

California Climate Investments

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Forest Health Program Grant Guidelines

FY 2022-2023



CALIFORNIA
NATURAL
RESOURCES
AGENCY

December 15, 2022

Proposals Due: 3 p.m., February 28, 2023

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FOREST HEALTH PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Forest Health Program addresses the risk to California's forests from extreme disturbance events including catastrophic wildfires, drought, and pest mortality. These events are the result of climate change, forest overcrowding, past land management practices, and an increasing number of people living in the wildland and urban interface.

CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program awards funding to landscape-scale land management projects that achieve the following objectives:

- Restore forest health and disaster resilience to California's forests.
- Protect upper watersheds where California's water supply originates.
- Promote long-term storage of carbon in forest trees and soils.
- Minimize the loss of forest carbon from unnaturally severe disturbance events.
- Further the goals of the [California Forest Carbon Plan](#), [California's Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan](#) and [AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan](#)

CAL FIRE seeks to significantly increase fuels management, fire reintroduction, and reforestation of forests degraded by overcrowding, drought, pest infestation, and catastrophic fire. All Forest Health projects must have climate benefits from 1) treatment activities, 2) avoided future wildfire and fossil fuel use, and/or 3) reforestation and/or growth and yield of remaining vegetation. Applicants are required to submit supporting documentation to enable CAL FIRE staff to validate benefits using the [Forest Health Quantification Methodology and Calculator Tool](#) developed by CAL FIRE and the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

This Fiscal Year 2022-23 solicitation includes four different grant types:

- Forest Health (please refer to [Appendix B](#))
- Tribal Wildfire Resilience Implementation (please refer to [Appendix A](#))
- Tribal Wildfire Resilience Planning (please refer to [Appendix A](#))
- Forest Health Post-Fire Reforestation and Regeneration (please refer to [Appendix C](#))

Applicants applying for multiple grant types must submit separate applications for each type.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY – FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023

Up to \$120 million of Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund monies will be awarded to eligible applicants through CAL FIRE’s Forest Health Program.

Up to an additional \$50 million will be awarded to post-fire recovery and regeneration focused grant proposals.

Up to an additional \$19 million is available for Tribal Wildfire Resilience, including up to \$15 million for tribal wildfire resilience implementation projects and up to \$4 million in tribal wildfire resilience planning grants.

Grant Type	Funding Available Amount	Grant End Date
Forest Health	Up to \$120 million	3/31/2029
Forest Health Post-Fire Reforestation and Regeneration	Up to \$50 million	3/31/2029
Tribal Wildfire Resilience	Up to \$15 million	3/31/2026
Tribal Wildfire Resilience Planning	Up to \$4 million	3/31/2026

Eligibility and scoring criteria for each grant type are listed in Appendices A – C:

[Appendix A – Tribal Wildfire Resilience Program](#)

[Appendix B – Forest Health](#)

[Appendix C – Post Fire Restoration and Reforestation](#)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications to the Forest Health Program, including Tribal Wildfire Resilience and Post-Fire Reforestation and Restoration applicants, must submit applications using the Grants Portal in eCivis by the application deadline of **3 p.m. PST on February 28, 2023**. Please verify that you have selected the applicable grant solicitation for the project type you are applying for when starting your application.

[Forest Health and Post-Fire Reforestation and Regeneration Grant Solicitation Link](#)
[Tribal Wildfire Resilience Grant Solicitation Link](#)

All required questions and forms must be submitted through the Grants Portal. Hard copy and electronic copies submitted through an alternate method will not be accepted. If you do not have access to reliable internet or have other barriers to utilizing the Grants Portal in eCivis, please contact Julie Howard by email or phone at Julie.Howard@fire.ca.gov or (831) 345-4942, within 1 month of solicitation release to discuss alternative ways to submit an application.

Please refer to the [Grants Portal – Application Submittal User Guide](#) for detailed instructions on how to access Grants Portal and complete your application. The guide is also accessible via the CAL FIRE Grants webpage. It is highly recommended that you set-up an account, access and submit your application in advance of the application deadline to avoid any technical issues.

The below is a list of files that must be uploaded as part of your application along with links to the templates when applicable. Please refer to the full application for required file formats and size limitations for each file type.

- Articles of Incorporation (Required for Non-Profit)
- Governing Resolution (Required for Non-Profit and Local Agencies)
- [Non-Discrimination Compliance Statement \(Std. 19\)](#)
- [Drug-Free Workplace Certification \(Std. 21\)](#)
- [Payee Data Record \(Std. 204\)](#) *A W-9 may be substituted for tribal and governmental agencies*
- Scope of Work- not required for Tribal Wildfire Resilience applicants
- Project Maps- not required for Tribal Wildfire Resilience applicants
- [Forest Health Project Workbook](#)- not required for Tribal Wildfire Resilience applicants
- Spatial Data Shapefiles – not required for Tribal Wildfire Resilience applicants
- Project Budget Narrative- optional for Tribal Wildfire Resilience applicants
- [GHG Emissions Workbook](#) – not required for Tribal Wildfire Resilience applicants
- [CCI Job Co-benefit Modeling Tool](#) – not required for Tribal Wildfire Resilience applicants
- Project Partner Letters of Commitment- optional for Tribal Wildfire Resilience applicants
- Letters of Support- optional for Tribal Wildfire Resilience applicants

- [CARB Co-Benefit Assessment Methodology Community Engagement Questionnaire](#) – not required for Tribal Wildfire Resilience applicants
- Statement of Qualifications (SOQ)
- Environmental Compliance Documents- not required for Tribal Wildfire Resilience applicants
- UC/CSU Model Agreement Template (Required for UC/CSU and associated auxiliary entities)
- Justification and supporting documentation for indirect rates exceeding 12%

Application Review and Awards

A list of Forest Health and Reforestation and regeneration applications received will be posted on the Forest Health grants webpage at least 10 business days prior to award. Tribal Wildfire Resilience applications will not be posted to the website.

CAL FIRE will review completed applications that meet the Program Eligibility Criteria. Eligible applications will be scored by CAL FIRE staff and an inter-agency panel using the Grant Selection Criteria. Final awards will be determined based on project scores, program need, and relative fit of the awarded projects to each other both geographically and with respect to proposed activities.

CAL FIRE reserves the right to fund projects in total or in part, whichever best serves the objectives of the Forest Health Program. Project applicants that are selected to receive partial funding will be provided additional information on their revised funding amount, project performance period, and any other changes to their application as needed.

Project applicants will be notified by email if they have, or have not been, selected to receive funding.

Successful applications will be summarized and posted to CAL FIRE's [Forest Health grants webpage](#) within two weeks of the decision to fund. Applications will be treated in accordance with the Public Records Act requirements, and certain information, subject to those requirements, may be publicly disclosed.

GENERAL GRANT CONDITIONS AND PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Project Performance Period

- The Project Performance Period is from the time the Grant Agreement is fully signed by the CAL FIRE Deputy Director of designee to the Agreement termination date. Only eligible costs incurred during the Project Performance Period will be paid by the State.
- CAL FIRE will execute all Grant Agreements as soon as feasible and no later than October 30, 2023, for Forest Health grant awards.
- **Forest Health and Reforestation Project work must be completed no later than March 31, 2029. Tribal Wildfire Resilience project work must be completed no later than March 31, 2026.**
- Final invoices for all grant-related work must be submitted to CAL FIRE no later than 30 days after the Project Performance Period.

Project Reporting

Using the Grants Portal system, grantees are required to report on progress toward completion of the Scope of Work included in the Grant Agreement with every invoice, or quarterly, whichever is more frequent, using the Forest Health Progress Report template. If reporting quarterly, reports are due on the last business day of the month following the end of a quarter (April 30, July 31, October 31, January 31).

Report contents are determined by CAL FIRE and are consistent with the required project type-specific reporting requirements in CARB's Funding Guidelines. Information to be submitted includes, but is not limited to:

- Project accomplishments
- Challenges and obstacles
- State dollars allocated and matching funds contributed
- Acres of land treated, activities completed, and GIS shapefile that map those treatments
- Number of trees and acres planted
- Bone dry tons of biomass delivered to a renewable energy facility, tons of biomass delivered to a sawmill, and renewable energy produced
- Before and after photographs
- Jobs created and supported (both by grantee and contractors) and job training provided (this will be required to be in June and December)
- Benefits to disadvantaged and/or low-income communities, and other co-benefits.

Grantees will also be required to provide project information to CAL FIRE for entry into CalMAPPER, CAL FIRE's geospatial database that facilitates mapping and monitoring of CCI and other CAL FIRE vegetation treatment projects. Information from grantees will include shapefiles or feature class of project boundary (use Esri ArcGIS or Esri ArcView geodatabase), project type, grantee contact information, project activities and costs, and other information. CalMAPPER information from grantees will be required at specific times throughout the effective period of the grant, including at initial grant award and at periodic invoice billing submissions. Some reported project information will be publicly available on the CARB website and/or CAL FIRE website.

All grantees are required to submit a final project report to CAL FIRE with the final invoice. Final report will include final summary of all metrics reported in prior periodic progress reports, as well as narrative summary of project outcomes and photographic documentation of project activities and outcomes.

A subset of randomly selected funded projects will be required to report results of the project and permanence conditions for ten years after project completion in accordance with the CARB Funding Guidelines. CAL FIRE will collect monitoring data on these projects during that period.

Changes to an Approved Project and Amendments

A grantee wishing to change the scope of work, budget, or project performance period of an approved project must submit the proposed change via Grants Portal to CAL FIRE for review and approval. Any change must be consistent with the statutes, regulations, and guidance governing the program. Requested budget changes may not increase the amount of funds awarded by CAL FIRE, unless such changes are initiated by CAL FIRE.

The following scope of work revisions may require the project Grant Agreement to be amended:

- Change in project end date (as allowed by legislation only);
- Modifications in any budget categories by more than 10%
- Change in physical project location
- Any changes to project area or treatment type that result in a difference of more than 10% of expected GHG sequestration.

CAL FIRE reserves the right to reject proposed changes to an approved project and/or budget. Specific amendment guidance is provided on [Forest Health Grantee Resources webpage](#).

Once a Grant Agreement has been signed, it may only be amended with advanced written consent of CAL FIRE and the grantee. Any amendment requests to extend the project timeline, where permissible, must be submitted to CAL FIRE sixty (60) days before the agreement end date using the Grants Portal system. CAL FIRE reserves the right to waive the sixty (60) days in extenuating circumstances.

Project Termination

A Grant Agreement may only be terminated by CAL FIRE or the grantee upon 30 days advanced written notice to the other party. Further details on this process will be provided in the Grant Agreement.

Accounting Requirements

The grantee must maintain an accounting system that accurately reflects fiscal transactions. The accounting system must provide an adequate audit trail, including original source documents, such as receipts, progress payments, invoices, purchase orders, timecards, cancelled checks, etc. The accounting system must document the total cost of the project. The grantee must maintain accounting records for three years following the duration of the Project Performance Period or one year after final disposition of any disputed audit findings, whichever occurs later. Grantees are required to keep source documents for all expenditures related to each grant for at least three years following Project completion and one year following an audit.

Loss of Funding

CAL FIRE reserves the right to withdraw funding award if stated requirements are not met. The following are examples of actions that may result in a grantee's loss of funding. This is not a complete list and is intended only to show examples.

1. Grantee fails to obtain an executed Grant Agreement by October 31, 2023.
2. Grantee has not satisfied all legal requirements (e.g., CEQA, NEPA, ancillary contracts, agreements, MOUs, etc.) necessary to initiate ground disturbing project work within 1 year of grant agreement execution.
3. Grantee fails to use all the grant funds.
4. Grantee withdraws from the grant program.
5. Grantee fails to complete the funded project described in the Grant Agreement Scope of Work.
6. Grantee fails to submit all documentation within the time periods specified in the Grant Agreement.
7. Grantee changes the Project Scope of Work or project implementation without CAL FIRE's prior written approval.
8. Grantee changes the Project Scope of Work that is inconsistent with the overall program goals or eligible activities.
9. Grantee or CAL FIRE terminates the Agreement.

10. Any activity that results in significant change to the expected GHG impacts of the project. This does not apply to Wildfire and Forest Resilience Projects.
11. Grantee does not reinvest project income into the project.

Eligible Costs

Project costs must be consistent with the approved Project Application and incurred during the Project Performance Period as specified in the Grant Agreement. Project elements that do not produce a direct GHG benefit (e.g., education, planning, etc.) must be linked with on the ground activities that do, or they will not be eligible costs.

Budget Item	Eligible Cost	Required Documentation
<p>Salaries and Wages</p>	<p>Salaries and wages of employees employed by the grantee who are DIRECTLY engaged in the execution of the grant project. Limited to actual time spent on the grant project. Leave benefits (i.e. sick leave, vacation, etc.) that are consistent with the grantee’s leave benefit policy may be charged to the grant in proportion to the percentage of time worked on the grant within the pay period. Examples of expenditures include time related to site visits and project monitoring, and completion of reporting related to the grant project. Staff time related to accounting, business services, etc. are allowed only if those functions are not included in the grantee's overhead cost.</p>	<p>A payroll summary of all employees’ time spent on the project must be provided with invoices requesting salary/wage reimbursement. Payroll documentation should show a nexus between time worked on the project and wages paid to the employee after the fact. Timesheets or similar documentation detailing days and hours worked on the project must be maintained and retained by the grantee for audit purposes but should not be submitted to CAL FIRE unless otherwise instructed. Any leave charged to the grant must reflect the calculation of time spent on the grant compared to overall time worked. A statement certifying that leave charged to the grant is in proportion to employee’s time spent must be included as part of the supporting documentation. All salary and wages charged to the grant must tie back to the grantee’s accounting records.</p>

Budget Item	Eligible Cost	Required Documentation
Benefits	Employer contribution share of fringe benefits associated with employees (paid from salaries and wages Budget Item) who are directly engaged in the execution of the grant project. This will include Social Security, Medicare, Health Insurance, Pension Plan costs, etc. as applicable for the specific employee. Sick/Vacation/Holiday leave is only allowed for full time employees that are exclusively paid by the grant.	Same documentation as Salaries and Wages. Payroll documentation showing wages and hours paid to the employee and associated fringe benefits.
Contractual	Direct consultant and contractual services necessary to achieve the objectives of the grant. Examples of contractual costs will be RPF supervision/certification, professional/consultant services (the costs of consultant services necessary for project planning and implementation), fire prevention contractor, etc. Procurement of contractual services should be documented to ensure selection on a competitive basis and documentation of price analysis.	Invoices from Consultant/Contractor identifying expenditure, services performed and period of services. Documents related to consultant/contractor selection analysis shall be kept by the grantee but available for audit purposes.
Supplies	Supplies that are used in the direct support of the project are allowable. Supplies exceeding \$500 per unit cost shall be documented to ensure procurement of supplies on a competitive basis and documentation of price analysis.	Receipts identifying items purchased, cost and date of purchase. Documentation related to cost analysis of procurement of supplies exceeding \$500 shall be kept by the grantee but available for audit purposes.

Budget Item	Eligible Cost	Required Documentation
Travel	<p>Travel cost associated with travel to and from project sites, meetings, etc. directly related to the grant project and must be considered reasonable and necessary for the completion of the project. Reimbursement rates shall be consistent with the grantee's written travel policy. Absent a written policy, per diem shall not exceed the California Standard Per Diem Rate allowable by the U.S. General Services Administration. Mileage rates shall not exceed the rates allowable by IRS.</p>	<p>Receipts identifying travel cost (i.e. lodging, rental cars). Mileage must be documented by either employee travel claims that are signed by the employee or vehicle mileage logs for vehicles owned by the grantee. Per Diem must be documented by employee travel claims. Grantee may be requested to provide a copy of their written travel policy.</p>
Equipment	<p>Equipment is an item exceeding \$5,000 or more per unit cost and has a tangible useful life of more than one year. Cost to lease equipment to use in the grant project may be charged to the grant. A cost-benefit analysis to justify the cost of purchasing equipment versus leasing must be provided. Procurement of equipment must be done on a competitive basis and include documentation of price analysis. Grantee must include in the application package the proposed use and maintenance plans for equipment after the performance period of the grant. Disposition of equipment beyond the project performance period is subject to CAL FIRE approval.</p>	<p>Cost of equipment purchased shall be substantiated by purchase receipt. Documentation related to price analysis of procurement of equipment shall be kept by the grantee but available for audit purposes. Disposition of the equipment must be approved by CAL FIRE in writing at the end of the grant term.</p>

Budget Item	Eligible Cost	Required Documentation
Other	<p>Other costs that do not fit in any of the above categories. Cost must be directly related to the grant project. Use of equipment owned by the grantee may be charged to the grant at a rate set by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) "Labor Surcharge and Equipment Rental Rate" guide. Rates assessed on equipment not addressed in the Caltrans guide must obtain CAL FIRE approval prior to equipment use. Cost (such as rent, utilities, phones, general office supplies, etc.) that must be apportioned to the grant is considered indirect cost unless written justification is submitted and approved by CAL FIRE.</p>	<p>Invoices or receipts identifying the item and cost charged to the grant. Cost of leased equipment charged to the grant must be substantiated with receipts identifying equipment leased, dates equipment was leased, lease rate and total cost. Usage of grantee equipment must be substantiated with an equipment usage log, equipment used, rate and total rental cost.</p>
Indirect Costs	<p>Indirect Costs are costs associated with doing business that are of a general nature and are incurred to benefit two or more functions within the grantee organization. These costs are not usually identified specifically within the grant agreement, project, or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization. Examples include salaries and benefits of employees not directly assigned to a project; functions such as personnel, accounting, budgeting, audits, business services, information technology, janitorial, and salaries of supervisors and managers; and rent, utilities, supplies, etc. Functions included as direct versus indirect costs must be applied consistently for all activities within the grantee organization, regardless of fund source. The maximum allowable indirect charge for this grant program is 12% unless exemption is granted by CAL FIRE (see Indirect Rate Exemption).</p>	<p>Applied on a percentage (%) basis on direct costs <u>except for equipment</u>. Documentation related to the determination of the grantee's indirect cost rate must be retained by the grantee for audit purposes.</p>

Indirect Rate Exemption

Inclusion of indirect costs is acceptable and should generally not exceed 12% of the total direct grant costs, minus equipment costs. Applicants may request a higher indirect rate by providing additional justification as to why a higher rate is needed as well as including appropriate documentation substantiating the basis of the higher indirect rate (e.g. a copy of a federally approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, etc.) In no instance may the request exceed 20%. This shall apply to all entities including University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) entities. Documentation related to the determination of the Grantee's indirect cost rate must be retained by the Grantee for audit purposes.

For applicants requesting the higher rate, you may include this rate within your application request and budget breakdown. CAL FIRE will evaluate your request for higher indirect rate concurrently with your grant application. If your project is selected for award but the higher rate is not approved, CAL FIRE will notify you of the revised award amount and changes to your budget if needed. Approval of the higher indirect rate is solely at CAL FIRE's discretion.

Ineligible Costs

The following are ineligible for reimbursement under the grant:

1. Costs incurred before or after the Project Performance Period, including but not limited to costs to preparation the project application associated with this solicitation.
2. Cost of preparing the Project Application.
3. Overtime, for employees and/or contractors. Overtime hours will be reimbursed at the straight time rate.
4. Projects or activities utilizing CAL FIRE staff without corresponding reimbursements or requests seeking funding for services already provided by CAL FIRE.
5. Late fees, penalties and bank fees.
6. Any activity that would lead to the project not achieving a GHG reduction. This does not apply to Tribal Wildfire Resilience projects.
7. Any practice or activity that, in CAL FIRE's judgment, is not a best management practice or that is, or could be, harmful to the forested landscape.
8. Any indirect costs based on percentage of equipment costs (see above).

Payment of Grant Funds

Funds will be disbursed only once there is a fully executed Grant Agreement between CAL FIRE and the grantee. **Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis** (i.e., the grantee pays for services, products or supplies; invoices CAL FIRE for the same; and the State

reimburses the grantee upon approval of the invoice). No work prior to or after the grant period will be reimbursable. Advance funds may be provided (see Advances below) in lieu of reimbursement.

The grantee will submit to CAL FIRE an invoice form consistent with invoice guidance in Appendix J when requesting payment of any type and to include appropriate documentation to support the costs (e.g., paid vendor receipts, payroll documents, other back-up documentation of expenses). An invoice template is available on the [Forest Health Grantee Resources webpage](#).

A Forest Health Grant Project Progress Report or Final Report shall accompany all invoices. CAL FIRE may conduct a site inspection to verify that work invoiced has been satisfactorily completed. The invoice will then be forwarded to Sacramento Headquarters for review and subsequent approval of payment. **Expect payment to be issued 45 calendar days from the time an undisputed invoice is received.** If an invoice is incomplete or non-reimbursable, it will be returned to the grantee.

Advances

Advance payments may be considered for nonprofit organizations, local agencies, special districts (including RCDs), private forest landowners, and California Native American tribes. Advance payments are solely at CAL FIRE's discretion and eligibility expires January 1, 2024 unless authority to advance funds is extended.

An [Advance Payment Request Form](#) must be submitted identifying how funds may be used over a six-month period. No single advance payment shall exceed 25% of the total grant award. [An accountability report](#) must be submitted to CAL FIRE no later than every four months after receiving the advance until the funds have been fully utilized. Advances should be fully utilized within a six-month period unless additional time is approved by CAL FIRE. No additional advances may be requested until acceptable documentation is received by CAL FIRE that the previous advance has been fully exhausted on eligible expenses.

Prevailing Wage Requirements

CAL FIRE provides no opinion as to whether projects may be subject to prevailing wage law. For determination on prevailing wage applicability, please contact the [Department of Industrial Relations](#). It is the applicant's responsibility to budget for prevailing wages in their project cost when applicable.

Conflict of Interest

All applicants and individuals who participate in the review of submitted Project Proposals are subject to state and federal conflict of interest laws. Any individual who has participated in planning or setting priorities for a specific solicitation over and above the public comment process and tribal consultation or who will participate in any part of the grant development and negotiation process on behalf of the public is ineligible to receive funds or personally benefit

from funds through that solicitation. Failure to comply with conflict-of-interest laws, including business and financial disclosure provisions, will result in the Project Proposal being rejected and any subsequent grant agreement being declared void. Other legal actions may also be taken. Applicable statutes include, but are not limited to, California Government Code section 1090 and Public Contract Code sections 10365.5, 10410, and 10411.

Grantee must establish conflict of interest policies and procedures and maintain adequate controls to ensure that the grantee or anyone acting on behalf of the grantee does not have any conflicting personal and/or financial interest associated with activities funded by the grant project. CAL FIRE may request additional documentation during the performance of the grant, including during review of financial and/or progress reporting, or during State Audit to verify that a conflict of interest does not exist.

State Audit

Upon completion of the project, the State may audit the project records. A project is considered complete upon receipt of final grant payment from the State. The purpose of the audit is to verify that project expenditures were properly documented. The audit would be requested by the State after the final payment request has been received and all project transactions have been completed.

If your project is selected for audit, you will be contacted at least 30 days in advance to the audit commencing. The audit should include all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records of the grantee, as they relate to the project for which State funds were granted. Projects may be subject to an audit at any time during the Project Performance Period and three years following Project completion.

In an effort to expedite the audit, the grantee shall have the project records, including the source documents, and cancelled checks readily available. The grantee shall also provide an employee having knowledge of the project and the accounting procedure or system to assist the State auditor. The grantee shall provide a copy of any document, paper, record, or the like as requested by the State auditor.

All project records must be retained by the grantee for a period of not less than one year after the State audit or after final disposition of any disputed audit findings. Grantees are required to keep source documents for all expenditures related to each grant for at least three years following Project completion and one year following an audit unless the grantee has a longer retention policy.

APPENDIX A – TRIBAL WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The 2021 state budget includes \$19 million to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CAL FIRE) for competitive grants for Native American tribes located within the State of California. In response to guidance received from California Native American tribes during the early consultation on the creation of this new grant program, CAL FIRE and California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) (collectively the State) are collaborating on the review of applications and administering of the funds. CNRA is leading program design and consulting with CAL FIRE regarding program administration including processes, project selection, and tribal consultation. CAL FIRE will administer the program, including running a solicitation, issuing grant agreements, and processing progress reports and invoices.

These grant funds will assist California Native American tribes in managing ancestral lands, implementing and promoting Traditional Ecological Knowledges in wildfire resilience, and establishing wildfire safety for tribal communities.

Funding Allocation

\$19 million is available for tribal wildfire resilience projects. Up to \$15 million is available for wildfire resilience implementation projects. The remainder is available for planning projects. Unspent Tribal Wildfire Resilience funding will be made available in future solicitations.

Grant Amounts

The maximum award for an individual project is \$5,000,000. The minimum award is \$250,000.

Project Period

Project implementation must be completed by March 31, 2026. Grant agreements for awarded projects will list March 31, 2026 as the project performance end date. Final billing is due 30 days after project end date.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are federally recognized Native American tribes or non-federally recognized California Native American tribes listed on the California Tribal Contact List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission as described in Section 65352.4 of the Government Code.

Eligible Projects

This program is a competitive grant program to support California Native American tribes located within the State through planning or implementation projects. Eligible projects will focus on wildfire resiliency and forest health in tribal communities and address a critical need for the tribe.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Projects carried out on lands subject to the jurisdictional control or the ownership of a California Native American tribe, as defined in Section 21073, may be exempt from CEQA. The applicant should work with CAL FIRE to determine eligibility.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND PRIORITIES

General Requirements

1. Projects must serve California Native American tribes and their communities located within the State of California.
2. Projects must establish and/or improve wildfire resiliency and/or forest health on tribal ancestral lands to address a critical need in tribal communities or prepare tribes to develop and/or increase wildfire resiliency and/or forest health through planning activities.

Funding Priorities

Applicant must propose a planning **OR** implementation project.

Planning or implementation projects containing any of the following elements will be given priority consideration in funding decisions:

Planning Projects

1. Planning activities to prepare a tribe to apply for and implement a State or federal grant for forest and wildfire resiliency and wildfire safety within the tribes ancestral lands and/or implement and promote Traditional Ecological Knowledges in wildfire resilience and/or forest health.
2. Planning activities to prepare a California Native American tribe for a cultural or prescribed burn.
3. Planning activities that incorporate tribal wildfire fire prevention and forestry expertise and Traditional Ecological Knowledges.
4. Planning activities to prepare tribal and ancestral lands for wildfire resilience.
5. Planning activities to prepare a tribe for a restoration project with the goal of increasing biodiversity and/or access to traditional food sources and/or habitats.
6. Planning activities focused on forest health.
7. Planning to include a workforce and/or economic development aspect into a proposed project.

Implementation Projects

1. Projects that are ready to implement. “Ready to implement” means projects in which 25 percent or less of the requested grant funding will be used for planning, permitting or administrative costs and the project can be completed within two years of grant award.
2. Projects that propose cultural and/or prescribed burns.
3. Projects that utilize tribal wildfire prevention and forest health expertise, Traditional Ecological Knowledges, and existing expertise within a tribe.
4. Projects that will establish and/or improve wildfire resiliency, forest health and wildfire safety within a tribe’s ancestral lands, and/or focus on increasing biodiversity and restoration within a tribe’s ancestral lands.
5. Projects that will include workforce development, training programs, and/or conservation corps programs for tribal members (less points for non-tribal members) or projects including economic development, access, co-management, or ancestral land return for California Native America tribe(s).

Other Funding Considerations

In evaluating project proposals, scores are used to determine initial rankings and facilitate discussions for each proposal among a multidisciplinary evaluation team. To achieve equitable distribution of funds, the State may consider additional factors including, but not limited to geographic distribution of funds, previous grant performance, and feasibility to accept partial funding.

Examples of Potential Funded Activities

This program is a competitive grant program to support California Native American tribal planning and implementation projects to establish and/or improve forest and wildfire resiliency and wildfire safety within tribal and ancestral lands.

Below is a list of eligible project activities; this is not a comprehensive list of examples.

Planning Activities

- Preparation of CEQA and/or NEPA compliance documents
Note: Projects carried out on lands subject to the jurisdictional control or the ownership of a California Native American tribe, as defined in Section 21073, may be exempt from CEQA. Please work with CAL FIRE to determine eligibility.
- Surveying and/or mapping of proposed project areas
- Development of site maps and implementation plans
- Obtaining project permits

- Preparing and delivering an outreach campaign targeted at adjacent landowners, tribes, community partners, etc.
- Researching and training tribal wildfire prevention and forest health expertise and Traditional Ecological Knowledges practitioners and/or staff
- Developing restoration plans that will incorporate cultural or prescribed burns to increase biodiversity, restore habitats and improve wildfire resiliency, forest health, and/or increase access to traditional foods and materials.
- Developing a workforce development component of a future cultural or prescribed burn, forest restoration, and/or wildfire resiliency project
- Planning for one or more of the implementation activities listed below

Implementation Activities

- Implementation of a cultural burn
- Implementation of a prescribed burn
- Implementation of forest and wildfire resiliency projects including, but not limited to, dead and dying tree removal, understory thinning and/or removal, tree or other native and/or traditional vegetation plantings
- Implementation of restoration projects focused on forest health that provides benefits including, but not limited to, increasing biodiversity and improving access and use to traditional foods and culturally significant species.

Ineligible Project Examples

The list below provides examples of projects and elements that are not eligible; this is not a comprehensive list.

- Projects that do not serve tribes and/or tribal communities
- Planning or implementation projects that will not move a tribe towards wildfire resiliency and/or cultural or prescribed burns and/or increased biodiversity and/or improved forest health on ancestral lands
- Project Proposals that include more than one project (however, more than one Project Proposal can be submitted by an applicant)
- Implementation projects contingent on future land acquisition for project
- Cash reserves, endowments, or fundraising activities
- Payment of a debt or mortgage
- Lobbying or lawsuits
- Sub-granting or regranting
- Implementation projects where the applicant cannot satisfactorily gain permission to develop/maintain the site

SELECTION PROCESS

Step 1

- Applicants submit Project Proposals through the eCivis Grants Portal. See “Application Process” starting on page 15 of these guidelines.
- **No hardcopy Project Proposals are required.** If a tribe has barriers to accessing the internet, please contact CAL FIRE to discuss alternate means of communication and submittal of Project Proposals.

- Project Proposals are reviewed and evaluated. Incomplete or ineligible Project Proposals may be removed from the competitive process.

Step 2

- Field visits or project presentations are conducted for the most competitive projects. Applicants may be required to provide additional documentation prior to a field visit or project presentation.

Step 3

- Applicants selected to further compete will submit additional documentation.
- Documentation is evaluated, with the most competitive projects being recommended for funding.

Once Step 3 evaluations have been completed, recommendations are submitted to the California Secretary for Natural Resources. Upon approval by the Secretary, grant awards are announced.

The State reserves the right to reject any Project Proposal from an applicant who is in violation of law or policy at any other public agency. Potential violations include, but are not limited to, being in default of performance requirements in other contracts or grant agreements issued by the State, being engaged in, or suspected of, criminal conduct that poorly reflects or brings discredit to the State, or failing to have all required licenses necessary to carry out the project.

The State further reserves the right to reject any Project Proposal from an applicant who has a history of performance issues with past grants or other agreements with any public entity.

EVALUATION AND SCORING CRITERIA

Information provided during the evaluation process should demonstrate how effectively the proposed project meets statutory requirements, funding priorities, and program objectives. Projects will be evaluated using established criteria and any additional funding considerations. Project Proposals will receive an initial ranking, with a score of 100 points possible. The initial ranking will be used to facilitate discussions about each proposal among a multidisciplinary evaluation team.

Each project will be evaluated for eligibility. Points will then be attributed according to criteria in the tables below.

Criteria for Scoring Planning Projects

Planning Project Scoring Criteria	Points
Planning activities to prepare a tribe to apply for and/or implement a State or federal grant for forest and wildfire resiliency and wildfire safety within a tribe's ancestral lands, and/or implement and promote traditional ecological knowledge in wildfire resilience.	0-20
Planning activities to prepare a tribe for a cultural or prescribed burn	0-20
Planning to include the identification, study, and/or use of tribal wildfire prevention and forest health expertise and/or Traditional Ecological Knowledges in the project	0-15
Planning activities to prepare tribal and ancestral lands for wildfire resilience	0-10
Planning activities to prepare a tribe for a restoration project with the goal of increasing biodiversity or access to traditional food sources and/or culturally important species	0-10
Planning activities focused on forest health	0-10
Planning to incorporate a workforce and/or economic development aspect to a proposed project	0-5
Organizational capacity	0-10
Total Points Possible	100

Criteria for Scoring Implementation Projects

Implementation Project Scoring Criteria	Points
Implementation-ready projects	0-20
Cultural or prescribed burns	0-20
Projects that will utilize tribal wildfire prevention and forest health expertise and/or Traditional Ecological Knowledges. Projects that have a hands-on Traditional Ecological Knowledges and other tribal expertise training component will also qualify for this category.	0-15
Restoration projects to increase biodiversity and/or access to traditional food sources and/or culturally important species	0-10
Wildfire resilience projects	0-10
Forest health projects	0-10
Projects that include workforce development and/or training for tribal members (less points for non-tribal members) or projects that include economic development, access, co-management, or ancestral land return for California Native American tribe(s)	0-5
Organizational capacity	0-10
Total Points Possible	100

APPENDIX B – FOREST HEALTH APPLICATIONS

Eligibility and Requirements

Eligible Activities

Fostering healthy forests calls for a balanced approach using a variety of activities including fuel reduction, fire reintroduction, pest management, reforestation, and utilization of woody biomass. Activities must be applied across large landscapes to achieve regional resilience. Projects that implement a mix of activities with multiple, experienced partners will be given priority. This prioritization does not apply to Tribal Wildfire Resilience applications. Projects may include planning and organizational capacity-building as components of proposed projects. Up to 10% of the total grant funds requested may be spent on such activities.

All revenues collected as a result of activities paid for, in full or in part, with Forest Health Program grant funds must be tracked and re-invested into the project to further grant objectives (please refer to “Program Income” in Appendix D- Explanation of Terms).

The following activities are eligible for funding through the Forest Health Program:

- **Forest Fuels Reduction** – Eligible activities must focus on treating understory trees and brush with the goals of reducing fire hazards, improving tree growth, stabilizing carbon in retained trees, and increasing forest resilience. Forest thinning activities can be manual or mechanical and must be designed to change stand structure to: 1) concentrate carbon storage in widely-spaced and larger trees that are more resilient to wildfire, drought, and pest outbreaks; and 2) reduce the likelihood of wildfire transitioning from the forest floor into the forest canopy. Commercial harvesting activities should focus on promoting carbon storage in remaining trees and must be compatible with achieving resilient forests with stable carbon storage that provide co-benefits such as fish and wildlife habitat, increased biodiversity, and wildlife adaptation to climate change. Pre-commercial and brush removal activities, as well as post-wildfire fuels reduction that removes dead and dying trees in conjunction with reforestation are also eligible.
- **Prescribed Fire** – Eligible activities must focus on the need to reintroduce fires to fire-adapted forest ecosystems. Applying fire to the landscape may serve multiple purposes, including reducing fuel loads, creating heterogenous and diverse vegetation, maintaining cultural practices of indigenous communities, and/or promoting healthy ecosystem processes such as water storage and pest control. Prescribed burns may be completed with private or public burn crews.
- **Pest Management** – Eligible activities must address pest control and related forest health improvement, while reducing pest-related mortality, improving tree growth, stabilizing carbon retained in trees, and increasing forest resilience. Activities may include forest thinning and/or brush removal. Forest thinning activities (manual or mechanical) should change stand structure to increase carbon storage in more widely spaced trees that are more resistant to wildfire, drought, and insect attacks. Harvesting activities should focus on removing dead, diseased, suppressed, or slow-growing trees for the purpose of promoting carbon storage in remaining trees and must be compatible with achieving resilient forests

with stable carbon storage that provide co-benefits such as fish and wildlife habitat, increased biodiversity, and wildlife adaptation to climate change.

- **Reforestation** – Eligible activities should establish a diverse, native forest, which will result in stable carbon sequestration and storage, improved watershed and habitat functions, and forest resilience. Species selection must be appropriate for the site and may be used to address climate adaptation. Climate-appropriate seed lots may be identified using the [U.S. Forest Service's Seedlot Selection Tool](#). Additional resources are linked in Appendix C.

Reforestation of recently burned areas is also eligible for funding, including planning, site preparation, and planting; fire suppression repair costs are not eligible.

The Forest Health program does not fund afforestation or the establishment of forests in historically non-forested areas.

Please note that grant applications for the Forest Health Post-Fire Reforestation & Regeneration grant may ONLY include Reforestation activities and Biomass Utilization activities directly related to reforestation in the project proposal.

- **Biomass Utilization** – Eligible activities must: 1) utilize woody biomass for wood products such as post and pole, firewood, dimensional lumber, plywood, or other products that allow for continued carbon storage; 2) generate energy through combustion or gasification, which displaces carbon-intensive fossil fuel-based energy; or 3) utilize woody biomass to help develop markets for beneficial uses of the material. Beneficial uses include, but are not limited to, dimensional lumber, animal bedding, biochar, artistic and cultural products, cross-laminated timber, mulch, oriented strandboard, pulp, post, shredding, and veneer products.

Business development, workforce development, infrastructure building, and research activities are not eligible for Forest Health grant funding. If seeking funding for these types of activities, please visit CAL FIRE's [Wood Products & Bioenergy](#) and [Forest Health Research](#) program webpages for information.

All applications will be screened for eligibility. Applications must be complete and submitted by an eligible applicant in eCivis Portal. Projects should be designed to achieve GHG emissions benefits, must be within size and funding limits, and be able to be completed within the statutory time limits. Applications that do not meet these criteria will not be scored against the selection criteria and will not be eligible for award.

Eligible Organizations and Partners

CAL FIRE will enter into grant agreements with local, state, and federal public agencies; Native American tribes; universities; special districts; industrial and non-industrial private forest landowners; and non-profit organizations.

Applicants should work cooperatively with local partners to implement projects in a coordinated and expedited manner. Collaboration and support can be demonstrated by private and public involvement in the planning, funding, and implementation of the project. Collaboration should leverage resources to achieve an outcome that is larger than the sum of the individual projects

that may have been undertaken by each partnering organization independently. Applicants should take care to clearly indicate what work will be completed with funds from this solicitation.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

Forest Health projects must further the regulatory purposes of Division 25.5 commencing with Section 38500 of the Health and Safety Code. In its statutory role, the California Air Resources Board (CARB), has worked cooperatively with CAL FIRE and other experts to develop and approve the Forest Health Quantification Methodology for forest treatment activities, and an accounting strategy for combining the effects of treatment activities and their synergistic effects.

Applicants are not required to calculate the GHG benefits of proposed projects; however, they are required to submit a GHG workbook so that CAL FIRE staff may complete a quantitative estimate of the net GHG benefit of the project in terms of metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_{2e}). Calculations will be completed using the most current version [Forest Health Quantification Methodology \(QM\) and Calculator Tool](#). GHG benefit per Forest Health Program funds requested will ultimately be recorded as MTCO_{2e}/\$. Applications that do not include the required documentation may be disqualified.

Some activities, such as planning, outreach or education, may not have a measurable GHG emissions benefit. Applicants must provide a qualitative description of how these proposed activities will result in emissions reductions, further quantitative assessment of GHG impacts, or improve management actions or policy.

Project Scale

Forest Health projects must focus on large, landscape-scale forestlands composed of one or more landowners, which may cover multiple jurisdictions. Large landscapes will usually include watersheds, fireheds, or larger logical management units. The total project area should aim to be no less than 800 acres in size; landscape units do not have to be contiguous.

Funding Limits

Eligible Forest Health projects must be large, landscape-scale, with multiple benefits. The minimum grant amount requested should be no less than \$750,000. The maximum allowable amount is \$7 million. Funding limits for Tribal Wildfire Resilience Grants are different ([Appendix A](#)).

Project Readiness

Eligible projects must complete grant-related activities no later than March 31, 2029; it is recommended this be your project end date. CAL FIRE may also choose to fund a portion of a project based on funding availability.

Preference will be given to projects that have environmental compliance such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) completed before the project application is submitted (See [Appendix G](#)). Applicants must agree to complete all needed environmental compliance work within one year of award and

must demonstrate progress toward completing the work within six months of award. CAL FIRE will begin to review all awarded projects within 12 months of the grant award and may reallocate awarded funds to a different grantee if environmental compliance is not complete or reasonable progress cannot be demonstrated.

Equal Opportunity

CAL FIRE Forest Health Program is committed to supporting disadvantaged and marginalized communities. This commitment furthers the mission of CAL FIRE to serve and safeguard the people of California, as well as the [CCI legislative mandates](#) to invest in under-resourced communities and communities particularly vulnerable to climate change. Applicants are invited to describe how implementation of grant funds may elevate historically marginalized populations.

Application Scoring

Applicants are required to submit a complete project application including a detailed scope of work, project workplan and timeline, detailed budget, project maps and digital spatial data, supporting documents allowing for a calculation of GHG emission reductions by CAL FIRE staff, and additional supporting documents as listed in the Project Application package described below.

Upon close of the application period, applications will be reviewed to determine if the project meets eligibility requirements. Eligible projects will be scored against selection criteria to determine how well the project fits the purpose and objectives of the Forest Health Program using the Grant Selection Criteria on the following page.

Grant Selection Criteria

These criteria are specific to Forest Health and Post-Fire Recovery and Regeneration grant applications. See [Appendix A](#) for grant selection criteria specific to Tribal Wildfire Resilience.

Grant applications will be scored as to how well the project fits the purpose and objectives of the Forest Health Program, using the following criteria.

Project Background and Scope of Work – 15 points

Project background will be captured in the Project Background section of the application.

The Scope of Work will evaluate if the project is appropriate for the program and includes a clear, complete articulation of the work to be completed.

Scope of Work shall be in MS Word or PDF document limited to 2 pages, single spaced, using 11-point or greater, Arial font.

The Scope of Work must address the following:

- Project Deliverables
 - Please describe the proposed project activities including on-the-ground treatments and other expected project deliverables/milestones. Applicants are expected to have a comprehensive project with explicit details on deliverables/milestone including the location and prescription of all proposed treatment types.
- Environmental Compliance
 - Please describe any existing or needed permits or regulatory approvals needed to meet environmental compliance in order to complete the project. Ensure the Environmental Compliance worksheet on the Forest Health Project Workbook corroborates the narrative here.

Project Work Plan – 5 points

The Work Plan worksheet in Forest Health Project Workbook is complete with appropriate detail describing the phases of work necessary to successfully implement the project. It is feasible for all phases of work to be completed before the end of the project performance period. This work plan should reflect the project deliverables from the Scope of Work.

If the proposed project is a continuation of, or related to, a current CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant, the Work Plan should show the transition of currently funded activities to proposed activities.

Budget – 10 points

The application budget has been completed clearly depicting how grant funds will be spent by spending type. The total grant requested funds match between the application form and the application budget. The Treatment Tracking worksheet in the [Forest Health Project Workbook](#) has been completed specifying the treatments areas, ownership type, jurisdiction, treatment objective, treatment activity, treatment acres, broad vegetation type, and funds to be spent by treatment area. Requested funds shall be no less than \$750,000 and no more than \$7 million.

The budget depicts how costs are reasonable for the proposed treatments, deliverables, and Scope of Work. The budget specifies the number of salaried employees and contractors to be funded under the grant and the cost basis for each. Consideration should be given to including costs for environmental compliance, adequate and thorough reporting to CAL FIRE, and GIS support to provide digital spatial treatment data to CAL FIRE. The budget must identify anticipated income received from the sale of forest products or other income generated from the project and how those funds will be reinvested in the project.

Applicants are required to provide a project budget narrative. The budget narrative allows for additional justification of how and/or why a budget line item helps to meet the

project deliverable. The project budget narrative shall be in MS Word or PDF document limited to one page, single spaced, using 11-point or greater, Arial font.

Long Term Forest Management Goals – 5 points

Project activities should be conducted pursuant to an approved timber harvest plan, nonindustrial timber management plan, working forest management plan, or appropriate exemptions. CAL FIRE will give funding priority to landowners with a plan or demonstrated interest to develop or maintain a resilient forest of diverse age, size, and species class within the boundaries of the project. A long-term maintenance plan for the project should identify responsible parties, funding, and partner assistance.

Net Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Benefit – 10 points

While applicants are not required to calculate the GHG benefits of proposed projects, the application must include a completed GHG workbook that CAL FIRE Forest Health staff will use to make a quantitative estimate of the net GHG benefit of the project in terms of metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). Applications that do not include the required documentation may be disqualified.

Forest Health staff will perform a thorough assessment of project activities as related to past calculations of those activities on similar lands. Preference will be given to projects that are estimated to have significant GHG benefits.

Priority Landscapes – 5 points

The project addresses forestlands where there is a demonstrated need for treatment and where projects will have significant benefit.

CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) has developed a [Priority Landscape web map viewer](#) that can be used to assess whether proposed project is located in a high-priority landscape in which specific actions can be taken to reduce risk to a forest asset. Those actions include: 1) Reducing Wildfire Risks to Ecosystem Services, 2) Restoring Fire Damaged Areas, 3) Restoring Pest Damaged Areas, and 4) Reducing Wildfire Threat to Communities. Applicants should briefly describe which priority area(s) they will be working in and describe how work will reduce risk to the asset in that area.

Climate refugia may also be considered as a priority landscape. Applicants must describe the source of climate refugia identification and how proposed treatments will enhance refugia characteristics.

Project Benefits – 5 points

California Climate Investments support socio-economic, environmental, and public health co-benefits.

The application must include a brief description of the project's co-benefits. Potential co-benefits include, but are not limited to, reduced fire risk and/or facilitated fire suppression; bioenergy and/or wood products produced; biomass diverted from landfill;

improved air and/or water quality; improved watershed health; protected water supplies; improved wildlife, fish, or native plant habitat; reduced invasive species; increased recreation, education, or outreach opportunities; workforce development of populations historically marginalized in forestry; improved scenic resources; protected cultural resources; traditional ecological knowledge engaged; improved soil health; benefits to local economy; benefits to local culture; agricultural benefits; climate adaptation; jobs created and/or supported; and/or pursuit of environmental justice.

Jobs – 5 points

Applicant has completed and attached [CARB's Job Co-benefit Modeling Tool](#) and included in the application the number of jobs that are to be supported and/or the number of jobs that are to be created with project and CCI funding. Projects that are awarded funding will be required to provide regular updates of workers employed by, and job training provided with, CCI funding.

All Forest Health grantees will be required to maintain records and report bi-annually to CAL FIRE on all jobs directly associated with the implementation of the grant activities, including jobs provided by contractors and sub-contractors.

Disadvantaged and/or Low-Income Community Benefit – 10 points

Forest Health prioritizes projects that include and benefit residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households; these are collectively referred to as “priority populations.”

Applicants must refer to CCI-CAL FIRE’s [Priority Populations Evaluation Criteria](#) document ([Appendix H](#)) to determine if the project 1) is located within a census tract identified as a disadvantaged community or low-income community, or directly benefits residents of a low-income household; 2) meaningfully addresses an important community need; and 3) provides direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations.

Leadership from, partnership with, and outreach to Priority Populations or organizations may be described in the application. Benefits to communities should be described in terms of the community need and the direct impact of the project.

Number of points awarded will be proportional to amount of budget spent within a priority population and inclusion of priority populations in leadership, partnership, and outreach.

Local Fire Plan & Other State Plan Compatibility – 5 points

The project is part of other wildfire planning processes including the 2018 Strategic Fire Plan for California, local CAL FIRE Unit fire plans, or Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Projects should demonstrate how their activities are consistent with or in support of other statewide climate initiatives, landscape conservation efforts and other state actions plans such as the California Forest Carbon Plan, Safeguarding California Plan, Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan, California’s Wildfire

and Forest Resilience Action Plan, CA Wildlife Action Plan, CA Water Action Plan, Habitat Conservation Plans, and/or Natural Community Conservation Plans.

Collaboration, Community Engagement and Local Support – 10 points

The project includes broad community engagement, partnerships, or collaborative efforts.

Collaboration and support are demonstrated by private and public partnerships in the planning, funding, and implementation of the project. CAL FIRE will favor those projects that provide a direct benefit to a community and meaningfully address an important community need. Leadership, partnership, or support from communities historically under-represented in forestry may be recognized in the application.

Match funding is not a requirement of applying for a Forest Health grant. However, match funding illustrates that a project has support from other entities and may help make a proposed project more competitive. Please enter any match funding for the proposed project in the application budget as well as the application questions pertaining to match funding. It is important to list any other potential or secured Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) or California Climate Investment (CCI) funding.

Preference will be given to projects that are identified as priorities by regional collaborative programs such as the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) and its grantees and the U.S Forest Service's Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) or Shared Stewardship program. These groups were established to promote and support collaborative planning and implementation of forest health management and restoration efforts at a landscape scale.

Inclusion in a prioritization document, letter of recommendation, or other demonstration of participation in and support of a regional group will be considered. Letters of support from other CAL FIRE programs are not appropriate.

Applicants must refer to CCI's [Co-benefit Assessment Methodology for Community Engagement](#) and complete the Community Engagement Questionnaire to determine how the project demonstrates public participation in planning, design, and implementation occurs in ways that foster community access, deliberation, and leadership.

Grantee's Administrative Capacity and Past Forest Management History – 10 points

Provide proof of capacity to administer a sizable grant with numerous partners. Provide proof of ability to complete land management activities. The Applicant or the applicant's team has demonstrated forest management experience with similar landscape level projects and demonstrates a high potential for completing the project. Greater consideration will be given to organizations with a team that has the ability to administratively manage large grants and that has a proven record of success in delivering projects like that proposed in the application.

If the Applicant is a prior CAL FIRE Forest Health grantee (or major contributing partner), the Applicant must be up to date on all grant reporting and have demonstrated substantial progress towards accomplishing the existing grant activities and objectives. Maintenance on past Forest Health grant-funded activities shall have a maintenance plan described clearly within the Statement of Work as well as the Work Plan worksheet and Project Budget.

Readiness and Legal Requirements – 5 points

The Applicant has completed the “Environmental Compliance” worksheet. “Readiness” is the ability to implement the project and the capability to begin ground disturbing activities on the project within 12 months of the grant award. All environmental permitting must be completed within one year of the grant agreement (See [Appendix G](#)). Preference will be given to projects that are ready to implement, with all required documents and legal requirements such as CEQA, NEPA, landowner access agreements, permits, ancillary contracts, and agreements in place. A Registered Professional Forester or NASP-Certified Silviculturist must oversee vegetation treatments and removal pursuant to Section 750 et al of Forest Practice Act and Rules

APPENDIX C - POST-FIRE REFORESTATION AND REGENERATION APPLICATIONS

Introduction

The 2021 state budget includes \$50 million for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CAL FIRE) to administer post-fire reforestation and regeneration (Reforestation) projects within the state of California. Up to \$50 million of the allocated funding will be awarded through the Forest Health Program through a competitive grant solicitation.

Eligibility and Requirements

Forest Health Reforestation applications have eligibility requirements as a Forest Health project as described in [Appendix B](#), except for the following:

Eligible grant project activities are limited to reforestation treatments including site preparation and post-planting maintenance that is directly related to reforestation. The intent of proposed treatments is to reforest or restore forestland following catastrophic fire. Reforestation treatments include, and are not limited, to the following: tree planting, installing tree shelters, site preparation, oak woodland restoration, invasive plant removal, and herbicide.

The applicant must explain how the project will restore climate-resilient natural conditions prioritizing native species and a density and distribution of seedlings that address emergency climate conditions including increased fire and drought, consistent with the Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force's Reforestation Working Group.

Statutory Requirements and Priorities

General Requirements

Projects must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), (California Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC §4321 et seq. Projects eligible for this funding could be considered an emergency project and therefore, exempt from the requirements of CEQA. If exempt, projects will be required to submit emergency Notices of Exemption documenting emergency climate conditions, such as those described in a State of Emergency declared by the Governor, to comply with CEQA. However, the project being exempt from CEQA does not negate other environmental laws and regulations; therefore, grantees will still be required to conduct their due diligence in order to be eligible for this funding. CAL FIRE can assist applicants in determining whether projects are exempt from the requirements of CEQA prior to application submission.

Selection Process, Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

The [selection, evaluation, and scoring criteria](#) of a Forest Health Reforestation Grant are the same as for Forest Health projects as described in Appendix B.

Resources

CAL FIRE's L.A. Moran Reforestation Center and the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Reforestation working group has compiled these [Reforestation Resources](#) which may be useful in developing your project.

APPENDIX D - EXPLANATION OF TERMS

TERM	EXPLANATION
Agreement	A legally binding agreement between the State and another entity.
Amendment	A formal modification or a material change of the agreement, such as term, cost, or scope of work.
Application	The form identified as Attachment A and supporting attachments for grants required by the enabling legislation or program, or both.
Authorized Representative	The designated position identified in a resolution as the agent to sign all required grant documents including, but not limited to, grant agreements, application forms and payment requests.
CEQA	The California Environmental Quality Act is a law establishing policies and procedures requiring agencies to identify, disclose to decision makers and the public, and attempt to lessen significant impacts to environmental resources that may occur as a result of a proposed project.
Contractor	An entity contracting with the grantee for services and generally receives a Form 1099 for tax purposes.
Employee	Individuals employed directly by the grantee and generally receives a W-2 for tax purposes.
Forestland	As in Public Resources Code § 4793, land at least 10% occupied by trees of any size that are native to California.
Indirect Costs	Expenses of doing business that are of a general nature and are incurred to benefit at least two or more functions within an organization. These costs are not usually identified specifically with a grant, grant agreement, project or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization. Indirect costs include salaries and benefits of employees not directly assigned to a project, which provide functions such as personnel, business, information technology or janitorial services, and salaries of supervisors and managers. Indirect costs may only be applied as a % of direct costs, except equipment, within the agreement.

Modification	An informal agreement that moves dollars in the line-item and task budgets not to exceed 10% of the budget line item total grant amount, changes deliverable due dates, or makes a minor change in the work of a grant agreement. It does not require a formal amendment of the grant agreement.
Net GHG Benefit	The sum of the GHG emission reductions and sequestration less any GHG emissions resulting from project implementation.
Non-profit Organization	Any California corporation organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code.
Operating Expenses (Direct Cost)	Any cost that can be specifically identified as generated by, and in accordance with, the provisions or activity requirements of the grant agreement.
Payee Data Record (Std. 204)	A form required to establish a supplier number to encumber funds and subsequent payment.
Project Performance Period	The Project Performance Period is from the time the Grant Agreement is fully signed to the Agreement termination date. Only eligible costs incurred during the project performance period will be paid by the State.
Project	The activity, activities, or work to be accomplished utilizing grant and matching funds (if applicable).
Project Income	Income received by the grantee directly generated by the activities directly funded by the grant award.
Project Scope of Work	The detailed description of the proposed tasks identified as Attachment B, as described in enabling legislation and detailed in the grant agreement.
Project Budget Detail	The proposed detailed budget plan identifying costs to be funded by the grant, matching funds, and projected program income broken down by budget category.
Resolution	A signed resolution by the grantee's governing body, which identifies individual(s) authorized to act on behalf of the grantee's governing body for the grant project.

Worksheet #2: Work Plan

Complete with appropriate detail describing the phases of work necessary to successfully implement the project.



CAL FIRE Forest Health Program
California Climate Investments
Work Plan Sheet

Instructions

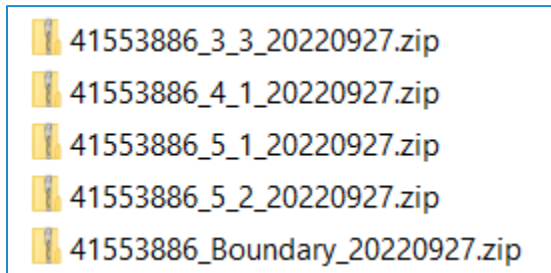
1. Every treatment number in Treatment_Tracking must be included in Work_Plan.
2. Add key non-ground-disturbing tasks that will be conducted within the project scope.
3. Use "in progress" to indicate that work will be actively underway but not completed during a given quarter, and use "Complete" to show that work will finish during a given quarter.

Treatment Number or Major Milestone	Ground-Disturbing Activity OR Non-Ground-Disturbing Task	Q4 2022	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2024	Q4
		Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr
1	Planning			In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	Complete		
1	Contracting							In progress	In progress	
1	Site prep by machine pile								In progress	In progress
1	Planting									In progress
Field Data Collection	Planning		In progress	Complete						
Field Data Collection	Hiring			Complete						
Field Data Collection	Data Collection				In progress	Complete				
Field Data Collection	Sample preparation and analysis					In progress	In progress	Complete		

APPENDIX F- SPATIAL DATA

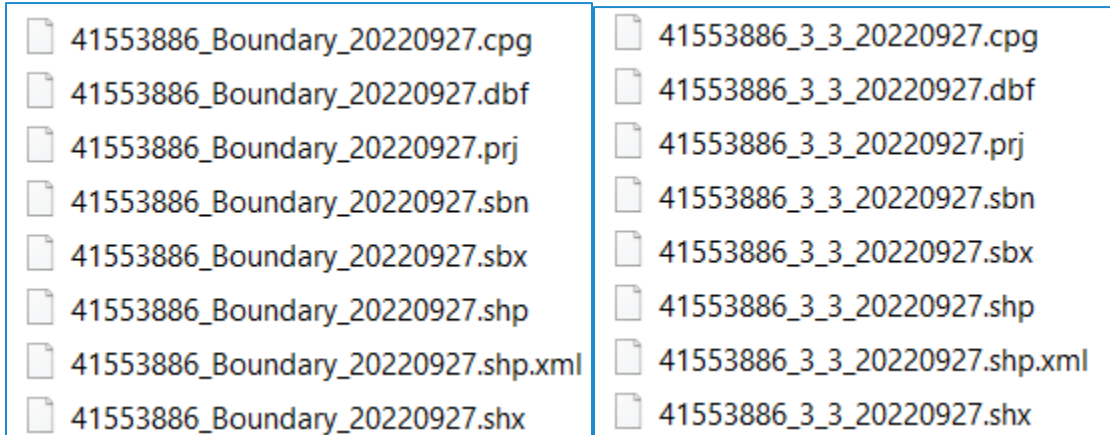
General Requirements for All Spatial Data Submittals

1. Format: Shapefile (KMZ or GDB will not be accepted.)
2. Coordinate reference system: NAD_1983_California_Teale_albers (EPSG: 3310)
3. Note file: Include source information, methodology, and other relevant details, if any, in a note file and place it in a zipped folder with the shapefile.
4. Separate zipped folders for each shapefile: One for the project boundary and one for each treatment activity boundary, as shown below.



For example, if a project has 15 individual treatment components listed on the Treatment Tracking sheet of the progress report (i.e., a total of 15 rows of information in the Ground-Disturbing Activity Information table), there should be a total of 16 zipped shapefile folders submitted: one zipped folder for the project boundary and 15 separate zipped files for the 15 different treatment components listed on the Treatment Tracking sheet in the progress report.

5. Within each zipped shapefile folder, please provide all associated file extensions as shown below.



Types of Shapefiles

Please include a project boundary shapefile, and a separate shapefile for each of the treatment components (rows) listed in the Treatment Tracking sheet in the progress report, as follows.

Project Boundary Shapefile

1. The project boundary shapefile should have only one feature. The project boundary can be a multipart feature in the case of dispersed treatment areas.
2. The shapefile should as closely as possible define the acres on which ground-disturbing activity will take place (in a shapefile showing planned work) or has taken place (in a shapefile representing completed work), within the project scope. It is important to exclude any “dead” or “skip-over” or areas to give an accurate map of where ground-disturbing work occurs. Please be sure to exclude any “impact areas” where benefits are expected to result, but ground-disturbing work is not directly implemented. There should be no overlapping areas, and the project boundary acreage should not exceed the cumulative treatment activity polygons acres. In summary, the project boundary shapefile should be one feature that covers all and only the areas on which the grant project conducts ground-disturbing work – i.e., a cumulative feature that includes all treatment activity boundaries.
3. Please submit your project boundary shapefile with the following naming convention.
eCivisApplicationNumber_Boundary_Date.zip
Example: 41553886_Boundary.zip
4. The attribute table for the project boundary shapefile must include these fields: eCivis Application Number, Project Name, Grantee, Acres (see example below).

FID	Shape	AppNumber	Proj_Name	Grantee	Acres	
1	0	Polygon ZM	41553886	Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Experiment	Board of Regents, Uni...	1676.787447

Click to add new row.

Treatment Activity Shapefiles

Each project will have multiple treatment component or activity shapefiles.

2. The number of treatment activity shapefiles must match the number of treatment components (rows) listed in the Treatment Tracking sheet of the progress report. For example, if the Treatment Tracking sheet lists 15 different treatment activities (one activity per row, across a total of 15 rows), there must be 15 treatment activity shapefiles.
3. Each treatment activity boundary should only have one feature; it can be a multipart feature if treatment areas are dispersed.
4. All treatment activities must fall within the project boundary footprint.
5. Each treatment activity shapefile should include the associated treatment number (TN) as listed on the Treatment Tracking worksheet in the project workbook.
6. Each treatment activity shapefile must have one and only one responsibility area (“jurisdiction”). Please see the “Determining Jurisdiction” section for requirements and guidance.
7. Please submit your treatment activity boundary shapefiles with the following naming convention.
eCivisApplicationNumber_TreatmentNumber_Date.zip
Example: 41553886_6.zip

- The attribute table for the treatment activity boundary shapefiles must include these fields: TN (treatment number), eCivis Application Number, Treatment Name, Ownership Type, Jurisdiction, Treatment Objective, Treatment Activity, Vegetation Type, Acres (see example below).

	FID	Shape	TNumber	AppNumber	TName	OwnType	Jurisdiction	TObjective	VegType	Acres
1	0	Polygon ZM	3	41553886	North Complex SPI	Private (industrial forestry)	SRA	Reforestation	Timber	2.974324

Click to add new row.

Templates

- Please [click here](#) to download an empty shapefile zip file to use for submitting project boundary shapefile.
- Please [click here](#) to download an empty shapefile zip file for submitting treatment activity shapefiles.

Determining Jurisdiction

When providing shapefiles of treatment activities, each treatment activity polygon must fall entirely within one responsibility area (“jurisdiction”): Federal Responsibility Area (FRA), State Responsibility Area (SRA), or Local Responsibility (LRA).

CAL FIRE’s Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) maintains a GIS responsibility area layer publicly available online. Using this layer is necessary to ensure polygons do not span multiple responsibility areas.

Grantees may view the layer while first drawing polygons, and/or to check polygons drawn in the field (for example, if problems with connectivity might affect the accuracy of map work in remote locations). Below are tips on using the layer.

- Download the responsibility area geodatabase under the SRA-LRA-FRA tab from <https://frap.fire.ca.gov/mapping/gis-data/>.
- Load the geodatabase into a survey application (e.g., Avenza, Collector, or Survey123) to use it offline while in the field.
- Apply spatial join (one-to-many) or overlay (intersection) tools by using the responsibility area and the activity shapefile in GIS software (e.g., ArcMap).
- The resultant dataset will produce a new shapefile that has a combination of activity attributes with responsibility area attributes.
- If an activity shape falls into multiple responsibility areas, then there will be multiple rows, each with a different responsibility area, for the one activity. Then:
 - Correct any drawing errors found that could eliminate inaccurate overlapping by the polygon of more than one responsibility area.
 - If the correctly drawn activity polygon still covers more than one responsibility area, the polygon will need to be broken into multiple polygons so that each polygon falls into only one responsibility area. In this case, add a row in the Treatment Tracking sheet (in the progress report form) for each new activity polygon.

At the end, there should be a one-to-one relationship: one activity, one row in the Treatment Tracking sheet, one activity polygon

APPENDIX G – ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

NOTE: Grantee must submit proof of California Environmental Quality Act and/or National Environmental Policy Act compliance within one year of the execution of the grant agreement. To ensure this occurs in a timely manner, the grantee should contact the Forest Health Projects Specialist or CAL FIRE environmental compliance staff as soon as possible after receiving the executed agreement. No grant funds shall be spent on any project activity that may have an effect on the environment, including any ground-disturbing activity, without environmental compliance approval from Forest Health.

NEPA Compliance

Project work involving Federal actions must comply with NEPA.

If the requirements of Public Resources Code (PRC) section 4799.05(d)(1) are met, CEQA may not apply to the project. This means that prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire may not need additional CEQA analysis.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Within one year of the execution of the grant agreement and prior to commencing any on-the-ground work, CAL FIRE requires proof of adequate compliance with CEQA. This may be accomplished by one or more of the following methods:

1. Notice of exemption filed with the State Clearinghouse or the county clerk.
2. Initial study and negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration and all associated noticing documents filed with the State Clearinghouse or the county clerk.
3. Draft and final environmental impact report and all associated noticing documents filed with the State Clearinghouse or the county clerk.
4. Timber harvesting permit or notice in compliance with the California Forest Practice Act and Rules for projects that undertake timber operations per Public Resources Code § 4527.
5. Finding of no significant impact-decision notice, categorical exclusion- decision memo or environmental impact statement-record of decision prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act for projects that are exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code § 4799.05(d)(1).
6. Completed and accepted Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) under the [California Vegetation Treatment Program](#) (CalVTP).

For exempt projects, where the grantee is a public agency, the grantee, or a willing project partner that is a public agency will be responsible for: (a) completing their due diligence for an Exempt Project and preparing the notice of exemption; and (b) filing the notice of exemption with the State Clearinghouse or the county clerk. For exempt projects where the grantee is not a public agency (e.g., fire safe council), the grantee will be responsible for (a) conducting the necessary record checks/surveys as part of CAL FIRE's due diligence process and (b) preparing the Environmental Review Report for an Exempt Project in accordance with CAL FIRE's procedures. CAL FIRE will (a) prepare the notice of exemption; and (b) file the notice of exemption.

For non-exempt projects where the grantee is a public agency¹, the grantee will assume the role of lead agency². For non-exempt projects where the grantee is not a public agency (e.g., fire safe council), CAL FIRE or another public agency will need to assume the role of lead agency. The lead agency is responsible for: (a) performing the necessary environmental effects analysis; (b) preparing environmental documents; and (c) filing associated notices.

The lead agency may require the grantee to prepare, or retain a consultant to prepare, the environmental documents required for demonstrating adequate compliance with CEQA. When CAL FIRE is the lead agency, the grantee must work closely with the department to ensure the environmental documents reflect its independent judgement.

Grantees should ensure they ask for adequate funds for environmental work when applying for grants. When preparing their budgets, grantees should consider the need to contract with appropriate resource professionals to do the necessary environmental effects assessment and document preparation work. This may include biologists, professional archaeologists, air quality experts, registered professional foresters, environmental planners, etc.

Note: Starting FY 2022-2023, per CAL FIRE's procedures, CAL FIRE Certified Archaeological Surveyor certificate can only be used when CAL FIRE is the lead agency for CEQA. This means that when a grantee is a public agency or another public agency assumes the role as lead, the grant CANNOT use CAL FIRE Certified Archaeological Surveyor certificate and the grantee will need to utilize appropriate archeological professionals to complete this work. Please budget accordingly.

For all environmental documents where CAL FIRE is the lead agency, except timber harvesting permits or notices, cultural resources must be assessed per the procedures outlined in [Cultural Resources Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects](#) . This may require

¹Per PRC § 21063 "Public agency" includes any state agency, board, or commission, any county, city and county, city, regional agency, public district, redevelopment agency, or other political subdivision.

² Per PRC § 21067 "Lead agency" means the public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project which may have a significant effect upon the environment.

the project proponent to consult with the appropriate CAL FIRE archaeologist to determine if impacts to cultural resources are possible and what, if any, assessment work will have to be done. This consultation should be done as early in the planning process as possible.

CAL FIRE will review all environmental documents and associated notices for adequate compliance with applicable procedures and CEQA.

Note: Per PRC Section 4137(d)(4), *a description of any mitigation required for each project, and whether the mitigation has been completed* will be required. To meet this requirement, grantees must report the project mitigation and status, as requested by CAL FIRE. This requirement extends to federal actions and projects exempt from CEQA per PRC 4799.05(d)(1).

CEQA Compliance

If the applicant or a willing project partner is a public agency, they will assume the role of lead agency. For these projects, CAL FIRE will be a responsible agency, if necessary, and as such will review the lead agency's CEQA documents and any supporting documentation in order to develop its own CEQA findings and make a discretionary decision for a project.

If the applicant or any project partner is not a public agency, CAL FIRE will assume the role of lead agency. The grantee should coordinate with CAL FIRE environmental compliance staff as soon as possible after receiving the executed agreement. For these projects, the grantee will be required to work with CAL FIRE and provide information as necessary to ensure compliance with CEQA. This includes performing the necessary environmental effects analysis and preparation of environmental documents for projects and following CAL FIRE processes. Grantee will be responsible for the costs of the analyses and document preparation so please budget accordingly.

Note: Prior to any project activity that may have an effect on the environment, *including any ground-disturbing activity*, using grant funds, grantees must receive written approval from Forest Health confirming that CEQA compliance has been met.

APPENDIX H– PRIORITY POPULATIONS



California Climate Investments [2018 Funding Guidelines](#) Benefit Criteria Table

Project Type: LAND RESTORATION AND FOREST HEALTH

California Climate Investments are required to meet minimum levels of investments to projects that benefit residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households, collectively referred to as “priority populations.”

All projects counting toward the statutory investment minimums must be located within an identified community and benefit individuals living within that community, or directly benefit residents of low-income households anywhere in the State. Administering agencies must determine if a project meets the criteria for providing direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations using the following evaluation approach:

Step 1: Identify the Priority Population(s). Be located within a census tract identified as a disadvantaged community or low-income community, or directly benefit residents of a low-income household;

Step 2: Address a Need. Meaningfully address an important community or household need for the disadvantaged community, low-income community, or low-income household; and

Step 3: Provide a Benefit. Using the evaluation criteria, identify at least one direct, meaningful, and assured benefit that the project provides to priority populations. The benefit provided must directly address the identified need.

Only investments that meet these criteria will be counted toward achieving the statutory investment minimums identified for priority populations. Administering agencies can fund projects that otherwise provide meaningful benefits, but do not meet these criteria; however, those projects will not be counted toward investment minimums.

The following table includes criteria for administering agencies to use to determine whether projects satisfy each of the three steps. The criteria are designed to enable administering agencies to readily make an objective “yes” or “no” decision about whether a particular project provides a benefit to a priority population.

Administering agencies must use the criteria table that is applicable to the specific project type(s) funded. For complex projects, there may be more than one applicable criteria table. A complete list of available criteria tables is available at: www.arb.ca.gov/cci-fundingguidelines.

Administering agencies must refer to CARB’s Funding Guidelines for direction on how to use the criteria table in program design and implementation, project evaluation, project selection, and reporting (www.arb.ca.gov/cci-fundingguidelines).

**Evaluation Criteria for Providing Benefits to Priority Populations
LAND RESTORATION AND FOREST HEALTH**

Project Type: Projects will increase carbon storage through restoration and management of natural lands.
<i>Projects must satisfy the applicable criteria through Step 3 to be considered to provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations and count toward statutory investment minimums.</i>
Step 1 – Identify the Priority Population(s). ³ Evaluate the project against each of the following criteria. Check all boxes that apply.
<p><u>Note:</u> For this project type, the majority of the project must be located within a disadvantaged or low-income community census tract.</p> <p>California Climate Investments Priority Populations 2022 CES 4.0</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A. Is the project located within the boundaries of a disadvantaged community census tract?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B. Is the project located within the boundaries of a low-income community census tract?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C. Is the project located outside of a disadvantaged community, but within ½-mile of a disadvantaged community and within a low-income community census tract?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> D. Is the project located within the boundaries of a low-income household?</p>
<i>If a project does not meet at least one of the qualifying criteria in Step 1, the project does not count toward statutory investment minimums and no further evaluation is needed. If the project meets at least one Step 1 criterion, continue the evaluation in Step 2.</i>
Step 2 – Address a Need. Identify an important community or household need and evaluate whether the project provides a benefit that meaningfully addresses that need.
<p>To identify a need that the project will address, agencies and/or applicants can use a variety of approaches:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A. Recommended Approach: Host community meetings, workshops, outreach efforts, or public meetings as part of the planning process to engage local residents and community groups for input on community or household needs, and document how the received input was considered in the design and/or selection of projects to address those needs;</p>

³ An online mapping tool of identified disadvantaged communities and low-income communities, and a “look-up” tool list of “low-income” thresholds by county and household size are available at: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cci-communityinvestments>.

- B. Recommended Approach:** Receive documentation of support from local community-based organizations and/or residents (e.g., letters, emails) identifying a need that the project addresses and demonstrating that the project has broad community support;

Step 2 – Address a Need (continued). Identify an important community or household need and evaluate whether the project provides a benefit that meaningfully addresses that need.

- C. Alternative Approach:** Where direct engagement is infeasible, look at the individual factors in CalEnviroScreen that are most impacting an identified disadvantaged or low-income community (i.e., factors that score above the 75th percentile), and confirm that the project will reduce the impacts of at least one of those factors; or
- D. Alternative Approach:** Where direct engagement is infeasible, refer to the list of common needs for priority populations in CARB’s Funding Guidelines Table 5 and confirm that the project addresses at least one listed need.

Describe identified community or household need(s):

If the project addresses a community or household need as described in Step 2, proceed to Step 3. If the project does not address a community or household need, it will not count toward statutory investment minimums and no further evaluation is needed.

Step 3 – Provide a Benefit. Evaluate the project against each of the following criteria to determine if it provides direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations. The benefit provided must directly address the identified need.

Project must meet at least one of the following benefit criteria:

- A. Project restores a site that allows public access;
- B. Project significantly reduces flood risk to households within one or more disadvantaged or low-income communities;
- C. Project significantly reduces fire risk to households within one or more disadvantaged or low-income communities;
- D. Project provides regular and ongoing educational opportunities through partnerships with schools or non-profit organizations located in disadvantaged or low-income communities and site access to residents of these communities.

If the project meets the criteria in Steps 1, 2, and 3, it will be considered as providing direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations and will be counted toward statutory investment minimums.

**California Air Resources Board (CARB)
2018 Funding Guidelines**

Table 5. Examples of Common Needs of Priority Populations

Public Health
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce health harms (e.g., asthma) suffered disproportionately by priority populations due to air pollutants. 2. Reduce health harms (e.g., obesity) suffered disproportionately by priority populations due to the built environment (e.g., provide active transportation, parks, playgrounds). 3. Increase community safety. 4. Reduce heat-related illnesses and increase thermal comfort (e.g., weatherization and solar energy can provide more efficient and affordable air-conditioning; urban forestry can reduce heat-island effect). 5. Increase access to parks, greenways, open space, and other community assets.
Economic
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create quality jobs and increase family income (e.g., targeted hiring for living-wage jobs that provide access to health insurance and retirement benefits with long-term job retention, using project labor agreements with targeted hire commitments, community benefit agreements, community workforce agreements, partnerships with community-based workforce development and job training entities, State-certified community conservation corps). 2. Increase job readiness and career opportunities (e.g., workforce development programs, on-the-job training, industry-recognized certifications). 3. Revitalize local economies (e.g., increased use of local businesses) and support California-based small businesses. 4. Reduce housing costs (e.g., affordable housing). 5. Reduce transportation costs (e.g., free or reduced cost transit passes) and improve access to public transportation (e.g., new services in under-served communities). 6. Reduce energy costs for residents (e.g., weatherization, solar). 7. Improve transit service levels and reliability on systems/routes that have high use by disadvantaged and/or low-income community residents or low-income riders. 8. Bring jobs and housing closer together (e.g., affordable housing in transit-oriented development and in healthy, high-opportunity neighborhoods). 9. Preserve community stability and maintain housing affordability for low-income households (e.g., prioritize projects in jurisdictions with anti-displacement policies). 10. Provide educational and community capacity building opportunities through community engagement and leadership.
Environmental
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce exposure to local environmental contaminants, such as toxic air contaminants, criteria air pollutants, and drinking water contaminants (e.g., provide a buffer between bike/walk paths and transportation corridors). 2. Prioritize zero-emission vehicle projects for areas with high diesel air pollution, especially around schools or other sensitive populations with near-roadway exposure. 3. Reduce exposure to pesticides in communities near agricultural operations. 4. Greening communities through restoring local ecosystems and planting of native species, improving aesthetics of the landscape, and/or increasing public access for recreation.

APPENDIX I – SAMPLE RESOLUTION

A signed resolution, using the verbiage in this [sample](#), will be required prior to the signing of a Grant Agreement. Applicants are encouraged to submit a draft resolution with the Project application. Resolutions are required from non-profit and local agency applicants only.

<p>RESOLUTION</p> <p>NOTE: DO NOT CHANGE THE FORMAT OR VERBIAGE IN THIS RESOLUTION FORMAT WITHOUT WRITTEN APPROVAL OF CAL FIRE STAFF.</p> <p>Resolution No.: _____</p> <p>RESOLUTION OF THE _____ (Title of Governing Body/City Council/ Board of Supervisor/Board of Directors) OF _____ (City/County/District/non profit) FOR FUNDING FROM THE FOREST HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM AS PROVIDED THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS.</p> <p><u>WHEREAS</u>, the Governor of the State of California in cooperation with the California State Legislature has enacted State of California Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding which provides funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for Forest Health programs; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary procedures governing application by local agencies and non-profit organizations under the program, and</p> <p>WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of application before submission of said application to the State; and</p> <p><u>WHEREAS</u>, the applicant will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out a Forest Health project;</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the (Title of Governing Body):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approved the filing of an application for Forest Health grant program funds; and2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and,3. Certifies that funds under the jurisdiction of (Governing Body) are available to begin the project.4. Certifies that said applicant will expend grant funds prior to March 30, 2026.5. Appoints (position title), or a designee, as agent of the (Governing Body) to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project. <p>Approved and adopted the _____ day of _____, 20_____. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution, number _____ was duly adopted by the following roll call vote: <small>(City Council/Board of Supervisor/Board of Directors)</small></p> <p>Ayes: _____ Noes: _____ Absent: _____ _____ (Clerk) Notarized Seal:</p>
