



**Resource  
Conservation  
District**  
*Mendocino County*

# **PG&E Settlement Investment Suggestions**

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# MCRCRD Mission and Approach

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

MCRCRD is a 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
- Willits Mitigation Land Management
- Public and Private partnerships

## Supporting the County through:

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

Five Year Strategic Plan: [mcrccd.org/publications](https://mcrccd.org/publications)

# Proposed Investments

Consistent with all the investments the County makes in MCRCO, 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 UC partnerships and invest 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 County-MCRCO 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, \$656,902 + \$749,507 (SWRCB) - 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

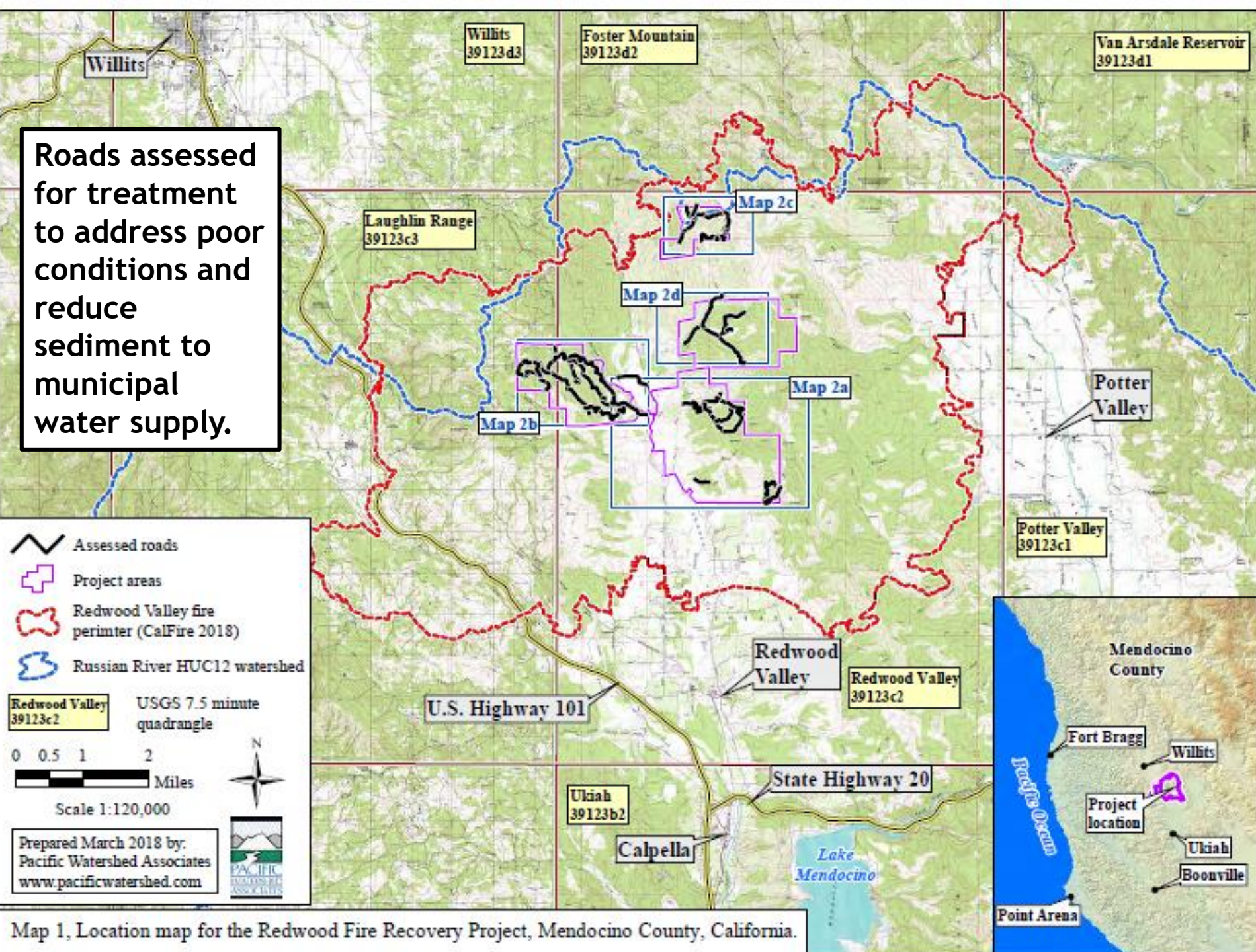
- Remove additional dangerous dead and dying trees from fire footprint. Two phases have been completed, recommend additional investment of **\$500K**

## Fire Restoration – Road Storm-proofing

- 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.



Map 1, Location map for the Redwood Fire Recovery Project, Mendocino County, California.

# 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

- County match or in-kind contributions improve application competitiveness. (**\$0** PG&E)

## 4. Invest in CEQA - many grant funding opportunities require that CEQA already be completed prior to application submittal

- Initial supplement of archaeological and rare plant surveys at 4 sites at average \$10K each = **\$40K** PG&E.



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

- **Reforestation in Redwood Complex Fire footprint**
- **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.
  - MCRCDD 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

- **Continued R&D of gasification energy technology: \$500K**
  - Technology trial and refinement, best practices, economics
  - Utilization of various outputs - energy, usable heat, biochar
- **Incubate new business models to promote more economical fire fuel reduction and forest health improvement activities: \$600K**
  - Leverage UC expertise, connections to other groups, grant writing
  - Engineering, research trials, demonstration, business modelling
  - Working lands carbon sequestration - Mendocino leadership
- **Promote commercial use of smaller trees: \$200K**
  - Trial and refine different construction techniques
  - Workforce development trainings
  - Developing the assumptions behind the business case

# 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	\$1.4M from #19-09 & SWRCB
CEQA	\$40K	Improve capacity, readiness and competitiveness in future grants on behalf of the County	#21-05, 4 new projects could bring in \$Ms
Woody Biomass Innovation Incubator	\$500K \$600K \$200K	Biogasifier Fuel Reduction, Biomass Business Incubator, Workforce Training, Small-diameter tree utilization	\$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 Return on Investment (ROI)	~ \$7M

Evaluation Criteria	Haz Tree Removal \$500K	Road Improve \$500K	CEQA \$40K	Fuel Reduction Biogasifier \$500K	Biomass Business Incubator \$600K	Sm Tree Industry develop \$200K
1. Reimburse County						
2. Promote Fire Preparedness	X	X	X	X	X	X
3. Emergency response capacity	X	X				
4. 1-time, sustainable	X	X	X	Sustainable Long-term program	Sustainable Long-term program	Sustainable Long-term program
5. Leverage existing funds	X	X	X	X	X	X
6. Benefit County or underserved	X	X	X	X	X	X
7. Comm-based org				X	X	X
8. Return On Investment (will it bring in future funding?)		X	X	X	X	X
9. Alignment with Fire Recovery Work Plan	X	X	X	X	X	X