



## CALAVERAS COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 1041 • 423 E. St Charles St. • San Andreas, CA 95249  
info@CalaverasRCD.org

### REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 6:00 PM

#### LOCATION

**CCRCD Building - Top Floor. 423 E. Saint Charles St., San Andreas, CA 95249**

**This is an in person meeting only**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact the District Secretary at 743-8799 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

#### CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

- **Roll Call**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Introductions**

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Board of Directors is limited by State law to providing a brief response, asking questions for clarification, or referring a matter to staff when responding to items not listed on the agenda.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. Announcements from CCRCD partners – **Information only**

**CONSENT AGENDA:** The following items are expected to be routine/non-controversial. Items will be acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. Any Board member may request that any item be removed for later discussion.

1. Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2024. Attached
2. Approval of February 2024 Financial Report. Attached

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### 1. **Update on current CalFire grants:**

- Forest Meadows-Wylderidge Fuels Reduction – Walley – **Information**
- Murphys to Forest Meadows Fuelbreak – Walley – **Information**
- Highway 108/Fricot City Fuelbreak – Walley – **Information**
- Mokelumne Hill Fuels Reduction Project –Walley – **Information**
- NW Calaveras Fuels Reduction Project – Walley – **Information**
- Calaveras Unified School District Fuels Reduction & Demonstration Forest Project – Simpson – **Information**

##### 2. **Update on current SNC Grants:**

- Bummerville/Blizzard Mine – Walley – **Action**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Approve Grant Applications - Walley – **Action**
  - a. Oak Woodlands Block Grant with CARCD
  - b. NRCS Contribution Agreement
  - c. NACD Climate Smart Planning Grant
2. Approve Selection Committee choice for NW Calaveras CEQA Contractor – Walley – **Action**
3. Formation of a Prescribed Fire Ad Hoc Committee – Dvorak – **Information**

## **BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS & STAFF REPORTS:**

1. Board Member announcements – **Information**
2. Executive Director report – Walley – **Information**
3. Staff announcements/reports – **Information**

## **CLOSED SESSION:**

1. Conference with legal counsel regarding existing or anticipated litigation (§ 54956.9) – Osbourn – **Action**
2. Public employee appointment, employment, performance evaluation, discipline, dismissal or release (§ 54957(b)) – Osbourn – **Action**

## **RE-OPEN SESSION:**

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

***Next Regular Meeting to be held at 6:00 pm, April 11, 2024***

### **Providing public comment**

The CCRCD Board of Directors is limited by State law to providing a brief response, asking questions for clarification, or referring a matter to staff when responding to items that are not listed on the agenda.

If you wish to provide public comment please:

- The Chair will call each speaker in the order received
- Comments on **non-agenda items** will be heard at the beginning of the meeting
- Comments on **agenda items** will be heard when the item is up for consideration
- Each speaker is allotted 3 minutes to speak; the Chair has the discretion to amend this time based on the number of speakers
- The Chair will keep track of time and inform each speaker when his/her allotted time has concluded

# Minutes of the Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Regular Board Meeting

February 8, 2024

423 Saint Charles St, San Andreas, CA

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by J. Marsili – President @ 6:00 pm

**Board Members & Staff Present:** B. Dean; M. Dvorak; S. Hodson; K. Lambert-V.P.; J. Marsili-President; J. Osbourn; Y. Tiscornia B. Cook-Assoc. Director; M. Cole-Admin; D. Simpson-Fiscal Director; D. Liechty, Project Mgr.; P. McGreevy, Project Mgr.;

**Board Members & Staff Absent:** T. Walley, Executive Director

**Others Present:** Jesse Fowler; Gary Whitson; Cody (Bordges Operator); Mitchell Garcia

**Introductions:** None

**Public Comment:** Jesse Fowler noted the weed control workshop, and the Hardwood Advisory meeting next week. Mitchell Garcia offered his help to work on the logging sale from the Bummerville project.

**CLOSED SESSION at 6:06 pm**

**RE-OPENED the meeting at 7:33 pm**

## CLOSED SESSION REPORT

1. Conference with legal counsel regarding existing or anticipated litigation (§ 54956.9) – M. Dvorak reported a decision was made to authorize Jan Bray and Pat McGreevy to enter the project site for inspection and measure of completed acres.
2. Public employee appointment, employment, performance evaluation, discipline, dismissal or release (§ 54957(b))-No action to report.

## Order of Business:

### Consent Agenda Items:

1. **J. Osbourn made a motion to approve both minutes and financials as submitted. Second by B. Dean. Motion passed on a 7/0/0 vote.**

### Old Business:

1. Updates on Current CalFire Grants in addition to attached report:
  - Forest Meadows/Wylderidge: Report supplied in packet, D. Simpson added that the CalFire acreage issue has been resolved.
  - Murphys to Forest Meadows Fuels Reduction project: Report supplied in packet, no additional comments.

- Highway 108 North Fuels Reduction Project: Report supplied in packet, no additional comments
- Fricot City Road Fuels Reduction Project: Report supplied in packet, no additional comments.
- Mokelumne Hill Fuels Reduction Project: D. Liechty reported Krisman will start April 1, weather dependent.
- NW Calaveras Fuels Reduction Project – Report supplied in packet, no additional comments.
- Calaveras Unified School District Fuels Reduction & Demonstration Forest Project – D. Simson reported the committee met last night and is awaiting a report.

### **SNC Grants Update:**

2. Update on Current SNC Grants:
  - SNC Pine Ridge Project – no additional comments.
  - SNC Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Project: Reviewed outstanding contractor invoice. B. Dean made a motion to pay the Bordges invoice for approved completed work. For lack of a second, motion dies.

### **New Business:**

1. 2024 Officer Elections – **B. Dean made a motion to nominate & elect J. Marsili for President. Second by J. Osbourn. Motion passed 7/0/0.**  
**K. Lambert made a motion to nominate & elect J. Osbourn for Vice President. Second by J. Marsili. Motion passed 7/0/0.**  
**J. Marsili made a motion to nominate & elect B. Dean for Treasurer. Second by K. Lambert. Motion passed 7/0/0.**
2. Approve CalFire Forestry Resiliency Block Grant – **J. Marsili made a motion to support participation in this grant at the discretion of the Executive Director. Second by J. Osbourn. Motion passed on 7/0/0 vote.**
3. Set Ad Hoc Selection Committee for NW Calaveras CEQA RFP – Committee to include B. Dean, J. Osbourn, K. Lambert, T. Walley and D. Liechty.
4. Support & participate in the invasive weed seminar on April 27 – B. Dean reviewed the program. **B. Dean made a motion to support the program. Second by M. Dvorak. Motion passed on 7/0/0 vote.** ED T. Walley will be asked to attend and give an opening statement on the RCD. The public seminar to be held May 18<sup>th</sup>.
5. Approve board members access to the website – **J. Marsili made a motion to allow M. Dvorak access to our social media and website accounts. Second by K. Lambert. On a 5/1/1 vote, motion passed.**

6. Approve rental of space in the basement to MUM Inc – D. Simpson requests rental of office space in basement at the rate of \$100/mo. **A motion was made by B. Dean to approve the rental at the discretion of the ED. Second by J. Osbourn. On a 6/0/1 vote motion passed.**

**Reports:**

1. Board Member announcements – J. Marsili noted she will not be present at the March board meeting. K. Lambert & J. Osbourn would like to use only their CCRCD email accounts.
2. Staff announcements – E. D. report is attached. D. Simpson requests that staff be allowed to hold in the basement instead of waiting outside in the cold during closed sessions. M. Cole noted Form 700s are due and provided had copies, as well as a new board and staff directory.

**Adjournment of meeting** – Meeting adjourned @ 8:26 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:00 pm.**

Attest:

President, Julia Marsili \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary, Mary Cole \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Calaveras County Resource Conservation District

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

July 2023 through January 2024

	Jul '23 - Jan 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Direct Public Support</b>			
Individ, Business Contributions	4.93		
<b>Total Direct Public Support</b>	4.93		
<b>Indirect Public Support</b>			
Affiliated Org. Contributions	365.00	0.00	365.00
<b>Total Indirect Public Support</b>	365.00	0.00	365.00
<b>Investments</b>			
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	103.42	0.00	103.42
<b>Total Investments</b>	103.42	0.00	103.42
<b>Other Types of Income</b>			
Miscellaneous Revenue	32.91		
<b>Total Other Types of Income</b>	32.91		
<b>Program Income</b>			
Indirect Costs	122,919.66	297,033.00	-174,113.34
Program Revenue	1,093,514.34	2,860,596.00	-1,767,081.66
<b>Total Program Income</b>	1,216,434.00	3,157,629.00	-1,941,195.00
<b>Rental Income</b>	7,765.49	18,000.00	-10,234.51
<b>Total Income</b>	1,224,705.75	3,175,629.00	-1,950,923.25
<b>Gross Profit</b>	1,224,705.75	3,175,629.00	-1,950,923.25
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Advertising and Promotion</b>	10.00		
<b>Contract Services</b>			
Contractor Services	1,042,341.82	2,760,597.00	-1,718,255.18
<b>Total Contract Services</b>	1,042,341.82	2,760,597.00	-1,718,255.18
<b>Facilities and Equipment</b>			
Facility Maintenance	6,872.91	15,000.00	-8,127.09
Property Taxes	330.00	300.00	30.00
Utilities	4,726.88	7,500.00	-2,773.12
<b>Total Facilities and Equipment</b>	11,929.79	22,800.00	-10,870.21
<b>Insurance Expense</b>			
Insurance - Liability, D and O	3,702.24	3,750.00	-47.76
Worker's Compensation Insurance	2,604.07	3,500.00	-895.93
<b>Total Insurance Expense</b>	6,306.31	7,250.00	-943.69
<b>Operations</b>			
Computer Software	2,099.86	5,000.00	-2,900.14
Grant Supplies	1,198.35	4,284.00	-3,085.65
Office Equipment	607.82	5,000.00	-4,392.18
Office Supplies	642.56	1,000.00	-357.44
Outreach	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Payroll Processing	36.00	1,500.00	-1,464.00
Postage, Mailing Service	0.00	240.00	-240.00
Telephone, Telecommunications	1,049.08		
Website	0.00	500.00	-500.00
<b>Total Operations</b>	5,633.67	18,024.00	-12,390.33

## Calaveras County Resource Conservation District

03/11/24

## Profit &amp; Loss Budget vs. Actual

Accrual Basis

July 2023 through January 2024

	Jul '23 - Jan 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>Other Types of Expenses</b>			
Advertising Expenses	186.98	0.00	186.98
Memberships and Dues	226.00	3,000.00	-2,774.00
Other Costs	51.95	1,000.00	-948.05
<b>Total Other Types of Expenses</b>	464.93	4,000.00	-3,535.07
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	74,733.27	181,190.00	-106,456.73
<b>Professional Fees</b>	0.00	15,000.00	-15,000.00
<b>Travel and Meetings</b>			
Conference, Convention, Meeting	0.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00
Travel	398.27	2,425.00	-2,026.73
<b>Total Travel and Meetings</b>	398.27	4,925.00	-4,526.73
<b>Total Expense</b>	1,141,818.06	3,013,786.00	-1,871,967.94
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	82,887.69	161,843.00	-78,955.31
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
Other Expense			
Additions to Reserves	0.00	45,000.00	-45,000.00
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	0.00	45,000.00	-45,000.00
<b>Net Other Income</b>	0.00	-45,000.00	45,000.00
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>82,887.69</b>	<b>116,843.00</b>	<b>-33,955.31</b>

## Calaveras County Resource Conservation District

## Profit &amp; Loss Budget vs. Actual

July 2023 through January 2024

	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Direct Public Support</b>	
Individ, Business Contributions	
<b>Total Direct Public Support</b>	
<b>Indirect Public Support</b>	
Affiliated Org. Contributions	100.0%
<b>Total Indirect Public Support</b>	100.0%
<b>Investments</b>	
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	100.0%
<b>Total Investments</b>	100.0%
<b>Other Types of Income</b>	
Miscellaneous Revenue	
<b>Total Other Types of Income</b>	
<b>Program Income</b>	
Indirect Costs	41.4%
Program Revenue	38.2%
<b>Total Program Income</b>	38.5%
<b>Rental Income</b>	43.1%
<b>Total Income</b>	38.6%
<b>Gross Profit</b>	38.6%
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>Advertising and Promotion</b>	
<b>Contract Services</b>	
Contractor Services	37.8%
<b>Total Contract Services</b>	37.8%
<b>Facilities and Equipment</b>	
Facility Maintenance	45.8%
Property Taxes	110.0%
Utilities	63.0%
<b>Total Facilities and Equipment</b>	52.3%
<b>Insurance Expense</b>	
Insurance - Liability, D and O	98.7%
Worker's Compensation Insurance	74.4%
<b>Total Insurance Expense</b>	87.0%
<b>Operations</b>	
Computer Software	42.0%
Grant Supplies	28.0%
Office Equipment	12.2%
Office Supplies	64.3%
Outreach	0.0%
Payroll Processing	2.4%
Postage, Mailing Service	0.0%
Telephone, Telecommunications	
Website	0.0%
<b>Total Operations</b>	31.3%



**Calaveras County Resource Conservation District**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
**July 2023 through January 2024**

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	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Other Types of Expenses</b>	
Advertising Expenses	100.0%
Memberships and Dues	7.5%
Other Costs	5.2%
	<hr/>
<b>Total Other Types of Expenses</b>	11.6%
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	41.2%
<b>Professional Fees</b>	0.0%
<b>Travel and Meetings</b>	
Conference, Convention, Meeting	0.0%
Travel	16.4%
	<hr/>
<b>Total Travel and Meetings</b>	8.1%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<hr/> 37.9%
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	51.2%
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
Other Expense	
Additions to Reserves	0.0%
	<hr/>
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	0.0%
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<hr/> 0.0%
<b>Net Income</b>	<hr/> <hr/> <b>70.9%</b>

# Calaveras County Resource Conservation District Balance Sheet

As of February 29, 2024

	Feb 29, 24
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
2422 - General Savings	500.15
Checking	56,067.60
Savings 2420 - Forest Meadows	577.77
Savings 2421 - Wylderidge	662.00
Savings 2423 - Hwy 108-Fricot	141,794.37
Savings 2485 - Bummerville	500.74
Savings 2514 Moke Hill	19,651.22
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	219,753.85
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
Accounts Receivable	285,643.76
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	285,643.76
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	505,397.61
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Building Improvements	7,675.00
Buildings - Operating	219,210.49
Land - Operating	93,947.35
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	320,832.84
<b>Other Assets</b>	
Accum Depreciation	-28,010.23
Accumulated Depr - Bldg Improve	-1,183.23
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	-29,193.46
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>797,036.99</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	221,810.00
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	221,810.00
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
Payroll Liabilities	6,274.24
Unearned or Deferred Revenue	144,950.74
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	151,224.98
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	373,034.98
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	373,034.98
<b>Equity</b>	
Net Investment in Capital Asset	307,020.92
Retained Earnings	54,074.88
Net Income	62,906.21
<b>Total Equity</b>	424,002.01
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>797,036.99</b>

## Calaveras County Resource Conservation District Deposit Detail February 2024

Type	Num	Date	Name	Account	Amount
<b>Deposit</b>		<b>02/14/2024</b>		<b>Checking</b>	<b>100,635.43</b>
Payment	6636...	02/14/2024	Cal Fire:Murphys Forest Meado...	Undeposited Fun...	-100,635.43
TOTAL					-100,635.43
<b>Deposit</b>		<b>02/23/2024</b>		<b>Checking</b>	<b>18,724.20</b>
Payment	66-3...	02/23/2024	Cal Fire:Wylderidge	Undeposited Fun...	-18,724.20
TOTAL					-18,724.20
<b>Deposit</b>		<b>02/29/2024</b>		<b>Checking</b>	<b>1.14</b>
				Interest-Savings,...	-1.14
TOTAL					-1.14
<b>Deposit</b>		<b>02/29/2024</b>		<b>Savings 2514 M...</b>	<b>0.51</b>
				Interest-Savings,...	-0.51
TOTAL					-0.51
<b>Deposit</b>		<b>02/29/2024</b>		<b>Savings 2485 - ...</b>	<b>0.01</b>
				Interest-Savings,...	-0.01
TOTAL					-0.01
<b>Deposit</b>		<b>02/29/2024</b>		<b>Savings 2423 - ...</b>	<b>3.38</b>
				Interest-Savings,...	-3.38
TOTAL					-3.38
<b>Deposit</b>		<b>02/29/2024</b>		<b>2422 - General ...</b>	<b>0.02</b>
				Interest-Savings,...	-0.02
TOTAL					-0.02
<b>Deposit</b>		<b>02/29/2024</b>		<b>Savings 2421 - ...</b>	<b>0.02</b>
				Interest-Savings,...	-0.02
TOTAL					-0.02
<b>Deposit</b>		<b>02/29/2024</b>		<b>Savings 2420 - ...</b>	<b>0.02</b>
				Interest-Savings,...	-0.02
TOTAL					-0.02
<b>Deposit</b>		<b>02/29/2024</b>		<b>Checking</b>	<b>0.81</b>
				Interest-Savings,...	-0.81
TOTAL					-0.81

## Calaveras County Resource Conservation District Check Detail February 2024

Type	Num	Date	Name	Account	Paid Amount
Check		02/01/2024	Intuit Quickbooks	Checking	
				Computer Softw...	-52.00
TOTAL					-52.00
Liability Check		02/08/2024	QuickBooks Payroll Service	Checking	
			QuickBooks Payroll Service	Direct Deposit Li...	-5,206.68
TOTAL					-5,206.68
Liability Check		02/23/2024	QuickBooks Payroll Service	Checking	
			QuickBooks Payroll Service	Direct Deposit Li...	-6,792.80
TOTAL					-6,792.80
Check	ACH	02/05/2024	Comcast	Checking	
				Telephone, Tele...	-123.48
TOTAL					-123.48
Check	ACH	02/05/2024	Microsoft	Checking	
				Computer Softw...	-114.00
TOTAL					-114.00
Check	ACH	02/07/2024	Comcast	Checking	
				Telephone, Tele...	-59.30
TOTAL					-59.30
Check	ACH	02/19/2024	GotPrint	Checking	
			Cal Fire:Hwy 108 Fricot City	Grant Supplies	-98.83
			Cal Fire:Hwy 108 Fricot City	Grant Supplies	-98.83
			Cal Fire:Moke Hill 5GG21172	Grant Supplies	-132.80
TOTAL					-330.46
Check	ACH	02/22/2024	Intuit Quickbooks	Checking	
				Computer Softw...	-18.00
TOTAL					-18.00
Check	ACH	02/26/2024	Intuit Quickbooks	Checking	
				Computer Softw...	-36.00
TOTAL					-36.00
Check	ACH	02/28/2024	ParcelQuest	Checking	
			Cal Fire:Hwy 108 Fricot City	Computer Softw...	-199.95
TOTAL					-199.95

## Calaveras County Resource Conservation District Check Detail February 2024

Type	Num	Date	Name	Account	Paid Amount
Check	ACH	02/28/2024	Staples	Checking	
				Office Supplies	-46.20
TOTAL					-46.20
Check	Debit	02/11/2024	Adobe	Checking	
				Computer Softw...	-29.99
TOTAL					-29.99
Liability Check	E-pay	02/05/2024	EDD	Checking	
				Payroll Liabilities	-445.89
TOTAL					-445.89
Liability Check	E-pay	02/05/2024	United States Treasury	Checking	
				Payroll Liabilities	-2,144.00
				Payroll Liabilities	-1,062.11
				Payroll Liabilities	-1,062.11
				Payroll Liabilities	-248.41
				Payroll Liabilities	-248.41
TOTAL					-4,765.04
Bill Pmt -Check	661	02/06/2024	Calaveras Public Utility District (CPUD)	Checking	
Bill		02/06/2024		Utilities	-69.93
TOTAL					-69.93
Bill Pmt -Check	662	02/06/2024	San Andreas Sanitary District	Checking	
Bill		02/06/2024		Utilities	-102.58
TOTAL					-102.58
Check	663	02/12/2024	Don O'Brien	Checking	
				Facility Maintena...	-69.99
TOTAL					-69.99
Bill Pmt -Check	664	02/14/2024	Eddy Struffenegger	Checking	
Bill		01/31/2024	Cal Fire:Murphys Forest Meadows 2020-...	Contractor Servi...	-4,152.50
Bill		01/31/2024	Cal Fire:Moke Hill 5GG21172	Contractor Servi...	-812.50
Bill		01/31/2024	Cal Fire:Hwy 108 Fricot City	Contractor Servi...	-5,221.50
TOTAL					-10,186.50
Bill Pmt -Check	665	02/14/2024	Jan Bray	Checking	
Bill		12/04/2023	Sierra Nevada Conservancy:Pine Ridge ...	Contractor Servi...	-3,900.00
TOTAL					-3,900.00

## Calaveras County Resource Conservation District Check Detail February 2024

Type	Num	Date	Name	Account	Paid Amount
<b>Bill Pmt -Check</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>02/14/2024</b>	<b>Krisman Enterprises</b>	<b>Checking</b>	
Bill		12/19/2023	Cal Fire:Murphys Forest Meadows 2020-...	Contractor Servi...	-64,780.00
TOTAL					-64,780.00
<b>Bill Pmt -Check</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>02/14/2024</b>	<b>Calaveras Public Power Agency (CPPA)</b>	<b>Checking</b>	
Bill		02/14/2024		Utilities	-277.00
TOTAL					-277.00
<b>Bill Pmt -Check</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>02/14/2024</b>	<b>PG&amp;E- V</b>	<b>Checking</b>	
Bill		02/14/2024		Utilities	-739.65
TOTAL					-739.65
<b>Bill Pmt -Check</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>02/28/2024</b>	<b>Dan Liechty</b>	<b>Checking</b>	
Bill		02/28/2024	Cal Fire:Hwy 108 Fricot City	Travel	-692.11
			Cal Fire:Moke Hill 5GG21172	Travel	-109.34
			Cal Fire:Hwy 108 Fricot City	Grant Supplies	-36.19
TOTAL					-837.64
<b>Check</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>02/23/2024</b>	<b>Ramos and Sons Tree Doctors</b>	<b>Checking</b>	
				Facility Maintena...	-750.00
TOTAL					-750.00

**CCRC Building Income/Expense Report**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Jan-24	Feb-24	YTD 2024	Total All Dates
<b><u>Income:</u></b>											
CPUD	\$1,420.50	\$348.60									\$1,769.10
Common Ground	\$0.00	\$3,600.00	\$4,737.50	\$5,100.00	\$6,625.00	\$6,600.00	\$6,600.00	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$1,100.00	\$34,362.50
UCCE	\$0.00	\$1,261.34	\$3,724.18	\$3,540.50	\$3,581.92	\$6,931.42	\$8,349.09	\$1,053.81	\$1,190.51	\$2,244.32	\$29,632.76
Multiple Use Managers									\$100.00	\$100.00	
Motherlode Bonsai Club	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$375.00	\$75.00	\$300.00			\$0.00	\$990.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,420.50</b>	<b>\$5,209.94</b>	<b>\$8,461.68</b>	<b>\$8,880.50</b>	<b>\$10,581.92</b>	<b>\$13,606.42</b>	<b>\$15,249.09</b>	<b>\$1,603.81</b>	<b>\$1,840.51</b>	<b>\$3,444.32</b>	<b>\$66,754.36</b>
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>											
CPUD	\$177.38	\$672.06	\$709.63	\$988.51	\$927.41	\$901.58	\$957.03	\$69.71	\$69.93	\$139.64	\$5,473.24
San Andreas Sanitary	\$282.59	\$1,009.61	\$1,280.41	\$1,391.33	\$1,192.97	\$1,206.83	\$1,251.47	\$102.58	\$102.58	\$205.16	\$7,820.37
CPPA	\$44.80	\$1,353.60	\$2,009.80	\$1,618.80	\$1,743.60	\$2,218.48	\$3,532.32	\$252.00	\$277.00	\$529.00	\$13,050.40
PGE	\$44.87	\$422.44	\$1,400.71	\$1,057.48	\$1,221.74	\$1,512.10	\$1,802.76	\$562.15	\$739.65	\$1,301.80	\$8,763.90
Insurance					\$684.26	\$848.70	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$1,532.96
Sewer Repairs	\$0.00	\$8,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$230.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$8,730.00
A/C Repairs	\$0.00	\$142.16	\$0.00	\$2,039.02	\$145.19	\$1,088.99	\$2,439.70			\$0.00	\$5,855.06
General Maintenance	\$0.00	\$27.57	\$406.89	\$295.47	\$272.68	\$1,151.75	\$4,458.28	\$180.00	\$819.99	\$999.99	\$7,612.63
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$549.64</b>	<b>\$12,127.44</b>	<b>\$5,807.44</b>	<b>\$7,390.61</b>	<b>\$6,187.85</b>	<b>\$9,158.43</b>	<b>\$14,441.56</b>	<b>\$1,166.44</b>	<b>\$2,009.15</b>	<b>\$3,175.59</b>	<b>\$58,838.56</b>
Profit/Loss	\$870.86	(\$6,917.50)	\$2,654.24	\$1,489.89	\$4,394.07	\$4,447.99	\$807.53	\$437.37	(\$168.64)	\$268.73	\$7,915.80

Grant Tracking as of 2/29/2024

	<u>Grant Period</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>	<u>Direct Costs</u>	<u>Indirect Cost</u>	<u>Current Advance</u>	<u>Remaining Advance</u>	<u>Expended to Date</u>	<u>Invoiced</u>	<u>Amount Remaining</u>	
Murphys Forest Meadows (CalFire)	5/26/2020 - 3/15/2024	\$ 2,161,776.00	\$ 1,965,251.00	\$ 196,525.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,771,348.07	\$ 115,988.59	\$ 390,427.93	
Wyllderidge (CalFire)	11/23/2021 - 3/15/2025	\$ 440,608.30	\$ 400,553.30	\$ 40,055.00		\$ -	\$ 145,494.80	\$ 1,984.40	\$ 295,113.50	
Pine Ridge (SNC)	4/15/2022 - 1/1/2027	\$ 405,605.00	\$ 352,700.00	\$ 52,905.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400,942.90	\$ 35,898.40	\$ -	complete
Fricot City/108 Direct Award (CalFire)	5/9/2022 - 3/15/2026	\$ 999,109.10	\$ 908,281.00	\$ 90,828.10	\$ 215,600.00	\$ 128,255.34	\$ 87,344.66		\$ 911,764.44	
Moke Hill (CalFire)	10/6/2022 - 3/15/2026	\$ 1,047,753.71	\$ 952,503.37	\$ 95,250.34	\$ 89,010.63	\$ 16,695.52	\$ 72,498.97		\$ 975,254.75	
Bummerville/Blizzard Mine (SNC)	9/12/2022 - 1/1/2028	\$ 1,450,740.00	\$ 1,318,854.00	\$ 131,885.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 592,034.31	\$ 128,132.30	\$ 858,705.69	
NW Calaveras (CalFire)	12/27/2023 - 3/15/2029	\$ 2,348,773.28	\$ 2,097,119.00	\$ 251,654.28			\$ 2,364.88		\$ 2,346,408.40	
Other A/R: Rent, TCRCD, CARCD								\$ 3,120.07		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 8,854,365.39</b>	<b>\$ 7,995,261.67</b>	<b>\$ 859,102.72</b>	<b>\$ 304,610.63</b>	<b>\$ 144,950.86</b>	<b>\$ 3,072,028.59</b>	<b>\$ 285,123.76</b>	<b>\$ 5,777,674.71</b>	
						* Deferred Rev		*Accounts Rec		



**Submitted:**  
**San Andreas Fuel Break**  
**RFFCP**  
**BLM Stewardship – Calaveras and Amador**  
**CalFire Wildfire Resiliency Grant with TCRCD**

**Upcoming:**

**Grant: Oak Woodlands Block Grant with CARCD**

- CARCD will lead the block grant application and admin
- Conserve and Restore California's oak woodlands
- Target – sustainable ranch and farming operations

**Funding Amount:** In development with CARCD but past WCB efforts have been 100-300K

**Executive Director Input:** CARCD is a proven block grant leader that provides a good framework to work within. There seems to be a lot of local interest based on the recent Hardwood Committee efforts at the County level.

**Grant: NRCS Contribution Agreement**

- CCRCD would be applicant
- Resource Conservation Technician that can support NRCS with site visits, documenting resource concerns the providing an NRCS conservation planner with tech notes, soil assessments or results from other tools, and inventory maps to screen/rank for funding
- Target – individual landowners with any resource concern
  - o Provide or facilitate outreach that directly yields new customers who have not previously received or participated in USDA-NRCS programs.
  - o Conduct landscape level planning to enhance rapid delivery of NRCS conservation programs and provide documentation that supports outcomes of conservation measures.
  - o Planning assistance, Implementation assistance, Educational Workshops
- Requires match which any of our indirect, state or local foundation funds.

**Funding Amount:** Apply for full amount of \$75,000 for 3 years requiring \$75,000 match

**Executive Director Input:** A great match to pending RFFCP to build capacity. Majority of funding would be to bring a Resource conservation tech on staff as an NRCS affiliate that can do mapping and other site assessments.

**Grant: NACD Climate-Smart Planning & Capacity**

- CCRCD would be applicant.
- Outreach to scale up climate smart practices
- Developing partnerships and staffing for MMRV – measure, monitor, report and verify

**Funding Amount:** Apply for full amount of \$15,000 for 1 year requiring \$1,650 match

**Executive Director Input:** Understanding market dynamics and demand in Calaveras County. Climate Smart funding is everywhere from air board to CDFA to national funding sources

# Climate-Smart Commodities Planning & Capacity Grants Request for Proposals

## SECTION 1: Grant Summary

**TITLE:** Strengthening Grassroots Leadership and Capacity to Scale Climate-Smart Production Systems and Facilitate Historically Underserved Producers' Access to Markets

**DUE DATE:** May 15, 2024 (anticipated award, August 2024)

**FUNDING:** The maximum Planning & Capacity Grant is \$15,000 (10% match). NACD anticipates award of up to 50 Planning & Capacity Grants.

Recipients of Planning & Capacity grants will be eligible to compete for a future pool of project implementation funds. **It is anticipated that implementation or project grants resulting from Planning & Capacity grants will range from \$50,000 to \$750,000 per project.**

It is anticipated that the RFP for this project pool will be released in Spring 2025. Projects will be evaluated and selected on a competitive basis. The competition for future project grants will be limited to those with a Planning & Capacity grant. Please note, however, that having received a Planning & Capacity grant does not guarantee that a recipient will receive a project implementation grant.

*Match may be waived for Planning & Capacity Grants if 100% of the project serves underserved producers. Please refer to NACD's Climate Smart Commodities FAQ for additional programmatic details and information on this grant program.*

**DURATION:** 12 months from award

**RESOURCES:** (1) NACD's Climate Smart Commodities Grant FAQ provides programmatic details and policies. This will be regularly updated at [bit.ly/nacdclimate](https://bit.ly/nacdclimate).

(2) USDA Data Dictionary, Reporting Instructions, and Reporting Template details the requirements for quarterly reporting at the field, farm, producer, and project levels.

## SECTION 2: Grant Selection Process

### 2.1 BACKGROUND

Administrative capacity can be a major barrier for organizations with limited resources. Further, projects funded by the Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities program requires strong outreach/education, technical assistance, MMRV, and marketing plans. These are complex partnerships, strategies, and projects to develop and implement.

**Planning & Capacity (P&C) grants are intended to support early-stage development of a climate-smart commodities project.** P&C grants may focus on community needs assessments, partnership development, and building preliminary capacity to begin programming in the following areas:

- Outreach and technical assistance with the goals of scaling the adoption of climate-smart practices
- Developing the capabilities and partnerships necessary for developing measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MMRV) plans
- Assessing and understanding market dynamics (e.g., understanding local demand for climate-smart commodities, analyzing barriers to producers' participation in such markets). Assessments may be conducted with the goals of:
  - Developing plans to mitigate barriers to participation and
  - Developing partnerships to develop or expand local or regional climate-smart markets

### 2.2 SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES FOR P&C GRANTS

One of the key outcomes for recipients of a P&C grant is to implement a climate-smart commodities project upon completion. Future projects should:

- Leverage the locally-led conservation delivery system to provide the education and technical assistance needed to transition to climate-smart production systems.
- Develop economic opportunities within communities and build local capacity that can sustain projects and partnerships beyond the life of the grant.
- Seek to mitigate historical and systemic barriers within the broader food system to increase participation of underserved producers and communities.
- Provide external match, leverage, or additional financial incentives to producers, more holistically de-risking their transition to climate-smart systems and supporting their long-term economic viability.

Additionally, each project under NACD's Climate Smart Commodities grant must include the following components:

- Outreach, education, technical and financial assistance with the goals of **scaling climate-smart practice adoption** (e.g., reaching new and underserved producers; enrolling new acres).
- Clear plan for **measuring/quantifying** environmental outcomes (GHG benefits, as well as other co-benefits such as water quality, biodiversity, etc.), as well as **monitoring, reporting, and verifying outcomes**.
- **Develop or expand** local, regional, or national **markets** for climate-smart commodities.

**P&C grants should therefore ensure that the organization(s) involved are developing the strategies, plans, resources, and milestones for each of the three components listed above.**

### **2.3 PLANNING & CAPACITY GRANT SCOPE**

One of the goals of NACD's Planning & Capacity grants is to facilitate the project planning and partnership development needed to achieve the above stated outcomes and goals. Examples of potential efforts include, but are not limited to:

- Partnership development and project scoping
- Testing potential collaborations or technical assistance/service delivery/education models
- Developing partnerships and capacity building with Tribes or community-based organizations that represent Tribes and/or underserved producers
- Develop frameworks for conservation field trials meant to advance indigenous practices or Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), including but not limited to conducting conservation evaluation and monitoring activities (CEMA) consistent with NRCS program policies and processes
- Community and producer needs assessments
- Piloting educational opportunities or testing climate-smart conservation plans with producers
- Assessment and identification of potential markets for climate-smart commodities (whether local, regional, or national), as well as analysis of potential barriers to entry and meaningful participation of local producers
- Development of strategies and partnerships to reduce or eliminate barriers to participating in conservation/climate programs and markets
- Developing partnerships and strategies to advance MMRV, or strategies for compensating producers for their environmental outcomes/benefits

Competitive proposals will focus on developing projects and partnerships across all three of the main components. Proposals focusing only on advancing one component (e.g., outreach, education, and technical assistance; research/demonstrations or advancing MMRV; assessing or expanding markets) will not meet the goals of a P&C grant.

**2.4 ANTICIPATED MILESTONES & TIMELINES**

Anticipated Dates	Milestones
March 7, 2024	NACD will host a webinar to discuss this RFA and answer any questions. All interested parties, both eligible entities and partners, are welcome to join. The webinar will be recorded and posted to NACD’s website: <a href="https://bit.ly/nacdclimate">bit.ly/nacdclimate</a>
May 15, 2024	Applications due
April 16 – August 2024	Fact-finding and clarifications, formal evaluations, and negotiations or scope refinements
August 2024	Applicants notified of selection
August 2024	Award

**2.5 EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Planning & Capacity Grants will be evaluated based on the following:

**Project Goals & Timeline (25%)**

- Demonstrates a clear understanding of the Climate Smart Commodities grant program
- Project goals, plans, milestones and objectives are clear, realistic, and feasible given the timeline, capacity, and capability of partners

**Technical Approach (25%)**

- Strength and clarity of the approach to developing partnerships/strategies to scale practices, develop MMRV plans, and develop/expand climate-smart markets
- Demonstrates an understanding of local needs and producers, as well as a description of how the project fits within the district’s long-range or strategic plan
- Strength of partnerships with neighboring conservation districts and potential partners, including commitments from community partners (e.g., producer groups, MRV providers, and market partners)

**Alignment to NACD’s goal of leaving no producer behind (25%)**

- Strength of outreach plans to Tribes and/or underserved producers
- Strength of collaborations with Tribes, tribal organizations, and/or community-based organizations representing underserved producers

**Other (25%)**

- Project Sustainability (e.g., how project will be sustained or implemented in years beyond the P&C grant period)
- Past performance and experience
- Project Risk (e.g., financial, technical, and programmatic)
- Detailed project budget and description of how funds will be used to achieve project goals
- NACD will consider the diversity of applications when making selections. This includes, but is not limited to geography, size and scale of projects, commodities, and operations.

## SECTION 3: Eligibility

### 3.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include:

- Conservation district or Tribal conservation district
- State/territory association of conservation districts
- Resource conservation & development council, and/or
- Tribal government or inter-tribal consortium. This includes Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments and State Designated Indian Tribes. Intertribal Consortia must meet the definition for eligibility in the Environmental Program Grants for Tribe Final Rule (40 CFR 35.504, 66 FR 3782, January 16, 2001 (FRL-6929-5)) and be a non-profit organization within the meaning of 2CFR 200.

NACD will also accept applications from organizations representing historically underserved producers. Proposals must engage one of the eligible entities listed above and include a letter of support from the partnering district(s).

NACD is committed to advancing equity, justice, and equal opportunity by sustaining fairness in the way programs, services, and technical assistance are delivered, within agency policies and practices. Consistent with NACD's equity and Justice40 objectives, the ability to reach historically underserved producers and communities will be considered and evaluated. Developing local partnerships and strengthening collaborations with underserved producers and producer groups is highly encouraged.

### 3.2 ELIGIBLE GEOGRAPHIES

Eligible geographies include anywhere in the United States, including the territories of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

### 3.3 COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, JUSTICE, AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

NACD is committed to advancing equity, justice, and equal opportunity by sustaining fairness in the way programs, services, and technical assistance are delivered. "Equity" means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian American and Pacific Islander persons and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; women and girls; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; persons who live in United States Territories and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality. Equity ensures that all individuals and communities have the opportunities and resources they need to reach equal outcomes.

Some groups of people are identified in Farm Bill legislation and in USDA policy as being Historically Underserved. Members of these groups have been historically underserved by, or subject to discrimination in, Federal policies and programs. Four groups are defined by USDA as "Historically Underserved," including producers who are: Beginning; Socially Disadvantaged; Veteran; and Limited Resource. See the NRCS website for further explanations and eligibility criteria: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/underserved-farmers-ranchers>

## SECTION 4: Technical Proposal

### 4.1 INSTRUCTIONS

There are four parts to the proposal:

- Technical Proposal
  - See Section 4.3 for the proposal questions, sequence, and page limitations. NACD will also utilize an electronic form to collect metrics and certain survey questions.
- Budget Table
  - A template for the budget table is provided in Section 5. NACD will utilize its Grant Management system to collect budget information.
- Budget Narrative
  - Instructions for the Budget Narrative are provided in Section 5. The narrative shall describe and justify proposed costs, how the costs were estimated, and how the expenses contribute to the project deliverables.
- Letters of Support
  - See Section 4.2 for additional information.

NACD is in the process of implementing a new grants management system and a link to the formal application submission in February 2024. NACD will also host a virtual training to familiarize applicants with the system. These dates will be announced in early 2024.

Please utilize the sequence in Section 4.3 when developing your response, as well as the below formatting instructions:

- 1" margins
- 12 point font, Times New Roman
- Single spaced
- Maps, photos, or exhibits are included in page count

## 4.2 LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The applicant shall also submit letters of support from named partners.

## 4.3 PROPOSAL QUESTIONS

### **Section 1: Detailed Project Description (6 pages max)**

1. Please provide a detailed description of your proposed project. Questions to consider include, but are not limited to:
  - Describe the desired end goals of a Planning & Capacity grant. What does a successful outcome look like? How does the project align with the districts' long-range or strategic plan? Please be as specific as possible.
  - Please describe the community or communities you intend to serve through this grant. If applicable, please include any information on underrepresented areas or populations and any information that clearly identifies specific needs through resource or needs assessments.
  - What are the producer demographics in your community and estimated adoption rates of climate-smart agriculture? How will a P&C grant help inform your outreach, education, or technical assistance strategies? How will a P&C grant accelerate or scale adoption of climate-smart practices?
  - What is your current experience with measuring/quantifying environmental outcomes, as well as monitoring, reporting, and verifying outcomes? What are the types of partnerships or skillsets you plan to develop? How will this grant help you develop an MMRV plans or capabilities?
  - What are the economic needs within your community and/or producers you intend to serve? How will a P&C grant help you assess barriers and/or identify/test strategies to mitigate them?
  - How do producers currently sell the commodities they grow or raise? What are the barriers to broader participation in markets? What are the major barriers in participating in new or growing climate-smart markets? How will this grant help assess or develop strategies for greater engagement?

### 2. Project Milestones and Timeline

This is a 12 month period of performance. List the project's specific goals, key project milestones, and the proposed timeline for each.

### 3. Project Sustainability

Please describe how this project will move from planning to implementation after the P&C grant term has ended. Include any expected contributions by partners to help support ongoing project activities.

### **Section 2: Applicant Qualifications and Past Performance (3 pages max)**



4. Please describe your organization’s experience supporting grants similar in size and complexity. When possible, list recent project examples, as well as your organization role in supporting successful project outcomes.

If organizational experience and/or expertise is limited, please identify key personnel and describe their experience or how the organization (board and staff) will prepare for project implementation.

5. Please describe how this grant will help enhance conservation districts’ and partners’ capacity to strengthen adoption of climate smart practices, develop MMRV capabilities and plans, and facilitate access to new and growing climate-smart markets.

## SECTION 5: Budget Narrative

### 5.1 INSTRUCTIONS

NACD is in the process of implementing a new grant system. Applicants will be asked to utilize the electronic budget template, as well as submit a supporting narrative. See Section 5.3 for details.

### 5.2 PROJECT ROLES & DEFINITIONS

There are three main roles – the lead partner, project partners, and contractors.

**Lead Partner:** Organization submitting the proposal. Responsible for program administration and success, including but not limited to:

- Coordinate activities and outcomes with project partners and contractors
- Ensure the project achieves the agreed-to goals and milestones
- Monitor progress and risks; develop mitigation strategies to address potential or actual issues or risks
- Ensure quarterly reporting is accurate and timely
- Tracking project expenses and invoicing NACD
- Tracking producer payments
- Ensure the project and expenses are compliant with the scope of the grant and USDA/NACD requirements

**Project Partners** (subawardees): Project partners or subawardees substantially contribute to the success and completion of the overall grant. Consistent with the goals of a grant, these partners also accomplish a public purpose. The terms and conditions of the grant flow down to subawardees, including reporting requirements. In the budget structure, subawardees are classified as “Other,” not “Contract.”

For example, conservation districts may be project partners because they play a key role in conducting outreach and providing technical assistance to producers. The services they provide to their respective communities strengthen resilience and improve our natural resources. MMRV partners may play a key role in quantification, modeling, and facilitating the MRV process. Within this grant program, they are directly supporting USDA’s goal of improving approaches to MMRV (whether through quantification, streamlining MRV processes, etc.). A market partner may be responsible for either purchasing climate-smart commodities or compensating producers for the environmental outcomes achieved. They are directly supporting USDA’s goal of developing or expanding markets for climate-smart goods.

**Contractors:** Contractors provide goods or services required to accomplish the goals and objectives of the grant. In general, contractors adhere to the terms of a contract for goods or services (as opposed to the terms of the grant). This guide can help summarize the difference between subawardees and contractors: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/05/Contracts-vs-Subgrants-Chart-TSL.pdf>

Grantees must follow 2 CFR 200.318-327.

- State governments may rely on their own procurement standard.
- Contracts above \$10,000 must be competitively awarded. Sole-source contracts are generally not allowed.
- Up to \$250,000, recipients may use small purchase procedures (i.e., obtain quotes from preferably three or more suppliers).
- Profit must be negotiated as a separate line item. If you need additional assistance in selecting appropriate procurement procedures, please reach out to [climate@nacdnet.org](mailto:climate@nacdnet.org).

### 5.3 BUDGET STRUCTURE AND LINE ITEMS

Please utilize the below format when estimating project budgets. These categories are consistent with how NACD must report activities/costs to USDA on a quarterly basis (see the “Partner Activities” worksheet in USDA’s PCSC Project Reporting Workbook).

Please note that budgets will be submitted electronically, via NACD’s new grants management system. Additionally, selected projects will be asked to provide annual cost breakdowns quarterly cash flow estimates prior to award. This allows NACD to anticipate cash-flow needs and request advances from USDA, ensuring timely payments to subawardees and producers.

A corresponding budget narrative must also be submitted to describe the expenses anticipated for each line item, how the costs were estimated, and how the expense contributes to the project deliverables.

Budget Line Item	Total
Personnel	
Fringe	
Travel	
Soil Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Soil sampling and analysis</li> <li>○ Equipment to support soil testing</li> <li>○ Supplies to support soil testing</li> </ul>	
Equipment	
Supplies	
Contract	
Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Subawards</li> <li>○ Producer Financial Incentives</li> <li>○ Other</li> </ul>	
Total Direct Costs	
Indirect Costs	
Total Project	



**Please also summarize the total cost associated with:**

Program Management: Costs associated with managing the program, including those that are not captured in the below categories.

Outreach: This includes education and outreach in support of project enrollment.

On-Farm TA: Includes direct technical assistance to producers, including individualized assistance enrolling them into programs.

MMRV support: Includes all MMRV activities, including working with producers to collect and report data. This also includes the time/cost associated with partners reporting environmental outcomes (e.g., reporting quantified outcomes to USDA via the PCSC Project Reporting Workbook, reporting to partners to support Scope 3 claims or participation in voluntary carbon markets).

Marketing: Cost of marketing activities.

Training to partner organizations: Cost of training to partners (not producers), which can enable project success.

**5.4 BUDGET NARRATIVE**

Please provide a narrative for each of the budget line items.

Personnel:

This includes the cost of salaries for employees supporting this project. Please provide the average hourly rate (across all **positions**, for each year) and total annual hours in the budget template. Please annotate any escalation rates applied each year.

In your budget narrative, please summarize the total hours by position. This does not need to be broken down by the 6 work categories (e.g., Outreach & Education, On-Farm TA, MMRV). Please also annotate which position(s) are currently vacant or will be hired based on award of the grant.

Example:

	2024	2025	2026	2027
Program Manager*	100	100	100	100
TA Provider	300	300	300	300
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>
Average Rate	\$30.00	\$30.60	\$31.21	\$31.84
Escalation	2%	2%	2%	2%

*\*Currently vacant and will be hired upon award of the grant.*

Fringe or Overhead:

Fringe costs are typically calculated by applying an average rate to the salary costs. The cost pool typically covers employee benefits such as annual or sick leave, health insurance, and pensions. This varies across organizations.

In your budget narrative, please describe which costs are included in this pool.



# National Association of Conservation Districts

## Travel:

Please estimate the total travel required to support this project (local or otherwise).

In your budget narrative, please also describe how you developed this estimate. Applicants shall also submit a copy of their travel policy. If the organization does not have a policy in place, please consider utilizing the below as a guide:

*To the extent possible, [Organization Name] will conform to the policies set forth in the Federal Travel Regulations. This includes using GSA-established rates for per diem and personally owned vehicle mileage reimbursement rates.*

*As a non-federal entity, [Organization Name] cannot always receive the federally negotiated for hotels, but will leverage GSA rates (including applicable taxes and fees) to assess price reasonableness. Economy flights will be selected; we will not leverage grant funding for paid upgrades (e.g., to first class, business).*

*Should an employee travel for multiple purposes (e.g., to support multiple programs; add personal days to tour a city), this funding will not be utilized for reimbursements. [Organization Name] will prorate travel costs based on the time spent supporting the Climate Smart Commodities grant vs. other programs/purposes.*

## Soil Testing

NACD is tracking costs associated with soil sampling and testing, as well as any sensors or equipment to support monitoring.

Please separate the estimates for soil sampling/testing vs. equipment. In your budget narrative, please describe the frequency of soil samples (if applicable), unit costs of supplies or equipment, quantities, and other cost information to support this request.

The definitions for equipment and supplies are below.

## Equipment

Equipment may be considered on a limited basis and may require USDA concurrence. Equipment is classified as having a unit cost of \$5,000 or greater, otherwise it falls under supplies. Please see 2 CFR 200.313 for contractual requirements associated with equipment purchases.

In your budget narrative, please justify and detail your equipment request. This includes the anticipated unit costs, quantity, description of the equipment to be purchased, vendor (if known) and how it will benefit the project or producers. Please also describe your anticipated procurement process (e.g., name brand, only one vendor, will conduct a cost comparison).

The use of equipment should also be tied to your technical approach.

## Supplies

Supplies are general-purpose consumable items that are used on a regular basis or other tangible items that do not meet the definition of equipment. Supplies have a unit cost of \$5,000 or below.

In your budget narrative, please include the category of supplies needed and the total cost for each category. If total costs for a category exceeds \$10,000, please provide a detailed justification for the request and quote (if available).



## Contracts

Contracts are defined in Section 5.2 above.

In your budget narrative, please describe whether contractors have committed to supporting this work or if a competition will be conducted. If contractors have committed to supporting this work, please also certify that you have followed the competitive procedures required by 2 CFR 200.318-327.

## Other:

Other costs include:

- Total subawards (defined in Section 5.2 above)
- Producer financial incentives
- Other costs that do not fit into the categories above.

Each Project Partner (defined in Section 5.2 above) must submit a budget narrative and detailed budget breakdown, by year. The sum of subawards may be rolled up into “Total Subawards” for the lead partner.

The budget for producer financial incentives should be included under “other.” In the budget narrative, please describe your methodology for estimating this line item.

## Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)

MTDC is the base to which indirect cost rates are applied. This is the sum of:

- Salaries
- Fringe
- Travel
- Supplies
- Contracts
- The first \$25,000 of each subaward

MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for rent, tuition remission, participants support costs, and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000. Producer financial incentives are also excluded from MTDC calculations.

Please show how MTDC is calculated in the budget narrative.

## Indirect Costs

Please see NACD’s [guidance on indirect costs](#) to determine how or if you should apply an indirect cost rate. We recognize that some grantees may not have the financial or accounting policies in place to allocate/track indirect costs and may therefore only budget for direct charges.

If a grantee or subawardee elects to apply an indirect cost rate, NACD also encourages utilization of the 10% de minimis rate.

While grantees are eligible to utilize their Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements (NICRA), if the indirect rate is very high it may impact your evaluation (e.g., cost-effectiveness of the overall budget relative to outcomes). Please note that if an organization utilizes the de minimis rate instead of its NICRA, it may claim the foregone indirect costs as project match. Organizations with a NICRA shall also submit a copy of the latest approved version.

## Match



## National Association of Conservation Districts

Match may be cash or in-kind, but must be derived from non-federal sources.

Some grants (e.g., other Climate Smart Commodities grants; some National Fish and Wildlife Service grants) are administered by a non-federal partner, but the source is still federal funding. In this case, funds cannot be counted as match.

In your budget narrative, please describe the sources of match and whether they are committed or anticipated. Please note that match contributions must also be reported to USDA on a quarterly basis.



Fiscal Year (FY) 2024  
USDA NRCS California – Conservation Contribution Agreements  
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO)  
No. USDA-NRCS-CA-MULTI-24-NOFO0001335



## Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO)

### SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Federal Awarding Agency Name:** U.S. Department of Agriculture – *Natural Resources Conservation Service*

**Notice of Funding Opportunity Title:** *2024 California Conservation Contribution Agreements*

**Notice of Funding Opportunity Number:** USDA-NRCS-CA-MULTI-24-NOFO0001335

**Assistance Listing:** This program is listed in the Assistance Listings (previously referred to as the Catalog of Federal Financial Assistance) on Sam.gov under, which can be found at: <https://sam.gov/content/home>.

10.902 Soil and Water Conservation (CTA): 16 U.S.C. 590a-f, 590q

10.912 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): 16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.

10.924 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): 16 U.S.C. 3839aa-21 et seq.

10.931 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): 16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.

10.069 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): 16 U.S.C 3831-3835a

**SAM** is a web-based, government-wide application that collects, validates, stores, and disseminates business information about the federal government's trading partners in support of the contract awards, grants, and electronic payment processes.

### Notice of Funding Opportunity Summary

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) is being released prior to appropriation and/or apportionment of funds for fiscal year 2024. Enactment of additional continuing resolutions or an appropriations act may affect the availability or level of funding for this program.

For new users of Grants.gov, see Section D. of the full Notice of Funding Opportunity for information about steps required before submitting an application via Grants.gov.

### Key Dates

Applicants must submit their applications via Grants.gov by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on Monday, April 8, 2024. For technical issues with Grants.gov, contact Grants.gov Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding Grants.gov accounts.

For inquiries specific to the content of the NFO requirements, contact the federal awarding agency contact (section G of this NFO). Please limit questions to those regarding specific information contained in this NFO (such as dates, page numbers, clarification of discrepancies, etc.). Questions related to eligibility, or the merits of a specific proposal will not be addressed.

The agency anticipates making selections by Friday, May 3, 2024, and expects to execute awards by Friday, September 6, 2024. These dates are estimates and are subject to change.

### **Federal Funding Floor and Ceiling Amounts**

The estimated funding floor for this opportunity is \$25,000.00, and the estimated funding ceiling is \$150,000.00. The funding floor means the minimum agreement funding amount for the Federal share per agreement awarded. The ceiling is the maximum agreement funding amount for the Federal share per agreement awarded. These numbers refer to the total agreement amount, not any specific budget period.

### **Federal Financial Assistance Training**

The funding available through this NFO is Federal financial assistance. Grants 101 Training is highly recommended for those seeking knowledge about Federal financial assistance. The training is free and available to the public via <https://www.cfo.gov/resources/federal-financial-assistance-training/>.

It consists of five modules covering each of the following topics: 1) laws, regulations, and guidance; 2) financial assistance mechanisms; 3) uniform guidance administrative requirements; 4) cost principles; and 5) risk management and single audit. FPAC agencies also apply Federal financial assistance regulations to certain non-assistance awards (e.g., non-assistance cooperative agreements).

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APPENDIX A - Instructions for Completing SF424  
APPENDIX B - Instructions for Completing SF424A  
APPENDIX C - Budget Narrative Guidance

## A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The authorizing statutes and regulations for this opportunity are:

10.902 Soil and Water Conservation (CTA): 16 U.S.C. 590a-f, 590q, 7 CFR part 610

10.912 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): 16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq. 7 CFR part 1466

10.924 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): 16 U.S.C. 3839aa-21 et seq., 7 CFR part 1470

10.931 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): 16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq., 7 CFR 1468

10.069 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): 16 U.S.C 3831-3835a, 7 CFR 1410

The goals and objectives of this program are:

- *Use climate-smart management and sound science to enhance the health and productivity of agricultural lands.*
- *Lead efforts to adapt to the consequences of climate change in agriculture and forestry.*
- *Restore, protect, and conserve watersheds to ensure clean, abundant, and continuous provision of water resources.*
- *Increase carbon sequestration, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and economic opportunities (and develop low-carbon energy solutions).*
- *Protect agricultural health by minimizing major diseases, pests, and wildlife conflicts.*
- *Build resilient food systems, infrastructure, and supply chain.*
- *Increase food security through assistance and access to nutritious and affordable food*
- *Increase capacity, sustainability, and economic vitality in rural and tribal communities.*
- *Promote environmental justice by maximizing sustainable and green economic development in rural and tribal communities.*
- *Foster a culture of civil rights, diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, transparency, and accountability.*
- *Establish a customer-centric, inclusive, high-performing workforce that is representative of America and the communities we serve.*

The purpose of these conservation agreements is to address the following objectives in all areas of California, as applicable.

Consideration will be given to collaborative efforts that address needs within geographical watersheds, ground water basins, air basins or other conservation-focused boundaries.

California NRCS seeks to leverage the ability to directly serve farmers, ranchers, and forest stewards with natural resource concerns. California engages with a full spectrum of producers and partners to address agricultural resource concerns including Tribes, Historically Underserved, Urban, and other community conservation efforts. We are continuously working to expand our conservation footprint in all communities in California and will prioritize new partnership opportunities.

For Fiscal year 2024, California is prioritizing the following partnership opportunities:

- Deliver conservation education and support program implementation for support of Tribal food systems
- Increase NRCS capacity to provide technical and/or financial assistance to historically underserved producers in any USDA-NRCS program
- Increase capacity of NRCS to provide engineering assistance to farmers, ranchers, and forestry operators at the field level
- Increase capacity for producers to adopt higher levels of conservation required for the Conservation Stewardship Program
- Provide or facilitate outreach that directly yields new customers who have not previously received or participated in USDA-NRCS programs
- Increase capacity of NRCS to deliver technical and financial assistance in high workload offices
- Increasing capacity of NRCS to implement Farm Bill programs at the community level across multiple counties
- Conduct landscape level planning to enhance rapid delivery of NRCS conservation programs and provide documentation that supports outcomes of conservation measures

**Proposed projects must be performed in California.**

The agreement can meet the above priorities a variety of ways, however, examples of past successful agreement objectives are provided below to demonstrate the types of activities the agency has funded in the past. This is not an exhaustive list:

1. Planning: Completion of or assistance with resource concern identification at the farm, watershed, or other applicable scale to address the targeted objective. May include:
  - a. inventory of resources and analyzing resource data both in the office or in the field
  - b. use of agency-approved resource assessment tools
  - c. completion of or assistance with determining resource objectives
  - d. assisting with and participating in the formulation of conservation alternatives and evaluation of conservation alternatives
  - e. assisting land stewards with decision making
2. Systems Data Management: During conservation program application periods, with direction from NRCS leads:
  - a. direct input and development of plans in Conservation Desktop, where applicable.
  - b. assist with applicant data entry and data management in ProTracts, Conservation Desktop and/or Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool
3. Implementation: Practice, enhancement, and activity implementation assistance. May include:
  - a. conducting practice implementation workshops

- b. preparing practice implementation requirements or enhancement job sheets
  - c. preparation of design, layout, construction instructions, inspection, management operation or maintenance information
  - d. conducting field inspections and preparing check-out notes/documentation for conservation practices
  - e. coordination of state and local regulatory permits/consultations to support NRCS funded projects
  - f. support activities for environmental evaluations and documentation
4. Evaluation: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the plan in solving the resource concerns as implemented. May include:
- a. follow-up field observations or documentation of results
  - b. monitoring and evaluation actions
  - c. review of operation and maintenance actions
5. Outreach/Education: Assisting with and participating in announcements of technical and financial assistance opportunities for conservation planning on private lands. May include:
- a. participation in outreach events and workshops to share NRCS opportunities
  - b. coordination of local needs assessments and workgroup events
  - c. partner/stakeholder coordination efforts
  - d. content publication and/or materials distribution
  - e. language and communication services
  - f. identification and assistance with participation barriers

Proposals will be screened for completeness and compliance under the provisions of this notice. Evaluated proposals will be forwarded to the NRCS State Conservationist who will make the final selections. Research proposals will not be accepted under this announcement.

## **B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION**

### **1. Available Funding**

#### **a. Estimated Funding**

The Federal funding agency expects to award approximately \$1,000,000.00 through this opportunity. However, the agency retains the discretion to award a larger or lesser amount.

This NFO is being released prior to appropriation and/or apportionment of funds for current fiscal year Enactment of additional continuing resolutions or an appropriations act may affect the availability or level of funding for this program.

**b. Start Dates and Performance Periods**

Projects may be between 1 and 3 years in duration. Applicants should plan their projects based on an estimated project start date of 09/06/2024.

**c. Number of Awards**

The agency expects to make 10 award(s).

**2. Type of Award**

**a. Type of Federal Award**

The agency plans to award a *contribution agreement(s)* pursuant to this opportunity. Contribution agreement means a unique non-assistance cooperative agreement type available only to NRCS established by 7 U.S.C. Section 6962(a). NRCS may enter contribution agreements, including for the acquisition of goods or services, when the objectives of the agreement will serve a mutual interest of the parties to the agreement in carrying out NRCS programs, and all parties will contribute resources to the accomplishment of these objectives. Depending on the nature of a particular proposal received, the agency may elect to negotiate an alternate award type with the selected applicant.

The agency will be substantially involved in the work performed under the agreement and will undertake activities such as the following:

- a. Authority to suspend work if specifications or work statements are not met
- b. Review and approval of one stage of work before another may begin
- c. Review and approval of substantive provisions of proposed subawards or contracts beyond existing Federal policy
- d. Agency and recipient collaboration or joint participation
- e. Project monitoring to permit specified kinds of direction or redirection of the work because of interrelationships with and impacts on other projects
- f. Highly prescriptive agency requirements that limit recipient discretion
- g. Review and approval of key personnel
- h. Direct agency operational involvement or participation during the activity

**b. Procurement Contracts**

The agency does not expect to award procurement contracts associated with this NFO.

**c. Eligibility of Renewal or Supplemental Project Applications**

Applications for renewal or supplementation of existing projects are eligible to compete with applications for new Federal awards. An application for renewal means an application submitted to continue an existing agreement that meets the

objectives and requirements of this NFO. An application for supplementation of an existing project means an application to add components to an existing agreement so that it would meet the objectives and requirements in this NFO.

## **C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

### **1. Eligible Applicants**

Applicants and applications must meet eligibility criteria by the application deadline to be considered for award. Eligible applicant type is determined by the implementing program statute. Applicant entities identified in the SAM.gov exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted, or excluded from receiving Federal contracts and certain Federal assistance and benefits will not be considered for Federal funding, as applicable to the funding being requested under this Federal program (2 CFR 200.206(d)). Neither foreign entities nor individuals are eligible to apply for this opportunity.

Eligibility for this opportunity is limited to the following entity types:

- a. City or township governments
- b. County governments
- c. Independent school districts
- d. Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- e. Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- f. Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS (other than institutions of higher education)
- g. Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS (other than institutions of higher education)
- h. Private institutions of higher education
- i. Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- j. Public and State-controlled institutions of higher education
- k. Special district governments
- l. State governments

### **2. Other**

Any award made pursuant to this NFO will be made to a single entity. Applicants that apply as “partnerships” or other similar groupings must clearly describe the relationship between the applicant and the “partner” parties. In all but exceptional cases, it must be reflected in the award as an awardee/sub awardee relationship.

An applicant organization may submit more than one application for different projects or proposing different approaches. In the case of applications submitted as revisions or corrections to a previously submitted application under this NFO, the agency will consider the last application submitted prior to the established deadline.

Awards made pursuant to this NFO are not Farm Bill incentive contracts; therefore, the awards in and of themselves are not limited by the payment limitation in 16 USC



Chapter 58. However, any agricultural producers receiving a payment through participation in a project awarded under this NFO must meet the eligibility requirements of 7 CFR Part 12 and 7 CFR Part 1400 and have control of the land involved for the term of the proposed award period.

### 3. Match

This NFO requires applicants to match 1:1, or 50 percent of total project costs (total project costs include both the Federal and non-Federal total application costs). Applications that do not include the required level of matching will be ineligible for award. Match may be achieved with contributions of cash, services, materials, equipment, or third-party in-kind contributions. Recipients with unrecovered indirect costs may also use those to meet matching obligations. Funds from another Federal award cannot be used as match except where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such program can be applied to match. Additional details about matching funds can be found at 2 CFR 200.306. Refer to Section D of this NFO for information about any required submittals related to match requirements. While the pace of match may vary throughout the award period, the agency will actively monitor match levels as it receives payment requests to ensure the total match requirement is met by the award periods of performance end date. Additional details about matching funds are located at 2 CFR 200.306.

## D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### 1. Information for New Users of Grants.gov

#### a. Overview

While a Grants.gov account is not required to download an NFO and related documents, it is required to submit an application. If your organization has never submitted an application via Grants.gov, please be aware that there are several steps you must take to register your organization before you can submit an application. **Completing those steps can take a significant amount of time, plan accordingly.**

#### b. Register to Apply through Grants.gov

Applicants should read the registration instructions carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process. Reviewing and assembling the required information before beginning the registration process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

For assistance with the registration process, contact Grants.gov Applicant Support, available 24/7, at 1-800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

Organizations must complete all steps to register (steps i. through v. below). Complete organization instructions are included on Grants.gov here: <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant-registration/>

Although creating a Grants.gov account online can be completed online in minutes, SAM registrations may take several weeks. Therefore, organizations should begin the process early to ensure they have sufficient time to complete registration and meet required application submission deadlines.

Individuals (those submitting on their own behalf) are not subject to the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) or SAM requirement and may begin with step iii., Create a Grants.gov Account, listed below. (Note: Individuals are not eligible for all opportunities.)

### c. Steps to Register

- i. *Obtain a UEI:* All entities applying for funding must have a UEI issued by SAM.gov. Applicants must enter the UEI in the data entry field labeled "UEI" on the SF-424 form.
- ii. *Register with SAM:* All organizations (entities) must register with System for Award Management (SAM) to apply online through Grants.gov. Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov. SAM registration must be renewed annually. Part of the SAM registration process includes designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC). **The EBiz POC plays an integral part in the organization's Grants.gov registration and application process.** The individual in that role must authorize all other roles in Grants.gov. For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant-registration/>
- iii. *Create a Grants.gov Account:* From the Grants.gov webpage (<https://www.grants.gov/>), click "Register" in the top right-hand corner and follow the on-screen instructions.
- iv. *Add a Profile to a Grants.gov Account:* A profile in Grants.gov corresponds to a single applicant organization the user represents (i.e., an applicant) or an individual applicant submitting on their own behalf. If you work for or consult with multiple organizations, you can have a profile for each organization under one Grants.gov account. In such cases you can log in to one Grants.gov account to access all your grant profiles. To add an organizational profile to your Grants.gov account, enter the UEI for the organization in the UEI field. If you are an individual applicant submitting on your own behalf, you do not need a UEI to add the profile. For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant-registration/add-profile>

- v. *EBiz POC Authorized Profile Roles*: After you register with Grants.gov and create an Organization Applicant Profile, you must establish roles for individuals in the organization. The Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) role is critical; it gives an individual permission to complete and submit applications on behalf of the organization. Without this role, the organization cannot submit any applications. The request for role assignment will be routed to the organization's EBiz POC for approval. Once approved, the AOR can submit an application online. For more detailed instructions about creating a EBiz POC authorized profile on Grants.gov, refer to <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant-registration/ebiz-poc-authorizes-profile-roles>  
  
Track Role Status: To track your role request, refer to <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant-registration/track-profile-role-status>

**d. Electronic Signature**

When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization applicant with the AOR role that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC **must** authorize people who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization as a user with the AOR role. **This step (step c.v. above) is often missed, and it is crucial for valid and timely submissions.**

**e. Workspace**

Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each NFO, you can create individual instances of a workspace. An applicant can start an application in Workspace and return to work on it later within Workspace.

Applicants using unreliable internet connections should be aware that the process of completing the Workspace can take some time. Therefore, applicants should allow enough time to prepare and submit the application before the package closing date.

**f. Apply for an Opportunity**

Below is an overview of applying on Grants.gov. For complete instructions on how to apply for opportunities, refer to <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/workspace-overview/>

If the Apply button in the opportunity is not active (greyed out), the user does not have the appropriate permissions or has an incomplete applicant registration. For additional information, refer to

<https://grantsgovprod.wordpress.com/2023/06/08/unlock-the-mystery-of-the-gray-apply-button-four-scenarios/#:~:text=The%20Apply%20button%20will%20be,to%20view%20the%20close%20date.>

- i. **Create a Workspace:** Creating a workspace allows you to complete an application online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- ii. **Complete a Workspace:** Add participants to the workspace to work on the application together, complete all the required forms online or by downloading PDF versions, and check for errors before submission. The Workspace progress bar will display the status of your application process as you apply. As you apply using Workspace, you may click the blue question mark icon near the upper-right corner of each page to access context-sensitive help.
  - **Adobe Reader:** If you decide not to apply by filling out webforms you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device storage, network drive(s), or external drives, then accessed through Adobe Reader.

NOTE: Visit the Adobe Software Compatibility page on Grants.gov to download the appropriate version of the software at <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility>
  - **Mandatory Fields in Forms:** In the forms, you will note fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color. These fields are mandatory fields that must be completed to successfully submit your application.
  - **Complete SF-424 Fields First:** The forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant name, address, and UEI. Once it is completed, the information will transfer (i.e., prepopulate) to the other forms.
- iii. **Submit a Workspace:** An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab. Grants.gov recommends submitting your application package at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.
- iv. **Track a Workspace Submission:** After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application. The number will be listed on the

Confirmation page that is generated after submission. Using the tracking number, access the Track My Application page under the Applicants tab or the Details tab in the submitted workspace.

For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant-training>

## 2. Electronic Application Package

Applicants interested in submitting an application in response to this NFO must submit it via Grants.gov; the agency will not accept applications submitted via email or any other method. No exceptions will be made for applicants experiencing issues with Grants.gov unless a known system wide Grants.gov issue is identified, in which case the deadline will be extended for all applicants, as appropriate. Applicants are urged to submit early to the Grants.gov system.

For technical issues with Grants.gov, contact Grants.gov Applicant Support, available 24/7, at 1-800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding Grants.gov accounts.

### Address to Request Application Package

All information necessary to apply for this opportunity is included in the [Grants.gov](#) opportunity announcement.

## 3. Content and Form of Application Submission

The agency may choose not to consider applications that fail to comply with the required content, format, and page limits, or those that are incomplete. Do not submit video files or files larger than 10MB. File names of attachments must be limited to 50 characters, may not include special characters (e.g., &, -, \*, %, /, #), periods (.), blank spaces or accent marks, and must be unique (i.e., no other attachment may have the same file name). An underscore (example: my\_Attached\_File.pdf) may be used to separate a file name. Attachments must **NOT** be password protected.

To be considered for funding under this opportunity, an application must contain the documents in a-g below.

### a. Application Form

(Standard Form 424 Application for Federal Assistance) See Instructions for Completing SF 424 located in the appendices section.

### b. Project Narrative

Each page must be numbered and have one-inch margins. The text of the project narrative must be single spaced and typed in a standard typeface (e.g., Times New Roman, Arial, Courier) with no smaller than 12-point font. The project narrative must not exceed 4 pages. This page limitation applies to the project narrative only.

Do not include tables or graphics. Narrative content should include:

- i. Project abstract.
- ii. Institutional background. Describes the applicant institution in terms of its location, demographics, mission, relationship to the service area and past successes in the project area.
- iii. Problem statement/needs assessment. This section should briefly introduce the purpose of the agreement, reasons for the project, overarching goals and how the agreement will support NRCS goals. Include who will benefit and the geographic location of the impact.
- iv. Program goals and objectives. How is the situation expected to change as a result of the award? Identifies anticipated outcomes and benefits in measurable terms. Identify key strategies and project design, alignment of resources and activities, strategic partners, and their roles.
- v. Methods/implementation. Describes the activities that directly support the achievement of the objectives. A timeline must be included in this section as well as a description of staffing needs. List each deliverable and subtask. Describe what will be done and when it will be done.
- vi. Evaluation plan. Presents a plan for determining the success of the project at interim points and at the end of the project. Describe how the success of the project will be measured.

The following documents do not count toward the above stated page limit.

#### Declaration of previous projects and Past Performance

If the applicant has previously received an award (either at the National or State levels), list the following for each award and give a short summary of the completed project's outcomes. If the project is ongoing, provide the anticipated outcomes. Each description should be no more than a half page:

- Project title
- Agreement number (Federal Award Identifying Number)
- Award funding amount
- Year of award expiration

Is this same proposal being submitted for another active funding opportunity? If yes, include in the Current and Pending Support document. Response does not affect the competitive selection process.

#### c. Standard Form (SF) 424A, Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs

Fill in all spaces as appropriate. Section B, Item 6, Column 1 should reflect the agency funds, and Column 2 should reflect the applicant's matching funds. This form is the summary budget for the project and should include the full project totals on pages one and two. See Instructions for Completing SF 424A

located in the appendices section. Refer to Section D of this opportunity for information regarding indirect costs. Errors in the SF-424A regarding classifying costs may be negotiated after selection.

**d. Budget Narrative**

In a separate document titled “Budget Narrative,” explain and justify all requested budget items/costs. (Refer to the budget narrative guidance located in the appendices section.) Detail how the totals on the SF-424A were determined and demonstrate a clear connection between costs and the proposed project activities. For personnel salary costs, include the base-line salary figures and the estimates of time (as percentages) to be directly charged to the project. Describe any item that under the applicable Federal cost principles requires the agency’s approval and estimate its cost. The pages included as the budget narrative to not count toward the page limit. Errors in the budget narrative regarding classifying costs may be negotiated after selection. Refer to the Budget Narrative Guidance located at the end of this document regarding procurement standards when including contracts for goods or services. **Sole-source contracting is prohibited without proper justification.** See Procurement Standards located at 2 CFR 200.317-327.

- i. Build America, Buy American. “Buy America” preference applies to Federal financial assistance awards that include construction components, even if it is funded by both Federal and non-Federal funds under the award. Subawards should conform to the terms and conditions of the Federal award from which they flow. A Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to a construction project. Refer to the General Terms and Conditions for additional information:  
<https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/about/grants-and-agreements/award-terms-and-conditions/index.html>
- ii. Indirect Costs Recovery. If requesting indirect costs, provide the calculation specifying the amounts used in applying the base (the base specified in the applicable rate agreement) by the applicable rate. The calculation can be displayed in different formats but must capture the components (i.e., amounts used in determining the base and the rate applied to the base).
  - A. To be eligible to recover any indirect costs under a Federal award, recipients must either 1) have a current negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) with a Federal agency that has not expired; or 2) qualify for use of the de minimis rate authorized by 2 CFR 200.414(f) and described below. For-profit entities (if eligible to apply) must obtain a NICRA from their cognizant agency. USDA will not accept an indirect cost agreement that is not a NICRA, for example, those

negotiated or approved by the Defense Contract Audit Agency or the Defense Contract Management Agency.

A copy of the applicant's current NICRA must be provided with the application (see section D(3)(i)). Indirect costs may not be recovered under an expired NICRA. For applicants negotiating a NICRA, provide a copy of the indirect cost rate proposal submitted to the cognizant agency. See section D(3)(h) below for how to submit a NICRA as part of the application.

- B. Any non-Federal entity (except State and local governments that receive more than \$35 million per year in Federal funding) that does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. No documentation is required to justify the 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate, simply indicate in your budget narrative that the recipient elects to use the de minimis rate. Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000. Other items may only be excluded when necessary to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs, and with the approval of the cognizant agency for indirect costs.
- C. As described in [2 CFR 200.403](#), costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time.
- D. A recipient may voluntarily reduce or waive recovery of indirect costs at its sole discretion and must not be encouraged or coerced in any way to do so by the agency.

iii. Indirect Costs Limitations.

- A. In accordance with USDA's annual appropriations act, indirect costs will be limited to no more than 10 percent of total direct costs for non-profit organizations or institutions of higher education that receive a cooperative or contribution agreement. Other types of entities are not subject to this statutory limitation. An applicant



subject to the statutory limitation with a current NICRA, must calculate indirect costs as follows. First, multiply the NICRA rate by the base stated in the NICRA to arrive at Amount A. Next, multiply the statutory limit of 10 percent by the total of all direct costs to arrive at Amount B. The lower of Amount A and B is the amount of indirect cost to include on the budget.

- B. Applicants not subject to a statutory limitation, which have a current NICRA must calculate indirect costs using the rate and base specified in their NICRA.
- C. Recipients are prohibited from shifting unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

iv. Match.

Matching must be committed at the time of application submission. The budget narrative must show the amounts and sources of match (including both cash and in-kind contributions).

For third-party contributions, a letter is required for each contribution, signed by the authorized organizational representative of the contributing organization and the applicant organization, which must include: (1) the name, address, and telephone number of the contributor, (2) the name of the applicant organization, (3) the title of the project for which the contribution is made, (4) the dollar amount of the contribution, and (5) a statement that the contributor will pay the contribution no later than the end of the award period. The agency may conduct reference checks to ensure that organizations identified are supportive and involved with the project. Cost sharing/match letters should be addressed to the Federal Awarding Agency Contact in Section G of this NFO and uploaded under Other Attachments (listed separately under Optional Forms) in Grants.gov.

Refer to the Budget Narrative Guidance located in the appendices section for information about making contract vs. subaward determinations.

**e. Grants.gov Lobbying Form**

Under Title 31 of the United States Code, Section 1352, an applicant or recipient must not use any federally appropriated funds (both annually appropriated and continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a grant or cooperative agreement award to pay any person for lobbying in connection

with the award. Lobbying is defined as influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress connection with the award. Submission of an application also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 2 CFR Part 418, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying.

**f. Applicant Contact Information**

Provide contact information for the roles identified in the Applicant Contact Information template, located in the Related Documents tab of the opportunity. Upload the contact information under Other Attachments (listed as an Optional Form) in the Grants.gov Opportunity Application Package.

**g. Statement of Current and Pending Support**

Submit a Statement of Current and Pending Support for each key personnel who will participate in the project. For your convenience, a template is available for your use in in the Related Documents tab of the opportunity.

**h. SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**

SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, must be submitted **only** if you/your organization have/has made or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying. See 2 CFR 418.110 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

**i. Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), if applicable**

If charging indirect costs using a NICRA (including for match), upload the NICRA under Other Attachments (listed as an Optional Form) in the Grants.gov Opportunity Application Package.

**j. Letters of Support**

Letters of support are not required and should not be submitted.

**k. Letters of Intent**

Letters of intent are not required and should not be submitted.

**l. Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest**

In accordance with 2 CFR 400.2, applicants must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the performance of its employees in the selection, award, and administration of Federal awards. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a Federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties referenced, has a financial or other interest in, or a tangible personal benefit from, an applicant considered for a Federal award. The standards of conduct

must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the applicant.

If the applicant has a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization that is not a state, local government, or Indian tribe, the applicant must also maintain written standards of conduct covering organizational conflicts of interest. Organizational conflict of interest means that because of the relationships with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, the applicant is unable or appears to be unable to be impartial in conducting a Federal award action involving a related organization.

Applicants must disclose in writing any potential conflicts of interest to the USDA awarding agency or pass-through entity. Include the name of the individual, the name of the entity with which the individual has a conflict, the nature of the financial or other interest, the value of the interest, a description of how the interest relates to your application. Upload disclosures under Other Attachments (listed separately under Optional Forms) in Grants.gov. **If no conflict exists, no submission is required.**

**m. Post Award Documentation N/A**

**n. Unique entity identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)**

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to: (i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency. The agency may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the agency is ready to make an award, it may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

Entities must obtain a UEI and register in SAM prior to registering with Grants.gov. A description of each is below. Entities are strongly encouraged to apply early for their SAM registration.

System for Award Management (SAM) Registration: To register, go to: <https://www.sam.gov>. The Federal Service Desk is available for registration assistance and can be contacted via the Help tab at the website listed above.

Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding UEI or SAM issues.

#### **4. Submission Dates and Times and Correspondence**

All applications must be received by Grants.gov by 11:59 pm Eastern Time (ET) by the established due date in the Key Dates section of the Summary Information of this NFO. Proof of timely submission is automatically recorded by Grants.gov. An electronic date/time stamp is generated within the system when the application is successfully received by Grants.gov.

Applications received by Grants.gov after the established due date will be considered late and will not be considered for funding. An application is considered on time at 11:59.59 pm ET, but it is late at 12:00 am ET.

Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the applicant with the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) role attempting to submit the application. The Grants.gov Support Center reports that some applicants end the transmission because they think that nothing is occurring during the transmission process; be patient and give the system time to process the application.

The applicant with the AOR role who submitted the application will receive:

- an acknowledgement of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov with the successful transmission of their application.
- an email with the official date/time stamp and Grants.gov tracking number serving as proof of timely submission.

When the agency successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov, and acknowledges the download of submissions, Grants.gov will also provide an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of the application to the applicant with the AOR role who submitted the application. Proof of timely submission shall be the official date and time that Grants.gov receives your application.

If you have trouble submitting an application to Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov Help Desk to resolve any issues. See Section D. 2. for Grants.gov contact information.

Applicants using unreliable internet connections should be aware that the process of completing the Workspace can take some time. Therefore, applicants should allow enough time to prepare and submit the application before the package closing date.

#### **5. Intergovernmental Review**

This funding opportunity is not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." When completing the SF-424, check block c, "Program is not covered by E.O. 13272."

#### **6. Funding Restrictions**

Funds may not be used to pay any of the following costs unless otherwise permitted by law and approved in writing by the agency in advance of incurring such costs:

- a. Profit and management fees. Any funds awarded to for-profit entities must be used for reimbursement of award related direct and indirect costs only.
- b. Costs above the amount of funds authorized for the project.
- c. Costs incurred prior to the effective date of the award, including time spent applying for this opportunity.
- d. Costs which lie outside the scope of the approved project and amendments thereto.
- e. Entertainment costs, regardless of their apparent relationship to project objectives.
- f. Compensation for injuries to persons, or damage to property arising out of project activities.
- g. Consulting services performed by a Federal employee during official duty hours when such consulting services result in the payment of additional compensation to the employee.
- h. Capital expenditures for general purpose equipment, buildings, and land and for improvements to land, buildings, or equipment which materially increase their value or useful life. See 2 CFR 200.439 for additional information.
- i. Meals may be charged to an award only if they are necessary for the performance of the project. For instance, meals (normally only lunch) that are a necessary part of the costs of meetings and conferences (i.e., required attendance and continuity of a meeting), the primary purpose of which is the dissemination of information, are allowable, as are costs of transportation, rental of facilities, speakers' fees, and other items incidental to such meetings or conferences. Note: Meals consumed while in official travel status do not fall in this category. They are considered to be per diem expenses and should be reimbursed in accordance with the organization's established travel policies subject to statutory limitations or in accordance with Federal travel policies.
- j. Costs normally charged as [indirect costs](#) may not be charged as [direct costs](#) without proper justification and agency approval. Proper justification includes documentation that the costs meet the criteria for allowability (see 2 CFR 200.403). Examples of such costs include rent, utilities, depreciation on buildings and equipment, the costs of operating and maintaining facilities, and general administration and general expenses, such as the salaries and expenses of executive officers, personnel administration, and accounting.
- k. Salaries that are not commensurate with level of work. All costs must be reasonable to be allowable (2 CFR 200.403), and 2 CFR 200.404 defines a reasonable cost as one if, in its nature and amount, it does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost. Salaries determined not to be reasonable compared to the level of work will be unallowable.
- l. Software produced by non-domestic entities. Project budgets must not include costs (both Federal costs and match) for software development by non-domestic entities if it will be utilized by the Federal government or hosted on Federal systems.
- m. Refer to Section D for applicable indirect cost restrictions, if any.

This list is not exhaustive. For additional information please refer to 2 CFR Part 200, subpart E, Cost Principals.

## **E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION**

### **1. Review and Selection Process**

Applications will be screened for completeness and compliance with the provisions of this notice. Incomplete, noncompliant, and/or applications not meeting the formatting criteria may be eliminated from competition. In that event, the agency will send notification of elimination to the applicant. The agency intends to select and award without conducting any discussions or allowing applicants to correct deficiencies or omissions in their applications. Consequently, applicants must ensure their applications are complete and accurate. However, while the agency intends to select without contacting applicants, it reserves the right to request applicants to revise their applications to correct deficiencies or omissions it identifies. If this occurs, the agency will conduct discussions with all applicants, identify deficiencies and omissions for all, and give applicants an opportunity to submit a revised application by a common cut-off date. The agency may also contact individual applicants to clarify certain components of their applications.

Merit/technical reviews will be conducted by a technical review board nominated by the approving official. Risk reviews will be conducted by the FPAC Business Center, Grants and Agreements Division. The approving official will make the final award decisions. The approving official for this opportunity is the California State Conservationist.

In addition to merit/technical review, the selecting official may use the following factors when selecting applications for Federal award: geographical dispersion, program balance, diversity and/or new partnership opportunities. The technical review board is comprised by representatives for each geographical area (4) in California; the review board may also include a representative from NRCS Public Affairs, Engineering, Soils, and/or Resource Conservation Science divisions.

### **2. Merit/Technical Criteria**

The Federal awarding agency will use the following criteria to evaluate applications. These criteria are distinct from eligibility criteria that are addressed before an application is accepted for review and any program policy or other factors that are applied during the selection process, after the review process is completed. The intent is to make the application process transparent so applicants can make informed decisions when preparing their applications to maximize fairness of the process.

- How well the proposal will help address a critical technical assistance need in California resulting from a temporary or permanent reduction in available federal employee hours based on approved NRCS staffing plans, or, resulting from a temporary increase in mission-critical work.
- How well the proposal addresses the priorities as described in the Notice of Funding:

- Deliver conservation education and support program implementation for support of Tribal food systems
  - Increase NRCS capacity to provide technical and/or financial assistance to historically underserved producers in any USDA-NRCS program
  - Increase capacity of NRCS to provide engineering assistance to farmers, ranchers, and forestry operators at the field level
  - Increase capacity for producers to adopt higher levels of conservation required for the Conservation Stewardship Program
  - Provide or facilitate outreach that directly yields new customers who have not previously received or participated in USDA-NRCS programs
  - Increase capacity of NRCS to deliver technical and financial assistance in high workload offices
  - Increasing capacity of NRCS to implement Farm Bill programs at the community level across multiple counties
  - Conduct landscape level planning to enhance rapid delivery of NRCS conservation programs and provide documentation that supports outcomes of conservation measures
- Priority consideration will be given to eligible proposals that result in new partnership opportunities.
  - Experience, qualifications, and past performance of the applicant to perform proposed work will be considered.

Successful applicants will address the stated priorities, demonstrate the ability to deliver the proposed deliverables and be selected by the California State Conservationist following review and recommendation by the appointed review committee. The applicant that receives the highest rating or score on technical evaluation criteria, while also proposing a reasonable budget amount will be selected, as funding permits.

### **3. Administrative and Risk Criteria**

Notice of selection after merit/technical evaluation does not guarantee that an applicant will receive an award. Following notification of selection for funding (see Section F), the FPAC Business Center, Grants and Agreements Division's staff conducts a final administrative and risk review of those applications. The administrative review includes, but is not limited to, a check to ensure that NFO requirements were met (e.g., applicant meets eligibility criteria, application was submitted via Grants.gov by the established deadline), and proposed costs are allowable, allocable, and necessary. During this process, it may be necessary to request further documentation from the applicant (e.g., organizational information as part of the risk assessment, more detail regarding proposed costs).

In addition, to comply with the requirements at 2 CFR 200.206, the agency will follow, at a minimum, the risk review process described below (additional steps may be taken).

The awarding agency will check SAM to ensure the applicant is not suspended or debarred, which would preclude receiving an award. In addition, prior to making a Federal award with a total Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold (\$250,000), the agency must review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (the Federal Awardee Performance Integrity Information System, FAPIIS) (see 41 USC 2313 and 2 CFR 200.206(a)).

An applicant must meet the following standards to be considered for award:

**a. Financial Stability**

The applicant maintains an adequate financial resources or cash flow to meet its financial obligations on a routine basis in order to successfully complete any agreement it may be awarded.

**b. Quality of Management Systems and Ability to meet Management Standards prescribed in 2 CFR Part 200**

The applicant has a financial management system adequate to segregate and track federal funds. It has adequate systems in place for proper agreement administration; compliance with the standards outlined in 2 CFR Part 200 Section D for procurement, property, and records management; and required financial and performance reporting.

**c. History of Performance**

If the applicant has previously obtained Federal financial assistance award, it has never failed to materially comply with the Federal award terms and conditions and further has never had an award terminated on that basis.

Submission of an application constitutes certification that an applicant meets these standards (items a. through c. above). The agency may request documentation to substantiate the certification. Based on risk assessment, the agency may impose specific award conditions in accordance with 2 CFR 200.208.

**4. Awards Over the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (if applicable)**

a. Prior to making a Federal award with a total Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold (\$250,000), the agency must review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM, the Federal Awardee Performance Integrity Information System, FAPIIS. FAPIIS is a federal database intended to serve as a government-wide source of information about the prior performance and compliance of federal procurement contractors, grantees, and cooperative agreement holders (see 41 U.S.C. 2313 and 2 CFR 200.206(a)).

b. An applicant may review information in FAPIIS accessible through SAM and comment on any information about it that a Federal awarding agency previously entered.



- c. The agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR 200.206, Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

## **F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **1. Federal Award Notices**

The agency will provide notice that an application has been selected before it actually makes the Federal award. As such, the selection notification is not an authorization to begin performance. Reimbursement of pre-award costs require written agency prior approval. The Notice of Grant and Agreement Award (ADS-093) signed by the authorized agency official is the only authorizing document and will be provided electronically to the entity's authorized official for signature.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the award decision via letter.

### **2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

All project funds will be used in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 and the General Terms and Conditions, which are available at the following website:

<https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/about/grants-and-agreements/award-terms-and-conditions/index.html>.

Projects performed pursuant to this opportunity may be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). If applicable, NRCS must work with awardees to complete an environmental review of each awarded project before project commencement. In addition, prior to any ground-disturbing activities related to NRCS funding, the awardee must work with NRCS staff to complete an environmental evaluation (EE) related to those activities. Awardees may be required to prepare or pay for preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), should any environmental review find that an EA or EIS is required.

In addition, a National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106 review and consultation by an NRCS State or area office with consulting parties (such as the pertinent State Historic Preservation Officer and federally recognized Indian Tribes) may be required prior to the implementation of project activities that have the potential to impact cultural resources. NHPA Section 106, its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), and other related authorities, require Federal agencies to determine if a project has the potential to cause an effect to historic properties and, if so, if they are adverse and how the effects may be addressed. The NHPA review and compliance in accordance with Section 106 of NHPA and implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800 must be completed by NRCS and applicants may be required to pay for any cultural resource surveys needed for NRCS to assess project effects. More information on the applicant's role in the

NHPA Section 106 process can be found on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation website at

<https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/section-106-applicant-toolkit>.

Consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is also required for projects that may affect listed or proposed species or destroy or modify critical habitat. The ESA consultation in accordance with Section 7 of the ESA and implementing regulations at 50 CFR Part 402 must be completed by NRCS prior to the implementation of project activities that have the potential to impact species or habitat protected under the ESA. More information on the Section 7 consultation process can be found at

<https://www.fws.gov/service/esa-section-7-consultation>.

### **3. Reporting**

Reporting will follow the guidelines included in the agency's General Terms and Conditions, which are available at the following website:

<https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/about/grants-and-agreements/award-terms-and-conditions/index.html>

If the Federal share of any agreement awarded under this opportunity notice may include more than \$500,000 over the period of performance, recipients must also comply with the post award reporting requirements reflected in Appendix XII of 2 CFR Part 200 –Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.

Applicants that receive awards pursuant to this opportunity and any sub awardees must comply with the reporting requirements described at 2 CFR Part 170 unless an exception applies. Applicants must ensure they have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with those requirements. A list of exceptions can be found at 2 CFR 170.110(b).

### **4. Audit Requirements**

As required in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F Audit Requirements, all U.S. states, local governments, Federally recognized Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 or more in Federal award funds in a fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System. FPAC agencies also require for-profit organizations that meet the expenditure threshold to comply with the single audit requirements and submit their audit reports directly to the funding agency.

## G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT

For questions regarding this opportunity, contact the following individual with the opportunity number in the subject line:

Name: Dan Curtis  
Senior Grants Management Specialist  
FPAC Business Center

Email [Daniel.Curtis@usda.gov](mailto:Daniel.Curtis@usda.gov) with a copy to [NFO.FPAC@USDA.GOV](mailto:NFO.FPAC@USDA.GOV)

To protect the integrity of the competitive process, applicants must not contact agency program staff with questions.

## H. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Questions regarding this opportunity must be submitted to the Federal Awarding Agency Contact identified above via email with the opportunity number in the subject line.
2. For technical issues with Grants.gov, please contact Grants.gov Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). Awarding agency staff cannot support applicants regarding Grants.gov accounts.
3. **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**  
Applications are considered confidential information. Applications are not shared with individuals or entities seeking public disclosure through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) without the consent of the applicant. More specifically, Executive Order 12600 and USDA FOIA regulation 7 CFR Part 1, Subpart A requires the awarding agency to provide notice to applicants that a third party has requested copies of their business information and requires the awarding agency to consult with applicants regarding the releasing their records.
4. **Government Obligation**  
The Federal Government is not obligated to make any Federal award as a result of this opportunity. Only authorized federal officials can bind the Federal Government to the expenditure of funds.
5. Any award made pursuant to this NFO may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

California NRCS will also announce an opportunity for cooperative agreements and an opportunity of Conservation Innovation Grants under a separate notice of funding this fiscal year.

### U.S. Department of Agriculture Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from

discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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March 14, 2023 CCRCD Board Meeting

**GENERAL UPDATES:**

- Central Sierra Regional meeting March 15<sup>th</sup> at Orvis Ranch off Hwy 4 to show habitat. Oak restoration and carbon farm plans.
- Submitted collaborative grant with TCRCD as lead for Cal Fire Resiliency
- Testing new communication platform

**FUTURE FOCUS:**

- Meet with key RCD stakeholder groups and partners.
- Introduction of Strategic Planning Process to board
- Apply for grants that allow for capacity building:
  - o Watershed Coordination
  - o Climate Smart Technical Assistance

**CALFIRE GRANT UPDATES:**

- Forest Meadows/Wylderidge: Restart of work pending weather
- Murphys to Forest Meadows Fuels Reduction project: Hand crew finishing
- Highway 108 North Fuels Reduction Project: Restart of work pending weather
- Fricot City Road Fuels Reduction Project: Received BLM approval
- Mokelumne Hill Fuels Reduction Project: Tentative start date April 1
- NW Calaveras Fuels Reduction Project – Reviewed CEQA/RPF bids
- Calaveras Unified School District Fuels Reduction & Demonstration Forest Project  
– Dana – admin only

**SNC GRANT UPDATES:**

- SNC Pine Ridge Project – Signed close out from SNC
- SNC Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Project: Staff/Board site visit. Pending restart.