



CALAVERAS
COUNTY
Resource
Conservation
District

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

FOR

FUELS REDUCTION SERVICES

CONTRACTED TO

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

NW Calaveras Fuel Reduction Project (NORTH)

CAL FIRE Grant 5GA22228

RELEASE DATE	December 3 2025
PROJECT CONTACT	Name: Dan Leichty, Project Manager Email: proposals@calaverasrcd.org Phone: 209-840-1683
ATTACHMENTS	Appendix A – Avoidance/Minimization Measures Appendix B – Mitigation Measures Appendix C – Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan Appendix D – Fire Plan
PRE-BID TOUR Time and Date Tuesday, December 16 9:00 am	Only Contractors with an LTO A or a Contractors State License Board C61/D49 License are eligible to bid on projects administered by the Calaveras County Resources Conservation District (CCRC). Do not attend the pre-bid tour if you don't have one of these licenses. When you RSVP for this event, please include your LTO A or state Contractor C61/D49 license number. Participation in the pre-bid tour is recommended but not mandatory. However, bidders who attend the tour will be awarded points in the scoring process. The tour will originate in the parking lot of Taco Bell, Valley Springs Ca. Please RSVP for the tour by emailing proposals@calaverasrcd.org
SUBMITTING QUESTIONS	Questions may be submitted to the Project Manager no later than December 18, 2025 . Questions will be answered and distributed to all bidders by email after 3pm on December 22 2025.
RFP CLOSING DATE	Proposals must be submitted in electronic PDF format to the following email address: proposals@calaverasrcd.org by 3:00 pm December 26, 2025

	Proposals not submitted in the correct PDF format will not be considered.
AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT	Project Contractor(s) will be selected no later than January 9 2025. All bidders will be notified by email of award/no award.
PROJECT COMMENCEMENT DATE	Immediately upon execution of the contract.
PROJECT COMPLETION DATE	Please include in your proposal timeline.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The NW Calaveras Fuel Reduction Project (NORTH), funded by CAL FIRE grant 5GA22228, consists of all privately owned land within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) community of Rancho Calaveras and surrounding area. The *larger* project in its entirety consists of two areas divided into “NORTH” and “SOUTH”; it was strategically identified in collaboration with the local CAL FIRE unit for targeted fuels reduction treatments. When viewing the entire project area, it is oriented north and west of the Valley Springs subdivision Rancho Calaveras, south of California Highway 12 and is situated diagonally SW to NE toward the intersection of State Highways 12 and 26. **This RFP is for the NORTH section of the project only.**

NW Calaveras (NORTH) consists of approximately 173.49 acres targeted for treatment and right-of-entry forms have been secured.

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project aims to protect hundreds of homes, wildlife, property, infrastructure, livestock, and habitats from catastrophic wildfire in the Valley Springs and Rancho Calaveras communities.

Primary objectives of the project are to treat areas of heavy vegetative fuels and dense woodlands with tight or overlapping canopy closure. Treatments will meet these objectives by mechanically reducing dense vegetative fuel loads, variably increasing tree canopy spacing, and removing dead, dying, and diseased trees which present a hazard to infrastructure. Hand treatment will meet the objectives by hand thinning vegetation to specifications followed by either chipping or lopping/scattering. Lop and scatter must be approved by the RCD Project Manager.

The project area for this phase was designed to achieve as contiguous a landscape as landowner participation allows for. No treatment shall occur within 100’ of dwellings or as defined by PRC § 4291.

Treatment methods will consist of the following:

- 1) Mechanical thinning (mastication)
- 2) Hand crew thinning (hand cutting followed by chipping; lop and scatter will be limited and done with the permission of the RCD Project Manager)

SCHEDULE OF ITEMS

Map Unit ID	Acreage	Treatment Type
M1	35.78	MECHANICAL
M2	53.14	MECHANICAL
M4	7.37	MECHANICAL
M6	21.77	MECHANICAL
M7	5.23	MECHANICAL
M8	4.54	MECHANICAL
M21	6.20	MECHANICAL
M29	3.72	MECHANICAL
M33	4.04	MECHANICAL
M34	12.90	MECHANICAL
H35	18.80	HAND
	173.49 Total	

ACCESS

In general, the project area is accessible by both public and private roads. Additional access points or staging areas will be the responsibility of the Contractor to identify in coordination with CCRCD and property owners. Access to treatment units is restricted to parcels with granted ROE permits.

NOTE: There are parcels within the project that do not have treatment units but have granted ROE to support implementation efforts. Refer to the Access map on page 5.

VIRTUAL BOUNDARIES

Georeferenced Maps: Contractor must obtain and use a GIS program capable of utilizing georeferenced maps for the purpose of following virtual boundaries. Georeferenced maps will be provided to the Contractor by CCRCD prior to implementation. Where necessary and/or at the discretion of CCRCD, boundaries and exclusion areas may also be flagged and must be followed. The Contractor should expect to utilize *both* methods and coordinate with the CCRCD Project Manager as appropriate.

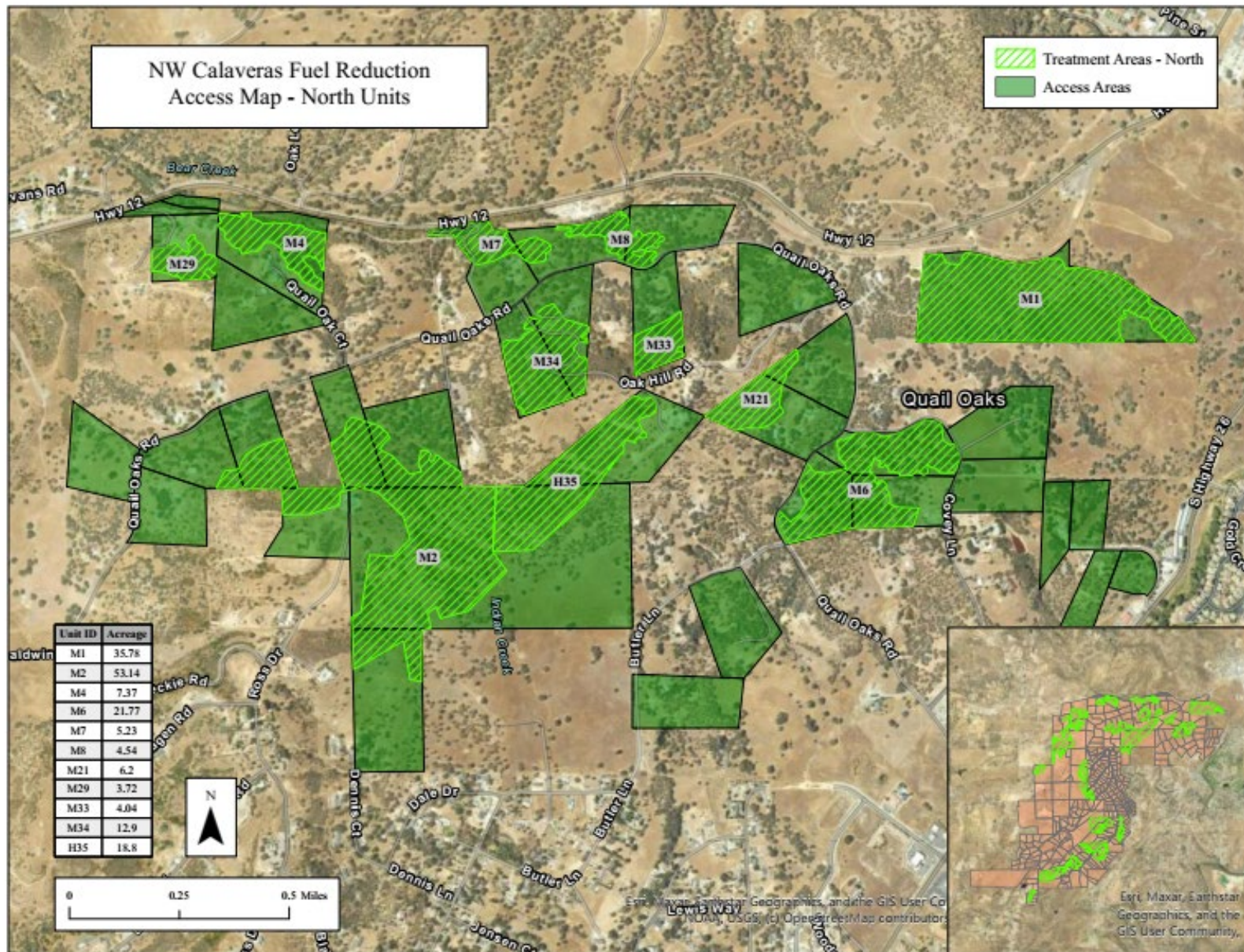
The CCRCD recommends utilizing Avenza for virtual boundaries which can be obtained from the following website:

https://store.avenza.com/?srsId=AfmBOqsTZlsea_w0z2LF1YvaPhcktpOs2l-4qCipgUQYFURl4amv_ax

FLAGGING SCHEME

- Solid Blue: Class I and Class II water courses
- Blue/White Striped flag: Class III water courses
- Pink Glow: Unit Boundary
- Red: Monument and/or Property Boundary
- Black/Yellow Striped: Hazard Avoidance
- Orange/White Striped Special Treatment Zone (printed "STZ"): archaeological resource avoidance

MAPS



TREATMENT SPECIFICATIONS

Vegetation Treatment Specifications ^{1,3}	
1. Tree Removal (Mechanical)	· Masticate trees up to 10" DBH to a target spacing of 25' to 35' between trees or bushes. · Oaks with multiple stems connected to the same root collar shall be considered one tree (i.e., do not cut individual stems on trees that are otherwise being retained). Either totally remove the oak cluster or retain the whole oak cluster. · To achieve adequate canopy spacing, there may be instances where the Project Forester/Manager will approve removal of trees to a wider spacing than stated above.
2. Tree Removal (Hand crew)	· Upon approval by Project RPF or Project Manager, cut and buck, lop and scatter, or cut and chip trees up to 10" DBH to a variable spacing of 25' to 35' between trees or bushes. · Oaks with multiple stems connected to the same root collar shall be considered one tree (i.e., do not cut individual stems on trees that are otherwise being retained). · To achieve adequate canopy spacing, there may be instances where the Project RPF/Manager will approve removal of trees to a wider spacing than that as stated above.
3. Ladder Fuels	· Prune lateral branches of retention trees to a height of 10' aboveground. · Chip and/or masticate all pruned limbs or branches. · Pruning should be done in a manner consistent with ANSI A300 pruning standards.
4. Brush Removal (Mechanical)	· In areas with overstory tree spacing of up to 60', masticate vegetation 12" in height or greater. · Where overstory tree spacing is greater than 60' or no tree canopy exists, masticate to a 30' spacing while retaining variable sized patches of shrubs (100-200ft²) · Do not treat within 100' of a dwelling structure².
5. Brush Removal (Hand crew)	· In areas with overstory tree spacing of up to 60': upon approval by the Project RPF or Project Manager, cut and either lop/scatter or chip all vegetation 12" in height or greater. · Where overstory tree spacing is greater than 60', or no tree canopy exists: upon approval by the Project RPF or Project Manager, cut and either lop/scatter or chip to a 30-foot spacing with variable sized patches of shrubs (100-200ft²). · Do not treat within 100' of a dwelling structure².
6. Dead Woody Material (Mechanical and Hand Crew)	· Treat all dead woody debris 1"-16" in diameter. · The preference is to treat dead woody material by mastication to the greatest extent possible. Otherwise, dead woody material should be chipped by hand crews if possible; larger downed logs should be bucked.

7. Dead Hazard Tree Removal	- Dead hazard trees are those which have the potential to impact a structure or road, and which are outside of the 100' defensible space zone around dwellings. - Dead hazard trees shall be directionally felled away from watercourses, fences, buildings, power lines, gates, and other infrastructure. Felled dead hazard trees up to 12" diameter at breast height (DBH) shall be masticated, or chipped (if applicable). Felled hazard trees greater than 12" DBH shall be cut and bucked to lay flat on the ground and away from the bole of retention trees. - Do not cut dead hazard trees within 100' of a dwelling structure². - Dead hazard trees may be designated by the Project RPF/Manager on-site. - Masticate/remove according to the Dead Woody Material specification (5).
8. Material/Slash Depth	- All masticated or lopped and scattered material shall, on average, have a depth no greater than 6" - No area shall have a material or slash depth of greater than 12".
9. Snag Retention	Retain 4 of the largest snags per acre across treatment areas (where possible). Do not retain hazard trees.
10. Species Retention	- To conserve biodiversity and protect culturally significant plant species, do not treat California buckeye (<i>Aesculus californica</i>), chaparral currant (<i>Ribes malvaceum</i>), or other herbaceous vegetation including herbs, annual grasses, and forbs. - Do not cut any vegetation which has been mapped and/or flagged for avoidance; at the discretion of the Project RPF/Manager, additional species may be specified for avoidance on-site. Do not masticate or remove the following species (Refer to AMMs BIO-2, BIO-3): Elderberry (<i>Sambucus</i> spp.), lone manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos myrtifolia</i>), lone buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum apricum</i>).
¹Adhere to all Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) and Mitigation Measures during implementation. ²Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis as determined by CCRCD. ³Treatments shall not include herbicide use.	

LIMITATIONS AND AVOIDANCE AREAS

The project was scoped and analyzed for impacts to the environment in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The full CEQA Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration may be found at the following link: <https://www.calaverasrcd.org/ceqa-revised-initial-study-mitigated-negative-declaration-nw-calaveras-fuel-reduction-project>

Avoidance/Minimization Measures and Mitigation Measures

*****Refer to the Appendices for the full list of AMMS, Mitigation Measures, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP)*****

To prevent or reduce impacts on the environment in accordance with CEQA, the project requires the Contractor to follow Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) and Mitigation Measures throughout the course of implementation.

NOTE: AMMs and Mitigation Measures include language discussing requirements for “qualified individuals” or “Project RPF” to conduct pre-treatment surveys. Pre-treatment surveys are the responsibility of the CCRCD - bidders should **not** figure these activities into the cost of their proposals. Bidders should, however, expect some level of coordination prior to and during implementation to ensure these AMMs and Mitigation Measures are followed.

Flagging of Avoidance Areas

- *Botanical Resources*: will be flagged for avoidance whenever practicable; Contractor must adhere to AMMs and Mitigation Measures, even if retention species are not flagged.
- *Biological Resources*: will be flagged for avoidance whenever practicable; Contractor must adhere to AMMs and Mitigation Measures, even if sensitive species habitat or sensitive areas are not flagged.
- *Cultural and Archaeological Resources*: will be flagged for avoidance whenever practicable. CCRCD will furnish monitors as appropriate during implementation to ensure protection of recorded sites and for Contractor safety (e.g., mine shafts).
- *Riparian areas, Stream Courses and Water Bodies*: buffers will be flagged for avoidance whenever practicable; Contractor must adhere to AMMs and Mitigation Measures, even if buffers are not flagged.
- *Human Habitation/Infrastructure*: will be flagged as needed.

Threatened and Endangered Species (“Special Status Species”)

The following species have the potential to occur, or are known to occur, within the project area. Any encounters with these species must promptly be reported to CCRCD.

Lone Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: BIO-3, BIO-4, HAZ-1, HAZ-2, EDU-1

Lone Buckwheat (*Eriogonum apricum*)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: BIO-3, BIO-4, HAZ-1, HAZ-2, EDU-1

Nongame Nesting Birds

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: BIO-1, HAZ-2, EDU-1.

Mitigation: Mitigation Measure #5

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: BIO-1, HYD-1, HAZ-2, EDU-1.

Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: BIO-1, HYD-1, HAZ-2, EDU-1.

Mitigation: Mitigation Measure #5

California Tiger Salamander (CTS, *Ambystoma californiense* pop. 1)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: BIO-5, HYD-1, HAZ-1, HAZ-2, EDU-1.

Mitigation: Mitigation Measure #3

Crotch's Bumble Bee (*Bombus crotchii*)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, EDU-1

Mitigation: Mitigation Measure #1

Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: HYD-1, HAZ-1, EDU-1

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: BIO-1, HYD-1, EDU-1

Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, VELB (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: BIO-2, BIO-4, EDU-1

Western Pond Turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: BIO-5, HYD-1, HAZ-1, EDU-1

Mitigation: Mitigation Measure #2

Coastal Rainbow Trout/Steelhead – Central Valley DPS (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: HYD-1

Foothill Yellow-legged Frog – South Sierra DPS (*Rana boylei*)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: BIO-5, HYD-1, HAZ-1, EDU-1

California Red-legged Frog, CRLF (*Rana draytonii*)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: BIO-5, HYD-1, HAZ-1, EDU-1

Mitigation: Mitigation Measure #4

Western Spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*)

Avoidance/Minimization Measures: BIO-5, HYD-1, HAZ-1, EDU-1

NESTING SEASONS

Nongame nesting birds, including raptors (unless specified): **February 1 through August 31**

Bald Eagle: **January 1 through August 31**

SLOPE LIMITATIONS

Tracked equipment will be the preferred type utilized for mechanical operations.

Vegetation removal and heavy equipment use shall not occur on unstable areas or excessively rocky areas.

Heavy equipment operations shall be limited to the following slopes:

Equipment Type	Maximum Percent Slope¹
Wheeled front end loaders or masticators	25%
Tracked Chippers	40%
Tracked Masticators	55%
Walking Excavators equipped with masticators	65%
¹ For equipment operations in slopes >50%, equipment operators may only treat if they can exit the slope from the same direction they entered, and under their own mechanical power; this excludes areas with an erosion hazard rating of high, extreme, or in problem areas.	

Heavy equipment operations shall not occur during saturated soil conditions when compaction or rutting is likely, and traction is compromised. Any ruts deeper than 6 inches deep running downslope will not be allowed to remain.

Watercourse and Lake Classifications, Characteristics, and Buffers				
Watercourse Classification	Class I ¹	Class II ²	Class III	Class IV
Water Class Characteristics or Key Indicator Beneficial Use	1) Domestic supplies, including springs, on site and/or within 100 feet downstream of the operations area and/or 2) Fish always or seasonally present onsite, includes habitat to sustain fish migration and spawning.	1) Fish always or seasonally present offsite within 1000 feet downstream and/or 2) Aquatic habitat for non-fish aquatic species. 3) Excludes Class III waters that are tributary to Class I waters.	No aquatic life present, watercourse showing evidence of being capable of sediment transport to Class I and II waters under normal high water flow conditions after completion of operations.	Man-made watercourses, usually downstream, established domestic, agricultural, hydroelectric supply or other beneficial use.
Slope Class	Watercourse Buffer (ft)^{3,4}			
<35%	n/a	50	25	Determined by consultation with facility owner/manager.
35-55%	n/a	75	50	Determined by consultation with facility owner/manager.
>55%	n/a	100	50	Determined by consultation with facility owner/manager.
¹None present within the Project area but included for reference. ²For the purposes of the Project, vernal pools and other wet areas (e.g., bogs, seeps) will be afforded Class II protection during wet season. When dry, buffers will not apply. ³Applied to both sides of the watercourse, measured perpendicularly from the top of the bank. ⁴For all watercourse buffers, equipment is allowed to travel through the buffer at locations of existing and functional watercourse crossings.				

Permitted Activities				
Treatment Type	Class I Watercourse	Class II Watercourse	Class III Watercourse	Class IV Watercourse
Mechanical Thinning	n/a	No operations.	1) When water is present, equipment operations permitted in areas where side slopes are <35%. 2) Equipment tracks shall not enter buffer; masticators with boom mount attachments may reach into buffer to treat, as long as tracks remain outside of buffer. 3) Equipment is not permitted to cross the watercourse unless approved, in writing by the Project RPF or designee. 4) Woody debris or sediment shall not be deposited into existing channels. Debris greater than small incidental amounts will be removed from channels. Additional AMMs or mitigations may apply.	Determined by consultation with facility owner/manager.
Hand Thinning	n/a	Permitted within the buffer, excluding the stream channel to top of bank. Treated slash or debris must be moved at least 25ft from the banks of water courses. Additional AMMs or mitigations may apply.	Permitted. Treated slash must be moved at least 15ft from the banks of water courses. Additional AMMs or mitigations may apply.	Determined by consultation with facility owner/manager.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS, RESTRICTIONS, and CONSIDERATIONS

- All traffic control and signs will be the responsibility of the Contractor and shall conform to Calaveras County requirements. Encroachment permits must be obtained by and paid for by the Contractor in accordance with law.
- All debris on public roads or any private driveway directly resulting from project activities must be remedied by the Contractor. All paved roads, which include public roads and private driveways, must be swept or blown at the end of each workday whenever applicable.
- Landscape vegetation and buffer areas between private properties may be retained, depending on landowner preferences and circumstance. Such retention designation will be noted with the use of flagging and in coordination with the CCRCD Project Manager.
- Avoid disturbing any refuse or debris that may be piled by landowners.
- Hazards within the project area include, but are not limited to, barbed wire fences, wildlife, livestock, dogs, poison oak, utility infrastructure, mineshafts and vehicles.
- All cut and masticated vegetation will be kept within the unit boundaries. Any cut vegetation falling into ditches, roads, road banks, trails, or adjacent properties should immediately be removed by Contractor.
- Equipment will be cleaned before entering the Project area to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and pathogens. Equipment should be free of leaks, in good operating condition, and have spark arrestors or turbochargers to prevent fires.
- No direct mobilization, demobilization, or transportation costs will be covered.
- Grass and other low annuals will not be treated.
- Punji Sticks: Cut vegetation as flush as possible to the ground and with the least angle as possible. Spike like cuttings are hazards to people and wildlife especially when they dry and harden.
- In or near residential areas 7:00 AM shall be work start time. In rural areas, 6:00 AM may be work start time ONLY with the permission of the property owners.
- All damage to public or private property or facilities or roads caused by the Contractor will be repaired by the Contractor at their own expense. Fences damaged or dropped by the Contractor must be returned/repaired to their original condition.
- Payments will be made on actual acres treated. Invoices can be submitted as needed but no more frequently than every 2 weeks.

GRANT BACKGROUND & RESPONSIBILITIES

GRANTOR: The Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) is a grantee of CAL FIRE for grant agreement 5GA22228. The project is funded by CAL FIRE Grant Award 5GA22228. Grantor may conduct inspections of the project area periodically upon invoice submittals. Invoice submission and payments due to the Contractor are dependent upon Grantor guidelines and procedures. Lag time between invoice submittal and payment is dependent upon grantor and funding availability.

NOTE: Pre-treatment acreages are estimated based on GIS. Final determination of treated acres will be made by Grantor and/or CCRCD based on actual on-the-ground measurement during certification inspections by CAL FIRE. Contractor is encouraged to conduct the inspections with CAL FIRE and/or CCRCD. Payments to Contractor will only be made on actual acres treated. Invoices can be submitted as needed, but no more frequently than every two weeks. Contractor's invoices will be paid upon the CCRCD's receipt of the funds from Grantor. CCRCD will not be responsible for delays in receiving funds from Grantor.

GRANT POOL: CAL FIRE 2022-2023 Wildfire Prevention Grant Program

ROLE OF GRANTEE: The CCRCD submitted this grant to CAL FIRE and was awarded this grant. As the grantee, CCRCD is responsible for financial management and reporting requirements as specified in the executed contract with the grantor. CCRCD is the only entity authorized to enter into or terminate this contract, modify any term or condition of this contract, waive any requirement of this contract, or accept nonconforming work. CCRCD has assigned Dan Liechty as Project Manager and additional staff/Contractors for on-site technical monitoring of the Contractor's performance and deliverables. CCRCD will execute the contract with the selected Contractor. CCRCD will submit Contractor invoices to CAL FIRE for payment and in turn process payment to the Contractor.

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

BID EVALUATION CRITERIA & SCORING

In submitting a bid, the Contractor agrees to furnish all labor, material and equipment to complete the above-described project in a good and workmanlike manner as provided in the contract documents provided by the CCRCD. The awarded Contractor's proposal will become part of the contract and the terms and conditions contained in the contract documents will govern performance and payments.

The contract award will be issued to the Contractor based on best value, not necessarily based on strictly the lowest bid.

The proposer is cautioned that it is the proposer's sole responsibility to submit information related to the evaluation categories and the CCRCD is under no obligation to solicit such information if it is not included with the proposal. Failure of the individual or firm to submit such information may have an adverse impact on the evaluation of the proposal. A Selection Committee shall be responsible for performing the evaluations of each proposal based on the following criteria:

1	Completeness of Proposal	Pass/Fail
2	Required Insurance/Licenses	Pass/Fail
3	Qualifications, Experience, & Workability	30 points
4	Approach/Strategy	30 points
5	Cost	30 points
6	Attendance to pre-bid tour	5 points
7	Local Benefit	5 points
	Total	100 points

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

Completeness of Proposal: Bid must adequately describe all items listed in rows 3-7 above.

Insurance Requirements:

1. **Workers Compensation Coverage** – Worker’s Compensation Insurance and Employer’s Liability Insurance for employees in accordance with the laws of the State of California (including requiring any authorized Subcontractor to obtain such insurance for its employees).
2. **General Liability Coverage** – Commercial general liability insurance with a minimum liability limit not less than \$2,000,000 for personal injury and property damages per occurrence)
3. **Automobile Liability Insurance** – with a minimum limit of liability per occurrence of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury and \$100,000 for property damage. This insurance shall cover all vehicles including hired cars, owned and non-owned vehicles.
4. Contractors are encouraged to purchase ‘Broad Form B’ insurance.

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

Qualifications, Experience, & Workability:

Please Provide:

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

Approach/Strategy:

- Describe the strategy and sequence of operations for the treatment units.
- Treatment on steep slopes (based on the project's slope restrictions) will depend on the Contractor's ability to treat and maintain safety standards. How these steep slopes are to be treated needs to be addressed in the bid.
- Discussion on the use of equipment and operator expertise in all areas of fuels reduction (i.e.: hand crew personnel, masticating, chipping, and erosion control).
- Discussion on how interactions with landowners will be handled, including potential conflict.
- Finally, describe most recent projects that included hand thinning, mastication, and chipping of trees and brush. Include the execution date of each contract, the date of completion, and the acreage treated.

Fire Plan: Describe the ability to meet the provided CCRCD Fire Plan requirements. Work *may* be authorized to occur during CalFire fire season. Strict adherence to CCRCD Fire Plan is mandatory.

Cost: Bidder must provide cost per acre for all acres in the NW Calaveras (North) Project. Costs are to include services for both machine mastication and handwork. Partial bids will not be accepted. Bids must outline the cost of services for both mechanical and hand treatments. Please list the costs of machine mastication separately from handwork. Machine mastication cost and handwork cost, this is required.

Local Benefit: In the interest of local business, 5 points will be given to Contractors based in Calaveras, Tuolumne, Alpine, Amador, and Mariposa Counties.

AWARD PROCESS

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

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

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

Non-Discrimination The Contractor selected through this RFP shall provide services without discrimination based on race, creed, color, ethnic or linguistic identification, gender or sexual preference, disability or handicap or any other basis prohibited by law. All information regarding the proposals will be held as confidential until such time as the Review Committee has completed its evaluation and, or if, contract negotiations are completed.

PROTEST/APPEAL PROCESS

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

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

Proposer's failure to comply with these procedures shall constitute a waiver of any right to further pursue the protest, including filing a claim or legal proceedings.

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

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

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Appendix A – Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs)

The following AMMs are incorporated into the project's design features and are considered integral elements. In cases where any of the following measures are duplicative or overlapping, the most comprehensive measure (i.e., the measure providing the most restriction) will apply.

BIO-1: Avoidance of Nesting Migratory Birds

- a. To the extent practicable, work will not occur during nesting season for birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the California Fish & Game Code (CA F&GC) 3503, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA).
- b. The following bird nesting seasons apply:
 - i. Nongame nesting birds, including raptors (unless specified): **February 1 through August 31**
 - ii. Bald Eagle: **January 1 through August 31**
- c. If work is conducted during the above specified bird nesting seasons, Mitigation Measure #5 shall apply.

BIO-2: Avoidance of Elderberry Shrub (*Sambucus spp.*) and Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB)

- a. Elderberry shrubs are not slated for treatment. Refer to 2.2.4 for treatment specifications. No elderberry shrubs shall be removed or disturbed during implementation.
- b. Due to elderberry's cultural significance and host relationship with valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB, *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), a qualified individual will conduct prework surveys within reasonably accessible treatment areas, access routes, and staging areas immediately ahead of implementation for elderberry shrubs. Any detected elderberry shrubs will be mapped and/or flagged for avoidance within all treatment areas prior to implementation.
- c. If additional elderberry shrubs are encountered during implementation, the contractor(s) shall notify the Project RPF and/or designee and avoid the plant. The plants will be mapped and/or flagged for avoidance by a qualified individual.

BIO-3: Avoidance of Lone manzanita and Lone buckwheat

- a. Lone manzanita and lone buckwheat are not slated for treatment. Refer to treatment specifications. No lone manzanita or lone buckwheat shall be removed or disturbed during implementation.
- b. Although not expected, if lone manzanita or lone buckwheat are encountered during implementation, the contractor(s) shall notify the Project RPF and/or designee and avoid the plant(s). The plant(s) will be mapped and flagged for avoidance by a qualified individual, and any occurrences will be submitted to the CNDDDB.

BIO-4: Avoidance of Botanical Resources during Blooming Season

- a. To the extent practicable, implementation will be targeted to occur outside of blooming period to minimize effects to botanical resources and their pollinators.
 - If avoidance is not feasible, Mitigation Measure #1 shall apply.
- b. To avoid trampling, equipment staging will not be permitted in areas of observed botanical resources. Areas free of vegetation will be prioritized for equipment staging.
- c. Per treatment specifications, herbaceous vegetation, forbs, and annual grasses are not slated for treatment. Herbicide use is not permitted for this Project.

BIO-5: Avoidance of Sensitive Amphibians: CA Red-legged frog (CRLF), CA Tiger Salamander (CTS), Foothill Yellow-legged frog, and Western spadefoot

- a. Vehicle speeds within the project area, excluding public roads, shall be limited to 15mph. Reduced driving speeds provide the driver with increased reaction time to observe for sensitive species which may be on the road.
- b. Potentially suitable aquatic breeding habitat for CRLF, CTS, and/or foothill yellow-legged frog will be identified by spatial analysis and mapped. This will be followed by field reconnaissance and watercourse buffer flagging by a qualified individual (refer to AMM HYD-1) within the treatment areas, access routes, and equipment staging areas.
- c. California Tiger Salamander: If activities are planned to occur within suitable CTS upland habitat during the dispersal season (November 1 to April 30) or following the first fall rain event (whichever comes first), then Mitigation Measure #3 shall apply.
- d. California Red-legged Frog: If activities are planned to occur within suitable CRLF upland habitat during the dispersal season (October 1 through April 1), then Mitigation #4 shall apply (refer to Section 4 of the IS-MND).
- e. Western spadefoot: Following precipitation events, a qualified individual will conduct prework surveys within all reasonably accessible treatment areas, access routes, and staging areas immediately ahead of implementation for rain pools and puddles; such areas shall be avoided. Watercourse buffers shall also be in effect throughout the course of project implementation (refer to AMM HYD-1).

CUL-1: Unanticipated Discovery and Avoidance of Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources

- a. Following the adoption of this document, if right-of-entry is granted for additional parcels within the Project area where treatments are planned, the Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians will be consulted prior to any work occurring.
- b. For parcels not surveyed by a qualified professional archaeologist or RPF paraprofessional archaeologist: any unanticipated discovery or encounter of potential cultural resources (historic or pre-historic) will be assumed eligible for state and/or federal registers. The Project RPF will ensure that cultural resources are not adversely affected by Project activities.
- c. If a potential cultural or tribal cultural resource is discovered during implementation within a parcel which has not already been surveyed or flagged for avoidance as described above (b), the following procedure shall be followed:
 - i. Project activities within the immediate vicinity of the discovered resource will cease.
 - ii. The discovery will be flagged for avoidance within 50' of the discovery and mapped if appropriate.
 - iii. A qualified professional archaeologist, RPF paraprofessional archaeologist, and/or the preservation representative of the Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians will be consulted as soon as practicable for guidance on proceeding with project activities.

CUL-2: Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains (Archaeology)

- a. In the unlikely event that human remains are encountered during implementation, work within 100' of the discovery shall be halted until such time as the resource can be evaluated, and the appropriate agency representative clears the site to proceed with Project activities. A qualified archaeologist will be consulted regarding appropriate agency involvement, proper documentation, and discovery evaluation.
- b. Pursuant to CA PRC §5097.98 and Health and Safety Code §7050.5, if a discovery as described in (a) is determined to be Native American human remains, the NAHC and those persons the NAHC believes to be descended from the deceased, referred to as the most likely descendant (MLD), shall be immediately notified. With permission of the landowner or a designated representative, the MLD may inspect the remains and any associated cultural materials and make recommendations for treatment or disposition of the remains and associated grave goods. The MLD shall provide recommendations or preferences for treatment of the remains and associated cultural materials within 48 hours of being granted access to the site.

EDU-1: Educational Program for Project Personnel

- a. Prior to implementation, all field personnel, including contractors and subcontractors, shall be provided with an educational session pertaining to sensitive species, historic and prehistoric cultural resources, AMMs, and Mitigation Measures for the Project.
- b. Any personnel working on the Project shall be directed to stop work and notify the Project RPF, designee, and/or Lead Agency if any special status species or potential archaeological resources are encountered during implementation.
- c. Any special status species encountered during implementation will be mapped, and occurrence data will be submitted to CNDDDB and/or reported to the appropriate agency in a reasonably timely manner.
- d. Any personnel working on the Project shall stop work and notify the Project RPF, designee, and/or Lead Agency if any potential culturally significant resources, including tribal, are encountered during implementation (refer to AMM CUL-1).
- e. All personnel working on the Project will be provided with a basic field identification guide for reference as needed throughout the Project; the guide will include, at a minimum, pictures of the occurring and potentially occurring threatened and endangered species listed in Section 3.3.4 of the IS-MND.

GEO-1: Maximum Slope Limitations for Tracked and Wheeled Equipment

Tracked equipment will be the preferred type utilized for mechanical operations.

Vegetation removal and heavy equipment use shall not occur on unstable areas or excessively rocky areas.

Heavy equipment operations shall be limited to the following slopes:

Equipment Type	Maximum Percent Slope¹
Wheeled front end loaders or masticators	25%
Tracked Chippers	40%
Tracked Masticators	55%
Walking Excavators equipped with masticators	65%
¹ For equipment operations in slopes >50%, equipment operators may only treat if they can exit the slope from the same direction they entered, and under their own mechanical power; this excludes areas with an erosion hazard rating of high, extreme, or in problem areas.	

Heavy equipment operations shall not occur during saturated soil conditions. Saturated soil conditions are defined as when soil and/or surface material pore spaces are filled with water to such an extent that runoff is likely to occur. Indicators of saturated soil conditions may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- 1) areas of ponded/pooled water;
- 2) pumping water and fine materials from the soil or road surface during operations;
- 3) loss of bearing strength resulting in the deflection of soil or road surfaces under a load (e.g., the creation of wheel ruts);
- 4) spinning or churning wheels or tracks which produce a wet slurry; or

5) inadequate traction without blading wet soil or surfacing materials.

Heavily used trails created or utilized by equipment shall have water breaks constructed to prevent disruption to site hydrology. Water breaks shall be constructed either by hand or mechanically. They shall be constructed either prior to November 15th, or when the National Weather Service forecasts at least a 30% chance of precipitation within the next 24 hours, whichever occurs first. Water breaks shall be built to a minimum of 12" (preferred 18" to 24") in height when compacted (measured from the bottom the trough to the top of the compacted water bar). The following table defines the maximum distance between water breaks on trails created or used by heavy equipment:

Trail Gradient	≤10%	11-25%	26-50%	>50%
Maximum Distance Between Waterbreaks	200'	150'	100'	75'

Contractors must repair any unanticipated or accidental rutting or soil deflection resulting from activities.

Refer to HYD-1(b) for drying periods to prevent soil compaction.

Mechanical treatments shall not occur in areas identified as *problem areas* by CAL FIRE's Erosion Hazard Rating Tool (2022), or in areas where the erosion hazard rating is high or extreme; refer to the map depicting these areas within the Project area. Alternate treatment methods may be utilized at the discretion of the Project RPF in these areas.

HAZ-1: Spill Prevention of Hazardous Materials

- Hazardous materials which are necessary for Project implementation will be transported and stored safely in accordance with ANSI and OSHA standards as well as applicable law.
- Contractual language for the awarded bidder will include a requirement to develop a spill prevention plan for the Project. A spill kit will be required on-site during implementation.
- Mixing of chemicals and re-fueling of equipment shall be done outside of all watercourses, watercourse buffers, and other sensitive areas, with the utmost care possible.

HAZ-2: Wildfire Prevention and burning permits (smoke management plan, etc.)

To reduce the risk of ignition associated with Project activities, the following measures will be taken:

- All applicable equipment on the Project must have a spark arrestor and be properly maintained in good working order.
- A daily safety tailboard will be required by the contractor during Project implementation, which will include a review of the daily fire ratings, weather conditions, and steps that will be taken to reduce the risk of ignition.
- The contractor will be required to furnish all necessary fire suppression and safety equipment pursuant to local, state, and federal law. The contractor shall furnish an approved fire-plan to be included in their contract. Only competent and qualified individuals will be permitted to work on the Project.
- Hand piles will be constructed per treatment specifications.
- If prescribed burning is planned, all required/applicable permits and plans shall be obtained or developed. The contractor shall cooperate with the Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District (CCAPCD) and use the

Prescribed Fire Incident Reporting System (PFIRS) system to develop a smoke management plan (if applicable; a suitable alternative may be used at the approval of CCAPCD).

- f. Burning will only be conducted with the full cooperation and coordination of the landowner(s) involved.

HYD-1: Avoidance of Riparian Areas, Sensitive Wetland Habitats, and Watercourses

- a. Equipment Staging: Equipment staging will be excluded from areas determined to have sensitive habitat for special status species, and from wet areas and watercourse buffers. Staging will occur on previously compacted surfaces whenever practicable.
- b. Drying period: To prevent soil compaction and to avoid the dispersal or migration of terrestrial amphibians, mechanical operations will cease during periods of significant rainfall and will be subject to a minimum drying period of 24 hours and up to 72 hours. Manual treatments, chipper operations on established roads, and chipper operations on previously compacted surfaces may continue.
- c. If a threatened or endangered species is identified at any time throughout the Project, contractors will cease operations and immediately notify the Project RPF or designee. CDFW or a qualified biologist will be consulted for guidance.
- d. To prevent erosion and sedimentation, to preserve water quality, and to protect aquatic species and riparian habitat, watercourses will be classified by a qualified individual and flagged with an appropriate buffer prior to implementation. Refer to the tables below for watercourse classifications, characteristics, buffers, and circumstantially permitted activities within the buffers.

Watercourse and Lake Classifications, Characteristics, and Buffers				
Watercourse Classification	Class I ¹	Class II ²	Class III	Class IV
Water Class Characteristics or Key Indicator Beneficial Use	1) Domestic supplies, including springs, on site and/or within 100 feet downstream of the operations area and/or 2) Fish always or seasonally present onsite, includes habitat to sustain fish migration and spawning.	1) Fish always or seasonally present offsite within 1000 feet downstream and/or 2) Aquatic habitat for non-fish aquatic species. 3) Excludes Class III waters that are tributary to Class I waters.	No aquatic life present, watercourse showing evidence of being capable of sediment transport to Class I and II waters under normal high water flow conditions after completion of operations.	Man-made watercourses, usually downstream, established domestic, agricultural, hydroelectric supply or other beneficial use.
Slope Class	Watercourse Buffer (ft) ^{3,4}			
<35%	n/a	50	25	Determined by consultation with facility owner/manager.
35-55%	n/a	75	50	Determined by consultation with facility owner/manager.
>55%	n/a	100	50	Determined by consultation with facility owner/manager.
¹ None present within the Project area but included for reference. ² For the purposes of the Project, vernal pools and other wet areas (e.g., bogs, seeps) will be afforded Class II protection during wet season. When dry, buffers will not apply. ³ Applied to both sides of the watercourse, measured perpendicularly from the top of the bank. ⁴ For all watercourse buffers, equipment is allowed to travel through the buffer at locations of existing and functional watercourse crossings.				

Permitted Activities				
Treatment Type	Class I Watercourse	Class II Watercourse	Class III Watercourse	Class IV Watercourse
Mechanical Thinning	n/a	No operations.	1) When water is present, equipment operations permitted in areas where side slopes are <35%. 2) Equipment tracks shall not enter buffer; masticators with boom mount attachments may reach into buffer to treat, as long as tracks remain outside of buffer. 3) Equipment is not permitted to cross the watercourse unless approved, in writing by the Project RPF or designee. 4) Woody debris or sediment shall not be deposited into existing channels. Debris greater than small incidental amounts will be removed from channels. Additional AMMs or mitigations may apply.	Determined by consultation with facility owner/manager.
Hand Thinning	n/a	Permitted within the buffer, excluding the stream channel to top of bank. Treated slash or debris must be moved at least 25ft from the banks of water courses. Additional AMMs or mitigations may apply.	Permitted. Treated slash must be moved at least 15ft from the banks of water courses. Additional AMMs or mitigations may apply.	Determined by consultation with facility owner/manager.

Appendix B - Mitigation Measures

The following Mitigation Measures shall be followed during implementation to reduce impacts to a less than significant threshold or avoid impacts altogether. Section 5 covers analyses of impacts to resource categories and describes which mitigation measures will be applied to reduce potentially significant impacts below a threshold of significance. The awarded implementation contractor(s) shall follow all mitigation measures listed herein. Refer to Appendix C (Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan) for additional information on the implementation and oversight of project mitigations.

Mitigation #1: Botanical Resources - Protections for Select Food Plant Genera of Crotch's Bumble Bee

To protect the preferred plant food sources for *Bombus crotchii* during floristic blooming season, the following measures will be followed:

- a. Ahead of implementation, a qualified individual will conduct prework surveys of all reasonably accessible areas within the treatment area, access route(s), and equipment staging area(s) for the presence of *Antirrhinum* (snapdragon), *Phacelia* (scorpionweed), *Clarkia* spp., *Dendromecon* (bush poppy), *Eschscholzia* (California poppy), and *Eriogonum* spp. (wild buckwheats).
 - i. If any of these select food plant genera are observed in the Project area, a 10-foot exclusion buffer will be flagged for avoidance around the outermost plant of an observed plant population.
- b. Prescribed Fire:
 - i. Prescribed burning within occupied or suitable habitat for special-status bumble bees will occur from October through February to avoid the bumble bee flight season.
 - ii. If prescribed fire is planned within a treatment area where any of these plant genera are present, a fire line will be constructed down to bare mineral soil where the 10' exclusion buffer would be flagged (i). Burn piles shall not be constructed on observed plants or within range to where plants would be scorched or killed by radiant heat.
- c. If herbivore grazing is planned within a treatment area where any of these plant genera are present, the plant(s) will be fenced for exclusion. An alternative exclusion method may be implemented upon approval of the Project RPF, if the plants are not grazed upon.

Mitigation #2: Protections for Western Pond Turtle

- a. During a significant drought event, and/or during nesting season (May 15 through July 15) in areas of suitable terrestrial habitat for the species, a qualified individual will conduct prework surveys immediately ahead of implementation of all reasonably accessible areas within the treatment units, access routes, and equipment staging areas for presence of the species.
- b. If a turtle is encountered during operations, work will immediately stop, and the contractor shall notify the Project RPF or designee; work shall not resume until the turtle leaves the worksite on its own accord. If a nest is identified, work will immediately stop, and the contractor shall notify the Project RPF or designee; the nest will

be flagged for avoidance before work will be permitted to resume. Any occurrences will be submitted to the CNDDDB.

C. Any observed individuals shall not be relocated unless CDFW is first consulted and an Incidental Take Permit (Fish and Game Code § 2081 (b); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 783.2-783.8) is obtained by the Lead Agency.

Mitigation #3: Protections for California Tiger Salamander (CTS; *Ambystoma californiense* pop. 1)

For treatment areas that are within 1.25 miles of potentially suitable aquatic habitat, as described in AMM BIO-5:

- a. A qualified individual will conduct prework surveys of all reasonably accessible areas within the treatment area, access route(s), and equipment staging area(s) to confirm if suitable CTS upland dispersal habitat is present. Suitable upland dispersal habitat includes areas (grasslands and open woodlands) where ground squirrels and other small rodent burrows are present. Prework surveys will be based on the contractor's work schedule but will occur no more than 72 hours prior to operations.
 - i. If the absence of suitable upland dispersal habitat is confirmed, no further steps are necessary.
- b. If the presence of suitable upland habitat is confirmed, then a qualified individual will conduct walking surveys for the presence of animal burrows (CTS refugia):
 - i. If the absence of burrows is confirmed, no further steps are necessary.
 - ii. If the presence of burrows is confirmed, the burrows will be mapped and either delineated with exclusion tape, marked with pin flagging next to the burrow(s), or flagged in areas where delineation is not feasible, for exclusion and avoidance.
- c. In treatment areas where burrows are confirmed by the steps outlined above, the following seasonality restrictions shall apply:
 - i. If work is planned after the first fall rain of at least 0.5" or starting November 1 when CTS dispersal season begins (whichever occurs first), and until CTS dispersal season ends on April 30 or when nearby suitable breeding habitat within 1.25 miles is dry (whichever occurs last), then the contractor must be cleared for work by a qualified individual prior to operations.
 - ii. Where (i) above applies, operations shall also wait at least 30 minutes after sunrise and shall stop at least 30 minutes prior to sunset to allow for the safe passage of any unaccounted CTS.
- d. Prework surveys of all staged equipment will be conducted by a qualified individual to account for CTS utilizing equipment as refugia.
- e. If CTS is observed, the occurrence will be reported to CNDDDB and CDFW shall be consulted for guidance.
- f. Any observed individuals shall not be relocated unless CDFW is first consulted and an Incidental Take Permit (Fish and Game Code § 2081 (b); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 783.2-783.8) is obtained by the Lead Agency.

Mitigation #4: Protections for CA Red-legged Frog (CRLF)

For treatment areas that are within 1.7 miles of potentially suitable aquatic breeding habitat, as described in AMM BIO-5, either (a) or (b), described in the following, shall occur:

- a. A qualified biologist shall implement protocol level surveys following the *Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for California Red-legged Frog* (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2005).
 - i. If a qualified biologist implements protocol level surveys and confirms the absence of CRLF, no further measures shall apply for that respective treatment area.

- ii. If CRLF are found to be present, then a qualified individual shall actively monitor operations to ensure no individuals are harmed or disturbed by activities. Alternatively, an Approved Designated Biologist may relocate an individual, if an appropriate location exists.
- b. An exclusion buffer of 300' from aquatic habitat will be flagged for all activities, except grazing, and shall apply during CRLF dispersal season from October 1 through April 1, or within 24 hours following a rain event of greater than 0.25".
 - i. If avoidance is not feasible within the 300' exclusion buffer from aquatic habitat during active dispersal season, or following a rain event of greater than 0.25", then a qualified individual will conduct prework surveys of all reasonably accessible areas within the treatment area, access route(s), and equipment staging area(s) prior to activities, to confirm the absence of CRLF. Activities will be monitored by a qualified individual during work in these areas.
 - ii. If the above (i) is being implemented and project activities require moving or treating large woody debris greater than 12" in diameter, that piece of woody debris shall be evaluated by a qualified individual to confirm the absence of CRLF.
- c. Refer to AMM HYD-1 (b) regarding drying periods for mechanized equipment following rainfall. Manual treatments, chipper operations on established roads, and chipper operations on compacted surfaces may continue.
- d. For activities performed year-round (e.g., manual treatments): within 30' of any class I or II watercourses, sensitive habitat areas (e.g., wet seeps), or running class III watercourses, a qualified individual will conduct secondary walking surveys of all reasonably accessible areas within the treatment areas, access route(s), and equipment staging area(s) prior to activities, to confirm the absence of CA Red-legged Frog. Activities will be actively monitored by the qualified individual until work ceases within 30' of the watercourse or habitat.
- e. If an individual is found during any of the above listed steps, or an individual enters the treatment area during active operations, all work will stop within a non-disturbance buffer of 100' around the individual unless it is determined by a qualified individual that a different buffer is appropriate to avoid disturbance, injury, or mortality. Additionally, the following shall apply:
 - i. Treatment activities will cease within the buffer until the animal leaves on its own.
 - ii. The occurrence will be reported to CNDDDB and CDFW shall be consulted for guidance.
 - iii. Any observed individuals shall not be relocated unless CDFW is first consulted and an Incidental Take Permit (Fish and Game Code § 2081 (b); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 783.2-783.8) is obtained by the Lead Agency.

Mitigation #5: Protections for Swainsons Hawk, Tricolored Blackbird, Bald Eagle, and nongame nesting birds

If activities are planned during bird nesting season, the following steps shall apply:

- a. No more than 7 days prior to the first day of implementation within a treatment area, a qualified individual shall conduct prework surveys of all reasonably accessible areas within the treatment area, access routes, and equipment staging areas for the presence of nesting birds or bird nests. If no nests or colonies are observed, no further steps are necessary.
 - a. Any known nest locations (active or inactive) identified during field reconnaissance will be re-visited as part of this step.
- b. If an active nest or nesting bird is identified, the contractor will cease activities and immediately notify the Project RPF or designee; CDFW will be consulted for further guidance and occurrences of special status species

will be reported to CNDDDB. Any encountered nests shall be mapped, and a corresponding performance-based exclusion buffer shall apply. The buffer will be flagged whenever practicable, and the following shall apply:

- i. No mechanical equipment operations or vegetation altering activities shall occur within the exclusion buffer, except for grazing. Factors to be considered for determining buffer location will include the following: presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography, nest height above ground, baseline levels of noise and human activity, species sensitivity, and expected treatment activities.
- ii. The preliminary exclusion buffer will depend on species as follows:
 - Non-raptors: 50' buffer
 - Tricolored Blackbird: 60' buffer, in accordance with CDFW's "Staff Guidance Regarding Avoidance of Impacts to Tricolored Blackbird Breeding Colonies on Agricultural Fields in 2015". If a nesting colony is present within 300' CDFW will be consulted. A nesting colony is defined as a spatially discrete cluster of breeding/nesting territories, usually tightly packed together.
 - Swainsons Hawk: 0.5-mile buffer
 - Bald Eagle: 10-acre (660 foot) buffer
- c. A qualified individual will actively monitor the nest(s) during any activities which may cause disturbance. Should a nesting bird exhibit agitated behavior resulting from activities (e.g., vocalizing, flying defensively, flying off the nest or otherwise disturbing brooding) the exclusion buffer will be increased until activities are far enough from the nest that the behavior(s) stop.
- d. The exclusion buffer will remain in place for the duration of the Project during nesting season, or until chicks have fledged.
- e. Any observed individuals shall not be relocated unless CDFW is first consulted and an Incidental Take Permit (Fish and Game Code § 2081 (b); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 783.2-783.8) is obtained by the Lead Agency.

Appendix C - Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines § 15074(d), when adopting a mitigated negative declaration, the Lead Agency will adopt a mitigation monitoring and reporting plan ("MMRP") that ensures compliance with mitigation measures required for project approval. Mitigation Measures have been developed for the Project to reduce environmental impacts to a less than significant level or to avoid impacts altogether. Refer to Section 4 of the IS-MND for the full description of Mitigation Measures. The MMRP identifies the parties responsible for overseeing each mitigation measure, and which party is responsible for monitoring mitigations, when applicable. The MMRP shall be kept on file by the Lead Agency and updated weekly during project implementation when operations are active.

Mitigation #1: Botanical Resources - Protections for Select Food Plant Genera of Crotch's Bumble Bee

Schedule: Prior to and during project implementation.

Responsible Party: Project Manager for Lead Agency, and/or contracted RPF

Verification of Compliance:

Initials _____ **Date(s):** _____

Mitigation #2: Protections for Western Pond Turtle

Schedule: Prior to and during project implementation.

Responsible Party: Project Manager for Lead Agency, and/or contracted RPF

Verification of Compliance:

Initials _____ **Date(s):** _____

Mitigation #3: Protections for California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense* pop. 1)

Schedule: Prior to and during project implementation.

Responsible Party: Project Manager for Lead Agency, and/or contracted RPF

Verification of Compliance

Initials _____ **Date(s):** _____

Mitigation #4: Protections for CA Red-legged Frog

Schedule: Prior to and during project implementation.

Responsible Party: Project Manager for Lead Agency, and/or contracted RPF

Monitoring Party: Qualified Biologist, if (a) applies

Verification of Compliance

Initials _____ **Date(s):** _____

Mitigation #5: Protections for Swainsons Hawk, Tricolored Blackbird, Bald Eagle, and nongame nesting birds

Schedule: Prior to and during project implementation.

Responsible Party: Project Manager for Lead Agency, and/or contracted RPF)

Monitoring Party: Qualified Biologist or Qualified Individual, if (c) applies

Verification of Compliance

Initials _____ **Date(s):** _____

Appendix D – Fire Plan

FIRE PLAN AND FIRE PRECAUTIONS

For all operations associated with this project, the preferred operating season is outside of the CAL FIRE Declared Fire Season. The “Declared Fire Season” is when open burning is not permitted in any region and varies from county to county. It typically begins on or around May 1st annually, but this is subject to change and is not guaranteed. Even outside of Declared Fire Season, there is always potential for operations to cause fires due to mechanical failure or sparks. **All contractor proposals must include a detailed, job-specific Fire Plan, which must include requirements outlined in AMM HAZ-2.** Further, the fire plan must include the following:

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

1. Meeting the minimum fire tool requirements of the Public Resources Code.
2. Patrol the jobsite after the end of work, as required by the Forest Practice Rules. This includes provisions for immediate communications in the event of a fire.
3. Make provisions for a water trailer or water truck with fire pump to be on-site. The size, type, and capacity of this water truck or trailer must be stated, along with pump capability (PSI or gallons/minute), hose size and length and required accessories (e.g., gasoline for the engine, nozzles, etc.) The contractor must describe where the fire trailer is located, and how this trailer will be moved, can it be brought into areas away from roads, etc.
4. State the size and types of fire extinguishers available on each piece of equipment. If the equipment is also outfitted with additional fire suppression capabilities, such as a “heavy equipment fire suppression system”, this needs to be stated and described.

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

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

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

1. On any Red Flag Day, no operations are allowed. This includes any equipment maintenance or repair that involves cutting with a torch, grinding, or welding.

2. On any Fire Weather Watch Day, operations are allowed only with prior approval from the CCRCD.
3. On any other high fire-danger day, the CCRCD will shut down operations at any time of the day when they determine that fire conditions are extreme.
4. The CCRCD may mandate specific areas to work or not work on any given day. (For example, rocky areas may not be worked on hot, dry days.
5. Other operational restrictions may apply, including a total prolonged shut-down of the operation. If this is required, the CCRCD will not be liable for any additional equipment mobilization costs incurred by the contractor.

Additional requirements may apply in the interest of safety.