



707.462.3664
410 Jones St., Suite C-3
Ukiah, CA 95482
www.mcrcd.org

March 8, 2021

County of Mendocino
Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: Project Development Funding Request for FY 21-22

Dear Supervisors:

The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) has partnered successfully with the County of Mendocino on a variety of natural resource projects over the last ten years. The MCRCD works to secure grant funding for the Forest Health, Soil Health and Agriculture, and Water Resource programs that we manage, securing over \$13.6M in competitive grants since 2010. As a Special District of the State, MCRCD is able to efficiently respond to natural resource needs within the County to address post-fire reforestation/revegetation, fire preparedness, climate resiliency due to increased drought and flood events, water conservation, and water quality protection. MCRCD, as a non-regulatory agency, holds a distinct role as a trusted partner to landowners and the public for provision of natural resources services and information.

We are pleased to report that in Fiscal Year 2020-2021, MCRCD secured over \$1.6M in competitive grant funds that benefited the County's economy, landowners, and the environment. Not only does MCRCD have a successful history of bringing in millions of dollars to the County, but the majority of this funding goes to on-the-ground implementation, supporting local contractors to address our local environmental challenges.

The upcoming fiscal year will present unique challenges and opportunities due to the enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, and drought. MCRCD is well situated to find and secure funding opportunities if we have the capacity to research and write grants. To that end, MCRCD is requesting \$45,000 from the County to ensure we have baseline funding to develop quality applications for grant funding and assist County residents with conservation stewardship projects in the next fiscal year. The table on the next page describes our alignment with County goals.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the County to conserve, protect, and restore wild and working landscapes to enhance the health of the water, soils, and forests in Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan McCluer".

Megan McCluer
Executive Director

Program & Objective	County Planning Goals	County Funding	Projects / Deliverables
<p><u>Forest Health</u> Improve forestland and oak woodland health through informing landowners about climate resilient active management and conservation practices to implement on their lands.</p>	<p>Ukiah Valley Area Plan: OC2.3a General Plan: AI RM-2, 4, 25-27, 71, 82, 82, 111, 112, 116, 117, 120, 121; AL RM-102.1; AI DE-1.1; AI DE-64.2; 64.3</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>	<p>Continue partnerships with CAL FIRE, NRCS, Climate Action Reserve, & others to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further develop cost-share funding programs & projects, • build the Forest Carbon Accounting Tool, and support the Climate Action Plan for Mendocino County, • reduce hazardous fuel loads, support landowners in wildfire resilience and forest health improvements, and • provide forestry education and outreach.
<p><u>Soil Health Management</u> Improve soil health and reduce erosion by informing landowners about climate and environmental beneficial conservation practices to implement on their agricultural and range lands.</p>	<p>Ukiah Valley Area Plan: OC1.3a General Plan: AI CP-AV-18.1, 18.2, AI RM 4.1, 7.1, 27.1, 34.1, 41.1. 50.2, 79.1, 79.2, 79.3, 102.1, 127.1, AL DE 64.3, 210.2, Housing Element Action 5.1c</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform, educate, and collaborate using Soilhub.org, e-newsletters, and social media with ag landowners on soil health and climate beneficial soil management • Submit 1-2 grant applications to support soil health and climate resiliency. • Collect samples and complete soil health assessments for vineyards • Develop Carbon Farm Plans for landowners and managers to apply for private, state, and federal funding to support climate beneficial practices • Promote the conservation of sustainable ag lands, coordinate with housing organizations for smart/sustainable growth, and assist with the development of a County Climate Action Plan
<p><u>Water Resources</u> Increase and improve the County's water resources by supporting landowners to achieve regulatory compliance and water security.</p>	<p>Ukiah Valley Area Plan: OC1.1c, 1.3a General Plan: AL CP-AV-18.1, AL RM-7.1,79.2, 127.1, AL DE-201.2, 210.2, 214.1, 220.2, Housing Element Action 5.1c</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct road, riparian and/or streambank evaluations and connect landowners to existing and potential resources. • Submit grant applications to leverage County funds for long-term improvements to water quality and water security. • Attend, present, and/or co-host regional watershed and restoration workshops and meetings to represent Mendocino County's natural resource interests.
<p><u>Program Management</u></p>		<p>\$15,000</p>	<p>MCRCD Leadership to provide support to the County, partners, and Staff Project Managers that develop and execute grants that benefit the County.</p>
Total		\$45,000	