

# FOREST HEALTH & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROGRAM

## INTENT

The Conservancy's Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Program will fund approximately \$12 million in grants for ready-to-implement projects that reduce the risk of wildfire on public and protected lands. There are no maximum or minimum grant amounts for this funding.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Public Agencies
- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status
- Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The goal of these grants is to take immediate action to improve fire safety of California's communities and to restore the health and resilience of California forests, grasslands, and natural places. Proposed projects must be on public or protected lands. Planning projects are not eligible for this funding.

**Projects must be ready to start work no later than August 2021.**

Projects must meet at least one of the goals of [California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#), including but not limited to:

- Fuels Reduction or Forest Thinning Projects
- Vegetation Management
- Prescribed Fire
- Shaded Fuel Breaks or Defensible Space projects
- Restoration and enhancement of fire-prone habitats using methods known to reduce fire risk

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

**Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 5pm.** Email application to [grants@scc.ca.gov](mailto:grants@scc.ca.gov)

Due to the urgent nature of this problem, there is a short application period and a very short application. **Eligible projects must have completed CEQA** and be able to start work no later than August 2021.

# APPLICATION

## CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Organization:</b> County of Mendocino	<b>Phone:</b> 707-234-6077
<b>Contact Person:</b> Xuyen Ung	<b>Email:</b> ungx@mendocinocounty.org

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Name:** Mendocino County Fuels Reduction Capacity Building

**Project is located in County:** Mendocino

**Project Location is:**

<b>Latitude:</b> 39.434249	<b>Longitude:</b> -123.399312
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What point is represented by the lat/long (e.g. center of site, etc.)? Approximate centroid of proposed training area

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Project Description.

The Mendocino County Fuels Reduction Capacity Building Project is a partnership between the County of Mendocino (County) and the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) which will increase the local capacity to conduct fuels reduction treatments to protect homes and lives in Mendocino County via the purchase of a chipper truck to haul MCFSC-owned chippers and the training of local staff to operate the chipper to support fuels reduction projects across Mendocino County. The project's goals are to 1) train a new fuels reduction crew to operate vehicles, wood chippers, and other necessary equipment to implement fuels reduction work and 2) decrease long-term costs of fuels reduction activities conducted by the MCFSC by using in-house crews instead of contractors. The expected outcomes of the project are 1) the purchase of a truck to haul MCFSC-owned wood chippers; 2) the training of at least five new fuels reduction technicians; and 3) creation of a fuels reduction training video for future crew training.

This funding request is intended to support costs associated with the purchase of a chipper-hauling truck and all costs associated with crew training, including supply purchases, payments to vendors who will provide training, and administrative costs for project management and coordination. Following initial crew onboarding/basics training, remaining training activities will be "on-the-job," implementing fuels reduction activities on public lands within the boundaries of the Brooktrails Community Services District (BTCSD). "On-the-job" training will take place in the Brooktrails "greenbelt," 2,500 acres of forested lands set aside during subdivision development and owned by BTCSD. The Brooktrails subdivision was identified in the [2020 Mendocino County Fire Vulnerability Assessment](#) as an area "at extreme risk for wildfire." Fuels

reduction activities will focus on areas adjacent to infrastructure such as BTCSD water storage tanks and public access walking trails, and comparable work in these areas has been completed in the past, including filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption. Major tasks consist of 1) purchase of a new chipper hauling truck such as a Ford F550 or F650 Chipper Truck (or equivalent) and supplies to support new fuels reduction crews; 2) conducting a one-week fuels reduction basic training course and creating a training video for future use; 3) conducting four weeks of “on-the-job” training of fuels reduction technicians to implement skills learned in basic training; and 4) project management, oversight, and reporting. This project will help to achieve Goal 2 of the California Wildfire Resilience and Forest Health Action Plan: Strengthen Protection of Communities. By training a crew to operate chippers owned by the MCFSC, the MCFSC will be able to implement fuels reduction activities such as roadside fuels reduction, defensible space assistance programs, and community chipper days without the use of contract crews. Due to a lack of a chipper truck, the MCFSC currently contracts any fuels reduction work which requires a chipper truck to private fuels reduction companies at a rate of \$1,500 to \$1,800 per day for a two-person crew with a chipper truck hauling a MCFSC-owned chipper. By training an in-house crew to complete this work and purchasing a chipper truck, the MCFSC cost for a two-man crew to conduct these activities is reduced to less than \$1,000 per day, a significant cost savings which will increase the amount of fuels reduction work which can be completed with MCFSC by 50%-80%. This increase in efficiency will allow the MCFSC to increase the pace of fuels reduction work around homes and other values at risk as well as submit more competitive funding applications due to the lower unit cost of fuels reduction crews. In addition, by creating a training video which documents the training provided using SCC funding, future crew training will be able to leverage this investment to greatly defray training costs and further expand MCFSC fuels reduction capacity in the future.

**Preliminary Budget.**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Funding Source Status</b>
Truck and Supply Purchase	\$103,500	SCC Wildfire Resilience Funding	Pending
Fuels Reduction Basic Training (including training film production)	\$40,350	SCC Wildfire Resilience Funding	Pending
Fuels Reduction “on-the-job” Training	\$42,063	SCC Wildfire Resilience Funding	Pending
Project Management, Oversight, and Reporting	\$11,708	SCC Wildfire Resilience Funding	Pending
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$197,621</b>		

**Project Schedule.**

<b>Task Name</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Truck and Supply Purchase	July 1, 2021	August 1, 2021
Fuels Reduction Basic Training (including training film production)	August 1, 2021	September 1, 2021

Task Name	Start Date	End Date
Fuels Reduction "on-the-job" Training	September 1, 2021	December 31, 2021
Project Management, Oversight, and Reporting	July 1, 2021	December 31, 2021

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance.** The Conservancy must consider the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when authorizing funding for a project. Your project must be either exempt from CEQA or the CEQA documentation must be complete before our Board considers authorizing a grant for the project. Selected projects are expected to be considered by the Conservancy Board at a public meeting in June 2021.

- a. Specify the current status of CEQA review (not started, in progress, complete). If CEQA review is not complete, specify the estimated date when it will be complete.

Not Started       In Progress       Complete

Estimated completion date: 3/24/2015, NOE details available here: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2015038232>

- b. What is the mechanism for the CEQA review?

EXEMPTION  
 NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ND)  
 MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND)  
 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT DOCUMENT (EIR)  
 CALIFORNIA VEGETATION TREATMENT PROGRAM STATEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (VTP-EIR)

- c. If an ND, MND, or EIR is required, specify who is the CEQA Lead Agency.

N/A

**Site ownership or control** – Check the applicable box.

Applicant owns the land where the project will occur; OR

Landowner is **Brooktrails Community Services District** ; AND

Applicant has a written agreement with the landowner to conduct the project on their land; OR

Applicant does not yet have a written agreement with the landowner to conduct the project on their land. If this answer is checked, specify how and when the landowner agreement will be reached.

A landowner access agreement can be provided within one month of application approval. BTCSD Staff has agreed to allow training activities to occur in the Brooktrails Greenbelt and an access agreement can be put in place rapidly upon award notification.

# STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

## MISSION STATEMENT

The State Coastal Conservancy's vision is of a beautiful, restored, and accessible coast for current and future generations of Californians. We act with others to protect and restore, and increase public access to, California's coast, ocean, coastal watersheds, and the San Francisco Bay Area.

## AGENCY OVERVIEW

The State Coastal Conservancy ("Conservancy") is a state agency, established in 1976, to work proactively with local communities to implement multi-benefit projects that protect and enhance coastal resources. The Conservancy works along the entire length of California's coast, within the watersheds of rivers and streams that extend inland from the coast, and throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

The Coastal Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience Program supports local partners to develop and implement projects that improve ecological health of natural lands and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in areas where people are living near wildlands.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Regional Manager Contacts

**North Coast:** Del Norte County to coastside  
Sonoma and Marin Counties

Karyn Gear: [karyn.gear@scc.ca.gov](mailto:karyn.gear@scc.ca.gov)

**San Francisco Bay Area:** Nine Bay Area Counties,  
excluding the coastside of Sonoma, Marin, and  
San Mateo Counties

Moira McEnespy: [moira.mcenespy@scc.ca.gov](mailto:moira.mcenespy@scc.ca.gov)

**Central Coast:** Coastside San Mateo County to  
Santa Barbara County

Trish Chapman: [trish.chapman@scc.ca.gov](mailto:trish.chapman@scc.ca.gov)

**South Coast:** Ventura County to San Diego County

Megan Cooper: [megan.cooper@scc.ca.gov](mailto:megan.cooper@scc.ca.gov)

### Website

<https://scc.ca.gov/grants/>