

37. Approve the submission of a grant application for funding to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for capacity building and project pipeline development to aid in planning and implementing projects focused on forest health activities, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000. Authorize the Resource Management Agency Director, or designee, to submit the grant application.



Resource Management Agency

COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: May 7, 2024 – REVISED

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez PHONE: (559) 624-7010

SUBJECT: Approve the submission of a grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the submission of a grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for capacity building and project pipeline development to aid in planning and implementing projects focused on forest health activities.
2. Authorize the Resource Management Agency Director or his/her designee to submit the grant application.
3. Direct the Resource Management Agency to provide a signed copy of the grant application to the Clerk of the Board.

SUMMARY:

In early August 2023, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) extended an invitation to the County for participation in a regional tour scheduled for September 6, 2023. The tour aimed to explore wildfire recovery and community resilience projects across the region, with Tulare County being among the destinations.

SNC secured approximately \$11 million in Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) block grant funding from the Department of Conservation. This funding is intended for distribution via subgrants to various entities such as organizations, tribes, partnerships, and collaborations. The objective is to support the planning and execution of projects for forest health and fire protection in the region, with the focus on two categories: capacity building and project pipeline development.

SUBJECT: Approve the submission of a grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

DATE: May 7, 2024

- The capacity-building tasks aims to establish a foundation for organizational longevity and efficiency, while also providing guidance for program expansion and stakeholder involvement.
- A project pipeline is established by having projects at various stages concept, design, environmental, and implementation. The progression of projects through this pipeline accelerates the pace and impact of forest restoration efforts.

Following the tour, the County was informed of its eligibility to submit a pre-proposal for both categories of Round 3 funding through the RFFCP. The pre-proposal aimed to steer our discussion towards identifying the most strategic activities that the RFFCP might support financially. The County underwent a project assessment process, and SNC has approved funding for the listed projects:

- The **Tulare County Forest Health Task Force (\$200,000)** aims to enhance its organizational structure and effectiveness and has been chosen for integration into the capacity building category.
- The **Upper Grouse Valley Project (\$248,100)**, encompassing 981 acres of federal land, has been selected for inclusion in the project pipeline for design development. The design phase will entail forest inventory stand exams, project design, timber cruise, and unit layout.
- **Admin Overhead Indirect 10% maximum (\$44,810).**

Funding includes tribal engagement with stipends and staff participation in a series of regional monitoring workshops, and as well as developing a Regional Priority Plan which includes a project portfolio.

The deadline for submitting a formal grant application to SNC is May 8, 2024. The application must be submitted via email. As such, it is requested that the Resource Management Agency Director or his designee be authorized to submit the application.

Securing this funding would greatly strengthen the county's efforts to enhance forest health and bolster community fire protection initiatives. Once awarded, staff will return with an agreement for Board approval. All activities funded by the grant must conclude by July 31, 2027.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

No additional Net County Cost to the General Fund. The costs associated with management of the Forest Health Task Force (Unit 001-230-4533) are included in the FY 2023-24 general fund budget. Additional expenses for implementation and management of this grant will be fully reimbursable from the SNC.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

These initiatives are interconnected with the strategic business plan across two key areas: 1. Organizational Performance aimed at enhancing organizational efficiency by fostering communication, collaboration, and decision-making processes to advance the objectives of the Tulare County Forest Health Task Force. 2. Safety and Security focused on ensuring the well-being of the public through a unified approach to emergency

SUBJECT: Approve the submission of a grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

DATE: May 7, 2024

preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts, addressing both natural calamities and human-induced disasters to minimize landscape fuel risks.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Sherman Dix

Sherman Dix, CPA
Assistant Director Fiscal Services

/s/ Michael Washam

Michael Washam, A.C.E.
Associate Director

/s/ Reed Schenke

Reed Schenke, P.E.
Director

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment A:
RFFCP Grant Application

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF Approve the
submission of a grant application to the
Sierra Nevada Conservancy

)
) Resolution No. 2024-0379
)
)
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR VANDER POEL, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR SHUKLIAN, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD MAY 7, 2024, BY THE
FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: SUPERVISORS MICARI, VANDER POEL, SHUKLIAN, VALERO AND
TOWNSEND
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE



ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY:


Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

1. Approved the submission of a grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for capacity building and project pipeline development to aid in planning and implementing projects focused on forest health activities.
2. Authorized the Resource Management Agency Director or his/her designee to submit the grant application.
3. Directed the Resource Management Agency to provide a signed copy of the grant application to the Clerk of the Board.

Attachment “A”

RFFCP Grant Application



Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Round 3 Agreement Development Form



Applicant Organization or Tribe	County of Tulare
Geographic Area or Collaborative Geography Covered by Proposal	Wildland Urban Interface and Sierra Nevada Mountains within the County of Tulare
Funding Amount Requested	\$ 492,910

Applicant Authorized Representative <i>Person authorized to sign the grant agreement</i>	Name: Larry Micari
	Title: Chair, Board of Supervisors
	Phone: 559-636-5005
	E-mail: clerkoftheboard@tularecounty.ca.gov
	Address: 2800 W. Burrell, Visalia, CA 93277
Applicant Day-to-Day Contact <i>Person managing the project</i>	Name: Doreen Alvez
	Title: Grants Specialist
	Phone: 559-624-7146
	E-mail: DAlvez@tularecounty.ca.gov
	Address: 5961 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93291

County(ies) Covered	Tulare
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Grant Completion Date	July 31, 2027
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PROJECT SCOPE AND ACTIVITIES

Capacity-building activities are those which are needed to scale up planning and project-development efforts in a more inclusive and effective way. These can include collaboration and partnership development, project identification and prioritization, organizational development, project implementation, grant administration, and evaluation, among others. These can also include outreach to and engagement of tribes and tribal organizations, as well as tribal coordination and capacity building.

What were the key Capacity Building needs identified in your 2023 Assessment process?
(One paragraph maximum, could also be a bullet point list.)

Tulare County facilitates the Tulare County Forest Health Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force evolved from the Tree Mortality Task Force following the disaster period. The Task Force is envisioned to be a collaboration amongst stakeholders throughout the County. However, following the shift from disaster response to long-term collaboration, the effectiveness of the Task Force has not flourished. The purpose of the Proposal is to develop continuity, consistency, and efficacy of the Task Force relationship amongst stakeholders which includes:

- Assessment of existing collaboration
- Stakeholder outreach & engagement
- Collaborative structure development
- Identify community protection priority projects

How do your proposed capacity building activities address these needs?
(One paragraph maximum)

The Proposed will increase the capacity of the Task Force by improving stakeholder relationships. This includes the inclusion of a diverse, integrated, and broad representation of stakeholders in wildfire prevention including Federal, State, and local agencies, special districts, non-profit organizations, and community leaders. The Proposal includes the development of a collaborative structure which will formalize the group's role in the region as well as a method to identify priority projects. The result should be a collaborative effort producing viable and competitive Forest and Wildfire Resilience projects in the County.

Pipeline Project Development activities are meant to create a robust 'project pipeline', which means that your local partners have projects at multiple stages: concept, design, environmental



Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Round 3 Agreement Development Form



permitting, and implementation. The flow of projects through such a pipeline helps increase the pace and scale of forest restoration.

Briefly describe your proposed Project Pipeline Development activities and why they are needed to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration in your area.

(One paragraph maximum)

Tulare County is home to approximately 700,000 acres of Sequoia National Forest land. The past several years of drought has affected forest health and resulted in widespread tree mortality creating hazards along county, private and forest-maintained roads. Fuels have been building rapidly and the threat of high severity fire in the remaining unburned forests is extreme. Collaborative efforts that focus on mitigating hazards, maintaining public safety, reducing fuels and reforestation efforts are urgently needed to protect local communities and forested lands. While the need for projects is great, getting projects ready for implementation has been a challenge for the region. Several conceptual projects were included in the most recent Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) funding provides a unique opportunity to develop projects beyond the conceptual phase. A pipeline to move projects from conceptual to implementation is necessary for the region to implement meaningful projects and improve wildfire prevention and forest resilience projects.

PROJECT TASKS AND TIMELINE

(Please add additional tasks and timelines to the table below from the pre-proposal and SNC email correspondence.)

DETAILED PROJECT TASKS	APPROXIMATE TIMELINE
<i>Capacity Building Tasks (Task 1)</i>	
1a. Produce a report on your strategies to sustain the benefit of the above capacity building activities.	<i>(no later than) October 31, 2026</i>
1b. Provide information as needed for inclusion in SNC's Regional Priority Plan, as outlined in 'Project Portfolio Submission for Regional Priority Plan' document	<i>The SNC will work with subgrantees on milestones and deadlines for deliverables as they develop their project schedules.</i>
1c. Engage in regional Monitoring Plan training and produce monitoring plan for partnership/collaborative <i>(optional – please remove if not participating in the Monitoring Workshop series)</i>	<i>June 1, 2024- December 31, 2026</i>
1d. Grant Administration & Project Management	<i>June 1, 2024-May 31, 2027</i>



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1e. Current-state assessment of Task Force effectiveness	<i>July 1, 2024-December 31, 2024</i>
1f.1 Collaboratively craft goals, responsibilities, mission statement	<i>January 1, 2025- December 31, 2026</i>
1f.2 Develop Task Force networks	<i>January 1, 2025 – October 31, 2026</i>
1g.1 Analyze engagement and participation	<i>January 1, 2025 and January 31, 2027</i>
1g.2 Target stakeholder and tribal engagement efforts	<i>February 1, 2025- July 31, 2025</i>
1g.2 Develop strategic approaches to improve countywide collaboration	<i>May 2025- September 2026</i>
<i>Project Development Tasks (Task 2)</i>	
2a. Project Management	<i>June 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026</i>
2b. Project Design, Timber Cruise, Unit Layout	<i>January 1, 2025- June 30, 2025</i>
2c Complete Forest Inventory Stand Exam	<i>March 1, 2025- March 31, 2026</i>
<i>General Tasks</i>	
Attendance at SNC RFFCP Regional Annual Conference/s (if applicable) Attendance at bi-monthly Subgrantee Workshops	
Work Plan Activities and Financial Status Reports 3-month 6-month 9-month 12-month 15-month 18-month 21-month	July 31, 2024 October 31, 2024 January 31, 2025 April 30, 2025 July 31, 2025 October 31, 2025 January 31, 2026



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24-month	April 30, 2026
27-month	July 31, 2026
30-month	October 31, 2026
33-month	January 31, 2027
36-month	April 30, 2027
39-month	July 31, 2027
Final	July 31, 2027
Project Completion Date	<i>(no later than) May 31, 2027</i>
Request for Payment of Final Expenditures Final Report Performance Measures	<i>(no later than) July 31, 2027</i>

PROJECT BUDGET

Cost Category	Task 1: Capacity Building	Task 2: Project Development	Total
Personnel Salary/Benefits	\$92,000	\$25,000	\$117,000
Tribal Stipends	\$6,000		\$6,000
Materials/Supplies	\$10,000		\$10,000
Subcontracts	\$85,000	\$223,100	\$308,100
Travel (Tribal)	\$7,000		\$7,000
Subtotal: Direct Costs			\$448,100
Admin Overhead Indirect (10%)			\$44,810
Total Costs			\$492,910

Budget Narrative

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Please attach a budget narrative that outlines the resources needed for each Task or Activity above, and that briefly describes the costs and responsibilities of anticipated staff positions and consultant contracts, as well as a brief explanation of any other proposed costs. Alternately, this can be in the form of a detailed budget ('Internal Budget') which lists all staff positions (their hourly rates, their benefits, and the number of hours anticipated under this grant), consultants (their hourly rates and number of expected hours worked), and any other proposed costs (such as travel, participant stipends, etc.)

Internal Budget attached.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES

(Please add additional tasks and timelines to the table below from the pre-proposal and SNC email correspondence.)

DELIVERABLE	FORMAT	DUE DATE
SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES		
Regional Priority Plan information, as outlined in 'Project Portfolio Submission for Regional Priority Plan' document <i>(see below for possible deliverables)</i>		<i>The SNC will work with subgrantees on milestones and deadlines for deliverables as they develop their project schedules.</i>
Regional Priority Plan (RPP) Report 1: Status report on your collaborative/ partnership's list of priority projects		
RPP Report 2: Plan and timeline for completing RPP requirements		
RPP Status Reports: Quarterly status reports on completing RPP requirements		
RPP Final Report: Report providing list of priority projects with required project information	Electronic report and shapefiles	
Project Monitoring Plan <i>(optional – please remove if not participating in the Monitoring Workshop series)</i>	<i>Electronic Document</i>	
Task Force Assessment	Electronic Report	<i>December 31, 2024</i>
Collaborative Goals	Electronic Document	
Collaborative Responsibilities	Electronic Document	



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Collaborative Mission Statement	Electronic Document	
Collaborative Assessment	Electronic Report	<i>December 31, 2026</i>
Regional Engagement Strategy	Electronic Document	
Quarterly Reports- Includes * Items listed	Electronic Report	
*Engagement Strategy Implementation	Quarterly Report	
*Outreach & Engagement Activities	Quarterly Report	
*Project Status Updates	Quarterly Report	
*Project Pipeline Outreach	Quarterly Report	
Final Report Includes ** Items listed	Electronic Report	
**Task Force Networks Documentation	Final Report	
Grant Application for "Upper Grouse Valley"	Electronic Document	
GENERAL DELIVERABLES		
Work Plan Activities and Financial Status Reports 3-month 6-month 9-month 12-month 15-month 18-month 21-month 24-month 27-month 30-month 33-month 36-month 39-month Final	SNC Report Forms	July 31, 2024 October 31, 2024 January 31, 2025 April 30, 2025 July 31, 2025 October 31, 2025 January 31, 2026 April 30, 2026 July 31, 2026 October 31, 2026 January 31, 2027 April 30, 2027 July 31, 2027 July 31, 2027
Request for Payment of Final Expenditures Final Report Performance Measures	SNC Request for Payment Form SNC Final Report Form	60 days from Project Completion or no later than the deadline identified on the signature page of the Payment Request for Final Expenditures.

Compliance



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All projects must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) at the time the SNC Governing Board authorizes a grant. Since the complexity of CEQA compliance will vary depending on project activities and type of grantee, it is important to consult with SNC staff regarding which documents may be required in what timeframe. In addition to CEQA compliance, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance is required for all projects proposed on federal land.

Please provide a brief description of CEQA and NEPA status below.

For projects that are exempt from CEQA, please identify why the project is exempt. Planning projects that do not include ground-disturbing activities, including projects which will complete CEQA analysis as part of the project, are generally exempt from CEQA under §15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies) or §15306 (Information Collection), but other exemptions may apply to projects both with and without ground disturbance.

For projects not exempt from CEQA, please identify the CEQA document completed or planned, the expected timeline if CEQA/NEPA is not yet complete, and links to existing environmental documents. If links are not available, the documents must be submitted to SNC. Examples of documents to include are Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Timber Harvest Plan, CAL FIRE 1038 exemption, Environmental Assessment, and Decision Notice. The Lead Agency must be identified with a letter from that Agency confirming intent to serve as Lead. If SNC has agreed to serve as Lead Agency, please note this in the narrative below.

Brief Description of CEQA Status if Applicable (Please limit the response to one paragraph or less.)

This project is exempt from CEQA, as it is a planning project and does not include ground-disturbing activities.

Brief Description of NEPA Status if Applicable (Please limit the response to one paragraph or less.)

N/A

Project Area Contact Information

If the project has a specific location identified and SNC funds will be used for either CEQA or NEPA compliance and/or implementation, please provide the information in the chart below.

If not, please put N/A here: N/A

In compliance with SNC's governing statute, SNC will notify and may consult with project area representatives during project evaluation.



Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Round 3 Agreement Development Form



Tribal Contact(s)	
Tribe Name Contact Name Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	
Tribe Name Contact Name Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	
Tribe Name Contact Name Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	
Tribe Name Contact Name Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	
Public Land Management Agencies, County Planning Departments, and Local Water Agencies	
Contact Name Contact Title Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	
Contact Name Contact Title Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	
Contact Name Contact Title Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	
Contact Name Contact Title Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	

Performance Measures



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Performance measures are currently under development and will be included in grant agreements if this proposal is awarded.

Authorization to Apply

Project proponents are required to provide a copy of documentation authorizing them to apply for grant funding to the SNC. A project-specific governing board or council resolution is required for nonprofit organizations, tribes, and local government agencies. However, if the organization’s governing board has delegated authority to a specific officer to act on behalf of that organization, the officer may, in lieu of a resolution, submit a letter of authorization along with documentation of delegated authority. The documentation of delegated authority must include the language granting such authority and the date of the delegation.

In the space below, briefly describe the authorization to apply, if it has been authorized, or is scheduled for future consideration. Additionally, please include documentation with proposal submission.

(Please limit the response to one paragraph or less.)

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors adopted resolution number 2024-xxxx on May 14, 2024 authorizing this application.

Certification of Submission

Applicant Organization	County of Tulare
Project Name	(RFFCP2022) WIP Capacity Subgrant – County of Tulare



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CERTIFICATION OF SUBMISSION

By entering my name below, I certify that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of this organization.

Name	Denise England
Title	Grants and Resources Manager
Organization	Tulare County Resource Management Agency
Date	5/07/24

Internal Budget

Task 1 b	Regional Priority Plan			\$ 25,000
	<i>Consultant</i>			\$ 20,920
	Supplies			\$ 4,080
Task 1 c	Monitoring Plan Workshops	Hours	Rate	\$ 20,000
	<i>Staff</i>			\$ 20,000
	Grants Specialist I	377.35	\$ 53.00	\$ 20,000

Task 1 d	Grant Administration and Project Management	Hours	Rate	\$ 72,000
	<i>Administration (Staff)</i>			\$ 72,000
	Grants & Resources Manager	400	93	\$ 37,200
	Grants Specialist I	545	53	\$ 28,900
	Accountant	100	59	\$ 5,900
Task 1 e	Assessment of Collaboration	Hours	Rate	\$ 10,000
	<i>Facilitation (Consultant)</i>			\$ 10,000
	Senior Mediator/Facilitator	35	\$ 163.00	\$ 5,635
	Assistant Facilitator	30	\$ 133.00	\$ 3,990
	Contract Manager	5	\$ 75.00	\$ 375
Task 1f	Collaborative Structure Development	Hours	Rate	\$ 40,000
	<i>Facilitation (Consultant)</i>			\$ 26,365
	Senior Mediator/Facilitator	80	\$ 163.00	\$ 13,040
	Assistant Facilitator	74	\$ 133.00	\$ 9,885
	Contract Manager	10	\$ 75.00	\$ 750
	Supplies			\$ 2,690
	<i>Mapping (Staff)</i>			\$ 2,750
	GIS Analyst	25	\$ 110.00	\$ 2,750
	Develop Goals/Responsibilities/Mission			
	<i>Facilitation (Consultant)</i>			\$ 10,885
	Senior Mediator/Facilitator	35	\$ 163.00	\$ 5,705
	Assistant Facilitator	35	\$ 133.00	\$ 4,655
	Contract Manager	7	\$ 75.00	\$ 525
Task 1g	Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement	Hours	Rate	\$ 33,000
	<i>Stakeholder Outreach (Consultant)</i>			\$ 20,000
	Outreach Manager	30	\$ 175.00	\$ 5,250
	Community Organizer	45	\$ 125.00	\$ 5,625
	Outreach Specialist	59	\$ 100.00	\$ 5,895
	Supplies			\$ 3,230
	<i>Tribal Stipend</i>			
		Quantity	Rate	\$ 13,000
	Mileage Reimbursement	10,448	\$ 0.67	\$ 7,000
	Meeting Stipend	60	\$ 100	\$ 6,000

TOTAL

\$ 200,000

Task 2a	Project Management			\$ 25,000
	<i>Administration (Staff)</i>			<i>\$ 25,000</i>
	Grants & Resources Manager	100	93	\$ 9,300
	Grants Specialist I	218	53	\$ 11,570
	Accountant	70	59	\$ 4,130
Task 2b	Project Design/Timber Cruise/Unit Layout			\$ 133,100
	<i>RPF (Consultant)</i>			<i>\$ 133,100</i>
	Senior Registered Professional Forester	150	\$ 165.00	\$ 24,750
	Registered Professional Forester	169	\$ 148.00	\$ 25,070
	Assistant Forester	450	\$ 105.00	\$ 47,250
	GIS/Forest Analyst	230	\$ 145.00	\$ 33,350
	Mileage	4,000	\$ 0.67	\$ 2,680
Task 2c	Forest Inventory Stand Exam			\$ 90,000
	<i>RPF (Consultant)</i>			<i>\$ 90,000</i>
	Senior Registered Professional Forester	160	\$ 165.00	\$ 26,400
	Registered Professional Forester	160	\$ 148.00	\$ 23,680
	Assistant Forester	100	\$ 105.00	\$ 10,500
	GIS/Forest Analyst	194	\$ 145.00	\$ 28,080
	Mileage	2,000	\$ 0.67	\$ 1,340

Task 2 TOTAL

\$ 248,100



Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Round 3 Agreement Development Form



Applicant Organization or Tribe	County of Tulare
Geographic Area or Collaborative Geography Covered by Proposal	Wildland Urban Interface and Sierra Nevada Mountains within the County of Tulare
Funding Amount Requested	\$ 492,910

Applicant Authorized Representative <i>Person authorized to sign the grant agreement</i>	Name: Larry Micari
	Title: Chair, Board of Supervisors
	Phone: 559-636-5005
	E-mail: clerkoftheboard@tularecounty.ca.gov
	Address: 2800 W. Burrell, Visalia, CA 93277
Applicant Day-to-Day Contact <i>Person managing the project</i>	Name: Doreen Alvez
	Title: Grants Specialist
	Phone: 559-624-7146
	E-mail: DAlvez@tularecounty.ca.gov
	Address: 5961 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93291

County(ies) Covered	Tulare
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Grant Completion Date	July 31, 2027
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PROJECT SCOPE AND ACTIVITIES

Capacity-building activities are those which are needed to scale up planning and project-development efforts in a more inclusive and effective way. These can include collaboration and partnership development, project identification and prioritization, organizational development, project implementation, grant administration, and evaluation, among others. These can also include outreach to and engagement of tribes and tribal organizations, as well as tribal coordination and capacity building.

What were the key Capacity Building needs identified in your 2023 Assessment process?

(One paragraph maximum, could also be a bullet point list.)

Tulare County facilitates the Tulare County Forest Health Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force evolved from the Tree Mortality Task Force following the disaster period. The Task Force is envisioned to be a collaboration amongst stakeholders throughout the County. However, following the shift from disaster response to long-term collaboration, the effectiveness of the Task Force has not flourished. The purpose of the Proposal is to develop continuity, consistency, and efficacy of the Task Force relationship amongst stakeholders which includes:

- Assessment of existing collaboration
- Stakeholder outreach & engagement
- Collaborative structure development
- Identify community protection priority projects

How do your proposed capacity building activities address these needs?

(One paragraph maximum)

The Proposed will increase the capacity of the Task Force by improving stakeholder relationships. This includes the inclusion of a diverse, integrated, and broad representation of stakeholders in wildfire prevention including Federal, State, and local agencies, special districts, non-profit organizations, and community leaders. The Proposal includes the development of a collaborative structure which will formalize the group's role in the region as well as a method to identify priority projects. The result should be a collaborative effort producing viable and competitive Forest and Wildfire Resilience projects in the County.

Pipeline Project Development activities are meant to create a robust 'project pipeline', which means that your local partners have projects at multiple stages: concept, design, environmental



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permitting, and implementation. The flow of projects through such a pipeline helps increase the pace and scale of forest restoration.

Briefly describe your proposed Project Pipeline Development activities and why they are needed to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration in your area.

(One paragraph maximum)

Tulare County is home to approximately 700,000 acres of Sequoia National Forest land. The past several years of drought has affected forest health and resulted in widespread tree mortality creating hazards along county, private and forest-maintained roads. Fuels have been building rapidly and the threat of high severity fire in the remaining unburned forests is extreme. Collaborative efforts that focus on mitigating hazards, maintaining public safety, reducing fuels and reforestation efforts are urgently needed to protect local communities and forested lands. While the need for projects is great, getting projects ready for implementation has been a challenge for the region. Several conceptual projects were included in the most recent Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) funding provides a unique opportunity to develop projects beyond the conceptual phase. A pipeline to move projects from conceptual to implementation is necessary for the region to implement meaningful projects and improve wildfire prevention and forest resilience projects.

PROJECT TASKS AND TIMELINE

(Please add additional tasks and timelines to the table below from the pre-proposal and SNC email correspondence.)

DETAILED PROJECT TASKS	APPROXIMATE TIMELINE
<i>Capacity Building Tasks (Task 1)</i>	
1a. Produce a report on your strategies to sustain the benefit of the above capacity building activities.	<i>(no later than) October 31, 2026</i>
1b. Provide information as needed for inclusion in SNC's Regional Priority Plan, as outlined in 'Project Portfolio Submission for Regional Priority Plan' document	<i>The SNC will work with subgrantees on milestones and deadlines for deliverables as they develop their project schedules.</i>
1c. Engage in regional Monitoring Plan training and produce monitoring plan for partnership/collaborative <i>(optional – please remove if not participating in the Monitoring Workshop series)</i>	<i>June 1, 2024- December 31, 2026</i>
1d. Grant Administration & Project Management	<i>June 1, 2024-May 31, 2027</i>



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1e. Current-state assessment of Task Force effectiveness	<i>July 1, 2024-December 31, 2024</i>
1f.1 Collaboratively craft goals, responsibilities, mission statement	<i>January 1, 2025- December 31, 2026</i>
1f.2 Develop Task Force networks	<i>January 1, 2025 – October 31, 2026</i>
1g.1 Analyze engagement and participation	<i>January 1, 2025 and January 31, 2027</i>
1g.2 Target stakeholder and tribal engagement efforts	<i>February 1, 2025- July 31, 2025</i>
1g.2 Develop strategic approaches to improve countywide collaboration	<i>May 2025- September 2026</i>
<i>Project Development Tasks (Task 2)</i>	
2a. Project Management	<i>June 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026</i>
2b. Project Design, Timber Cruise, Unit Layout	<i>January 1, 2025- June 30, 2025</i>
2c Complete Forest Inventory Stand Exam	<i>March 1, 2025- March 31, 2026</i>
<i>General Tasks</i>	
Attendance at SNC RFFCP Regional Annual Conference/s (if applicable) Attendance at bi-monthly Subgrantee Workshops	
Work Plan Activities and Financial Status Reports 3-month 6-month 9-month 12-month 15-month 18-month 21-month	July 31, 2024 October 31, 2024 January 31, 2025 April 30, 2025 July 31, 2025 October 31, 2025 January 31, 2026



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24-month	April 30, 2026
27-month	July 31, 2026
30-month	October 31, 2026
33-month	January 31, 2027
36-month	April 30, 2027
39-month	July 31, 2027
Final	July 31, 2027
Project Completion Date	<i>(no later than) May 31, 2027</i>
Request for Payment of Final Expenditures Final Report Performance Measures	<i>(no later than) July 31, 2027</i>

PROJECT BUDGET

Cost Category	Task 1: Capacity Building	Task 2: Project Development	Total
Personnel Salary/Benefits	\$92,000	\$25,000	\$117,000
Tribal Stipends	\$6,000		\$6,000
Materials/Supplies	\$10,000		\$10,000
Subcontracts	\$85,000	\$223,100	\$308,100
Travel (Tribal)	\$7,000		\$7,000
Subtotal: Direct Costs			\$448,100
Admin Overhead Indirect (10%)			\$44,810
Total Costs			\$492,910

Budget Narrative

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Please attach a budget narrative that outlines the resources needed for each Task or Activity above, and that briefly describes the costs and responsibilities of anticipated staff positions and consultant contracts, as well as a brief explanation of any other proposed costs. Alternately, this can be in the form of a detailed budget ('Internal Budget') which lists all staff positions (their hourly rates, their benefits, and the number of hours anticipated under this grant), consultants (their hourly rates and number of expected hours worked), and any other proposed costs (such as travel, participant stipends, etc.)

Internal Budget attached.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES

(Please add additional tasks and timelines to the table below from the pre-proposal and SNC email correspondence.)

DELIVERABLE	FORMAT	DUE DATE
SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES		
Regional Priority Plan information, as outlined in 'Project Portfolio Submission for Regional Priority Plan' document (see below for possible deliverables)		The SNC will work with subgrantees on milestones and deadlines for deliverables as they develop their project schedules.
Regional Priority Plan (RPP) Report 1: Status report on your collaborative/ partnership's list of priority projects		
RPP Report 2: Plan and timeline for completing RPP requirements		
RPP Status Reports: Quarterly status reports on completing RPP requirements		
RPP Final Report: Report providing list of priority projects with required project information	Electronic report and shapefiles	
Project Monitoring Plan (optional – please remove if not participating in the Monitoring Workshop series)	Electronic Document	
Task Force Assessment	Electronic Report	December 31, 2024
Collaborative Goals	Electronic Document	
Collaborative Responsibilities	Electronic Document	

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Collaborative Mission Statement	Electronic Document	
Collaborative Assessment	Electronic Report	<i>December 31, 2026</i>
Regional Engagement Strategy	Electronic Document	
Quarterly Reports- Includes * Items listed	Electronic Report	
*Engagement Strategy Implementation	Quarterly Report	
*Outreach & Engagement Activities	Quarterly Report	
*Project Status Updates	Quarterly Report	
*Project Pipeline Outreach	Quarterly Report	
Final Report Includes ** Items listed	Electronic Report	
**Task Force Networks Documentation	Final Report	
Grant Application for "Upper Grouse Valley"	Electronic Document	
GENERAL DELIVERABLES		
Work Plan Activities and Financial Status Reports 3-month 6-month 9-month 12-month 15-month 18-month 21-month 24-month 27-month 30-month 33-month 36-month 39-month Final	SNC Report Forms	July 31, 2024 October 31, 2024 January 31, 2025 April 30, 2025 July 31, 2025 October 31, 2025 January 31, 2026 April 30, 2026 July 31, 2026 October 31, 2026 January 31, 2027 April 30, 2027 July 31, 2027 July 31, 2027
Request for Payment of Final Expenditures Final Report Performance Measures	SNC Request for Payment Form SNC Final Report Form	60 days from Project Completion or no later than the deadline identified on the signature page of the Payment Request for Final Expenditures.



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All projects must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) at the time the SNC Governing Board authorizes a grant. Since the complexity of CEQA compliance will vary depending on project activities and type of grantee, it is important to consult with SNC staff regarding which documents may be required in what timeframe. In addition to CEQA compliance, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance is required for all projects proposed on federal land.

Please provide a brief description of CEQA and NEPA status below.

For projects that are exempt from CEQA, please identify why the project is exempt. Planning projects that do not include ground-disturbing activities, including projects which will complete CEQA analysis as part of the project, are generally exempt from CEQA under §15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies) or §15306 (Information Collection), but other exemptions may apply to projects both with and without ground disturbance.

For projects not exempt from CEQA, please identify the CEQA document completed or planned, the expected timeline if CEQA/NEPA is not yet complete, and links to existing environmental documents. If links are not available, the documents must be submitted to SNC. Examples of documents to include are Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Timber Harvest Plan, CAL FIRE 1038 exemption, Environmental Assessment, and Decision Notice. The Lead Agency must be identified with a letter from that Agency confirming intent to serve as Lead. If SNC has agreed to serve as Lead Agency, please note this in the narrative below.

Brief Description of CEQA Status if Applicable (Please limit the response to one paragraph or less.)

This project is exempt from CEQA, as it is a planning project and does not include ground-disturbing activities.

Brief Description of NEPA Status if Applicable (Please limit the response to one paragraph or less.)

N/A

Project Area Contact Information

If the project has a specific location identified and SNC funds will be used for either CEQA or NEPA compliance and/or implementation, please provide the information in the chart below.

If not, please put N/A here: N/A

In compliance with SNC's governing statute, SNC will notify and may consult with project area representatives during project evaluation.



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Tribal Contact(s)	
Tribe Name Contact Name Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	Tule River Indian Tribe of California 559-781-4271 340 N. Reservation Road, Porterville, CA 93257
Tribe Name Contact Name Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	
Tribe Name Contact Name Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	
Tribe Name Contact Name Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	
Public Land Management Agencies, County Planning Departments, and Local Water Agencies	
Contact Name Contact Title Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	National Park Service 559-565-3341 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271
Contact Name Contact Title Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	USDA Forest Service 559-784-1500 220 E. Morton Ave, Porterville, CA 93257
Contact Name Contact Title Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	
Contact Name Contact Title Phone Number Email or Mailing Address	

Performance Measures



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Performance measures are currently under development and will be included in grant agreements if this proposal is awarded.

Authorization to Apply

Project proponents are required to provide a copy of documentation authorizing them to apply for grant funding to the SNC. A project-specific governing board or council resolution is required for nonprofit organizations, tribes, and local government agencies. However, if the organization’s governing board has delegated authority to a specific officer to act on behalf of that organization, the officer may, in lieu of a resolution, submit a letter of authorization along with documentation of delegated authority. The documentation of delegated authority must include the language granting such authority and the date of the delegation.

In the space below, briefly describe the authorization to apply, if it has been authorized, or is scheduled for future consideration. Additionally, please include documentation with proposal submission.

(Please limit the response to one paragraph or less.)

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors adopted resolution number 2024-0379 on May 7, 2024 authorizing application submittal.

Certification of Submission

Applicant Organization	County of Tulare
Project Name	(RFFCP2022) WIP Capacity Subgrant – County of Tulare



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CERTIFICATION OF SUBMISSION

By entering my name below, I certify that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of this organization.

Name	Denise England
Title	Grants and Resources Manager
Organization	Tulare County Resource Management Agency
Date	5/08/24

Internal Budget

Task 1 b	Regional Priority Plan			\$ 25,000
	<i>Consultant</i>			\$ 20,920
	Supplies			\$ 4,080
Task 1 c	Monitoring Plan Workshops	Hours	Rate	\$ 20,000
	<i>Staff</i>			\$ 20,000
	Grants Specialist I	377.35	\$ 53.00	\$ 20,000
Task 1 d	Grant Administration and Project Management	Hours	Rate	\$ 72,000
	<i>Administration (Staff)</i>			\$ 72,000
	Grants & Resources Manager	400	93	\$ 37,200
	Grants Specialist I	545	53	\$ 28,900
	Accountant	100	59	\$ 5,900
Task 1 e	Assessment of Collaboration	Hours	Rate	\$ 10,000
	<i>Facilitation (Consultant)</i>			\$ 10,000
	Senior Mediator/Facilitator	35	\$ 163.00	\$ 5,635
	Assistant Facilitator	30	\$ 133.00	\$ 3,990
	Contract Manager	5	\$ 75.00	\$ 375
Task 1f	Collaborative Structure Development	Hours	Rate	\$ 40,000
	<i>Facilitation (Consultant)</i>			\$ 26,365
	Senior Mediator/Facilitator	80	\$ 163.00	\$ 13,040
	Assistant Facilitator	74	\$ 133.00	\$ 9,885
	Contract Manager	10	\$ 75.00	\$ 750
	Supplies			\$ 2,690
	<i>Mapping (Staff)</i>			\$ 2,750
	GIS Analyst	25	\$ 110.00	\$ 2,750
	Develop Goals/Responsibilities/Mission			
	<i>Facilitation (Consultant)</i>			\$ 10,885
	Senior Mediator/Facilitator	35	\$ 163.00	\$ 5,705
	Assistant Facilitator	35	\$ 133.00	\$ 4,655
	Contract Manager	7	\$ 75.00	\$ 525
Task 1g	Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement	Hours	Rate	\$ 33,000
	<i>Stakeholder Outreach (Consultant)</i>			\$ 20,000
	Outreach Manager	30	\$ 175.00	\$ 5,250
	Community Organizer	45	\$ 125.00	\$ 5,625
	Outreach Specialist	59	\$ 100.00	\$ 5,895
	Supplies			\$ 3,230
	<i>Tribal Stipend</i>			
		Quantity	Rate	\$ 13,000
	Mileage Reimbursement	10,448	\$ 0.67	\$ 7,000
	Meeting Stipend	60	\$ 100	\$ 6,000

TOTAL

\$ 200,000

Task 2a	Project Management			\$ 25,000
	<i>Administration (Staff)</i>			<i>\$ 25,000</i>
	Grants & Resources Manager	100	93	\$ 9,300
	Grants Specialist I	218	53	\$ 11,570
	Accountant	70	59	\$ 4,130
Task 2b	Project Design/Timber Cruise/Unit Layout			\$ 133,100
	<i>RPF (Consultant)</i>			<i>\$ 133,100</i>
	Senior Registered Professional Forester	150	\$ 165.00	\$ 24,750
	Registered Professional Forester	169	\$ 148.00	\$ 25,070
	Assistant Forester	450	\$ 105.00	\$ 47,250
	GIS/Forest Analyst	230	\$ 145.00	\$ 33,350
	Mileage	4,000	\$ 0.67	\$ 2,680
Task 2c	Forest Inventory Stand Exam			\$ 90,000
	<i>RPF (Consultant)</i>			<i>\$ 90,000</i>
	Senior Registered Professional Forester	160	\$ 165.00	\$ 26,400
	Registered Professional Forester	160	\$ 148.00	\$ 23,680
	Assistant Forester	100	\$ 105.00	\$ 10,500
	GIS/Forest Analyst	194	\$ 145.00	\$ 28,080
	Mileage	2,000	\$ 0.67	\$ 1,340

Task 2 TOTAL

\$ 248,100