Environmental Compliance Review Instructions

CAL FIRE's Climate & Energy Program oversees multiple grant programs, including Forest Health, Tribal Wildfire Resilience, and Wood Products and Bioenergy.

Per grant guidelines, grantees must submit proof of all California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), CEQA-equivalent, or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance within one year of the execution of the grant agreement to Climate & Energy environmental compliance staff. Once received, Climate & Energy environmental compliance staff will review the environmental document(s) to ensure that they have analyzed and would provide environmental clearance for grant-funded activities that may have an effect on the environment. No grant funds shall be spent on any project activity that may have an effect on the environment, including any ground-disturbing activity, without written environmental compliance approval from Climate & Energy environmental compliance staff.

To obtain written CEQA compliance approval, email Climate & Energy environmental compliance staff (cegrants.ceqa@fire.ca.gov) and provide the following information with the grant agreement number included in the subject line:

1) A brief description of the project area and treatment activities, including acres, treatment area/unit name, and Treatment Component Numbers (TCNs).

2) A map or maps showing the grant project boundary overlaid with the CEQA boundary identifying the different TCNs. Maps must contain a legend where all map components are defined.

3) ALL relevant complete, approved, and filed CEQA, or CEQA equivalent, documents, including supporting documentation, with applicable sections highlighted or pointed out.

- When submitting a CAL FIRE Forest Practice document for review, please provide a brief description of how the requirements of "Timber Operations" and the projects intent to commercialize (sale, barter, exchange, or sale), per PRC § 4527, will be met for grant-funded activities.

- When submitting an approved CNRA-CalEPA Secretarial Suspension Authorization for review, please provide the following additional items and details:
    - Secretarial Suspension Authorization letter
    - Scope of work, including treatment activities with associated acres, approved equipment, and all pdf maps approved under the authorization. This may be accomplished by compiling screenshots of the approved application from the Approved Projects Dashboard into a single document for submission. Approved pdf maps are also accessible through the Dashboard for download.
    - A copy of the Notice of Commencement. This and other required project reporting to CNRA and CalEPA can be completed through the Approved Application Status Reporting Dashboard

To ensure written environmental compliance approval from Climate & Energy environmental compliance staff occurs in a timely matter, please provide 6 weeks for review.

Please email all document reviews/submittals with the grant agreement number included in the subject to: cegrants.ceqa@fire.ca.gov.