

CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Proposed Grant Offers -- 2023 Q1					Disclaimer: Descriptions are provided by the applicant.
Project Type	Applicant	Project Name	County	Award Offer	Project Description
Biomass Transportation Subsidy	Community Renewable Energy Services, Inc.	Dinuba Energy Biomass Power Plant Transportation Subsidy Program	Tulare	\$ 3,000,000	The Dinuba Energy Power Plant Transportation Subsidy Program will support resuming operation of an idled 11.5MW facility and implementing a co-located landscape mulch operation by November 2023. Business Transportation Subsidy funds will bridge the gap between the actual costs to transport forest-based cull and submerchantable logs to the facility and what the facility can support given start-up costs and projected income and expenses. The proposed project will result in the purchase of forest-sourced logs, restoration of forest land, provide indirect jobs, and manufacture of mulch for wholesale distribution. This project will quickly expand the wood infrastructure servicing the Southern Sierra Nevada, and catalyze the region's fire recovery and forest health efforts.
Biomass Transportation Subsidy	Lignum Support LLC	Lignum Support California Biomass Transportation Subsidy	Statewide	\$ 2,000,000	The project will aim to utilize transport subsidy monies to recover scalable volumes of biomass feedstock from forest health and wildfire resiliency projects as well as roadside hazard reduction projects on state, federal, and private forest lands. The subsidy will directly enable projects to execute and move biomass from locations otherwise not capable due to cost of transport to Lignum new markets and where applicable existing markets, further allowing support off take volumes for the execution of projects on the ground supporting the 1 million acres treated goal for forest health and wildfire resiliency.
Business Development	Cascade Custom Cutting	Cascade Forest Health Business Development	Modoc Shasta Siskiyou Trinity	\$ 90,000	Cascade Custom Cutting will purchase a used tracked bulldozer (Caterpillar D6N XL or equivalent) which would increase safety, accessibility, and productivity of forest health projects throughout Siskiyou, Shasta, Trinity, and Modoc counties. Purchasing this equipment will allow for road improvement and construction for biomass chipping operations in locations that were once inaccessible. This equipment will also provide the necessary state and federal fire safety requirements for onsite fire equipment, allowing hot saw operations to continue later into the fire season. Finally, equipment will create skid trails to areas inaccessible to track-type feller bunchers and rubber tire skidders, allowing thinning treatments to occur in locations that would otherwise be left untreated.
Business Development	Arbor Energy and Resources Corporation	Detailed engineering for the construction of a 3MW biomass gasification facility in Placer County, CA	Placer	\$ 2,000,000	Arbor will coordinate the detailed engineering of a novel 3MW biomass gasification facility in Placer County, CA, focused on value-added opportunities for utilization of woody biomass generated as a byproduct of sustainable forestry management operations. We leverage torrefaction, compact entrained flow gasification, oxy-fuel combustion, and high-pressure turbo-expansion to create a first-of-its-kind biomass plant that will convert heterogeneous waste into carbon-negative power, capturing the associated carbon for sequestration. Our system can drastically change the economics of waste biomass utilization through monetizing carbon credits. Our final design will be an ultra-compact, modular unit that can be deployed in the region to reduce fuel loading, finance forest restoration, utilize the local workforce, and allow for energy resources to be harnessed by the community.

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Business Development	Community Renewable Energy Services, Inc.	Dinuba Energy Biomass Power Plant Restart	Tulare	\$ 801,232	The Dinuba Energy Biomass Power Plant Restart Project will advance resuming operation of an idled 11.5 MW facility and implementing a co-located landscaping mulch operation. Business Development grant funds are requested for a new electric horizontal whole log grinder and spare parts to process cull and submerchantable forest-sourced logs. The proposed project will nearly double the existing grinding efficiency and support utilization of 50,000 BDT/yr of wildfire salvage and fuel reduction materials, restoration of 4,500 acres/yr, four new jobs and the manufacture of 26,000 BDT/yr of mulch for wholesale distribution. This project will enable Dinuba Energy to efficiently and safely process forest-sourced whole logs and support the rapid expansion of wood infrastructure servicing the Southern Sierra Nevada.
Business Development	Forestreet Collective	Forestreet Collective: Vertical Integration of Small Diameter Timber Manufacturing	Sonoma	\$ 40,000	Forestreet Collective utilizes small-diameter feedstock from forest restoration and fuel load reduction projects in Sonoma County to create primary and secondary wood products. We revitalized the shuttered G&S Sawmill and plan to franchise other locations in the future. We use the latest in milling and fabrication technology to maximize efficiency and profits to transform small-diameter timber into value-added products. Since 2021 we have built capacity to become vertically integrated - from forest to consumer. This grant will help us purchase a compact telehandler, which will enable us to move the large volumes of logs and lumber required to meet our projections. The grant will also help augment our marketing and outreach campaign to increase consumer demand for small-diameter wood products.
Business Development	Kodama Systems, Inc.	In-Woods Connectivity: Operational Efficiency and Safety Improvements on Thinning Sites	Tuolumne	\$ 300,582	Kodama Systems (Kodama) is requesting funding to develop high-speed site connectivity and telemetry on remote forest management sites. Funding for this project will be used to develop software and hardware that enables machines to relay operational information to a landing site control center and establish communications redundancy for improved safety. Information such as machine locations will be shared between crew members and metrics such as acres treated will be reported to a web interface accessible by Cal Fire. Anticipated project impacts include increased thinning productivity and operational efficiencies that can scale across the industry. Additional impacts of these innovations include reduced costs for forest management contractors and economic development in nearby communities.

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Business Development	Rath Industries, Inc.	Rath Industries, Inc. Sawmill Project	Shasta	\$ 351,054	Rath Industries, Inc. (Rath) is an existing 2.88 MMBF/year lumber and custom milling facility in Redding, Shasta County, that provides an outlet in Northern California for salvage logs, including logs that are large diameter, fire salvage, blue stain and wormwood logs. The mill is well positioned to accept logs from the N. Coast Range and the Sierra Nevada and plans to: 1) Fabricate the existing mill and add equipment to increase manufacturing efficiencies and production yield and to expand Rath's product line while using large-diameter logs and lower value salvage wood; and 2) Install 3-phase electricity from the existing City utility, avoiding shutdowns associated with generator maintenance and reliance on fossil fuels. The project will increase consumption to 5.02 MMBF/year.
Business Development	Mote, Inc.	Research and Business Development 2023 Q1 - Mote MS1	Amador Butte El Dorado Mariposa Nevada Placer Plumas Sierra Stanislaus Tuolumne Yuba	\$ 500,000	Mote is seeking funding to assist in research and development of its uniquely integrated biomass gasification facility El Dorado County to utilize wood waste from the Sierra Nevada region for the production of carbon-negative hydrogen with geologic Carbon Dioxide (CO2) sequestration. Mote's facility will support feedstock businesses sources from El Dorado, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Amador, Mariposa Placer, Nevada, Plumas, Butte, and Yuba counties, many of which are considered high priority disadvantaged/low income and wildfire risk to forest ecosystem services areas by CalFire. The proposed project scope of work focuses on research and development activities to further engineering, permitting, site evaluation and feedstock feasibility studies.
Business Development	American Wood Fibers, Inc. [dba-California Wood Shavings]- Jamestown, CA	Shavings Plant Expansion with New Innovative Technology- Jamestown, CA	Tuolumne	\$ 1,891,000	American Wood Fibers [AWF] project is to increase the shaving capacity at Jamestown by installing an additional shaver which includes new innovative technology prototyped and approved at AWF's Kentucky and Wisconsin wood fiber processing facilities. The new technology increases efficiency and throughput while reducing maintenance costs, and will increase Jamestown's overall production capacity by 40%. The new system will be able to better process burned and/or diseased timber which comprises over 95% of the facilities raw material intake. This project will directly result in reduction of hazardous fuels and improvement of forest health through sourcing an additional 16,000 tons of logs annually and the capacity to supply finished feedstock to AWF's Marysville, CA operation.

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Business Development	Tubit Enterprises, Inc.	Tubit Sawmill Project	Shasta	\$ 2,000,000	The Tubit Sawmill Project in Burney, Shasta County, will increase forestry operations and enhance sawmill productivity. Tubit is developing a 11.2 MMBF sawmill concurrently with a 5 MW bioenergy facility, which will supply electricity and thermal energy to the sawmill and kilns. Grant funds are requested to procure and install four dry kilns. The sawmill will produce and dry specialty products using logs supplied by Tubit and logs and cut lumber supplied by Shasta Green Inc. enabling use of sugar pine and logs that exceed Shasta Green's diameter limits and accommodating maintenance shutdowns. This project will establish a forward-thinking model that can be replicated in other regions. It will facilitate forest treatments on 4,600 acres annually and create 18.5 jobs.
Workforce Development	California Forestry Association	California Forestry Sector Jobs Initiative	Statewide	\$ 500,000	Calforests and Mozaic Media & Communications, in partnership with its media partners, Ethnic Media Services and California Black Media, will work together to achieve the following goals of the California Forestry Sector Jobs Initiative: 1) Educate the public, especially K-12 students and potential workers, about the forestry sector; 2) Promote training, jobs, and careers available in the sector by partnering with community based organizations that serve underrepresented communities; and 3) Create a centralized, online hub that informs those interested about existing vocational and professional training and educational programs, as well as all forestry sector jobs opportunities, which pay a solid living wage.
Workforce Development	Future Fire Academy	Justice Involved and Underserved Communities Workforce Development Project	Amador El Dorado Placer Sacramento	\$ 1,276,370	Future Fire Academy is dedicated to creating opportunities for veterans, underserved communities and justice-involved individuals who desire a career in the forestry and fire service. This is accomplished through job specific training, education, community service, and character development. Funding from CAL FIRE will support our workforce development efforts to train and place 60 people per year in forestry and fire prevention and suppression opportunities. This is accomplished through our Wildland academies - 3 per year. The Fuels Reduction Division helps support fire prevention in El Dorado and surrounding counties by assisting multi-acre private property owners, HOA's and fire safe councils with their defensible space, fire mitigation and storm cleanup, as well as provides hands on training to cadets.

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Workforce Development	California Association of Resource Conservation Districts	RCD Workforce Development Project	Statewide	\$ 1,288,137	The RCD Workforce Development Project enhances Resource Conservation District (RCD) forestry capacity by increasing and creating new licensed experts. As special districts that combine public agency accountability, non-profit funding, and non-regulatory approaches, RCDs have a unique ability to bring together various partners in environmental resilience initiatives. RCDs are increasingly relied upon to undertake California's critical forestry and fire resilience projects, and skilled workforce shortages pose a significant bottleneck. While project implementation funding is more readily available, funds for workforce development are scarce, limiting RCDs' ability to fulfill the need. The project aims to support 15 RCDs, provide resources for 140 individuals, to collectively pursue 316 forestry-related certificates that will better prepare them to execute more and higher quality forestry work.
			Total Awarded	\$ 16,038,375	