

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

CAL FIRE/Wildfire Prevention Grants

FY 2023-2024 Wildfire Prevention Grants

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23-WP-MEU 58899481

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Mendocino County – Fuels Reduction Narrative Template

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

1. Brief Project Description (219/250 words)

Please provide a paragraph summarizing the proposed project including the location, habitable structures, acres treated, etc.

The Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements project proposes safer evacuation routes and improved fire safety for communities in and around Ukiah and in the Branscomb Road corridor, improved evacuation planning throughout the County, and vital County-led outreach and education activities throughout the year.

The implementation portion of the project includes roadside fuels reduction along 9.7 miles of Branscomb Road from the intersection with Highway 1 to the intersection with Wilderness Lodge Road, totaling approximately 46.9 acres. This portion of the project will maintain a vital evacuation route and protect at least 40-60 structures. The project also includes roadside fuels reduction along 14.7 miles of Old River Road from the intersection with Talmage Road to the intersection with Highway 101, totaling approximately 71.3 acres. This portion of the project will maintain an evacuation and second access route for the surrounding community while protecting at least 300-400 structures.

The project will also update the Mendocino County Evacuation Plan, last updated in 2020, to better integrate local knowledge and ensure alignment with the County's upcoming adoption and rollout of Zonehaven evacuation notification software. The County is also requesting funding to support attendance of County Emergency Services staff at community events to conduct outreach and education regarding fire safety and preparedness, evacuation procedures, and other information regarding living safely in a fire-adapted ecosystem.

SCOPE OF WORK

1. Detailed Project Description

Please provide a comprehensive project description including the location, habitable structures, acres treated, etc. (please note there are no space limitations)

The Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements project is a multi-faceted effort that proposes: (1) fuels reduction along two vital evacuation routes, (2) a County-wide evacuation plan update, and (3) funding to sustain and grow the County's outreach and education activities throughout the year to promote fire prevention and preparedness. Once completed, the project will result in safer evacuation routes for coastal and inland communities, improve safety for firefighters and first responders, and bolster public outreach efforts that provide education and resources for living in fire-adapted communities.

1. Roadside Fuels Reduction - Branscomb and Old River roads

The roadside fuels reduction component of this project focuses on two roads that serve as critical evacuation routes for communities in their proximity.

Branscomb Road is the northernmost connecting route between State Route 1, which runs along the Mendocino County coastline and State Highway 101 before State Route 1 merges with Highway 101 near Leggett. Branscomb Road is a critical ingress and egress road for the communities of Laytonville, Branscomb, and Westport. In Laytonville, Branscomb Road serves as a potential evacuation route travelling westerly, should a wildfire impact Highway 101 from the east and shut down the roadway. This project subcomponent consists of roadside fuels reduction along approximately 9.67 linear miles of Branscomb Road, ultimately resulting in approximately 46.88 acres of treatment.

The community of Branscomb, located on Branscomb Road between Laytonville and Westport, has no other major access routes, and evacuations from Branscomb are highly likely to utilize Branscomb Road for this purpose. For Westport, on the coast at the westerly terminus of Branscomb Road, any fire or other natural hazard that closes down Highway 1 to the south would leave Branscomb Road as the most direct route to reach inland Mendocino County, otherwise requiring that the community travel north on State Route 1 all the way to Leggett and then south to services in the more populated communities such as Willits and Ukiah. There are approximately 40 rural residential and timber parcels along this route, and project implementation will ultimately protect approximately 40-60 structures while also maintaining a crucial evacuation route.

Meanwhile, Old River Road runs parallel to Highway 101, with Highway 101 running west of the Russian River and Old River Road east of the Russian River. Old River Road serves as an alternative route to connect the community of Hopland with the community of Talmage, near Ukiah (all three of which are Communities at Risk as designated by CAL Fire), and hundreds of residential and agricultural parcels and associated structures exist along this route. Overall, this project will protect 300-400 structures while also improving safety on a vital connecting road and alternative access route between the communities of Hopland, Talmage, and Ukiah. This project subcomponent consists of roadside fuels reduction along approximately 14.7 linear miles of road and treatment of approximately 71.27 acres.

2. Evacuation Plan Update

The Mendocino County Evacuation Plan is an annex to the Mendocino County Emergency Operations Plan which was developed in July 2020. The Evacuation Plan Annex includes a quick evacuation guide along with information on the planning areas, evacuation management, considerations and guidance, area-specific evacuation zones and guidelines, and information and guidance on post-evacuation activities, including repopulation procedures. The plan was drafted in 2019 and 2020 using CalTrans funding made available via the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) to complete a fire vulnerability analysis and evacuation plan and was developed through an outreach process that included meetings and conversations with local first responders, public officials, law enforcement, and other relevant stakeholders. Since the plan was developed, the County has experienced additional events requiring evacuation efforts, including the Oak Fire in 2020 and the Hopkins Fire in 2021. In addition, the County is currently in the process of adopting and rolling out Zonehaven evacuation notification software.

While the existing evacuation plan is adequate, the County's additional experience with recent evacuations, particularly the Oak Fire, which required evacuating more than 1,500 homes during a holiday weekend, has yielded valuable information which is not currently included in the plan. In addition, the process of including the evacuation plan as a component of a larger fire vulnerability analysis project was an appropriate starting point, but additional funding would allow for a more focused effort on the evacuation plan as well as an opportunity to adjust the plan to better fit the proposed adoption of Zonehaven software. This would also yield an opportunity to add further local knowledge and mapping resources to the plan which were not available during the drafting of the current document.

The plan update process would consist of 1) procuring and hiring a qualified consultant to lead the plan update process; 2) conduct outreach to first responders, law enforcement, OES personnel, and other relevant parties to identify further plan adjustments and updates; 3) conduct one public meeting to solicit public input on the evacuation plan; 4) coordinate with County staff and the Zonehaven vendor to ensure alignment with the new software; 5) develop a revised Draft Evacuation Plan; 6) solicit public comment on the revised Draft Evacuation Plan; 7) integrate comments received, finalize, and adopt Revised Evacuation Plan.

3. Outreach and Education

Staff from the Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services routinely engage with the community at various public events throughout the region but lack an "events toolkit" to increase visibility and to help draw community members to the booth or table. Funding for outreach and education will be used to acquire tools to assemble an event kit including a high visibility and Mendocino County-branded popup booth, portable banners, and tablecloths. Additionally, this funding will support the purchase of giveaway items such as go-bags stocked with, for example, an emergency whistle, individually packaged dust masks, a compact blanket, flashlight, batteries, and informational leaflets printed in both English and Spanish for broad reach across the county's diverse population.

County staff will outreach to at least one community event per quarter and will choose events that ensure a broad geographic, demographic, and socioeconomic reach. This may include, for example, the four-day Redwood Empire Fair, the largest local event attended by tens of thousands from all corners of the county, and the annual Pumpkinfest celebration, another popular and well attended event in the city of Ukiah, the County seat. County staff will also outreach at events in outlying communities such as the long-running annual Blackberry Festival in Covelo, located in the remote and isolated Round Valley and home of the county's largest Tribal community.

This on-the-ground outreach is an effective means for integrating small government with the public which lends to providing education on living in fire-adapted communities, understanding emergency resources, and opening a line of communication to intake community feedback and understand needs.

SECTION II – Degree Of Risk

 Discuss the location of the project in relation to areas of moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zone as identified by the latest Fire and Resource Assessment Program maps.
 Fire hazard severity zone maps can be accessed by copying and pasting the link or right-clicking to open in a new tab: <u>https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/wildfire-planning-engineering/wildland-hazards-buildingcodes/fire-hazard-severity-zones-maps/</u>

Mendocino County in its entirety is considered an at-risk fire community according to state and national data. Per the most recent CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps (September 2023), the majority of Mendocino County has a "high" or "very high" wildfire hazard potential which amounts to over 1.5 million acres. While some of the coastal areas fall under the "moderate" range, the western half of the County largely falls under "high" while the eastern half is almost entirely in the "very high" potential.

The improved evacuation planning element of this project, as well as the outreach and educational element, will take place within all severity zones of Mendocino County as these activities are region-wide efforts. Meanwhile, Branscomb Road is mostly located within the

"high" severity zone from the coastal end near Westport and Dehaven and, as it extends inland, runs through patches of "moderate" areas as well as the large "very high" severity zone in Jackson Valley. Old River Road falls into large areas of "very high", "high", and "moderate" zones—particularly between Ukiah and Hopland—and runs along the edge of a "very high" severity zone located within the hills immediately east of these communities.

This project is located entirely in the State Responsibility Area.

2. Describe the geographic proximity of the project to structures at risk to damage from wildfire in the WUI.

On Branscomb Road, there are approximately 40 rural residential and timber parcels along the route, and project implementation will ultimately protect approximately 40-60 structures while also maintaining a crucial evacuation route. On Old River Road, hundreds of residential and agricultural parcels and associated structures occur along this alignment, and this project is anticipated to protect 300-400 structures while also improving safety on a vital connecting road and alternative access route between the communities of Hopland, Talmage, and Ukiah. The implementation component of this project will protect those structures while the evacuation plan update and education and outreach activities will help to protect lives during wildfire events County-wide.

SECTION III – Community Support

1. Does the project include any matching funds from other funding sources or any in-kind contributions that are expected to extend the impact of the proposed project?

The County of Mendocino is unable to contribute matching funds or in-kind contributions to this project at this point.

2. Describe plans for external communications during the life of the project to keep the effected community informed about the goals, objectives, and progress of the project. Activities such as planned press releases, project signage, community meetings, and field tours are encouraged.

Both the Fuels Reduction activities and the Evacuation Plan update will be publicized via press releases, social media campaigns, and public notice boards. Progress on these project components will be shared regularly through these platforms, at regularly-scheduled County meetings which are open to the public, and during public outreach and education opportunities.

The Education and Outreach component of this project focuses solely on external communications and will occur primarily at community events. Public outreach objectives include:

- Involve community members in the emergency preparedness planning process.
- Gain an understanding for the concerns Mendocino County residents have with respect to the community's wildfire vulnerability.
- Gain insight into the understanding Mendocino County residents have regarding local evacuation routes.
- Obtain an understanding of the concerns residents have if an emergency evacuation were necessary.
- Prioritize community concerns.
- Gain an understanding of the diverse needs of local area residents.

- Determine the effectiveness of local alerting systems.
- Gain a sense of the residents' comfort level with local communication systems and preferred means of communication.
- Devise a means of communicating planning decisions to the public.
- Construct a means for educating the general public on wildfire safety and preparedness.
- Offer a plan for informing the public about primary and alternate evacuation routes.
- Provide a means for directing preparedness and evacuation information and messages to the County's vulnerable populations.
- Provide community members with a sense of confidence in local first responder agencies.

3. Describe any plans to maintain the project after the grant period has ended.

Roadside Fuels Reduction:

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a standard useful life for hazardous fuels reduction or vegetation management activities is four years (FEMA BCA Reference Guide, Appendix D) when clearing brush, and the proposed roadside fuels reduction activities for this project are expected to match this estimate. Once this effort has extended beyond its lifetime, Mendocino County will prioritize the pursuit of further grant funding and other supplemental funding sources to undertake these projects—while also working with local organizations such as the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council to build community capacity to undertake these projects through a variety of entities. The County will continue to prioritize and support all efforts to secure resources to complete and maintain roadside fuels reduction in the future.

Evacuation Plan Update:

The Evacuation Plan will be maintained by County OES and reviewed by the Mendocino County Operational Area Disaster Council annually. As changes are needed to Plan Appendices, OES will facilitate these changes, coordinating and communicating this work with applicable stakeholders. The County can make small updates as identified throughout the life of the document. For larger updates, Mendocino County will pursue further grant funding and other supplemental funding sources as needed to complete these future updates as they arise.

Outreach and Education:

Community outreach and education has been, and will continue to be, a vital component for planning efforts that presents opportunity to expand knowledge and to build resiliency throughout the broader community. Following the grant term, public outreach and educational opportunities will continue to be pursued, and attendance at events to conduct outreach and education will be bolstered by the supplies proposed for purchase within this application. The County will be able to continue event attendance with periodic grant funding support to refresh supplies and expand capacity.

4. Does the proposed project work with other organizations or agencies to address fire hazard reduction at the landscape level?

This project was developed through conversations with the CAL Fire Mendocino Unit, Mendocino County OES personnel, local fire districts, and the County Fire Safe Council, through which the priorities of neighborhood-level fire safe councils are communicated. The County will continue to maintain dialogue with these groups throughout the project performance period to coordinate activities, identify opportunities for collaboration, and share knowledge regarding

implementation tactics. This will also allow for scope adjustments to better tie fuels treatments together, where feasible, as well as coordination regarding event attendance, effective outreach activities, and key community evacuation needs.

As a demonstration of local support, enclosed are letters in support of the application from the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, State Assemblymember Jim Wood, and US House Representative Jared Huffman.

SECTION IV – Project Implementation

1. Discuss the anticipated timeline for the project. Make sure to take seasonal restrictions into account.

The overall project will be completed no later than March 15, 2030. While the timeline proposed below includes 2030 as an end date per CAL Fire staff recommendation, the actual scope of work proposed is likely to be completed well before this deadline.

Roadside Fuels Reduction

Activity	Timeline (assumes June 30, 2024 execution of grant agreement)
File CEQA NOE for Roadside Fuels Reduction	July 2024-August 2024
Solicit fuels reduction contractor	August 2024
Contract execution with fuels reduction contractor	September 2024
Implement fuels reduction activities	October 2024-March 2030

Evacuation Plan Update

Activity	Timeline (assumes June 30, 2024 execution of grant agreement)
Solicit evacuation plan update consultant	July 2024
Contract execution with evacuation plan update consultant	September 2024
Consultant plan review	October 2024
Outreach to stakeholders	November 2024-March 2025
Public outreach session	March 2025
Zonehaven coordination	December 2024-March 2025
Draft Plan Update	March 2025-May 2025
Public Comment Period	June 2025-July 2025
Final Plan Update and Adoption	August 2025-December 2025

Education and Outreach

Activity	Timeline (assumes June 30, 2024 execution of grant agreement)
Procure supplies	July 2024-September 2024
Attendance at one community event per quarter (eight events total)	October 2024-September 2026

2. Verify the expected timeframes to complete the project will fall under the required completion dates depending on the source of the funds awarded.

The schedule proposed above includes a completion date which aligns with the suggested end date of March 15, 2030. Given the scope of this project, it is likely that fuels reduction activities can be completed within two years of project award.

3. Using bullets, list the milestones that will be used to measure the progress of the project.

Branscomb and Old River Roads Fuels Reduction

- Consult with local fire departments to refine fuels reduction tasks based on their assessments of risk and impact as well as facilitate landowner engagement where necessary.
- Procure and contract with a fuels reduction contractor to complete brush clearing and vegetation thinning in the selected areas.
- Implement fuels reduction activities.

Evacuation Plan

- Contract with plan update consultant
- Completion of outreach to stakeholders
- Completion of public outreach meeting
- Draft Evacuation Plan
- Final Evacuation Plan

Outreach and Education

- Procurement of supplies for outreach and education
- Registration for table/booth space at relevant events (one per quarter)
- Successful distribution of supplies at events

4. Using bullets, list the measurable outcomes (i.e. project deliverables) that will be used to measure the project's success.

General Deliverables for all Project Components:

- Complete quarterly grant reporting and invoicing
- Complete final grant reporting

Branscomb and Old River Roads Fuels Reduction

- Executed access agreements with all necessary landowners.
- Request for Bids for contractor and execute contract with selected contractor.
- Implement roadside fuels reduction activities on Branscomb and Old River roads.
- Pre- and Post-project photos of each alignment.
- Contractor invoices and documentation of work completed.
- 118.15 acres of roadside fuels reduction.

Evacuation Plan

• One (1) revised evacuation plan.

Outreach and Education

- Purchase event popup items and handout materials.
- Attendance of at least 1 community event per quarter.

5. If applicable, how will the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) be met?

If CEQA is not required, please type Not Applicable in the text box.

The planning activities proposed within this application are not considered a "Project" under CEQA and therefore do not require analysis under CEQA. The roadside fuels reduction activities proposed will be exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemptions 15301(a) Existing Facilities and 15304(i) Minor Alterations to Land. The County of Mendocino will file a Notice of Exemption satisfying CEQA requirements within two months of execution of the grant agreement.

6. List any existing forest or land management plans; Conservation Easements; Covenant, Conditions & Restrictions (CC&R's); matters related to zoning; use restrictions, or other factors that can or will limit the wildfire prevention proposed activity?

Not Applicable.

SECTION V – Administration

 Describe any previous experience the project proponent has with similar projects. Include a list of recent past projects the proponent has successfully completed if applicable. Project applicant or manager having no previous experience with similar projects should discuss any past experiences that may help show a capacity to successfully complete the project being proposed. This may include partnering with a more experienced organization that can provide project support.

As the primary local governmental agency for the majority of County residents, Mendocino County and its departments are well-positioned to oversee this project through to completion. Mendocino County collectively manages millions of dollars in grant funding annually, with projects and programs from state and federal sources ranging from disaster recovery and resilience, law enforcement, social services, and capital improvements.

Some awarded County grant projects within the past year include: the Sea Level Rise Resilience Strategy project (CA Coastal Commission - LCP Local Assistance Grant Program), Implement SolarAPP+ Permitting Platform (CA Automated Permit Processing [CalAPP] Program), Ukiah Valley EV Charging Pilot Project (CA Energy Commission - CTP Rural Electric Vehicle Charging), and the Fuels Reduction & Community Preparedness project (CA Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant).

2. Identify who will be responsible for tracking project expenses and maintaining project records in a manner that allows for a full audit trail of any awarded grant funds.

Mendocino County will assume responsibility for tracking expenditures and maintaining records. Having extensive experience in grant management, the County maintains strong fiscal protocols for tracking expenditures and grant management software to ensure compliance with reporting deadlines.

SECTION VI – Budget

A detailed project budget should be provided in the online budget included in this solicitation. The space provided here is to allow for a narrative description to further explain the proposed budget.

1. Explain how the grant funds, if awarded, will be spent to support the goals and objectives of the project. If equipment grant funds are requested, explain how the equipment will be utilized and maintained beyond the life of the grant.

The County of Mendocino will use the requested grant funds to support: 1) staff time spent on project oversight and management, as well as attendance at one community event per quarter; 2) fringe benefits for staff spending time on project oversight and management, as well as attendance at one community event per quarter; 3) contractor costs to oversee and implement roadside fuels reduction along Branscomb Road and Old River Road; 4) supplies for outreach and education events, including but not limited to attendance/registration fees, tote bags, flashlights, whistles, notepads, pens, magnets, printed educational materials, and other relevant supplies which can be procured in bulk and will be useful to both encourage the public to come talk with County staff at events as well as useful for preparedness following the events.

Funds under categories 1 and 2 will allow County staff to attend community events to conduct public outreach and education, helping the public at large be better prepared for fire events; funds within these categories will also allow County staff to oversee contractors performing both the hazardous fuels reduction as well as the evacuation plan update, including meeting participation, field oversight, and review of documents and materials. These funds will also allow for compliance with CAL Fire grant management compliance including reporting and invoicing.

Funds under category 3 will fund contractors procured by the County of Mendocino to lead both the hazardous fuels reduction activities and the evacuation plan update. These funds will either directly implement fuels reduction or directly produce the updated evacuation plan.

Funds under category 4 will provide supplies for County staff to participate more comprehensively in community events, entice members of the public to visit the County's booth/table, and provide valuable takeaways for the public that will help improve preparedness, including evacuation planning checklists, relevant emergency services contact numbers, information on registering for notifications regarding evacuations and other disasters, and useful items to improve preparedness or use when evacuating.

No equipment grant funds are requested.

2. Are the costs for each proposed activity reasonable for the geographic area where they are to be performed? Identify any costs that are higher than usual and explain any special circumstances within the project that makes these increased costs necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the project.

Yes, the costs proposed are reasonable for this geographic area and the work to be performed. County staff rates are set based on true County wages and fringe benefits, while supplies are based on estimates seen from various online vendors offering the relevant materials.

The County has established a budget allocation for the evacuation plan update which is in line with previous efforts by other jurisdictions and the County's prior work conducting evacuation planning.

Hazardous fuels reduction implementation costs are estimated at \$7,500 per acre; while this cost may seem steep on its face, the work will be completed by private contractors subject to California Prevailing Wage requirements and the work to be completed will, at times, require traffic control to ensure safety for both workers and travelers on these routes. As such, the cost per acre is in line with costs seen on previous roadside fuels reduction projects conducted by both the County of Mendocino and the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council.

3. Is the total project cost appropriate for the size, scope, and anticipated benefit of the project?

Yes, the total project cost is appropriate for the size, scope, and anticipated benefit of the project. This project will result in more than 118 acres of hazardous fuels reduction along two key access routes for two rural communities which face significant hazard from wildfire. The proposed roadside fuels reduction costs are aligned with costs seen on comparable recent projects in the community and will yield reduced fire danger, improved evacuation and second access routes, and protect both civilians and firefighters needing to access these areas during fire events.

The proposed evacuation plan update will also yield significant safety benefits across the County, with all residents and visitors benefiting from a refined evacuation plan that is effectively integrated and reflective of the Zonehaven software the County will be adopting in the near future.

Finally, the funds requested for both County staff time and supplies to attend community events will ensure that County staff have frequent opportunities to engage directly with the public to provide education regarding emergency preparedness, evacuation procedures, and lines of communication. While the costs in this section are modest within the larger scope of the project, they represent direct interaction with community members, which can be the most impactful opportunity for changing behaviors and fostering understanding of evacuation procedures and other public safety issues.

4. Using bullets please list each object category amount that you are requesting and the detail of how that would support meeting the grant objectives.

- Salaries and Wages
 - Total funding requested: \$48,630.
 - This budget line item consists of County staff time to file the CEQA NOE for the hazardous fuels reduction activities, procure both the roadside fuels reduction and evacuation plan update vendors, conduct oversight of both vendors during the contract period, including field visits to the hazardous fuels reduction project sites, and preparation for and attendance of eight community events. The County staff time proposed is critical for project success and will ensure that all grant objectives are met within the proposed schedule and budget.
- Employee Benefits
 - Total funding requested: \$57,583.
 - This budget line item contains staff benefits associated with the staff time described above.
- Contractual
 - Total funding requested: \$972,500.
 - This budget line item consists of \$885,000 for contractor implementation of hazardous fuels reduction along Branscomb and Old River Roads, or 118 acres of fuels reduction at state prevailing wage rates with traffic control for \$7,500 per acre. This line item also includes \$87,500 for a contractor or consultant to lead the evacuation plan update process, or approximately 500 hours of consultant time at \$175 per hour.
- Travel and Per Diem
 - Total funding requested: \$1,018.
 - This line item contains approximately 1,520 miles of travel in County vehicles to visit project sites to oversee fuels reduction activities and travel to outreach events at the 2024 Federal Mileage Rate of \$0.67.

- Supplies
 - Total funding requested: \$19,050.
 - This budget line item includes funding to purchase supplies including but not limited to: a County-branded pop-up canopy, tables, chairs printing and preparation of at least 5,000 informational handouts in both English and Spanish, and 2,500 giveaway bags containing items such as an emergency whistle, individually packaged dust masks, a compact blanket, flashlight, and batteries. This line item also includes a \$50 CEQA filing fee for the Notice of Exemption associated with the roadside fuels reduction.
- Equipment
 - No equipment purchases are proposed in this application.
- Other Costs
 - Event registration fees: \$4,000
 - Most events which have the most impactful public outreach opportunity require a fee to secure booth space. This budget assumes a \$500 fee will be required to secure space at each event, resulting in \$4,000 in registration fees for the eight proposed events.
- Indirect Costs
 - The County of Mendocino is requesting at 12% indirect cost rate within this application to support indirect County expenses including insurance, facilities, equipment, and other relevant costs required for the County to operate but not associated directly with this project.
 - The total amount of indirect costs requested is \$132,334.

Total Project Cost: \$1,235,115.

5. Does your project include the purchase of capital equipment (more than \$5,000 per item)? (YES/NO)

No.

SECTION VII – California Climate Investments

The space provided here is to allow for a narrative description to further explain how the project/activity will reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions.

1. How will the project/activity reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions?

Wildfires release significant CO2 emissions and other greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change as they consume vegetation and organic matter. In 2022, California wildfires sent an estimated 9 million metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere per California Air Resources Board estimates. While the proposed fuels reduction activities along Branscomb Road and Old River Road are mainly prioritized to improve evacuation route and protect lives during fire events, this effort also yields other significant benefits:

- 1. Resilient Landscapes Vegetation management will aid in creating defensible spaces around these significant evacuation routes.
- 2. Fire Adapted Communities Fuels reduction tasks are anticipated to benefit the communities surrounding the affected roadways, as well as yield a broader benefit by reducing the chances of wildfire and preventing spread.
- 3. Safe and Effective Wildfire Response Roadside vegetation management tasks will restore and maintain ecosystems and limit the negative impacts of wildfires.

BUDGET NARRATIVE (0000/8000 characters) Under Application Submission, complete the Budget Report and Worksheet and provide an accompanying narrative to be entered into the Worksheet tab.

Will be provided separately for review.

Mendocino County CALFIRE Wildfire Prevention FY23-24 Budget Narrative January 2024

The Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements project consists of fuels reduction activities on vital county roads for improved safety of residents, evacuation planning throughout the county, and County-led outreach and education activities at targeted public events throughout the year.

Task 1 - Roadside Fuels Reduction – Branscomb and Old River Roads

This task consists of roadside fuels reduction along approximately 9.67 linear miles of Branscomb Road and approximately 14.7 linear miles of Old River Road with a combined treatment total estimated at approximately 118 acres. This includes County staff time to complete preparation and filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) for general roadside fuels reduction, consultation with local fire departments to refine fuels reduction tasks based on their professional expertise and assessments of risk and impact and, upon refinement of scope, outreach to area landowners where necessary.

Upon finalization of the scope, County staff will prepare a request for bid in adherence with public procurement policies and contract with a fuels reduction contractor to complete brush clearing and vegetation thinning in the selected areas along the two county-maintained roads. This task also includes contractor oversight and quality management.

This task assumes the following County staff hours at the position's fully loaded rate (salary + benefits).

Chief Recovery & Resiliency Officer – 87 hours x \$143.21 per hour for a total of \$12,459.27. Emergency Services Coordinator – 34 hours x \$119.01 per hour for a total of \$4,064.34. Administrative Analyst (Grants) – 30 hours x \$80.45 per hour for a total of \$2,413.50. Principal Administrative Analyst – 11 hours x \$167.97 per hour for a total of \$1,847.67 Administrative Analyst – 10 hours x \$86.57 per hour for a total of \$865.70 Emergency Services Specialist – 7 hours x \$91.38 per hour for a total of \$639.66

Task 1: County Staff Salary + Benefits = \$22,273

Implementation of roadside fuels reduction by a contractor is estimated at \$7,500 per acre. This estimate is in alignment with recent implementation projects led by the County and the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council at the prevailing wage rates as required.

118 acres (approximate) x \$7,500 per acre = \$885,000

Task 1: Fuels Reduction Contractor = \$885,000.

Travel is estimated to be a total of 720 miles at the 2024 Federal Mileage Reimbursement Rate of 0.67/mile = 482

Task 1: Travel (Mileage) = \$482

Staff time for preparation of a CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) is included in the County staff salary and benefits line item. The CEQA NOE filing fee with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder is \$50.00.

Task 1: CEQA Notice of Exemption Filing Fee = \$50

Task 1 Total – Roadside Fuels Reduction - \$907,805.

Task 2 - Evacuation Plan

This task includes preparation of a request for proposals in adherence with public procurement policies and contracting with a professional consultant to prepare a draft and final update to the County's Evacuation Plan. This planning task also includes staff time commitments to participate in the planning process and support the consultant during the plan update through coordination with stakeholders and the public, attendance at public outreach meetings, consultant oversight, and review of the draft and final plan.

This task assumes the following County staff hours at the position's fully loaded rate (salary + benefits).

Chief Recovery & Resiliency Officer – 100 hours x \$143.21 per hour for a total of \$14,321.00. Emergency Services Coordinator – 82 hours x \$119.01 per hour for a total of \$9,758.82. Emergency Services Specialist – 82 hours x \$91.38 per hour for a total of \$7,496.16. Administrative Analyst (Grants) – 35 hours x \$80.45 per hour for a total of \$2,815.75. Principal Administrative Analyst – 15 hours x \$167.97 per hour for a total of \$2,519.55 Administrative Analyst – 15 hours x \$86.57 per hour for a total of \$1,298.55.

Task 2: County Staff Salary + Benefits = \$38,207.

The procured consultant will conduct research and evaluations, facilitate meetings, seek community input, attend at least one public outreach meeting, and prepare a draft and final update to the Mendocino County Evacuation plan.

This estimate is based on 500 hours at a billed hourly rate of \$175.00 for a total of \$87,500.

Task 2: Evacuation Plan Consultant = \$87,500.

Task 2 Total - Evacuation Plan - \$125,707.

3. Outreach and Education

This task includes County staff time to conduct research, purchase supplies, preparation of education materials and leaflets, and coordination and participation in at least one community outreach event per quarter at various locations in the county.

This task assumes the following County staff hours at the position's fully loaded rate (salary + benefits).

Chief Recovery & Resiliency Officer – 104 hours x \$143.21 per hour for a total of \$14,893.84. Administrative Analyst (Grants) – 109 hours x \$80.45 per hour for a total of \$8,769.05. Emergency Services Specialist – 96 hours x \$91.38 per hour for a total of \$8,772.48. Principal Administrative Analyst – 4 hours x \$167.97 per hour for a total of \$671.88. Administrative Analyst – 5 hours x \$86.57 per hour for a total of \$432.85.

Task 3: County Staff Salary + Benefits = \$33,540.

The Outreach and Education task also includes the purchase of an events toolkit for improved exposure and public perception at well-attended community events and preparedness supplies to give away to community members as part of a fire prevention and emergency preparedness campaign. The following is an estimate and a preliminary list of items needed for an event toolkit and go-bags with giveaway items.

County of Mendocino-branded pop-up tent (1)- \$2,000. County of Mendocino-branded tablecloths (2) - \$200. Printing cost for leaflets/handouts (2,500) - \$250. Emergency go-bags (2,500) - \$3,525. Magnets for emergency contact information (2,500) - \$1,500. Compact thermal blanket (2,500) - \$3,625. Whistle keychains (2,500) - \$1.750. Flashlight (2,500) - \$4,800. Batteries (5,000) - \$450. Dust Masks (5,000) - \$500**Task 3: Event Toolkit and Promotional Supplies = \$19,000**.

This task also assumes an average booth/table registration cost of \$500 per event booth with attendance at eight events (one per quarter) for a total cost of \$4,000 and assumes an estimated 800 miles traveled in a County-owned vehicle at the 2024 Federal Mileage Reimbursement Rate of \$0.67/mile for a total of \$536.00.

Task 1: Other Event Costs (registration and travel) = \$4,536.

Task 3 Total – Outreach and Engagement - \$57,076.

4. Other Costs – Grant Management

This task includes County staff time for grant invoicing and preparation, review, and submittal of eight quarterly reports and one final report as required per the CalFire Wildfire Prevention Planning Grant FY23-24.

Chief Recovery & Resiliency Officer – 20 hours x \$143.21 per hour for a total of \$2,864.20. Administrative Analyst (Grants) – 9 hours x \$80.45 per hour for a total of \$724.05. Principal Administrative Analyst – 10 hours x \$167.97 per hour for a total of \$1,679.70. Administrative Analyst – 80 hours x \$86.57 per hour for a total of \$6,925.60.

Grant Management: County Staff Salary + Benefits = \$12,194.

5. Indirect Rate (12%)

The subtotal project cost for fuels reduction activities, evacuation plan update, outreach and engagement, and grant management and reporting is \$1,102,781. The indirect cost at the standard rate of 12% is \$132,334.

Project Grand Total - \$1,235,115.

7746.33 Mendocino County CalFire Wildfire Prevention Grants Program FY23/24

ATON GOALS	Fill in these cells			
<u>Goal/Objective</u>	Target Units		Direct Cost Expenditure	Matching Expenditure
A) Acres of Fuels Reduction	118	\$	907,804.54	\$ -
<u>Subgoals</u>				
A.01) Chipping		\$	-	\$ -
A.02) Right of Way Clearance	118	\$	907,804.54	\$ -
A.03) Thinning		\$	-	\$ -
B) Acres of Prescribed Fire				
C) Education Events	8	\$	57,076.10	\$ -
Subgoals				
C.01) Number of events in person	8	\$	57,076.10	\$ -
C.02) Number of virtual events		\$	-	\$ -
D) Community Plans	1	\$	125,706.83	\$ -
<u>Subgoals</u>				
D.01) Community Plans Developed (new)		\$	-	\$ -
D.02) Community Plans Revised	1	\$	125,706.83	\$ -
E) Fuel Break				
Subtotal		Ś	1,090,587.47	
Grant Reporting and Invoicing		\$	12,193.55	
Indirect (12%)		\$	132,333.72	
TOTAL		•	1,235,114.74	

\$ - check totals

CalFire Budget Template in eCivis

		Ext Cost	Direct Cost	Indirect Cost	Cost Share
1	Salaries and Wages	\$ 48,630			
2	Employee Benefits	\$ 57,583			
3	Contractual	\$ 972,500			
4	Travel and Per Diem	\$ 1,018			
5	Supplies	\$ 19,050			
6	Equipment	\$ -			
7	Other Costs	\$ 4,000			
8	Indirect Cost	\$ 132,334			
	Total	\$ 1,235,115			
	check totals	\$ -			

Activity Staff Person/Category

									Fuels Contr	actor				
	Trav	is Kell [,]	y Xuye	n Britt	any Jeff	Gar	rett E	vac Contractor	(acres)	Suppl	lies (\$)	Registrations	Miles (\$0.67	Total Notes
Roadside Fuels Reduction														
CEQA NOE		3	0	1	0	0	0	(0	0	50) () 0	\$ 648
Contractor Procurement		20	20	5	5	2	2		0	0	C) (\$ 6,167
Contractor Oversight		64	10	5	5	32	5		0	0	C) (
Implementation		0	0	0	0	0	0	(0	118	C) () 0	\$ 885,000
														\$ 907,805
Evacuation Plan Update														
Contractor Procurement		20	20	5	5	2	2	(0	0	C) (\$ 6,167
Project Participation/Oversight		80	15	10	10	80	80		0	0	C			\$ 32,040 Estimated levels of effort, adjust as necessary
Contractor Implementation		0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	C) () 0	\$ 87,500
														\$ 125,707
Outreach and Education														
Event Registration		8	8	0	0	0	0		0	0	C			\$ 5,789 \$500 per event for 8 events
Supplies/Materials		0	5	0	5	0	0		0	0	19000) (\$ 19,835
Event Preparation and Attendance		96	96	4	0	0	96	(0	0	C) (800	
														\$ 57,076
Grant Management														
														8 quarterly reports +
														closeout report
Reporting and Invoicing		20	9	10	80	0	0	(0	0	C) () 0	\$ 12,194 8 hours/quarterly + 16 for
														\$ 12,194
Total Hours		311	183	40	110	116	185	50	0	118	19050	4000) 1520	
Salary	\$	19,997 \$	6,610 \$	3,017 \$	4,276 \$	6,621 \$	8,109 -		-	-				
Benefits	\$	24,541 \$	8,112 \$	3,702 \$	5,247 \$	7,184 \$	8,797 -		-	-				
Total Cost	\$	44,538 \$	14,722 \$	6,719 \$	9,523 \$	13,805 \$	16,905 \$	-	\$	- \$	19,050	\$4,000	\$ 1,018	
														\$ 132,333.72 IDCs * 12%
														\$ 1,235,114.74 Grand Total

JARED HUFFMAN 2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE 1527 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 PHONE: (202) 225–5161 FAX: (202) 225–5163

WEBSITE: huffman.house.gov

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Mashington, **DC** 20515–0502

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

WATER, OCEANS, AND WILDLIFE – CHAIR NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

January 8, 2024

Joe Tyler, Director Grants Management Unit/Fire Prevention Grants Department of Forestry and Fire Protection PO Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244

Subject: Letter of Support for the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements

Dear Director Tyler:

I am writing to support the application submitted by the County of Mendocino to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)'s California Climate Investment Wildfire Prevention Grant Program for the *Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements, 23-WP-MEU-58899481.*

The activities proposed in the application will provide safer evacuation routes and improved fire safety for communities in and around Ukiah and in the Branscomb Road corridor, improved evacuation planning for the entirety of Mendocino County, and fund vital County-led outreach and education activities throughout the year to educate the public about fire safety and evacuation procedures.

The implementation of the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements project is an extension of work already funded by CAL FIRE, which provided funding to complete CEQA analysis of these activities in the 2021 FPGP grant cycle. These projects represent shovel ready activities which will protect both coastal and inland communities and improve safety for firefighters and other first responders.

As the congressional representative for Mendocino, I have seen first-hand the challenges presented by wildfires and other emergencies, and know these improvements are urgently needed. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this timely project. Please contact my district director, Jenny Callaway, at 415-258-9657 or jenny.callaaway@mail.house.gov if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

JARED HUFFM 🔏 Member of Congress

SAN RAFAEL 999 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 290 SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901 PHONE: (415) 258–9657 FAX: (415) 258–9913 PETALUMA 206 G STREET, #3 PETALUMA, CA 94952 PHONE: (707) 981–8967 FAX: (415) 258–9913 UKIAH 200 S. School St., Suite 1 Ukiah, CA 95482 PHONE: (707) 671–7449 FAX: (707) 962–0905

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FORT BRAGG 430 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET P.O. Box 2208 FORT BRAGG, CA 95437 PHONE: (707) 962–0933 FAX: (707) 962–0905 EUREKA 317 THIRD STREET, SUITE 1 EUREKA, CA 95501 PHONE: (707) 407–3585 FAX: (707) 407–3559 COMMITTEES CHAIR: HEALTH BUDGET BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INSURANCE JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT NATURAL RESOURCES



STATE CAPITOL P.O. BOX 942849 SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0002 (916) 319-2002 FAX (916) 319-2102

DISTRICT OFFICES 200 S SCHOOL STREET, SUITE D UKIAH, CA 95482 (707) 463-5770 FAX (707) 463-5773

> 50 D STREET, SUITE 450 SANTA ROSA, CA 95404 (707) 576-2526 FAX (707) 576-2297

1036 5TH STREET, SUITE D EUREKA, CA 95501 (707) 445-7014 FAX (707) 455-6607

January 5, 2024

Grants Management Unit/Fire Prevention Grants Department of Forestry and Fire Protection PO Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244

Subject: Letter of Support for the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of the application submitted by the County of Mendocino to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)'s California Climate Investment Wildfire Prevention Grant Program for the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements, 23-WP-MEU-58899481.

The activities proposed in the application will provide safer evacuation routes and improved fire safety for communities in and around Ukiah and in the Branscomb Road corridor. Additionally, it will improve evacuation planning for the entirety of Mendocino County and fund vital County-led outreach and education activities throughout the year to educate the public about fire safety and evacuation procedures.

The implementation of the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements project is an extension of work already funded by CAL FIRE, which provided funding to complete CEQA analysis of these activities in the 2021 FPGP grant cycle. These projects represent shovel ready activities which will protect both coastal and inland communities and improve safety for firefighters and other first responders.

I fully support this project and recommend it receive funding. I look forward to seeing the successes of this project to ensure greater fire prevention and resiliency for the County of Mendocino.

Respectfully,

JIM WOOD Assemblymember, 2nd District



Hopland Fire Protection District

21 Feliz Creek Road • Post Office Box 463 • Hopland, California 95449 (707) 744-1222 • (707) 744-1198 Fax www.hoplandfire.com District Fire Chief Mitch Franklin

January 8, 2024

Grants Management Unit/Fire Prevention Grants Department of Forestry and Fire Protection PO Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244

Subject: Letter of Support for the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements

To Whom it May Concern:

The Hopland Fire Protection District submits this letter in support of the application submitted by the County of Mendocino to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)'s California Climate Investment Wildfire Prevention Grant Program for the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements, 23-WP-MEU-58899481.

The activities proposed in the application will provide safer evacuation routes and improved fire safety for communities in and around Ukiah and in the Branscomb Road corridor, improved evacuation planning for the entirety of Mendocino County, and fund vital County-led outreach and education activities throughout the year to educate the public about fire safety and evacuation procedures.

The implementation of the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements project is an extension of work already funded by CAL FIRE, which provided funding to complete CEQA analysis of these activities in the 2021 FPGP grant cycle. These projects represent shovel ready activities which will protect both coastal and inland communities and improve safety for firefighters and other first responders.

The Hopland Fire Protection District fully supports this project and recommends it receive funding. We look forward o seeing the successes of this project to ensure greater fire prevention and resiliency for the County of Mendocino.

Sincerely, Chief Mitch Franklin

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LONG VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT Post Office Box 89 • Laytonville, CA 95454 • Phone 707/984-6055

January 5, 2024

Grants Management Unit/Fire Prevention Grants Department of Forestry and Fire Protection PO Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244

Subject: Letter of Support for the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements

To Whom it May Concern:

The [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] submits this letter in support of the application submitted by the County of Mendocino to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)'s California Climate Investment Wildfire Prevention Grant Program for the *Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements, 23-WP-MEU-58899481.*

The activities proposed in the application will provide safer evacuation routes and improved fire safety for communities in and around Ukiah and in the Branscomb Road corridor, improved evacuation planning for the entirety of Mendocino County, and fund vital County-led outreach and education activities throughout the year to educate the public about fire safety and evacuation procedures.

The implementation of the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements project is an extension of work already funded by CAL FIRE, which provided funding to complete CEQA analysis of these activities in the 2021 FPGP grant cycle. These projects represent shovel ready activities which will protect both coastal and inland communities and improve safety for firefighters and other first responders.

The Long Valley Fire Protection District's mission is to protect the lives and properties for the community of Laytonville and the surrounding area thru aggressive fire suppression and prevention. Our Defensive Space Inspection Program has been a great success. We are a leader in the county in Wildland Urban Interface Fire Training.

The Long Valley Fire Protection District fully supports this project and recommends it receive funding. We look forward to seeing the successes of this project to ensure greater fire prevention and resiliency for the County of Mendocino.

Sincerely,

que a

Greg Smith Assistant Chief / Fire Marshall

MENDOCINO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

To inform, empower, and mobilize county residents to survive and thrive in wildfire-prone environments.

January 5, 2024

Grants Management Unit/Fire Prevention Grants Department of Forestry and Fire Protection PO Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244

Subject: Letter of Support for the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements

Dear CAL FIRE Grant Reviewers,

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council submits this letter in support of the application submitted by the County of Mendocino to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)'s California Climate Investment Wildfire Prevention Grant Program for the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements, 23-WP-MEU-58899481.

The activities proposed in the application will provide safer evacuation routes and improved fire safety for communities in and around Ukiah and in the Branscomb Road corridor, improved evacuation planning for the entirety of Mendocino County, and fund vital County-led outreach and education activities throughout the year to educate the public about fire safety and evacuation procedures.

The implementation of the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements project is an extension of work already funded by CAL FIRE, which provided funding to complete CEQA analysis of these activities in the 2021 FPGP grant cycle. These projects represent shovel ready activities which will protect both coastal and inland communities and improve safety for firefighters and other first responders.

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council's mission is to inform, empower, and mobilize county residents to survive and thrive in wildfire-prone environments. Mendocino County Fire Safe Council fully supports this project and recommends it receive funding. We look forward to seeing the successes of this project to ensure greater fire prevention and resiliency for the County of Mendocino.

Sincerely,

- 62

Scott Cratty Executive Director director@firesafemendocino.org



January 5, 2024

Grants Management Unit/Fire Prevention Grants Department of Forestry and Fire Protection PO Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244

Subject: Letter of Support for the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements

To Whom it May Concern:

The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) submits this letter in support of the application submitted by the County of Mendocino to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)'s California Climate Investment Wildfire Prevention Grant Program for the *Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements, 23-WP-MEU-58899481.*

The activities proposed in the application will provide safer evacuation routes and improved fire safety for communities in and around Ukiah and in the Branscomb Road corridor, improved evacuation planning for the entirety of Mendocino County, and fund vital County-led outreach and education activities throughout the year to educate the public about fire safety and evacuation procedures.

The implementation of the Mendocino County Evacuation Safety Improvements project is an extension of work already funded by CAL FIRE, which provided funding to complete CEQA analysis of these activities in the 2021 FPGP grant cycle. These projects represent shovel ready activities which will protect both coastal and inland communities and improve safety for firefighters and other first responders.

The MCRCD's mission is to conserve, protect, and restore wild and working landscapes to enhance the health of the water, soil, and forests in Mendocino County. The MCRCD fully supports this project and recommends it receive funding. We look forward to seeing the successes of this project to ensure greater fire prevention and resiliency for the County of Mendocino.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra Executive Director







Submit your Project Mapping Today!

As you scroll down the page make sure to complete each step of the grant application.

Follow



CAL FIRE FP Grants

Geo Point
Use the
application to
trace grant
areas on the
map.

Step 1: Submit your Grant Mapping Information

1



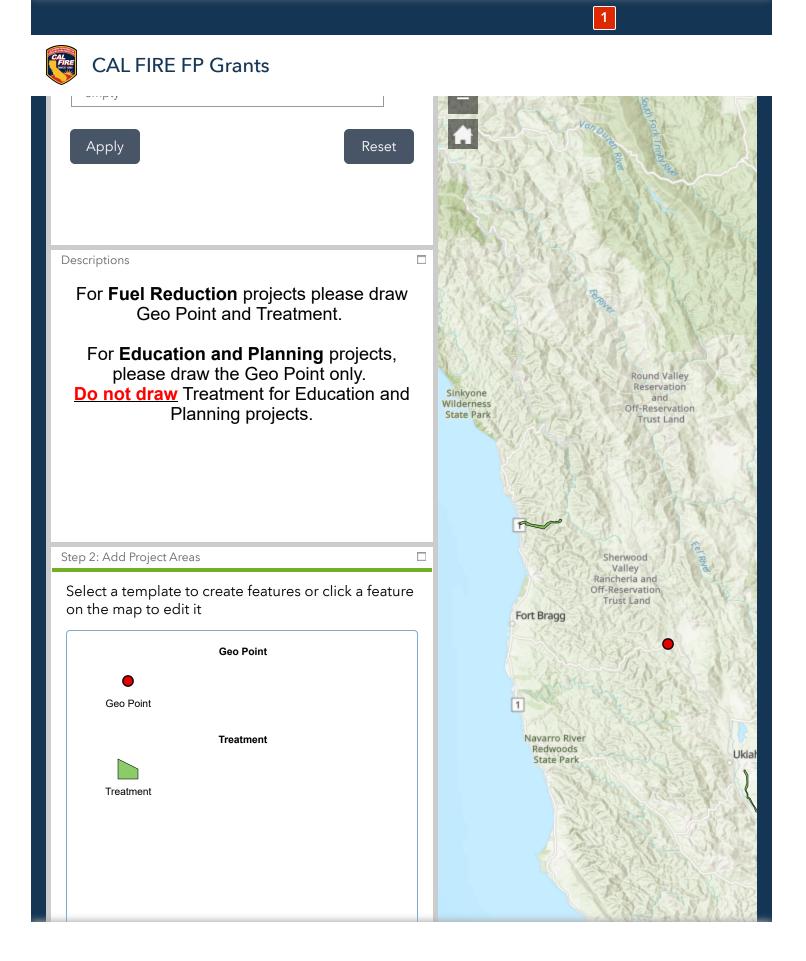


Great! Your data was sent successfully. Thanks.

Step 2: Draw the Project Areas and Geo Point

Geo Point - Center of the project

Treatment Acres - Treatment(s) are areas in a project, where on-the-ground activities are







Thank you!

Your WP Grants Mapping Project has been successfully submitted.





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