

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
FOR CONTRACTED SERVICES TO
CALAVERAS COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (CCRCD)
TO CONSTRUCT THE
Forest Meadows/Wylderidge Fuel Break
CAL FIRE Grant 5GG20172

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT	Laurie Plautz, Project Manager lsplautz@calaverasrcd.org (209) 331-0715 – Cell; (209) 890-7850 – Home
RFP RELEASE DATE	March 16, 2022
PRE-BID TOUR	<p>The Pre-Bid Tour will take place on March 31, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. and will start in the Forest Meadows parking lot. The Pre-Bid Tour is optional, however contractors are strongly encouraged to attend. Access to some areas of the project is through the Forest Meadows subdivision, so contractors will not be allowed to independently inspect the project area prior to the Pre-Bid Tour. Contact Laurie Plautz at lsplautz@calaverasrcd.org to RSVP for the tour.</p> <p>This RFP package includes five maps.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project Vicinity Map 2. Topo Map 3. Slope Shading Map 4. Bare Earth Map with Watercourses 5. Aerial View Map <p>Questions received by the Project Manager by March 31st will be answered and distributed to all bidders by email after 5:00 p.m. on April 1st.</p>
RFP CLOSING DATE	Proposals must be submitted electronically to the Project Manager no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 11, 2022 . Email to: lsplautz@calaverasrcd.org.
CONTRACTOR SELECTION	Project Contractor will be selected by April 18, 2022 (tentative). All bidders will be notified by email of Contractor selection.
PROJECT COMMENCEMENT DATE	Start date is dependent on final CEQA approval, and work can begin immediately after approval is received. CEQA approval and noticing is expected by April 20, 2022.
PROJECT COMPLETION DATE	All work must be completed, and invoices submitted no later than March 15, 2024.

CCRCD – REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL on the Forest Meadows/Wylderidge Fuelbreak

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) has received funding from CAL FIRE through the California Climate Initiative (CCI) to develop and implement the Forest Meadows/Wylderidge WUI Fuelbreak. The proposed fuelbreak treatment will reduce the surface and ladder fuels, lower tree density, reduce the horizontal and vertical continuity of forest fuels, provide a high representation of larger diameter trees and reduce the threat of potential crown fires. The shaded fuelbreak treatment will remove ladder fuels and space the residual trees to create stand conditions that will impede the movement of a wildfire and provide a strategic location for ground and aerial fire suppression resources to fight wildfires.

This project is part of the Highway 4 Wildfire Defense System in Calaveras County between Murphys and Camp Connell where more than 9,000 single family residences and 400 businesses are located (see **Map 1 – Vicinity Map**). The Wildland around this urban interface area is made up of an uneven aged mixed conifer forest that is overstocked with trees and flammable brush. This is a dangerous mix that has fueled past wildfires on the Highway 4 corridor.

The project is located on the south side of State Highway 4, east of Murphys and is bordered by the Forest Meadows subdivision to the south and Darby Russell Road and Wylderidge Drive to the east. The site plan covers approximately 200 acres. The entire project is on private land, impacting approximately 49 private parcels, with private residences located on 20 of the 49 parcels. About 35 acres have been excluded from treatment because they are PRC 4291 Defensible Space acres (State-mandated landowner responsibility) or have already been cleared by the landowners, leaving approximately 165 acres to be treated (see **Map 2**). **Please note, pre-treatment acreages are estimated based on GIS; final determination of treated acres will be made by CAL FIRE based on actual on-the-ground measurement during certification inspections. Contractor is encouraged to conduct the inspections with CAL FIRE.** The project will create a shaded fuel break condition across this area.

ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

Activity	Date
Release of RFP	March 16, 2022
Pre-Bid Tour	March 31, 2022
Deadline for RFP responses	April 11, 2022
Review Committee evaluates proposals	April 12 - April 15, 2022
Notice of contract award (tentative)	April 18, 2022
Contract executed and Project Start Date (tentative)	April 25, 2022

RESPONSIBILITIES

CAL FIRE. The project is funded by the Department through the California Climate Initiative. CAL FIRE will conduct inspections of the project area periodically upon invoice submittals.

CCRCD. The CCRCD will be the CEQA Lead Agency, with responsibility for preparation and noticing of the CEQA documents. As the grantee, CCRCD is responsible for financial management and reporting requirements as specified in the CCRCD/CAL FIRE grant award. 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 appointed the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and Project Manager for on-site technical monitoring of the Contractor's performance and deliverables.

CCRCD will execute the contract with the successful Fuels Reduction Contractor. CCRCD will submit Contractor invoices to CAL FIRE for payment and in turn process payment to the Contractor(s).

CCRCD has hired a project manager and contracted a Registered Professional Forester for management and oversight of all project activities.

- **PROJECT MANAGER.** The Project Manager will serve as the liaison between the Contractor, Property Owners and CCRCD and will be the primary contact between all entities. The Manager will coordinate closely with the RPF on the Request for Proposal process, contractor selection and day-to-day business. The Manager will also support CCRCD in invoicing, mapping, and report development.
- **PROJECT FORESTER.** The CCRCD has contracted Jan Bray of the Calaveras Amador Forestry Team (CalAmTeam) to act as the RPF on this project. Along with Mr. Pat McGreevy, the CalAmTeam GIS Expert, Jan was instrumental in the design of the project and as the RPF, will supervise field operations to assure compliance to silvicultural prescriptions, resource protection, government regulations, and contract specifications. Jan will be coordinating activities with the Contractor to ensure rules and regulations are in contractual compliance and will continue to coordinate with Pat to provide updated maps as necessary.

PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The primary goal is the reduction of surface and ladder fuels and to open up the canopy to minimize the risk of fire ignition and the rate of fire spread, while increasing forest resilience to drought and disease. The secondary goal is to delay the need for follow up maintenance by suppressing brush sprouting with a layer of mulch in the areas treated by mechanical mastication.

The project objectives are to remove timber and brush where high to extreme fuel hazards exist and the combustible fuel quantity, type, condition, configuration, and terrain distribution pose a significant fire threat, and to improve overall forest health by reducing stand competition for sunlight, nutrients and water. Mitigations include the cutting and/or removal of hazardous fuels including trees, shrubs, and other woody material to eliminate the vertical and horizontal continuity of surface, understory and/or crown fuels and minimize fuel ignitability and the rate of fire spread, duration and intensity. Mastication operations must result in a layer of shredded vegetation on top of the soil, not tilled into the soil.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREAS

The terrain is mostly gently-sloping with most slopes between 10% - 40%, however some project areas have slopes greater than 40%. Operators will have final say if they can operate safely on the steeper slopes, but proposals should address the contractor's ability to work on these slopes and their strategy for accomplishing the required work. Please refer to **Map 3** for slope displays.

Preharvest Stand Structure. The stand is a Westside Sierra mixed Conifer forest type. The understory consists of whiteleaf manzanita, whitethorn and live oak sprouts over bear clover. Midstory vegetation includes buckeye, live oak and black oak. Overstory vegetation consists of scattered conifers, live oak and black oak. During the 2010-2016 Drought, the Highway 4 area suffered heavy bark beetle attack. The stand now exhibits a variety of stocking levels ranging from scattered and open to dense pockets of suppressed and sub-merchantable trees in the understory, high defect/disease and standing dead and dying. Canopy closure is also highly variable as a factor of variable stocking; near 100% in densely-stocked areas while rocky/grassy areas on ridge tops have an open crown closure approximating 20%.

There are multiple swales (topographical depressions) and 11 Class III watercourses that extend into the project area (See **Map 4**). Treatment of these areas are covered in the "Project Restrictions and Special Provisions" section of the RFP. There are also various facilities that require protection on this project. These include private residences and surrounding improvements (i.e., septic tanks, leach fields, water tanks, solar panels, etc.), PG&E electrical transmission lines that cross various parcels, and several fences along the outside periphery of the project as well as within the project area. Most of the improvements surrounding residences are within 100 feet of the habitable structure and, therefore, outside the area to be cleared. All improvements outside the 100 feet will be clearly marked with flagging. Other areas to protect are listed later in this RFP under the "Resource Protection" section.

RIGHT OF ENTRY

Signed "Right of Entry" forms have been obtained from each participating landowner for this work to be performed. This project will NOT include any fire safe clearance work as required by Public Resources Code 4291 of Government Code 51182, which is the full responsibility of each private property landowner. This includes all areas within 100 feet of any habitable structure.

SILVICULTURE

Topography.

- Project Acres ≈ 165
- Elevation Range - 3160-3680 feet
- Aspect – Various
- Slope – Flat and up to 60% (see **Map 3** for Slopes)
- Watercourses – 11 Class III watercourses and 11 identified swales

Access. Access available off Highway 4 and through the Forest Meadows and Wylderidge Subdivisions. Vehicular access is via gated control through the Forest Meadows or Wylderidge Subdivisions.

Site Productivity. Productive forest land soils, with a high percentage of volcanics. Dunning Site Class 3.

CCRC – REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL on the Forest Meadows/Wylderidge Fuelbreak

PRESCRIPTION.

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

PROJECT RESTRICTIONS AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

- Equipment must be careful not to operate via sideslopes, only up and down the slope as the slope increases. Do not operate under saturated soil conditions when compaction is likely.
- The Class III watercourses require at least a 10’ ELZ (Equipment Limitation Zone) on each side (as measured from the CENTER of the watercourse) **unless**:
 - the drainage is dry during operations, in which case the Class III ELZ can be treated, or
 - the drainage is limited by steep side slopes which will make the ELZ larger and untreatable by mechanical means.
- Landscape vegetation and buffer areas between the properties may be retained. Such retention designation will be noted with the use of flagging.
- Grasses and other low annuals will not be treated.
- Bear Clover will not be targeted.
- Blackberries need to be targeted.
- Hazards within the project area include barbed wire fences, dogs, poison oak, steep drop offs, power lines, old miner ditches and at least one old well.
- Cultural areas, as applicable, will be flagged and mapped for avoidance prior to operations.
- Snags to be retained will be flagged.
- All cut and masticated vegetation will be kept within the unit boundaries. Any cut vegetation falling into ditches, roads, road banks, trails or adjacent properties shall be removed the same day.
- Equipment shall be cleaned before entering the Project area to prevent spread of noxious weeds and pathogens.

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- Equipment should be free of leaks, in good operating condition and have spark arrestors or turbochargers to prevent fires.
- If work is conducted along roadways, traffic control will be required to warn vehicles of active fuels treatment operations. All traffic control and signs will be the responsibility of the Contractor and shall conform to Calaveras County requirements.
- All roads and driveways shall be left in the same, or better condition than found. Contractor will take every measure possible to limit potential damage to Forest Meadows and Wylderidge roads as well as other private roads and driveways. When crossing over asphalt, concrete or other improved surfaces, protective devices shall be utilized.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

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

Nesting Birds: If an active nest is observed within the project area, a buffer or installation of appropriate barriers shall be established between the construction activities and the active nest so that nesting activities are not interrupted. The buffer shall be delineated by the RPF and shall be in effect throughout construction or until the nest is no longer active. The buffer(s) shall be determined based upon the life history of the individual species, including their sensitivity to noise, vibration, ambient levels of human activity and general disturbance, the current site conditions (screening vegetation, terrain, etc.) and the various project-related activities necessary to implement the project.

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

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

Watercourses: The project site contains 11 Swales and 11 Class III watercourses; two of the Class III channels are fairly incised and machinery will be prohibited on these steep slopes. Crossings of the Class III channels can occur on existing roads within the project area or on gentle slopes when soils are dry. The Swales transport stormwater within the project area, but do not support physical characteristics typical of defined stream channels. These swales do not require equipment exclusion and may be crossed at any location during project operations.

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

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Treatment on steeper slopes will depend on contractor’s ability to treat. This should be addressed in the bid.
- Fences dropped by contractor must be put back up prior to commencing work in another area.
- All damage to public or private property or facilities caused by the contractor will be repaired by the contractor at their own expense.
- No prevailing wage requirements are in effect on this project .
- No Traffic Control Plan is required, but contractor must address traffic control when working next to public or private roads.
- Payments will be made on actual acres treated as measured by CAL FIRE. 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 CAL FIRE. CCRCD will not be responsible for delays in receiving funds from CAL FIRE.
- Startup of operations: The work start date is negotiable with CCRCD, but CCRCD would like to begin and finish the project as quickly as possible. Proposals should address the anticipated start and completion dates.
- **Fire Precautions:** For all operations associated with this project, the preferred operating period is outside of the CAL FIRE Declared Fire Season which generally begins around May 1 of most years. Even outside of the Declared Fire Season, there is a potential for operational fires to break out.
- **All contractor proposals must include a detailed, job-specific Fire Plan and the plan will be required as part of the final contract.**

EVALUATION CRITERIA & SCORING

The award will be issued to the Contractor based on best value, not necessarily the lowest bid. A Review Committee shall be responsible for performing the evaluations of each proposal based on the following criteria. Each member of the Committee shall rate the proposals separately. The scores of each Committee member shall be averaged to provide a final score for each of the proposals. The Committee will consider the scores, discuss the merits of the competitive bids, and rank them on value.

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

Completeness of Proposal: Bid must describe all items listed in rows 2-5 above and include a statement on compliance with the insurance requirements listed below.

Qualifications & Experience: Provide Contractor name, license number and proof of licensing currency. Provide an image and a short description with age of the equipment, including fire suppression equipment, that will be used on the project, and the names/years of experience and role of each crew member. Also include the name and experience of the Contractor’s representative who will be on-site managing the project daily. The CCRCD recognizes that projects often require adjustments and is, therefore, seeking a workable/flexible contractor with the demonstrated ability to negotiate disputes in minimal time to the mutual benefit of both parties. Please provide

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examples and references, if possible, that demonstrate how your company builds working relationships with contracting agencies that facilitate the pace and scale of forest restoration.

Approach/Strategy: Describe the strategy and sequence of operations, including your anticipated start date, work schedule and completion date. Focus on the use of equipment and operator expertise in all areas of fuels reduction (felling, skidding, processing, masticating/chipping, maintenance of roads and landings, erosion control and fire prevention/suppression procedures). Address ability and approach to work on slopes over 40%. CCRCD is seeking a contractor with a history of quality work that is performed safely without interruption apart from fire season restrictions and weather and biological constraints. A history of failures to meet timelines that impact project administration, the schedules of collaborating contractors, and delays in contract closure will reduce your score. Finally, describe your most recent jobs that included the mastication/chipping of trees and brush including the date that each contract was executed, the date the contract was closed, and the acreage treated.

Cost: Provide your cost per acre in your bid; costs include services for the entire estimated 165 project acres.

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

INSURANCE

Selected Contractors, and their Subcontractors as applicable, must provide the Project Manager the following documents within five working days of being offered the contract. Failure to do so will trigger the CCRCD to revoke its offer and open contract negotiations with the runner-up bidder.

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. Contractor(s) shall add CCRCD to said insurance policies named as “additionally insured” and provide CCRCD with proof of insurance certificates for all insurance policies throughout the full duration of this Agreement.
5. Contractors are encouraged to purchase ‘Broad Form B’ insurance.
6. If Contractor is a Licensed Timber Operator, proof of active license in good standing will suffice for items 1 and 2 above).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Protest/Appeal Process: The following procedure is provided in the event that a proposer wishes to protest the CCRCD evaluation and selection process or appeal the recommendation to award a contract for the Forest Meadows/Wylderidge WUI Fuel Break once the Notices of Award/No-Award have been issued.

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- Any protest must be submitted in writing to CCRCD’s office at 423 East St. Charles Street, San Andreas, CA 95249 or mailed to PO Box 1041, San Andreas, CA 95249, Attention: Laurie Plautz
- The protest must be submitted or postmarked before 6:00 p.m. on the 20th 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.

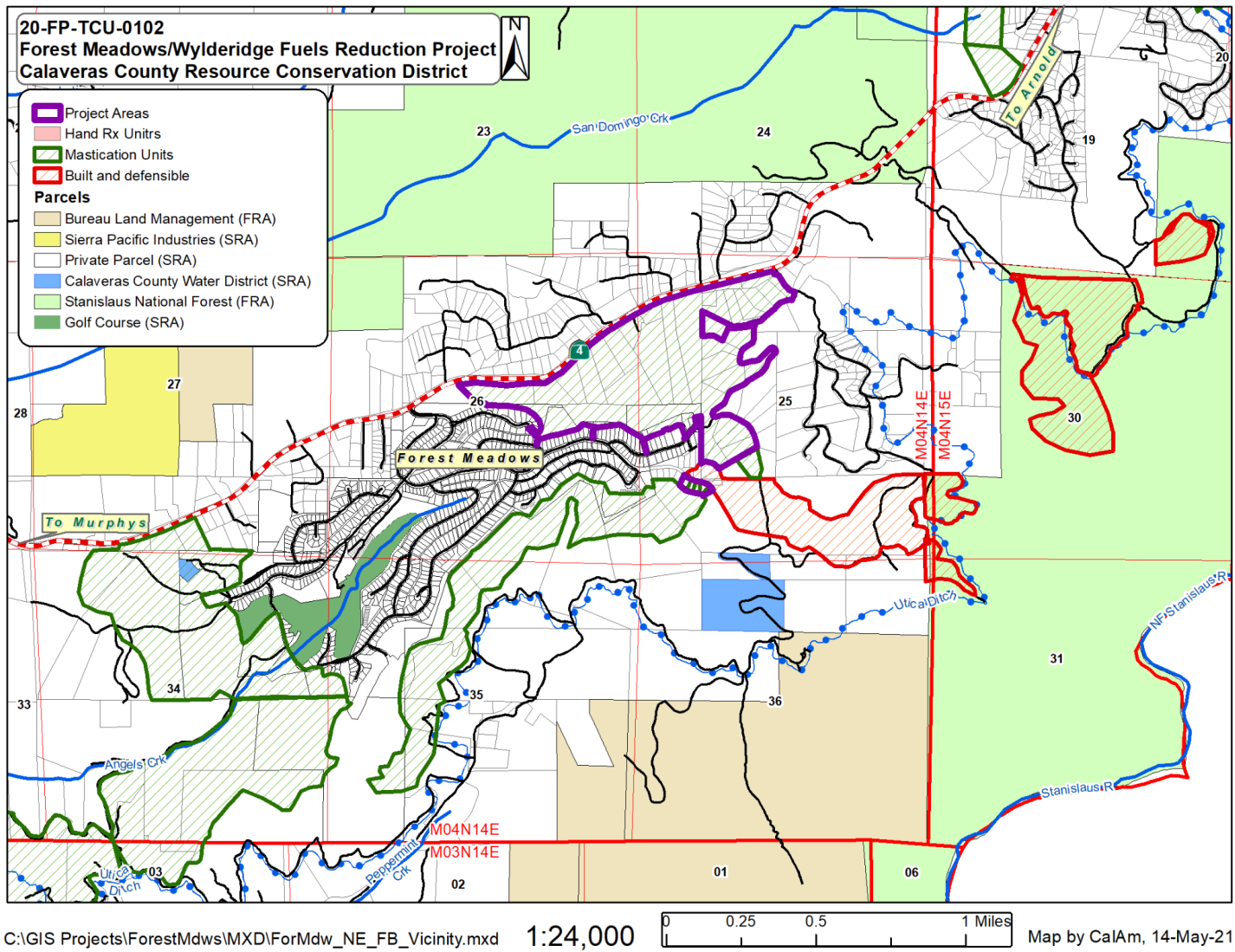
Proposer’s failure to comply with these procedures shall constitute a waiver of any right to further pursue the protest, including filing a claim or legal proceedings.

Upon written protest/appeal, the CCRCD will review and provide an opportunity to settle the protest/appeal by mutual agreement, will schedule a meeting to discuss or issue a written response to advise of an appeal/protest decision within 20 business days of receipt of the appeal/protest.

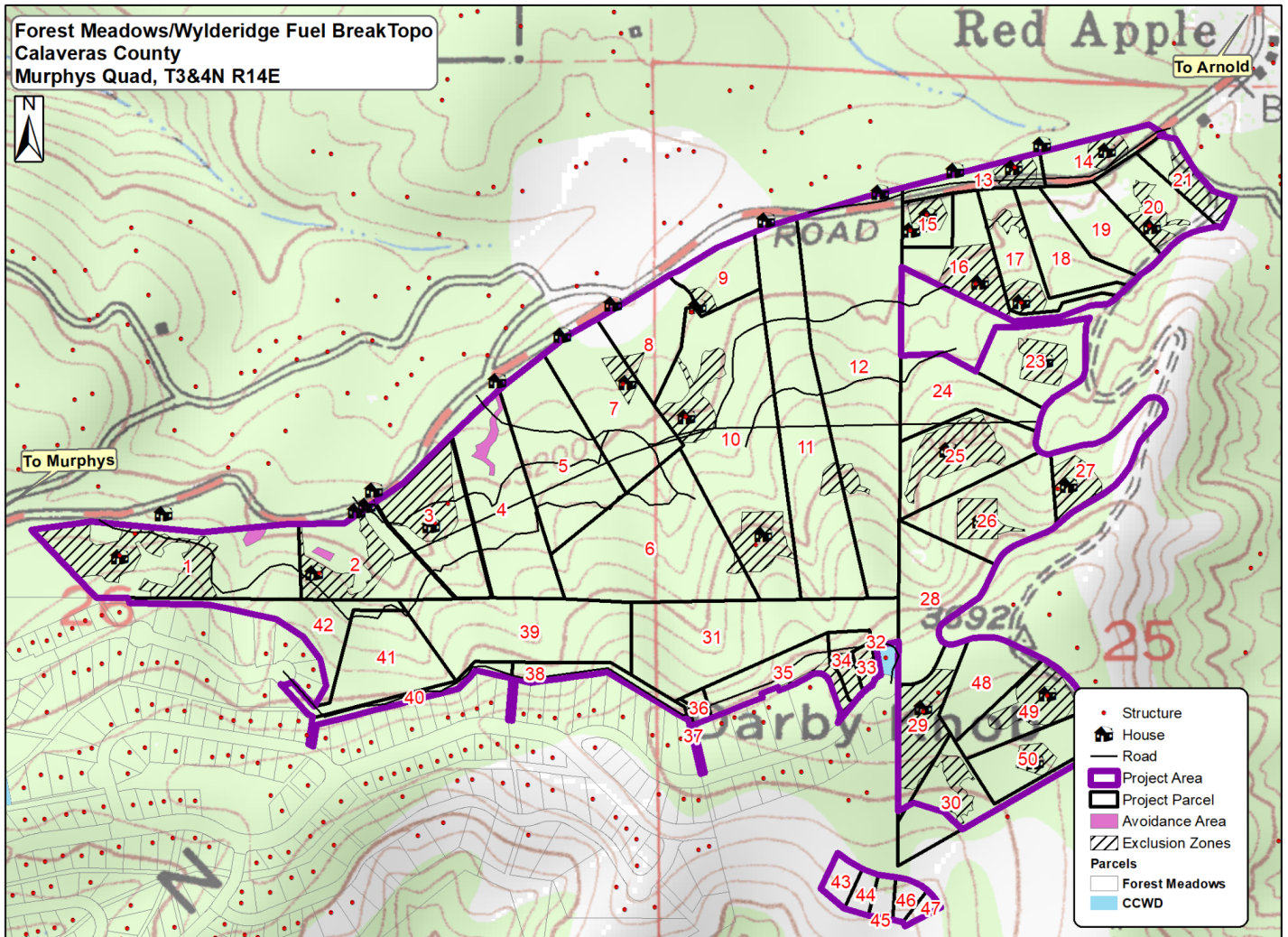
Public Records Access: Proposers should be aware that submitted proposals are subject to the California Public Records Act and may be disclosed to members of the public upon request. **It is the responsibility of the proposers to clearly identify information in their proposals that they consider to be 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.

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.

MAP 1 - PROJECT VICINITY

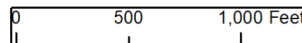


MAP 2 - TOPOGRAPHY



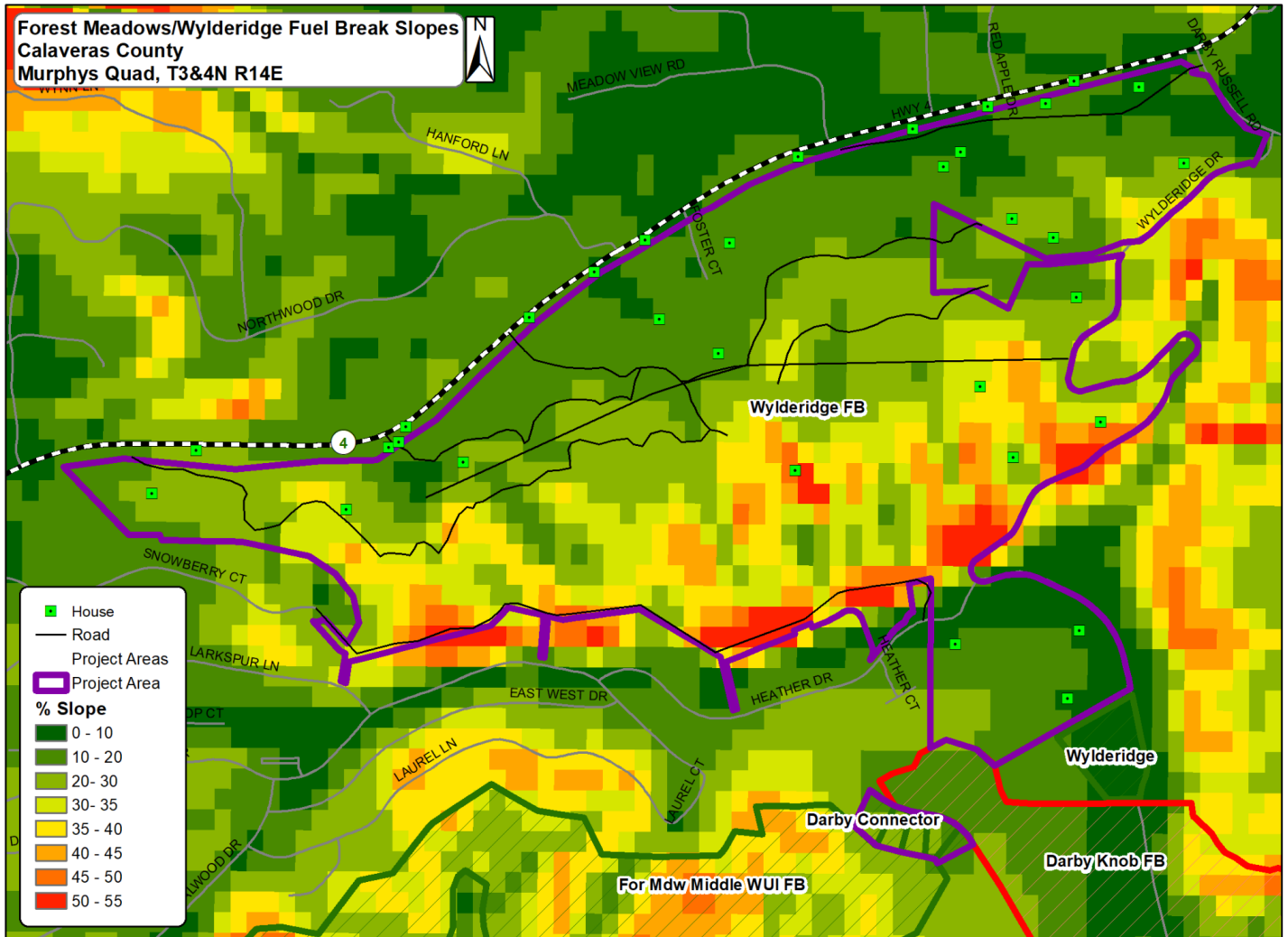
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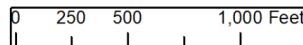
Map by CalAm, 13-Mar-22

MAP 3 - SLOPE SHADING



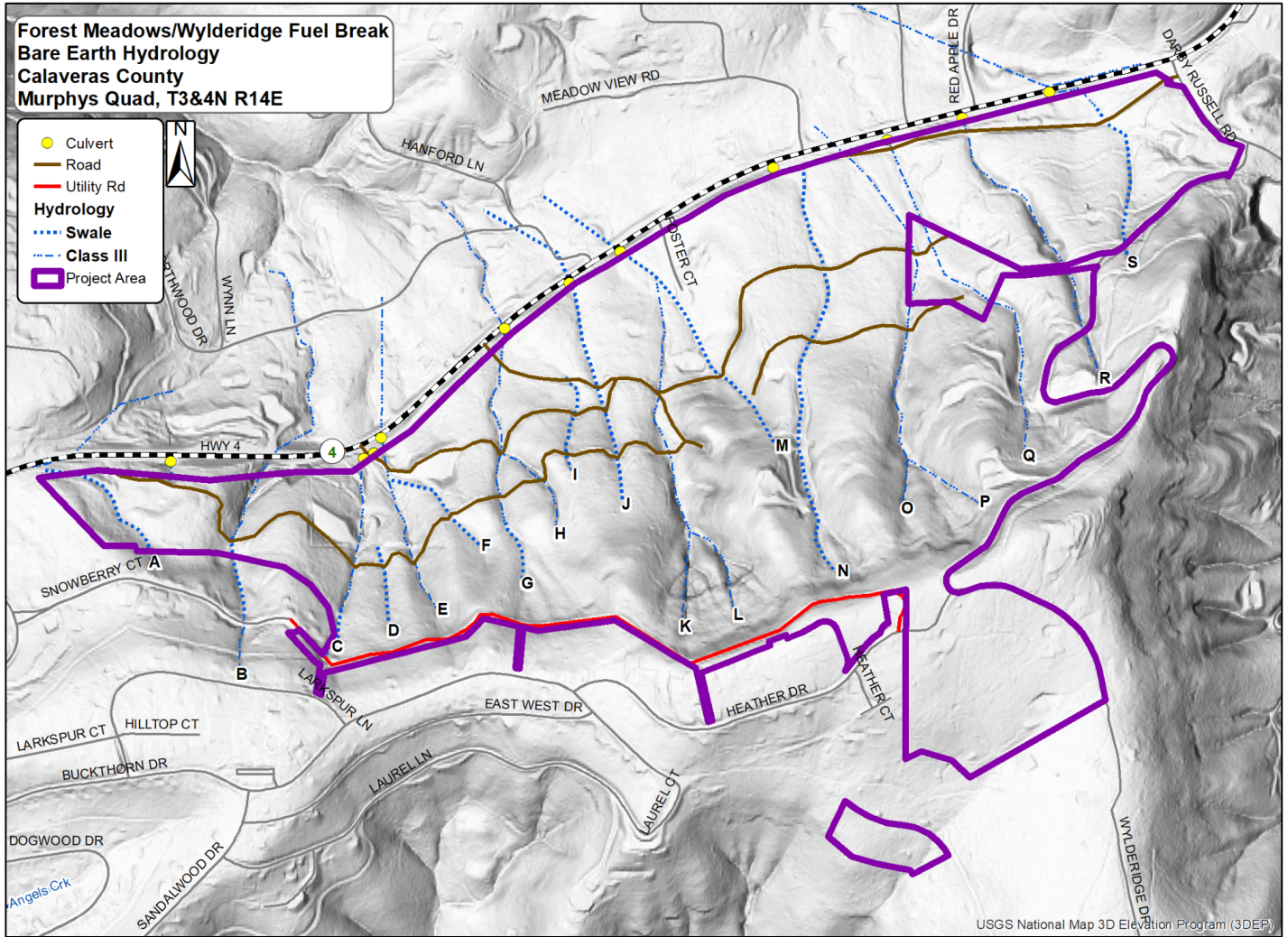
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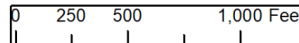
Map by CalAm, 3-Mar-22

MAP 4 - BARE EARTH AND HYDROLOGY



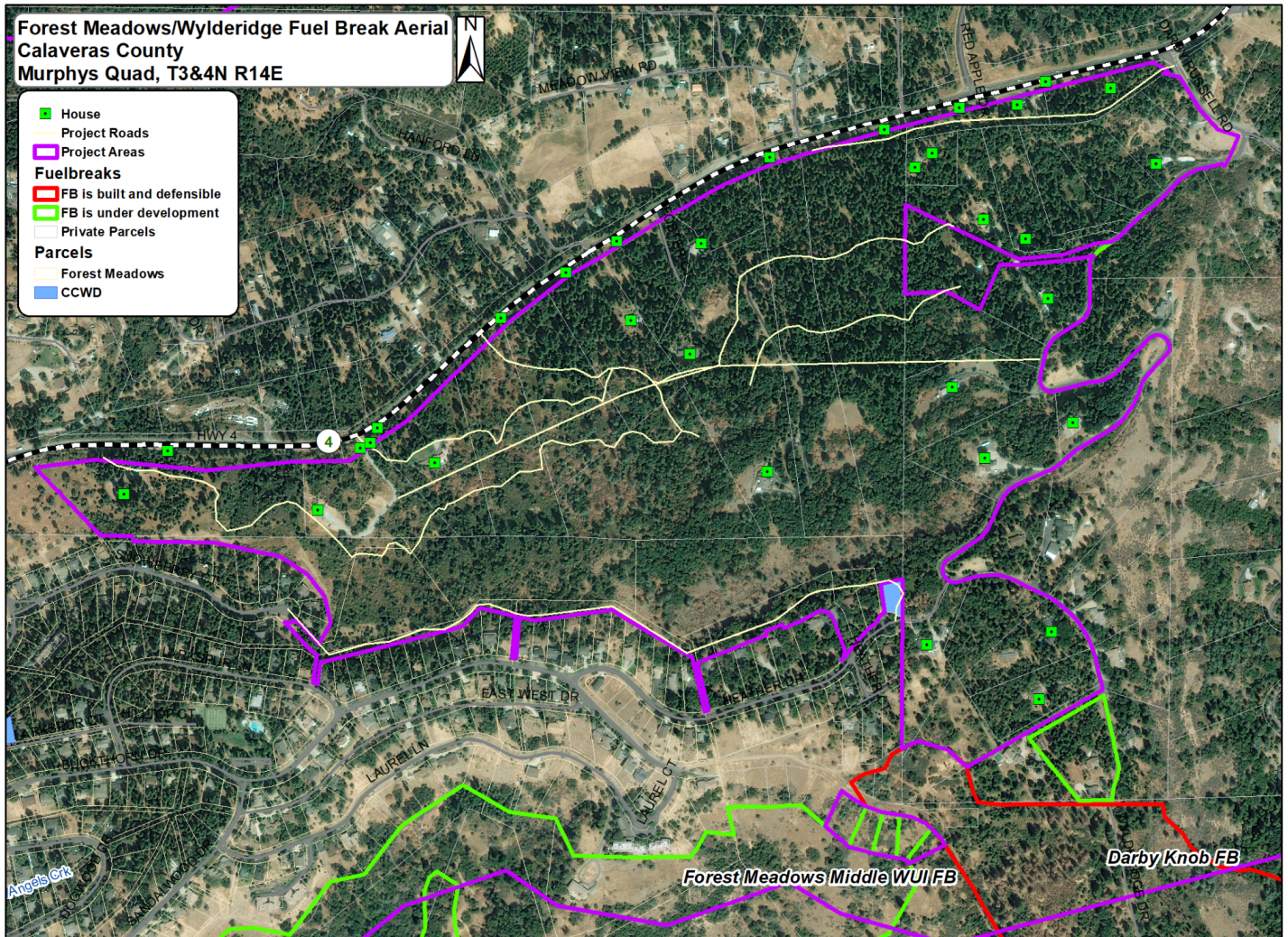
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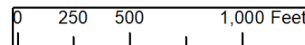
Map by CalAm, 14-Mar-22

MAP 5 - AERIAL VIEW



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Map by CalAm, 3/10/2022