

Tribal Input Workshop: Tribal Wildfire Resilience Draft Grant Guidelines

Online workshop, June 24, 2026

* Recorded and may be posted to CAL FIRE website *

Robin Bellows, Jordan Inzunza, Shannon Johnson
Tribal Wildfire Resilience Grants



How this workshop works

* This meeting will be recorded.*

* Recording and slides may be posted to CAL FIRE's website *

This forum is for cultural practitioners, tribal leaders, tribal governments, and Native-serving nonprofits.

Public Comments may be emailed to
TribalWildfireResilienceGrants@fire.ca.gov.

- *What could improve this grant process?*
- *What could work better for your tribes and projects?*



Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Brief Program Overview –
please post comments in the
Q&A
- 3) Highlighted Topics
- 4) Comments & Questions?
- 5) Contacts to follow up
- 6) Thanks!



Land Acknowledgement

Tribal Wildfire Resilience is a statewide program. We acknowledge the many tribes that have currently and ancestrally stewarded the land and called these places home.

This program exists to support Native land management and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. We are honored that CAL FIRE can be a partner in this work.

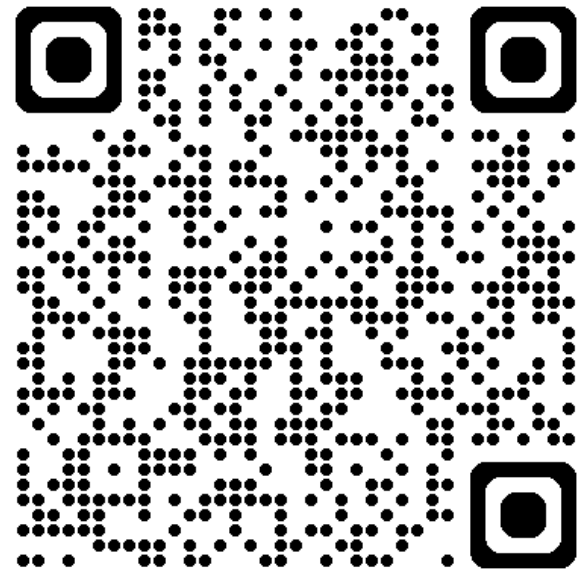


We're Hiring a Grants Analyst

Use your admin & analytical skills.
Help grants run well!

- **Review invoices**
- Track progress
- Organize data
- Build relationships

Due Monday 6/29



<https://calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=521944>

Solicitation at a glance

2026 Solicitation – Concept Proposals due Early September

\$10,000,000 total available for Tribes and Tribal Non-Profits

For implementation, can also include training and planning

Grant Size: \$250,000 - \$3,000,000

Project End Date: January 30, 2031

Reimbursements; option of advance payments

Eligible Locations: Any ancestral land in California, must have long-term access

Program Overview

- 1) What We Fund
- 2) Solicitation-At-A-Glance
- 3) Grant Life Cycle
- 4) 2026 Timeline
- 5) What's New This Year
- 6) Terms & Conditions





Tribal Wildfire Resilience Grants: Who We Are

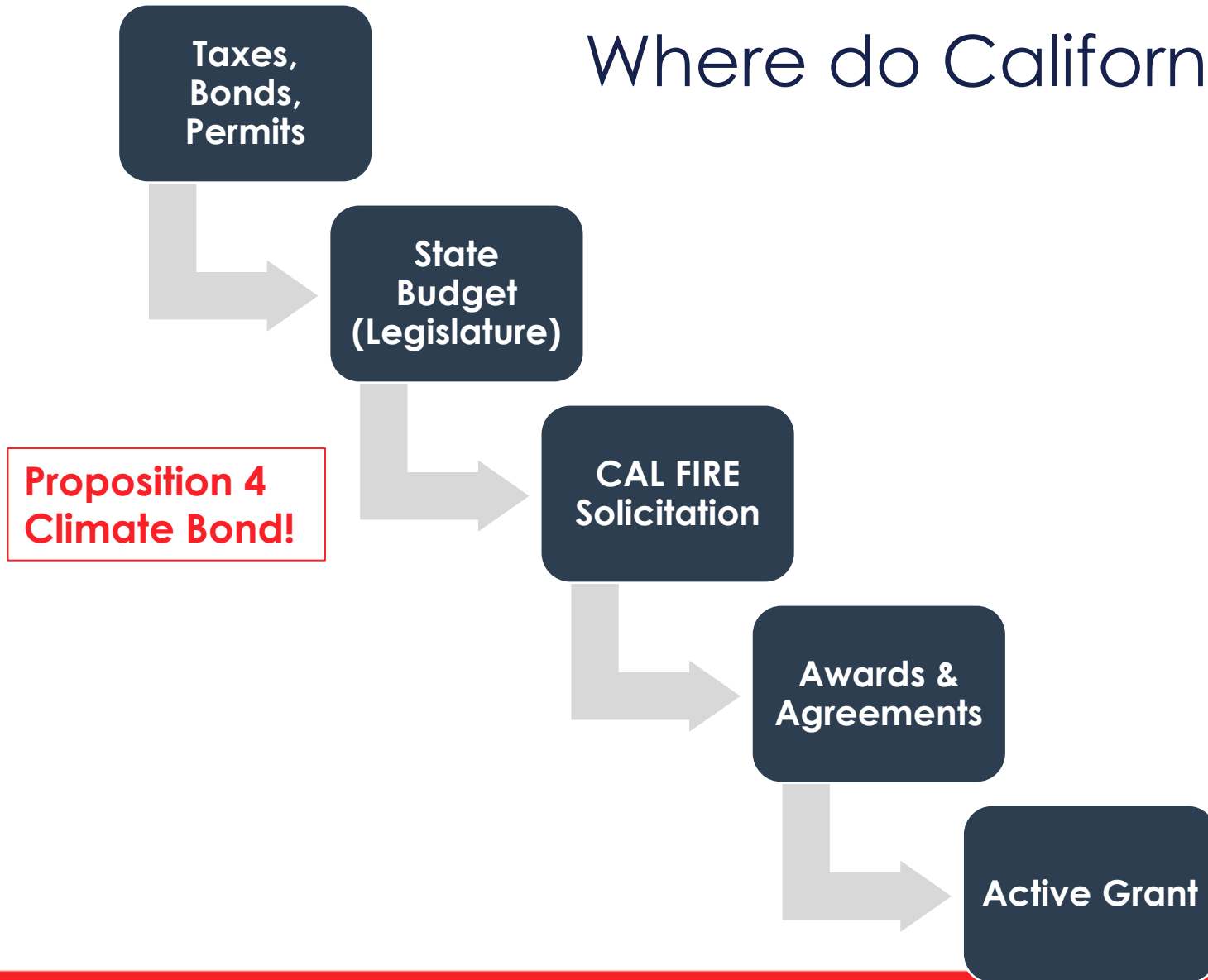
Our History

- Began in 2021
- Third solicitation
- So far, 22 grants statewide

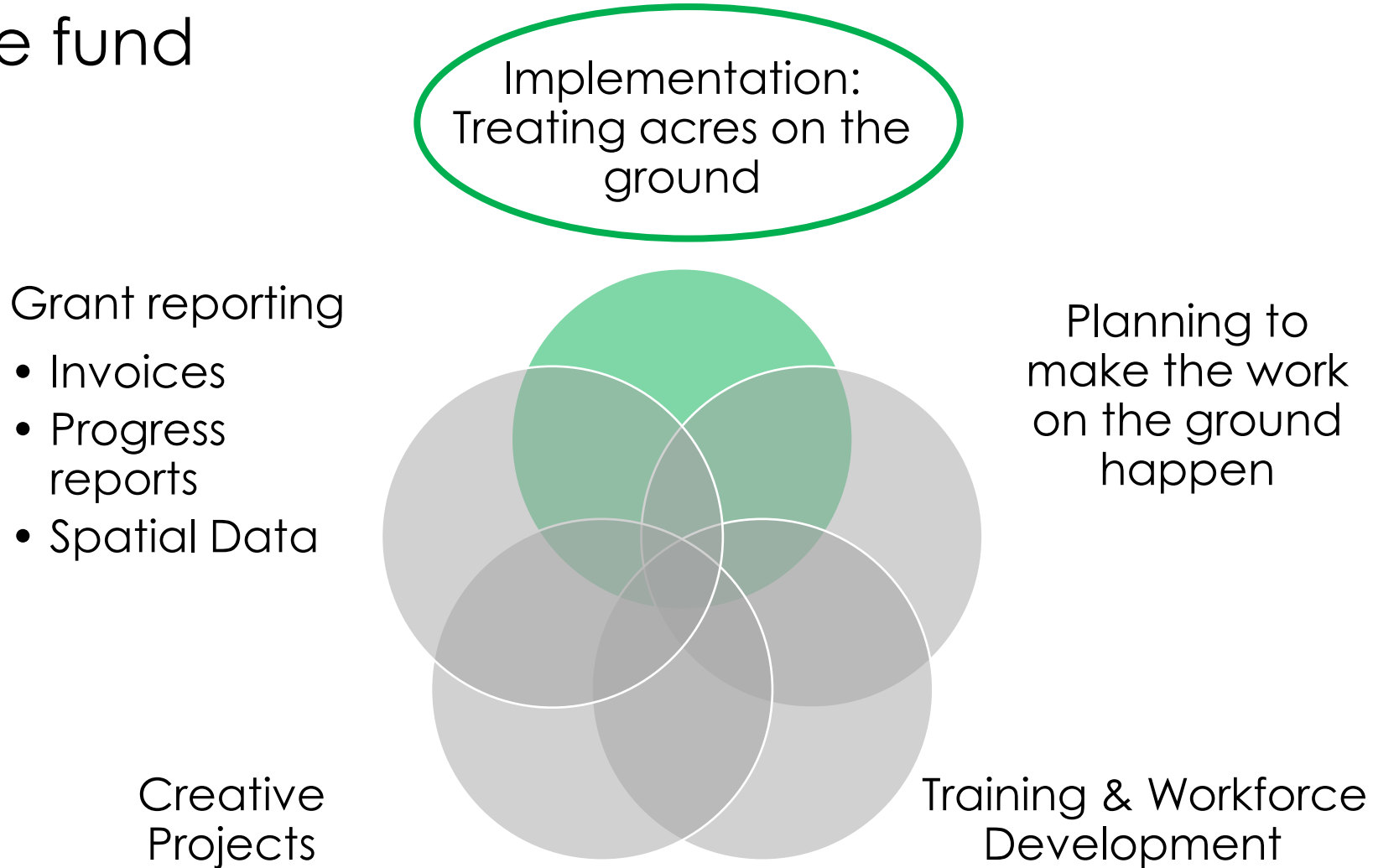
Climate & Energy Program

- Climate and Energy also administers :
- Forest Health Grants
 - Business/Workforce Development
 - Regional Wildfire & Landscape Resilience

Where do California Grants Come From?



What we fund



2026 Funding Priorities

- 
- Ready-to-implement on-the-ground in Spring 2027
(Planning & environmental compliance already complete)
 - Improve wildfire safety
 - Conduct cultural burns or prescribed burns
 - Utilize or expand Traditional Ecological Knowledge

2026 Funding Priorities, continued

- 
- Manage tribal land
 - Improve forest health, restoration, or biodiversity in ancestral lands
 - Training, workforce development, conservation corps – especially for youth
 - Unique fit for this grant program
 - Benefits to Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Communities (Prop 4)

Grant Application Process

- Concept Proposal Applications - *open July & August*
 - Eligibility
 - Proposal Info
 - *We try to make this as easy as possible*

- Full Applications by invitation
 - Additional Document Requests
 - Recommended online interviews
 - *Includes details required for all grants by funding source & CAL FIRE*

Timeline

- Public Comment- *ends 06/29/2026*
- July – August: Concept Proposal Applications
- ~ November – December: Full Application documents
- ~ January: Full Application video Q&As
- Spring 2027: awards & agreements
- Late Spring 2027: projects start!

2026 What's New

- Funding Source = Prop 4 Climate Bond
 - Must include implementation (no planning-only)
 - Priority to projects serving Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Communities, including Tribes
 - New options for Indirect Costs
- Concept Proposals are now simpler
- Full Applications will require spatial data

Terms and conditions

- CAL FIRE's new contract grant Terms & Conditions are posted here:
[2024 Terms & Conditions](#)
- We are open to working with awarded grantees if concerns arise about contract terms.

Regular Reporting





Things We Don't Fund (& others do)

- Land purchase (Tribal Nature-Based Solutions)
- Conservation easements (Forest Legacy)
- Smaller-scale (California Forest Improvement Program)
- Disaster recovery (CalOES, FEMA)
- Research (Forest Health Research Program)
- Business ventures (Business Development Grants)
- Riparian-focused restoration (CDFW, WCB)
- Road work
- Construction, Infrastructure

Clarifications on Program Overview



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Opinions? Comments? Questions?

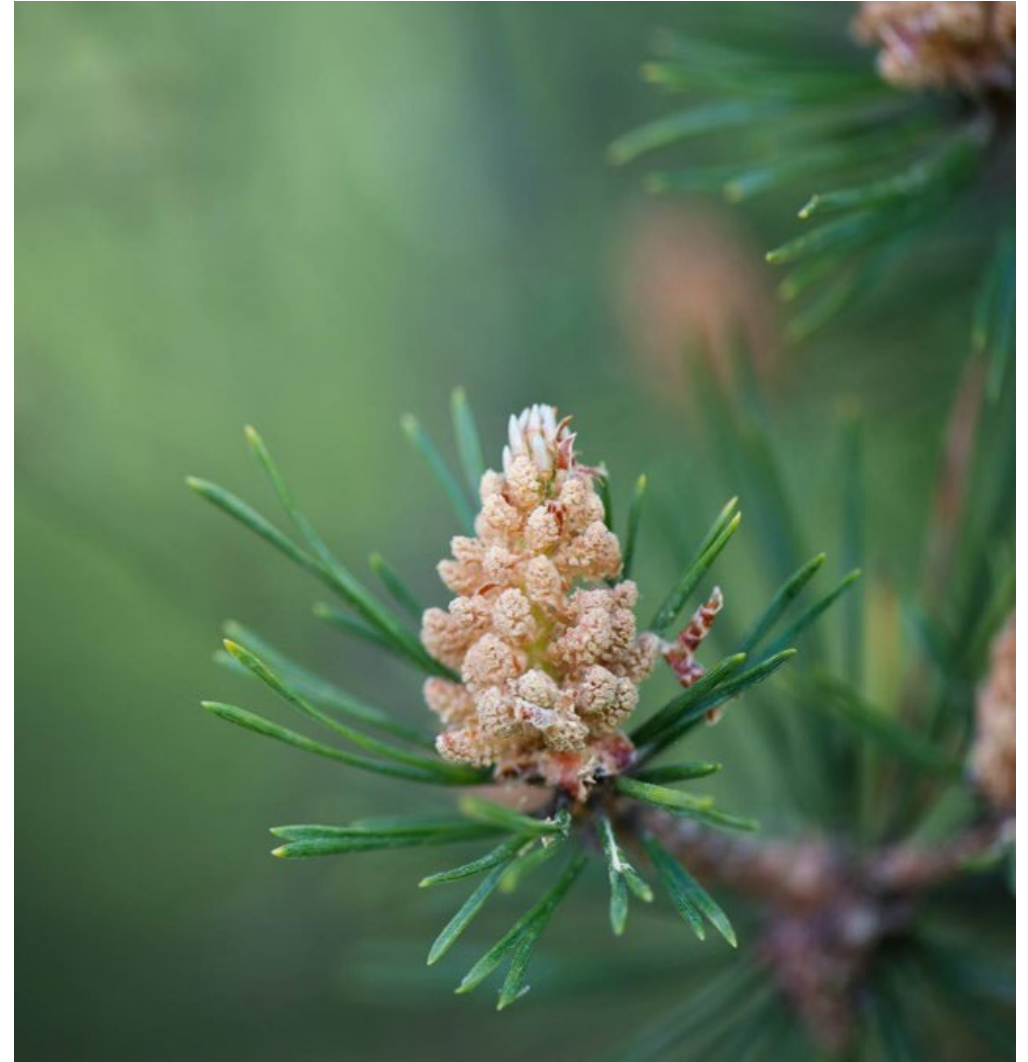
Please raise your hand or type into the Q&A.

- Discussion Prompts
- Input from Tribal Leaders, Elders, & Elected Officials
- Open Discussion



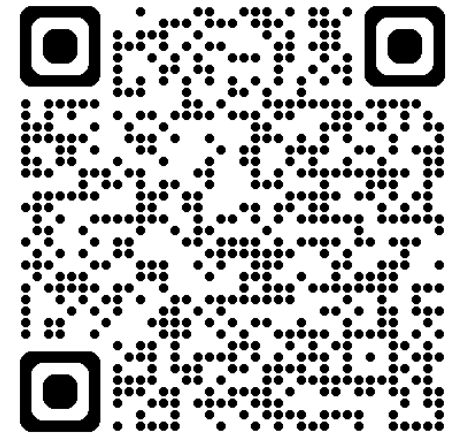
Discussion prompts

1. Prop 4 – Disadvantaged & Vulnerable Communities
2. Payment Timeline / Budgeting
3. Acres Treated & Progress Reporting
4. Limited Waivers of Sovereign Immunity
5. California Environmental Quality Act



Benefits to Disadvantaged & Vulnerable Communities

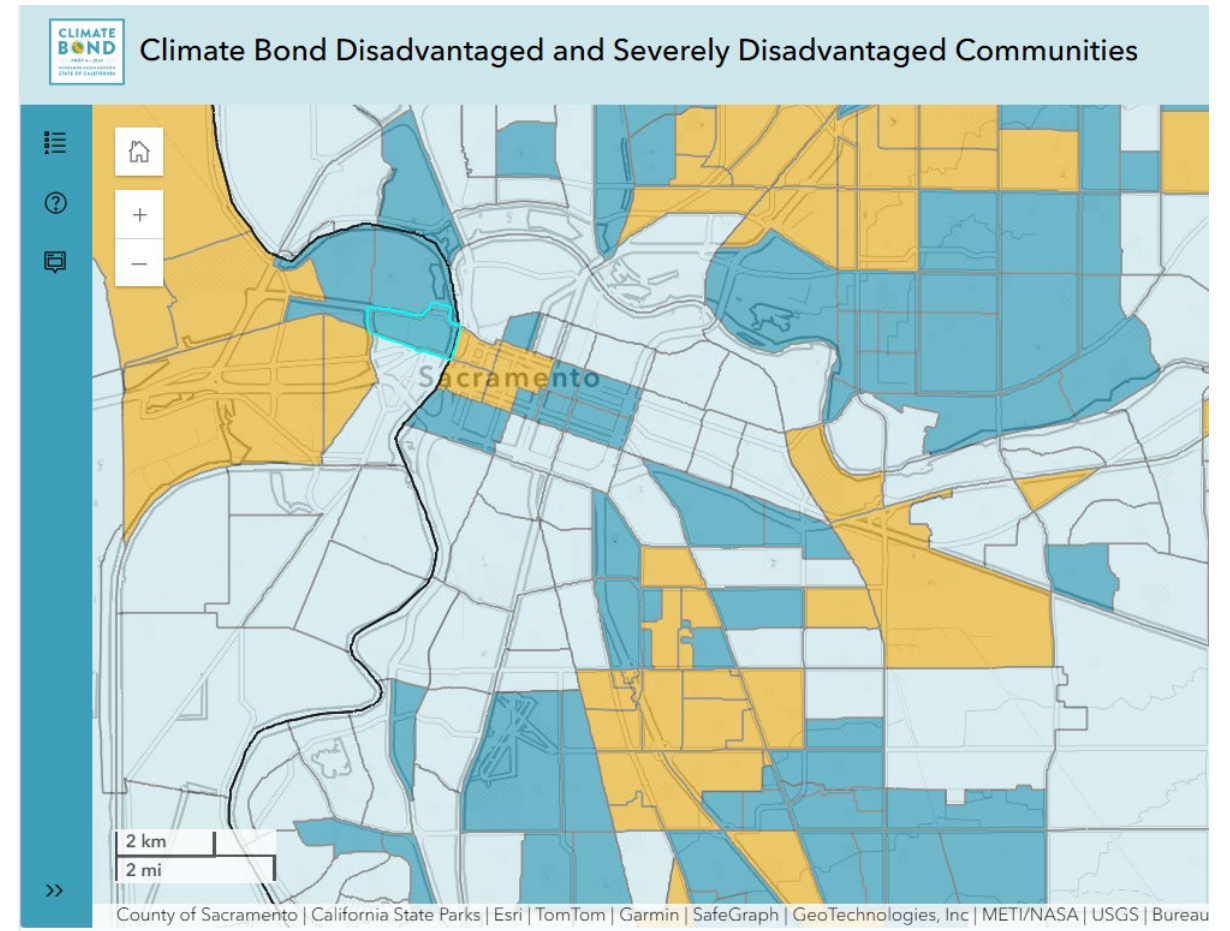
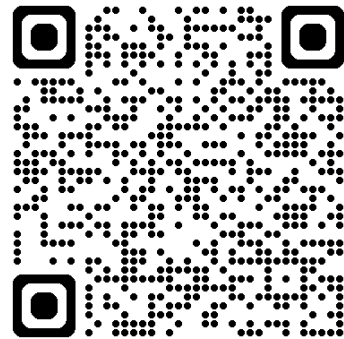
- Prop 4 prioritizes projects that benefit vulnerable populations or disadvantaged communities
- **Concept Proposals request basic info;**
Full Applications request details



<https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Bonds/Prop-4/Prop4BenefitsAssessment.pdf>

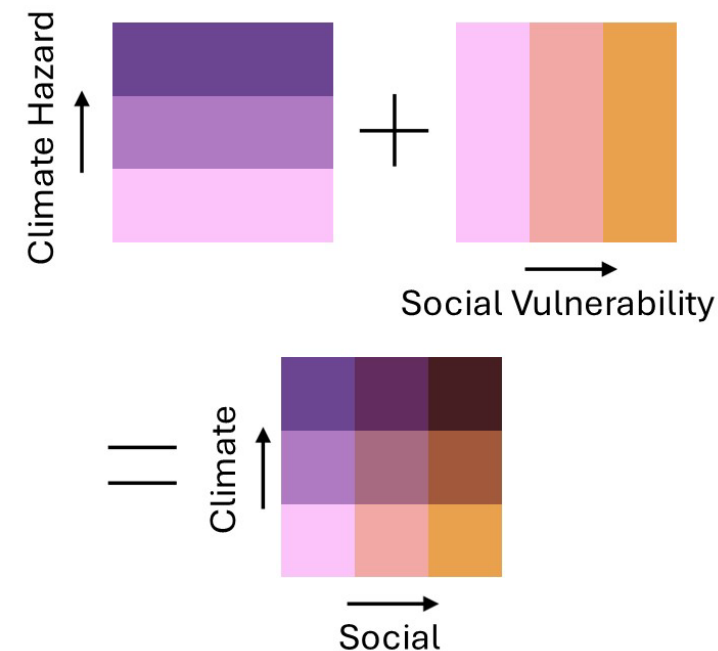
Disadvantaged Communities

- Prop 4 Disadvantaged Community (DAC) or
- Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC)
- This is about low-income locations
- [Climate Bond Disadvantaged Communities Map](#)



Vulnerable Populations

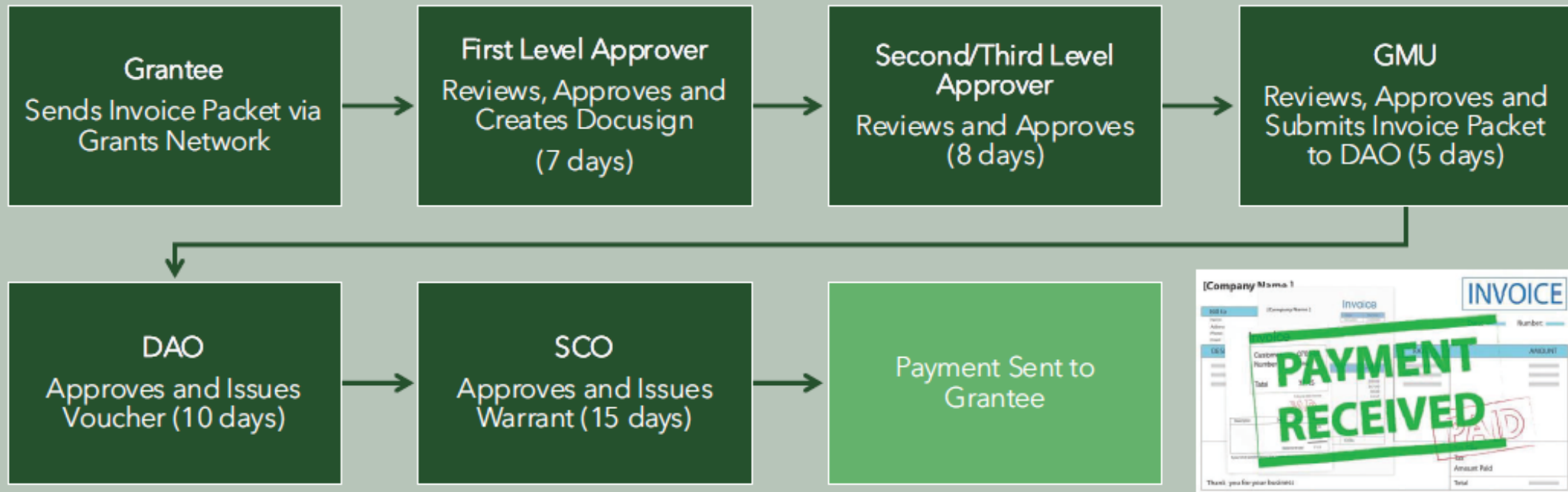
- This is about **climate** x **social** vulnerability
- Several data sources available for applicants to identify and describe this
- **Tribes count as vulnerable populations!**
 - Eligibility by NAHC Tribal Consultation List or projects that benefit tribal communities



[Climate Bond](#)
[Benefits Assessment Info](#)

Prompt Payment and Processing Times

Prompt Payment Act: 45 days to pay an invoice from the day that a correct invoice packet is received by CAL FIRE



Budget and Payment

- Is your budget correct and current for invoice costs?
- If eligible, plan to submit for an advance early in the project performance period.



Tribal Data Sovereignty & Spatial Data

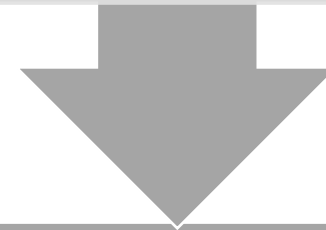
- Tribes may have sensitive or confidential locations
- Spatial data (polygons, maps) of acres treated will be posted on CalMAPPER



Spatial Reporting

Spatial data requirements

Ensure capacity and funds included in budget



Regular reporting:

Planned acres, treated acres, costs

Please do not give CAL FIRE sensitive or confidential data

Specifying Legal Jurisdiction via Limited Waivers of sovereign immunity

- Tribes have special legal status
- We recognize that tribal sovereignty is important, and waiving tribal sovereignty in any way is serious
- CAL FIRE stewards public funds, and has responsibilities to manage risk and account for public dollars
- If a project goes sideways, which courts have jurisdiction over the grant agreement?



LWSI likely required for federally recognized tribes

- Whose projects include any of:
 - Advance payments
 - Equipment purchases
 - On-the-ground work (fuels reduction, fire)
 - New to financial management of grants
- Individually negotiated; template available in Terms & Conditions



Environmental Compliance



California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- “Look before you leap”
- State law requiring public agencies to evaluate and disclose environmental impacts
- Applies to discretionary decisions, including grant funding

Environmental Compliance



1. Does CEQA/Environmental Compliance apply to **ALL** projects?
 - Yes, it applies to the funding source even for projects by federally recognized tribes that usually only have NEPA or Tribal rules.
2. What if my project has NEPA complete?
 - PRC 4799.05(d)(1) → CEQA Statutory Exemption
 - Prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects, or related activities.
3. What are some other CEQA pathways?
 - Grant guidelines!

Environmental Compliance

- One-year environmental compliance requirement
- Grant guidelines!
- **Discussions highly recommended during Full Applications**

cegrants.ceqa@fire.ca.gov

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**Tribal Wildfire Resilience
Grant Guidelines**

Fiscal Year 2025-2026



Applications Open: July 1, 2026
Concept Proposals Due: September 2, 2026
Full Invited Proposals Due: December 2026

Public Comment Open Until June 29, 2026

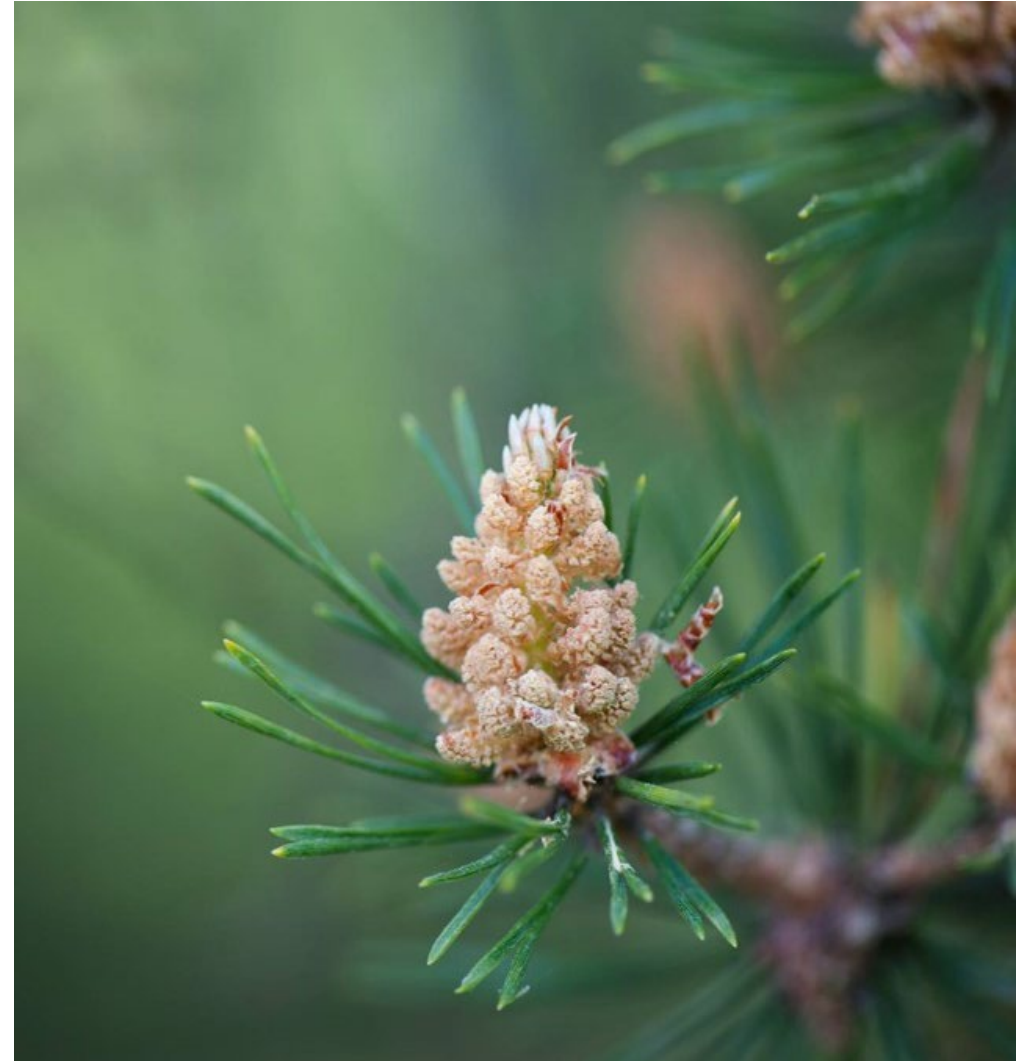
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Opinions?
Comments?
Questions?

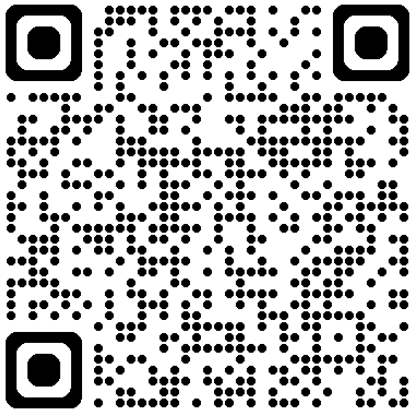
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First comments from Tribal
Leaders, Elected Officials, and
Elders

Open Discussion



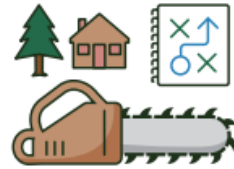
CAL FIRE funding



<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants>

CAL FIRE'S GRANT PROGRAMS

WILDFIRE PREVENTION



ACTIVITIES

- Hazardous Fuels Reduction
- Wildfire Prevention Planning
- Wildfire Prevention Education

FOREST LEGACY



ACTIVITIES

- Conservation Easements
- Fee Title Purchase

WILDFIRE RESILIENCE *BLOCK GRANT*



ACTIVITIES

- Forest Improvement
- Reforestation
- Technical Assistance
- Planning

FOREST HEALTH



ACTIVITIES

- Forest Fuels Reduction
- Prescribed Fire
- Pest Management
- Reforestation
- Biomass Utilization

BUSINESS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



ACTIVITIES

- Workforce Training
- Research and Development
- Business Development
- Biomass
- Wood Products
- Tree Nurseries

TRIBAL WILDFIRE RESILIENCE



ACTIVITIES

- Planning
- Cultural Burns
- Workforce Development

CALIFORNIA FOREST IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM *COST-SHARE*



ACTIVITIES

- Forest Improvement
- Reforestation
- Planning

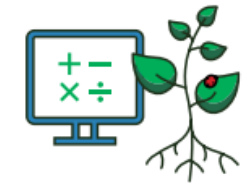
URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY



ACTIVITIES

- Urban Tree Planting
- Planning
- Workforce Development
- Education

FOREST HEALTH RESEARCH



ACTIVITIES

- Research



ACTIVITIES

- Firefighting Support



Resources

- Past Awarded Projects [on Tribal Wildfire Resilience Grants Website](#)
- [Tribal Stewardship Toolkit](#) from California Natural Resources Agency
- [Tribal Funding Workbook](#) from California Climate Investments
- [Tribal Peer-Learning Network](#) from Forest Business Alliance
- Other tribes that have the grant!
- Others – consultants? Nonprofits?

Follow-up?

Public Comment Closes Monday 6/29

Updates & additional info will be posted:
[Tribal Wildfire Resilience | CAL FIRE](#)

Mailing List sign-up:
[Grants Subscription Page | CAL FIRE](#)

Please contact us at:
TribalWildfireResilienceGrants@fire.ca.gov

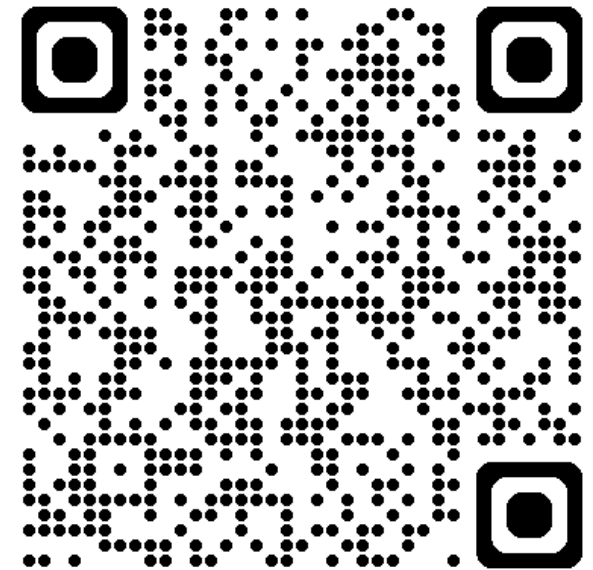


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Thank you for
joining today



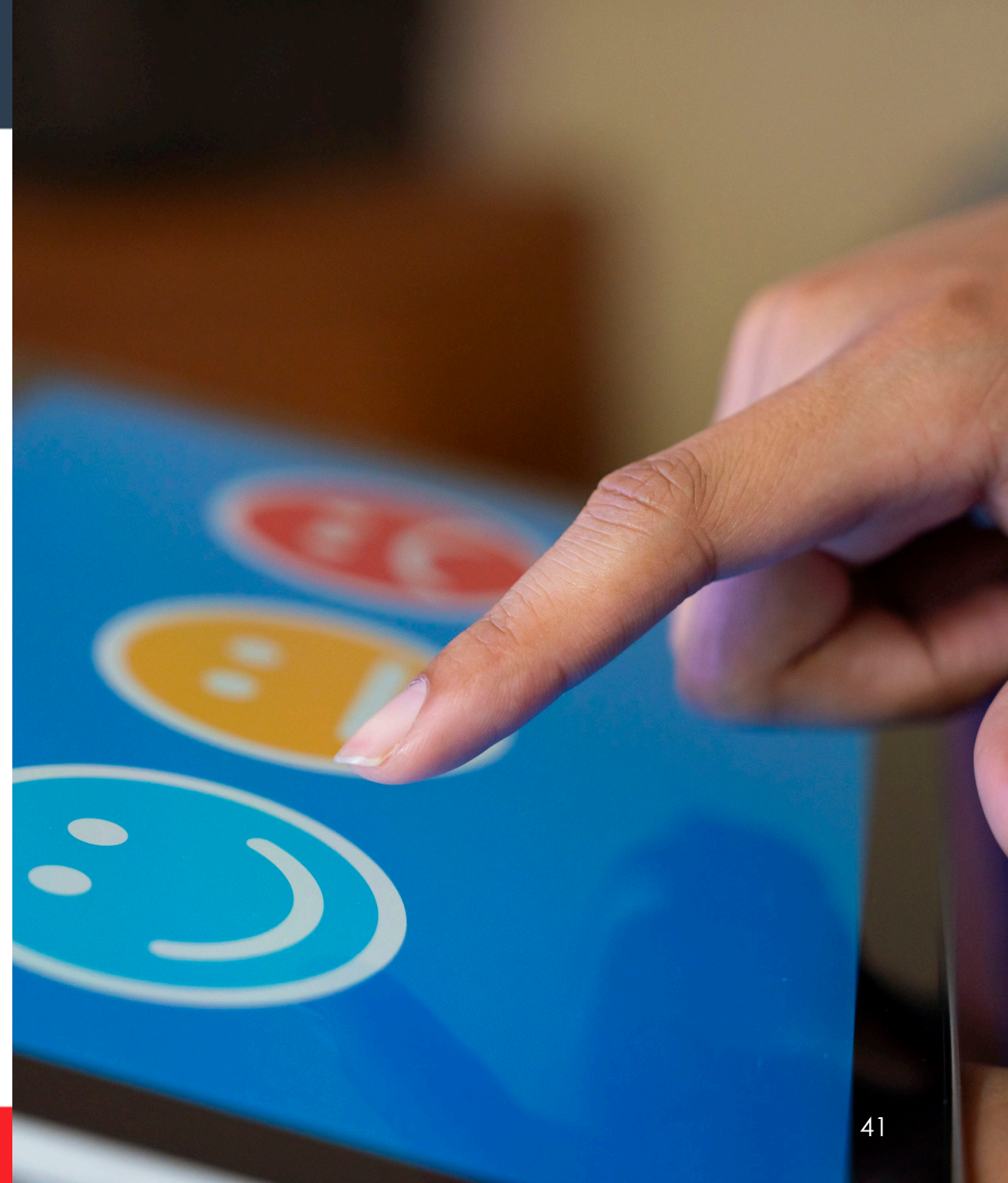
Prepared info for
frequently asked
questions



Native-serving Non-profit documentation

- All applications will include eligibility description & documentation
- For Tribal-serving nonprofits:
 - 1) Contact TWR to discuss (no one wants to spend lots of time on an application if we know you won't be eligible)
 - 2) Letter of Support from a California Native Tribe
 - 3) Description & documentation that the non-profit is tribally led. For example: majority-tribal board; mission statement & programs, etc.
 - 4) Describe how project serves tribal communities

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pgs. 6, 16



Invoicing

- Reimbursements
- Option for 6-month advance funds
- Work in-house and/or with subcontractors
- Ineligible Costs:
 - Roads, Culverts, Buildings
 - Fundraising, Endowments, Cash Reserves
 - Payment of a debt or mortgage
 - Lobbying or Lawsuits
 - Sub-granting or re-granting



Ecivis, online application

Application link will be posted on TWR Website.



Draft grant guidelines page 22; more info will be Posted on TWR website.

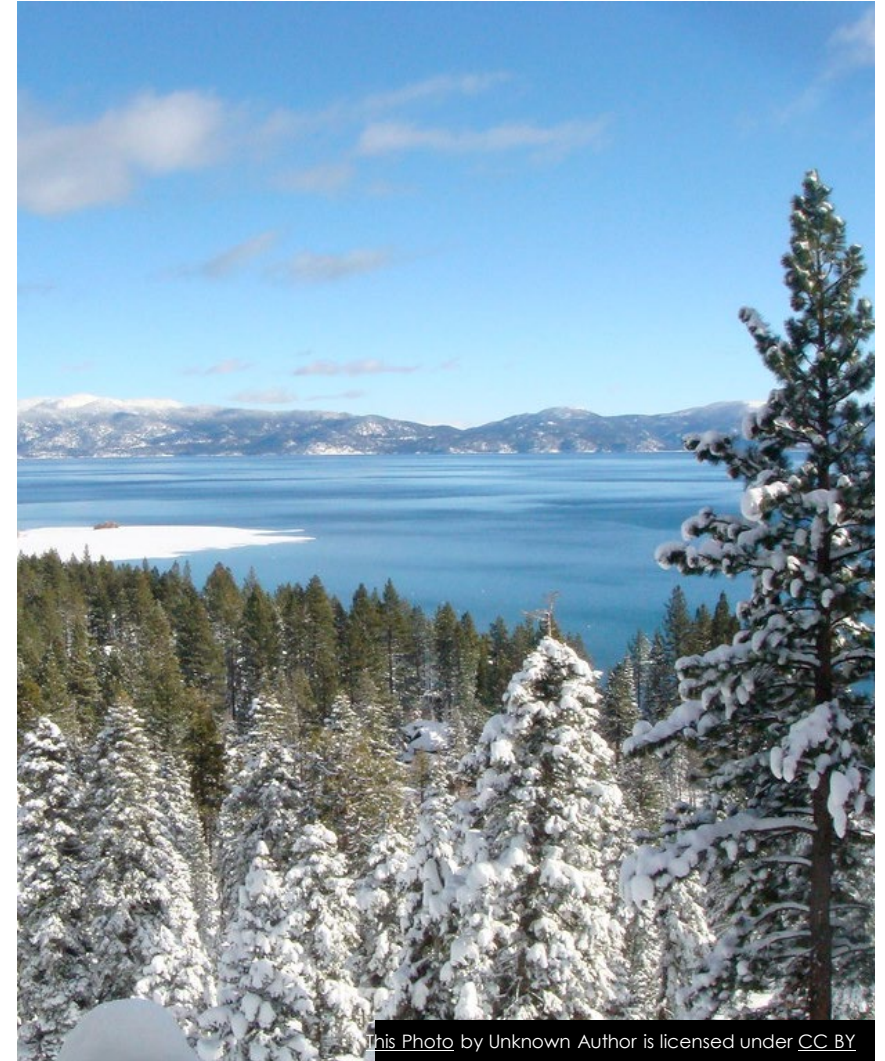
Video Q&A

- Online video calls are part of Full Applications
- Goal is to learn more about each other and for reviewers to better understand each project
- 2 - 4 TWR staff (who have read application)
1 - 4 Applicant Reps
- Half-hour each
 - 10 minute presentation of proposal (3-5 slides only!)
 - Q&A about the project proposal
 - Q&A about the program
- Tentatively January 2027



Project Locations

- Required: Within State of California
- Required: Ancestral land, as defined by the tribe
- Tribal land such as trust, allotment, fee title
- Partner with other landowners:
Needs long-term access
 - Forest Service, Local Parks District, Privately owned...
 - Access agreement, Co-management, Memorandum of Understanding, etc.
- Letters of Support from other tribes with current and/or ancestral ties to that area



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What about Carbon?

- Proposition 4 (Climate Bond) promotes long-term carbon storage and sequestration
- Full Applications will request information about expected climate impacts such as changes to forest carbon
- More information & technical assistance will be available at Full Applications

See: Draft Grant Guidelines pg. 10



We currently have a grant. Can We apply?

- Yes!
- Competitive with all other proposals
- The more complete the first project is, the stronger the new proposal will be
- There will be several application questions for current grantees
 - Describe if / how the new proposal fits with your current grants. (Adjacent? Maintain? Next phase?)
 - Admin capacity for multiple grants?
 - Current grants in good standing?
 - CAL FIRE \$ to date



Considerations for Tribal Projects

- Who is eligible?
(Tribal government, Tribal nonprofit, cultural practitioners)
- Contracting with the State of California
 - Limited Waivers of Sovereign Immunity?
 - California Environmental Quality Act
- Invoicing & reporting are a lot of details
- Data sovereignty

What makes a strong grant proposal?

- Good fit: proposal matches program scope
- Clear proposal (reviewers are not confused)
- Nothing disqualifying on either side

How to position a project for success

- Feasibility
- What else does the project's success depend on?
- Who will do the invoicing & reporting?
- Include stuff that helps you succeed!
 - software subscriptions, phone lines, radios, project management training, GIS software or training or contractor, accountants, legal fees for subcontracts, office supplies, PPE

Challenges & How to Overcome them

- Capacity & team
- Application reviewers are confused
 - Right fit for proposal
 - Focus on key things the grant would do
- Cash flow
 - Advances
 - Invoicing and reporting – lots of detailed requirements
 - State invoices take time

Life Cycle of a Grant

