



Resource  
Conservation  
District  
*Mendocino County*

# **PG&E Settlement Investment Suggestions**

Megan McCluer, Executive Director  
[megan.mccluer@mcrcd.org](mailto:megan.mccluer@mcrcd.org)

# MCRCDD Mission Statement

*to conserve, protect, and restore  
wild and working landscapes  
to enhance the health of  
water, soil, and forests  
of Mendocino County*

# MCRCDD Approach

Non-regulatory, special district with technical experts who assist the public, County, and other local agencies in:

- **Water** Quantity and Quality
- **Soil** Health and Agriculture
- **Forest** Health and Resilience
- **Wildfire Mitigation Land Management**
- **Partnership with MC Fire Safe Council 501(c)(3)**

**Supporting the County through:**

- **stewardship of natural resources**
- **grant writing, facilitation, and regulatory compliance**
- **assistance to private landowners**
- **education and outreach on environmental issues**

# Proposed Investments

Consistent with all the investments the County makes in MCRCDD, we propose *leveraging existing projects* and *building capacity to secure future funding*:

1. Build upon successful projects already underway in the fire footprint
2. Invest in Grant Writing to bring in future funding
3. Support required cost-share for new grant applications
4. Invest in CEQA - required for many funding opportunities
5. Leverage partnerships and invest seed money in relevant long-term programs, such as a woody biomass innovation incubator

# Proposed Investments #1

Build upon successful projects already underway in the fire footprint

- No start-up costs, no issues with appropriateness, viability, CEQA, permitting, transparency, oversight, or reporting. Just modification to existing contracts.
- **Ukiah Valley Fire and Fuels Reduction Project, #19-241, \$1,443,000 already invested**
- **Redwood Complex Fire Recovery Hazardous Tree Removal Project, #19-018 \$840,900 already invested**
- **The Road to Recovery: Redwood Complex Fire Restoration - Implementation Project, #19-09, \$622,015 already invested**

# Proposed Investments #1

## Ukiah Valley Fire and Fuels Reduction Project

- Support Fire Safe Council requests for long-term sustainment of Chipper program. **\$0** (already requested in FSC proposal on April 6th).

## Hazardous Tree Removal Project

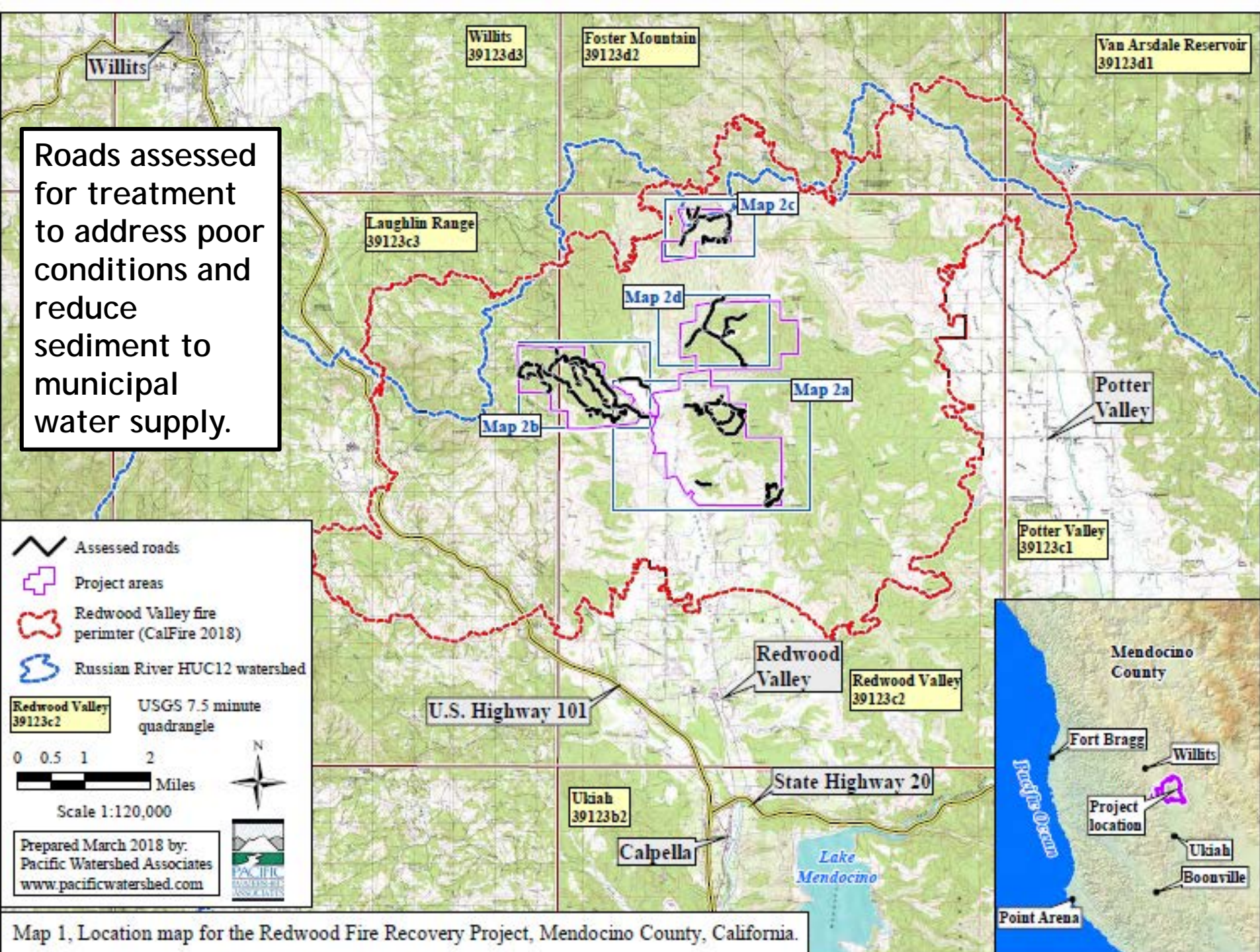
- Remove additional dangerous dead and dying trees from fire footprint. Two phases have been completed, recommend additional investment of **\$500K**

## Fire Restoration – Road Improvements

- Leverage detailed road assessments already completed, 112 specific sites identified with recommended treatments - improve ingress/egress, storm-proofing and reduce sediment into municipal water supply sources. (All sites fall within MCRCD's already completed CEQA and coordinated permitting program.) **\$500K** to treat highest priority sites within fire footprint.



Roads assessed for treatment to address poor conditions and reduce sediment to municipal water supply.



# Proposed Investments #2-4

2. Invest in Grant Writing to bring in future funding
  - Support MCRCDD request for \$45K annual budget (\$0 PG&E)
3. Provide required cost-share for new grant applications
  - Support MCRCDD requests as they come in, funds can be reimbursed through billable hours. (\$0 PG&E)
4. Invest in CEQA - many grant funding opportunities require that CEQA already be completed prior to application submittal
  - Support MCRCDD requests as they come in from County budget (Initial supplement with 10 sites at average \$4K each = \$40K PG&E).



## Investment #5. *Leverage* the \$2M CA Climate Investment (CCI) Grant - *Applied Innovative Forest Health*

- **Reforestation of 745 acres in Redwood Complex Fire**
- **Remove standing dead and dying trees**
- **Demonstration of innovative technology**
  - 4 Power Pallet bio-gasifiers ~25 kW (each)
  - Utilization of woody biomass from the Redwood Complex Fire footprint to:
    - generate local, renewable electricity,
    - produce biochar to be used as soil amendments and for carbon sequestration
    - demonstrate gasification technology within Mendocino County.
  - MCRCD and HREC developing long-term program

Biogasifiers - use wood chips to produce electricity and biochar. Four to be stationed at HREC under CCI grant.



# Proposed Investments #5

## Woody Biomass Innovation Incubator at UC Hopland Research and Extension Center (HREC) - \$1.3M

- Leverage \$2M for continued operations and R&D of Gasification Energy Production: *converting woody biomass* feedstock into electricity, usable heat, and biochar which can be used as soil amendment, carbon sequestration, and in composting operations. Support operations 1 year beyond grant period into 2024 to ensure successful transition to long-term program - **\$500K**
- Leverage Hazardous Trees removed from Fire footprint as feedstock for biogasifiers at HREC - **\$0** (already requested in Investment #1)
- Incubate new business models through R&D of innovative uses of wood waste to *promote more economical fire fuel reduction activities*. Leverage UC system and promote economic development through public-private partnerships - **\$600K**
- Promote commercial use of smaller trees (which are adversely affecting forest health and fire resiliency) by *demonstrating alternative solutions* such as small-diameter pole construction - **\$200K**
- Leverage expertise of UC Woody Biomass Utilization Group, Forest Reciprocity Group, North Coast Biochar, Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc., Renewable Energy Development Institute, Polecraft Solutions, etc. - **\$0**

# Summary Suggested Investment

Project	Amount	Benefit	Leverages
Hazardous Tree Removal	\$500K	Safety, Forest Health, expands existing program	\$840K from #19-018
Road Improvements	\$500K	Safety, Water Quality, expands existing program	\$622K from #19-09
Base funding, cost-share, & CEQA for new project proposals	\$40K	Improve capacity, readiness and competitiveness in future grants on behalf of the County	#21-05, 10 new projects could bring in ~\$4M,
Woody Biomass Innovation Incubator	\$1.3M	Education, Economic Development, Forest Health, and Fire Fuel Reduction, expands existing program	\$2M CCI grant, \$50K from UC Office of the President
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2.34M</b>	Consistent with priorities of County, rapid on-the-ground community benefits, low-overhead, long-term ROI	Approx. \$7.6M