduction project will give extensive fire prevention to Mokelumne Hill from the direction that desperately needs flammable fuels reduction, that being from the north, coming from the Mokelumne River Canyon. Not only are there unmanaged and thick live and dead fuels in the Mokelumne River Canyon that are easily ignitable but having a busy state highway in the canyon only exacerbates the potential of ignitions. This section of Highway 49 winding in the canyon is a dangerous stretch of highway with an inordinate amount of vehicle accidents. The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to open the bidding process for fuels reduction services on up to 319 acres. Hereinafter the CALFIRE “Mokelumne Hill Fuels Reduction Project” is referred to as the “Project”.

I. ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

Activity	Date
Release of RFP	10/19/2023
Pre-Bid Tour	10/24/2023
Deadline for RFP responses	11/1/2023

Review Committee evaluates proposals	11/1-8/2023
Contract Award by Committee	On or before 11/9/23
Notice of contract award	On or before 11/10/2023
Contract executed	On or before 11/15/2023
Project start date	December 1, 2023

II. GRANT BACKGROUND & RESPONSIBILITIES

GRANTOR: The project is funded by CALFIRE Grant Award 5GG21172. Grantor may conduct inspections of the project area periodically upon invoice submittals. Invoice submittals and expected payments to contractor dependent upon Grantor guidelines and procedures. Lag time between invoice submittal and payment is dependent upon grantor.

Please note, pre-treatment acreages are estimated based on GIS; final determination of treated acres will be made by Grantor or CCRCD based on actual on-the-ground measurement during certification inspections. Contractor is encouraged to conduct the inspections with Grantor or CCRCD. 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.

GRANT POOL: CALFIRE Fire Prevention Grant Program

GRANTEE: CCRCD. The CCRCD submitted this grant to CALFIRE and was awarded this grant. As the grantee, CCRCD is responsible for financial management and reporting requirements as specified in the executed contract with the grantor. 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 Dan Liechty 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 the CALFIRE for payment and in turn process payment to the contractor.

PROJECT MANAGER. The Project Manager is an employee with the CCRCD and will serve as the lead contact for the Project, including relations with the contractor. The Project Manager for this project is Dan Liechty. The selected contractor may also interact with the Registered Professional Forester (RPF), landowners, and additional CCRCD staff. The forester for this Project is CALFIRE TCU forester Gary Whitson.

III. PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Project Goal

The project goal is to minimize the threat of wildfire entering the town of Mokelumne Hill and the rangelands, Sierra foothills forest and WUI adjacent to the town proper. A fire entering a town like Mokelumne Hill would be disastrous. Most standing homes are at least 50 years old and built before modern fire prevention standards were established. There are a significant number of historic buildings in Mokelumne Hill that would not fend off fire well.

Project Objective

The Project will reduce the risk and the spread of fire ignition by rearranging dangerous ladder fuels and dead trees/debris to ground litter by mastication.

Areas, Treatment Units & Bid Units

The Project is NOT divided into units, as is often the case with many fuel reduction projects offered by CCRCD. This bid process includes the complete Project Footprint. The topography of the project area is generally steep to very steep with several ephemeral and intermittent watercourses. The steep terrain and limited access to the interior of the project pose operational issues and, in some areas, access by machinery is not feasible.

The project acreage for the Project is estimated based on GIS, and covers approximately 319 acres. CCRCD has received written permissions from a vast number of landowners on the Project footprint. A portion of the project area is on BLM land, who is a project partner with the CCRCD.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREAS

Project Areas (Acres): approximately 319 acres

Terrain: Mountainous

Slope/Aspect: Generally 0-40%, some slopes 40-55%. All aspects are present on the project area.

Elevation Range: 740' and 1,470'

Habitat Types: Mixed hardwood-coniferous forest is the dominant forest type.

The overstory consists of various oak species, maple, dogwood, cottonwood, alder, ponderosa and gray pine. - both standing live and dead.

The understory includes chamise, toyon, California buckeye, buckbrush, manzanita, poison oak, and blue elderberry. Vegetation throughout is dens-to-very dense.

Infrastructure Present: The project consists of a semi-circular polygon of forest and shrub fields located along Highway 49 and extending to the perimeter of the town of Mokelumne Hill in northwestern Calaveras County. It is sparsely developed and primarily consists of larger private parcels and portions of BLM lands. No portions of the CalTrans Highway 49 right-of-way will be treated.

Botanical Resources will be flagged for avoidance

- A. Biological Resources will be flagged for avoidance
- B. Cultural Resources will be flagged for avoidance
- C. Human Habitation/ Infrastructure: flagged as needed

V. PRESCRIPTION

Mastication Prescription

- All ground fuels will be masticated. This includes slash, logs, and other vegetative debris currently on the ground.
- All dead and dying trees—except for those specifically flagged for retention—will be felled and masticated, chipped, or otherwise disposed of.
- All brush will be masticated, except for that brush that is specifically flagged for retention. It is anticipated that within large brush fields, some small pockets of brush will be retained for wildlife habitat.
- Small trees of any species—including conifers and hardwoods- which are 12 inches DBH or less will be masticated to achieve an average target spacing for the residual trees of approximately 30-feet by 30-feet.
- 75% of the mastication shreds shall be <36 inches in length. Shreds shall be spread evenly into a layer of mulch to suppress brush regeneration, minimize erosion, and conserve soil moisture. Mulch depth shall be <12 inches. Stumps shall be ground to surface level. Dangerous punji sticks are not allowed.
- Trees will be retained according to the following priority: Ponderosa pine, sugar pine, Douglas fir, white fir, black oak, incense cedar, gray pine, then other species, including live oak and madrone.
- Clumps or groups of Live Oaks will either be totally treated or totally retained. If the group is generally comprised of stems 12” or less in diameter, the entire group will be removed and treated, if consistent with the spacing guidelines. If the group is generally comprised of stems over 12” diameter, the entire group will be left.
- In large brush fields, where there are only isolated, scattered residual trees, these residual trees will be retained, regardless of size and/or species. If more than one species is present in groups, the above priority will be followed. Generally, conifers take precedent over hardwoods. Black oaks take precedent over live oaks.
- Residual trees will be saw-pruned flush with the bole to a height of 10 feet, with the severed limbs and branches masticated.

Equipment Capability/Limitations

- The intent of this project is to treat as much steep ground as possible. Contractors without the capability to treat steep slopes should not bid on this project. Contractors should address their ability to work on steep ground in their proposal.
- Equipment must not operate under saturated soil conditions when compaction or rutting is likely, and traction is compromised. Any ruts >6" deep running downslope will not be allowed to remain.

Identification of Protected Species or Other Critical Resources

- With all environmentally sensitive areas, identification and avoidance during project implementation is important. Trees with active nests will be avoided/retained. If any sensitive resources are located during project implementation, the area shall be avoided pending consultation with the RPF.

VI. PROJECT PROVISIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

- Some 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. No traffic control will be allowed on any portion of Highway 49. No debris, dirt, or chips will be allowed to be deposited on Highway 49. Any dead trees on the project area that can reach Highway 49 will be left untreated.
- All debris on public roads or on any private driveway needs to be removed. All paved roads, which includes public roads and private driveways, must be swept or blown at the end of each workday.
- Landscape vegetation and buffer areas between the properties may be retained depending on landowner preferences. Such retention designation will be noted with the use of plastic flagging.
- Avoid disturbing any refuse or debris that may be piled by landowners.
- Grasses and other low annuals will not be treated.
- Bear clover will not be treated.
- Blackberries need to be treated.
- Hazards within the project area include barbed wire fences, dogs, poison oak, power lines and vehicles.
- Cultural areas will be flagged prior to operations.
- Snags to be saved will be flagged.
- Wood-rat nests to be saved will be flagged.
- All cut and masticated vegetation will be kept within the unit boundaries. Any cut vegetation falling into ditches, roads, road banks, trails, or adjacent properties should immediately be removed.

- 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.
- No direct mobilization or transportation costs will be covered.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Treatment on steeper slopes will depend on contractor's ability to treat steep slopes. This should be addressed in the bid.
- There is possibility for work to start at 6:00 am but this on a case-by-case basis and after informing landowners.
- Fences dropped by contractor must be put back up.
- All damage to public or private property or facilities caused by the contractor will be repaired by the contractor at their own expense.
- No prevailing wage requirements on this job
- No Traffic Control Plan is required, but contractor must address traffic control when working next to public or private roads.
- Payments will be made on actual acres treated. Invoices can be submitted as needed but no more frequently than every 2 weeks.
- Startup of operations: within 60 days of final signing of contract, which includes submission of current Certificates of Insurance and other contractual obligations. Exceptions will only be made with prior approval by the CCRCD.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS:

For all operations associated with this project, the preferred operating season is outside of the CAL FIRE Declared Fire Season. The "Declared Fire Season" is when open burning is not permitted in any region and varies from county to county. It generally begins around May 1 of most years. Even outside of Declared Fire Season, there is a potential for operations fires to break out.

All contractor proposals must include a detailed, job-specific Fire Plan. This will include the following:

During operations outside of Declared Fire Season, the contractor must address fire prevention by the following:

1. Meeting the minimum fire tool requirements of the Public Resources Code.
2. Patrol the jobsite after the end of work, as required by the Forest Practice Rules. This includes provisions for immediate communications in the event of a fire.
3. Make provisions for a water trailer or water truck with fire pump to be on-site. The size, type, and capacity of this water truck or trailer must be stated, along with pump capability (PSI or

gallons/minute), hose size and length and required accessories (e.g., gasoline for the engine, nozzles, etc.). The contractor must describe where the fire trailer is located, and how this trailer will be moved, can it be brought into areas away from roads, etc.

4. State the size and types of fire extinguishers available on each piece of equipment. If the equipment is also outfitted with additional fire suppression capabilities, such as a “heavy equipment fire suppression system”, this needs to be stated and described.

During operations within Declared Fire Season, the contractor must address fire prevention by the following:

1. Meeting ALL requirements for work outside of Declared Fire Season (as listed above).
2. State specific operating restrictions during each day, such as an early start of operations in the morning, then shutting down early during critical heat periods in the afternoon.
3. Capabilities to determine which days are National Weather Service “Red Flag Days,” “Fire Weather Watch Days” or other high fire-danger days.
4. The contractor will be required to masticate an outside work perimeter in the morning, then work within that perimeter for the rest of the day, unless exempted by the RCD project manager.

In addition to the above, the following mandatory fire restrictions apply:

1. On any Red Flag Day, no operations are allowed. This includes any equipment maintenance or repair that involves cutting with a torch, grinding, or welding.
2. On any Fire Weather Watch Day, operations are allowed only with prior approval from the CCRC.
3. On any other high fire-danger day, the CCRC will shut down operations at any time of the day when they determine that fire conditions are extreme.
4. The CCRC may mandate specific areas to work or not work on any given day. (For example, rocky areas may not be worked on hot, dry days.
5. Other operational restrictions may apply, including a total prolonged shut-down of the operation. If this is required, the CCRC will not be liable for any additional equipment mobilization costs incurred by the contractor.

Additional requirements may be found in the CCRC Fire Plan.

FLAGGING COLORS

Pink Glow: Project Area

Orange Glow: Snags to retain (wrapped around trunk)

Orange Glow with O/W Striped STZ Flag: Cultural sites to protect

Orange Glow with O/W Striped STZ Flag: Protect woodrats nest

Blue with B/W Striped flag: Class III centerline (see map for specific delineation)

VII. BID EVALUATION CRITERIA & SCORING

The contract award will be issued to the Contractor based on best value, not necessarily based on strictly the lowest bid. One award will be made to the qualified proposer whose proposal will 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	Attendance to pre-bid tour	5 points
7	Local Benefit	5 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 3-7 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 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) and/or Licensed Timber Operator (LTO-A)
- Insurance Certificates: 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.

Fire Plan: Describe ability to meet the provided CCRCD Fire Plan requirements. Work may be authorized to occur during CALFIRE Fire Season. Strict adherence to CCRCD Fire Plan is mandatory.

Approach:

- Describe the strategy and sequence of operations for the treatment unit.
- 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 for each unit bid on; 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, 5 points will be given to contractors based in Calaveras, Tuolumne, Amador and Mariposa Counties.

AWARD PROCESS

Proposers will receive emailed Award/Non-Award notification(s) which will include the name of the proposer to be awarded this contract.

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 CCRCD 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.

PROTEST/APPEAL PROCESS

The following procedure is provided in the event a proposer wishes to protest the CCRCD 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, 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.

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Mokelumne Hill Fuels Reduction Project Calaveras County Resource Conservation District

Operations Map
Mokelumne Hill USGS 7.5 min. Quad, T5N, R11E, MDBM
September 9, 2023

-  Project Area (395 ac.)
-  Mastication Area (319 ac.)
-  Hand Treatment (20 ac.)
-  Hwy 49 ROW Buffer
-  BLM
- Watercourses**
-  Ephemeral
-  Perennial



T5N, R11E

Operations Map

