



**CALAVERAS
COUNTY**
Resource
Conservation
District

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

FOR FUELS REDUCTION SERVICES

CONTRACTED SERVICES TO

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

Project Name: HIGHWAY 108 NORTH

Grant: CALFIRE GRANT 5GA21203

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT	Name: Gordon Long, Project Manager Email: glong@calaverasrcd.org , proposals@calaverasrcd.org Phone: 209- 791-0286
RFP RELEASE DATE	May 15, 2023
PRE-BID TOUR	<p>Only contractors with an LTO A or a Contractors State License Board C61/D49 License are eligible to bid on projects administered by the Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (CCRCD). Do not attend the pre-bid tour if you don't have one of these licenses. When you RSVP for this event, you will be asked to provide your LTO A or state contractor C/61/D49 license number.</p> <p>Participation in the pre-bid tours is optional. However, bidders who attend will be awarded five points in the scoring process. The tour will originate at the intersection of Highway 108 and Lyons Reservoir Road, above Sierra Village, CA. The large pull-off area on the north side of the Highway will be the place to meet. You must RSVP to the Project Manager on or before Friday, May 19, 2023. Note that each company is allowed only one vehicle on the tour.</p> <p>The project map and any related documents are on the Calaveras County RCD website, under the link called Request for Proposal. The link is noted here: https://www.calaverasrcd.org/request-for-proposals. Documents may continually be updated on the website, so check periodically prior to bid submission.</p> <p>This RFP covers the Highway 108 North Project in its entirety. When you bid on this RFP, you are bidding on the single unit that is the Highway 108 North Project. The Project covers up to 123 acres, all of which could be treated by machinery. The only hand work that is envisioned would be pruning of the residual live trees to 10 feet up the stem, and will be included in this contract.</p> <p>Questions received by the Project Manager on or before May 24, 2023, will be answered and distributed to all bidders by email before noon on May 25, 2023.</p>

RFP CLOSING DATE	Proposals must be submitted electronically to the dedicated CCRCDC proposals email @ proposals@calaverasrcd.org by 5 pm PST May 30, 2023 .
CONTRACTOR SELECTION	Project Contractor(s) will be selected no later than June 8 2023 . All bidders will be notified by email of the results.
PROJECT COMMENCEMENT DATE	Immediately upon execution of the contract
PROJECT COMPLETION DATE	June 30, 2024

PROJECT OVERVIEW

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

The Project Description:

The Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (CCRCDC) has been awarded a grant from the CALFIRE to complete the Highway 108 North Fuelbreak Project, which is along the Highway 108 corridor, roughly going east from Confidence, CA to Sierra Village, CA. This 123-acre footprint is all on the north side of Highway 108. The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to open the bidding process for fuels reduction services on up to 123 acres on a mixed conifer forest in this region of Tuolumne County. Hereinafter the CALFIRE “Highway 108 North Fuelbreak” is referred to as the “Project”.

References.

Map of Project Area in .pdf form

I. ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

Activity	Date
Release of RFP	5/15/2023
Pre-Bid Tour	5/22/2023
Deadline for RFP responses	5/30/2023
Review Committee evaluates proposals	5/30-6/2/2023
Contract Award by Committee	On or before 6/2/23

Notice of contract award	On or before 6/9/2023
Contract executed	On or before 6/12/2023
Project start date	June 28, 2023

II. GRANT BACKGROUND & RESPONSIBILITIES

GRANTOR: The project is funded by CALFIRE Grant Award 5GA21203. Grantor may conduct inspections of the project area periodically upon invoice submittals. Invoice submittals and expected payments to contractor dependent upon Grantor guidelines and procedures. Lag time between invoice submittal and payment is dependent upon grantor.

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

GRANT POOL: CALFIRE Fire Prevention Grant Program

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

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

III. PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The primary goals of this Project include:

The project goal is to avoid catastrophic wildfire in the watershed by removing dense surface and ladder fuels, decreasing crown density, and retaining large fire-resistant trees to reduce the risk of fire ignition and slow fire spread, and increase the chance of success on initial fire suppression

attack by keeping potential fires small and on the ground. The Project focuses on the treatment of up to 123 acres of ground and ladder fuels and thinning of crowded trees on private parcels along the Highway 108 corridor in Tuolumne County.

The primary objectives of this Project include:

The Project will use mechanical mastication to reduce ladder fuels and open the forest stand structure, spreading shreds and chips evenly across the landscape to suppress regrowth of brush and conserve soil moisture.

Areas, Treatment Units & Bid Units: The Project is NOT divided into units, as is often the case with many fuel reduction projects offered by CCRC. This bid process includes the complete Project Footprint. A vast majority of work is expected to be accomplished by large forestry machinery with masticator heads. The only hand work that is anticipated is the pruning of limbs up to 10' of stems of residual trees.

The project acreage for the Project is estimated based on GIS, and covers at the most, 123 acres. CALFIRE has received written permissions from a vast number of landowners on the Project footprint. Some portions of the footprint will need little or no treatment, due to work accomplished by landowners over the last 24 months. If no treatment is warranted on portions, there will be no payment on these particular acres. If minimal work is deemed worthwhile by CALFIRE and CCRC, work would be appropriate and available for payment for the overall per acre bid price that is included in a bid.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREAS

Project Areas (Acres): up to 123 acres

Terrain: Mountainous

Slope/Aspect: 0-40%/ All aspects

Elevation Range: 4,400' and 4,920'

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

The overstory consists of sugar pine, ponderosa pine, incense-cedar, black oak, Douglas-fir, white fir, Pacific madrone, - both standing live and dead.

The understory is choked with live and dead brush and fallen logs. Surface fuels include bear clover, pacific dogwood, currant, whitethorn and deerbrush ceonothus, and whiteleaf manzanita, dense, young conifers, and logs/carcasses of fallen trees. Many parcels have substantial tree mortality from drought and insect damage. Existing conditions are classified as a very high fire hazard by the California State Fire Marshal.

Infrastructure Present: Much of the work is near residential homes and infrastructure. Typical infrastructure includes fencing, septic lines, outdoor furniture, trails, and old roads. All these

resources will need to be restored to their original status if disturbed. There is a community water tank on the footprint that may need special precaution to protect underground water lines. In some areas, there is also old metal and garbage that should be avoided to protect contractor equipment.

This project has areas that require traffic control on State Highway 108. CCRCO, through CALFIRE, has a signed encroachment permit from CALTRANS, that extends through November 12, 2023. It would be prudent to accomplish work on this eastern section of the Project first, so as to adhere to this Encroachment Permit. It is the responsibility of the contractor to follow protocol of this Encroachment Permit.

Avoidance Areas:

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

PRESCRIPTION

Mastication Prescription

- Masticate all sub-merchantable brush and hardwoods and conifers <12" dbh, standing or downed, leaving residual tree crowns spaced 15-25 feet apart.
- 75% of the mastication shreds shall be <36 inches in length. Shreds shall be spread evenly into a layer of mulch to suppress brush regeneration, minimize erosion, and conserve soil moisture. Mulch depth shall be <12 inches. Stumps shall be ground to surface level. Dangerous punji sticks are not allowed.
- Limbs of residual trees shall be pruned up to 10 feet or 50% of the tree height, whichever comes first, and the shreds masticated.
- Trees, limbs, and shrubs on or overhanging roads, including the cut bank, shall be cut, and removed or masticated. Brush, shrubs, and trees growing on the outside bank will be masticated as far as the masticator boom can reach. Masticated material shall be removed from the inside drainage ditches.
- Logs on the ground will be masticated or removed leaving 3-4 logs per acre. Leave logs will be >18" in diameter at the large end and >20 feet long. Retained downed logs will be placed perpendicular to the slope.
- Leaving burn/slash piles will not be permitted. Decayed log decks may be left, but all strewn dead logs not put into decks will be masticated.

Equipment Capability/Limitations.

- On steeper terrain (slopes over 30%), equipment must only operate up and down the slope, perpendicular to the contour. Equipment must not operate under saturated soil conditions when compaction or rutting is likely, and traction is compromised. Any ruts >6" deep

running downslope will not be allowed to remain.

Identification of Protected Species or Other Critical Resources

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

V. PROJECT PROVISIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

All treatments must abide by the CCRCD Fire Plan (CCRCD_FirePlan.pdf).

VI. BID EVALUATION CRITERIA & SCORING

The contract award will be issued to the Contractor based on best value, not necessarily based on strictly the lowest bid. One award will be made to the qualified proposer whose proposal will be the most advantageous to the CCRCD, with price and all other factors considered. The proposer is cautioned that it is the proposer's sole responsibility to submit information related to the evaluation categories and the 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 cause an adverse impact on the evaluation of the proposal. A Selection Committee shall be responsible for performing the evaluations of each proposal based on the following criteria:

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

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

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

Insurance:

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

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

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

Qualifications & Experience:

Please Provide:

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

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

Approach:

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

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

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

AWARD PROCESS

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

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

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

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

PROTEST/APPEAL PROCESS

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

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

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

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

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

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