



**North Coast Resource Partnership  
Policy Review Panel (PRP) & Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) Meeting  
MEETING MATERIALS**

**Friday, October 18, 2019; 10 am – 3:45 pm  
Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, Tish Non Community Center, Loleta**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

*The following items correspond to the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) agenda for October 18, 2019 per agenda order and item number. The items below include background information for agenda items that require additional explanation and, in some cases, include recommendations for action. The meeting agenda and other meeting materials can be found on the NCRP website at <https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/north-coast-resource-partnership-quarterly-meetings/>*

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**VI REGIONAL FOREST AND FIRE CAPACITY PROGRAM: UPDATE FROM STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERS**

The Regional Forest and Fire Capacity program seeks to increase regional capacity to prioritize, develop, and implement projects that improve forest health and fire resilience, facilitate greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and increase carbon sequestration in forests throughout California. Block grants will be utilized by recipients to support regional implementation of landscape-level forest health projects consistent with the California [Forest Carbon Plan](#) and Executive Order B-52-18. The Natural Resources Agency released [Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Guidelines](#) early in 2019. In March, the Natural Resources Agency announced block grant [funding awards](#) in the amount of \$20 million, including a block grant for the North Coast Resource Partnership for \$4.25 million. Three million in funding was also provided to the Watershed Research and Training Center in partnership with the California Fire Safe Council to assist with statewide outreach, education, and training; as well as statewide program implementation. A coalition of North Coast Resource Conservation Districts – including Sonoma, Gold Ridge, Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity RCDs – have also received funding to hire a Watershed Coordinator that will collaborate with the NCRP, the Watershed Research and Training Center, and the CA Fire Safe Council on strategic planning, and provide outreach and technical assistance to landowners.

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## VIII NCRP REGIONAL FOREST AND FIRE CAPACITY FUNDING

On April 26, 2019 the PRP formed the Forest Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee comprised of NCRP PRP and TPRC members to advise on the implementation of the NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Block Grant. The Forest Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee met on September 30, 2019 to discuss and refine the following program materials and recommendations.

### i. WORK PLAN OVERVIEW

In April 2019 the PRP authorized Humboldt County to enter into a California Natural Resources Agency Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Block Grant agreement in the amount of \$4,037,500 on behalf of the NCRP with California Natural Resource Agency and/or California Department of Conservation. The grant is intended to achieve several key objectives for the North Coast region and California:

- a) Collaborate with CNRA, and other identified partners such as the Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC), CAL FIRE, the US Forest Service (USFS), the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC), Resource Conservation Districts, and regional Fire Safe Councils.
- b) Develop a regional prioritized plan for fuel load reduction, forest health, public health and safety, and economic vitality.
- c) Develop streamlined permitting for fuel load reduction and forest health projects
- d) Develop and implement demonstration projects that can be scaled up to address regional priorities and enhance knowledge of actionable strategies for fuel load reduction
- e) Perform education and outreach to inform communities about opportunities to provide input into the plan, share data and resources, and ensure opportunities to propose demonstration projects

The regional forest plan is expected to outline priority activities at the regional and local scale and is expected to position the NCRP to access funding via SB 901, other current (eg, Proposition 1, Prop 68) and potential future funding sources (eg, SB 45 and other private and public funding sources). A general budget breakdown follows; to be refined with oversight by the Forest Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee.

- Grant Administration and Project Management – Humboldt County \$200,000
- Development of Regional Plan for prioritizing projects and streamlining permitting and providing technical assistance, education and outreach: approximately \$1.9 M
- Demonstration Projects: approximately \$1.9 M

In April 2019, the PRP formed a Forest Resiliency Block Grant Ad Hoc Committee comprised of NCRP PRP and TPRC members to advise on the implementation of the CNRA block grant. The ad hoc committee met on September 30 to discuss the following topics:

- Review prioritization process for projects, actions, strategies to be included in the Regional Priority Plan (RPP)

- Review and approve criteria and selection process for County and Tribal Forest Advisors Review process and criteria
- Review the Draft Regional Priority Plan Outline

### **Forest Resiliency Block Grant Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:**

The Forest Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee requests that the NCRP PRP approve the proposed recommendations below:

#### **ii. IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION PROCESS FOR PROJECTS, ACTIONS, STRATEGIES**

The goal of the forestry block grant awarded to the NCRP by the California Natural Resources Agency and the Department of Conservation is to develop a North Coast Regional Priority Plan (RPP) that will include a comprehensive and integrated set of strategies, actions and projects to support forest and community health and long-term resilience to wildfire. Roughly half of the funding will be allocated to the plan and half to demonstration projects.

There is a great deal of current activity in terms of the identification and prioritization of fuel load and forest management projects, in part due to large amounts of funding being allocated to this significant challenge. In our region, the Northern Region Prioritization Work Group (NRPG) is following the direction of the Forest Management Task Force (FMTF) to identify priority projects with a yet to be determined connection to future funding. There are efforts underway to clarify the relationship between the FMTF/NRPG process and how it will influence future allocations of funding to implement identified priority projects. In the meantime, CAL FIRE is continuing to use a “business as usual” model of a traditional individual application process for awarding funding, as opposed to a block grant model - at least for the near-term funding rounds. Preliminary conversations with state agency staff indicate that there may be an interest in allocating implementation funds via block grants in the future.

The NCRP is appropriate for a block grant model, does not add much value to the individual application model, and does not want to compete with individual applicants in the region. Rather than having NCRP rush to add one more layer of bureaucracy to this already chaotic and volatile situation around fire and fuel load reduction, we are proposing to take a longer term approach that consists of: a) developing a comprehensive, science-based, expert/community informed regional priority plan that will result in high quality implementation outcomes; b) take the time to ensure we have all relevant parties on board (eg, CNRA, DOC, partners, stakeholders, funders) – ie, go slow to go fast; c) advocate with our elected officials and agency representatives for block grant funding to support the implementation of the NCRP regional plan and projects once the plan is complete. Meanwhile, NCRP staff plans to stay engaged with CAL FIRE, the NRPG, and the FMTF to keep them informed about our approach outlined above and to provide input to their process of developing a clear path from project identification and prioritization to implementation funding.

#### **PROCESS STEPS**

**(please note that these steps are not linear – many of them may take place at the same time)**

1. **Regional Mapping and Analysis:** Perform screening level evaluation/analysis/map of forest health, wildfire risks and hazards, and community/forest vulnerabilities, assets, and values for the region – using remote sensing (methods for screening level evaluation/analysis to be reviewed by WCW, then NCRP staff team, Ad Hoc, other advisors)
2. **Develop Criteria:** Develop detailed prioritization criteria for all current and future identified projects, actions, and strategies. Criteria will explicitly include the magnitude and multiple benefits for each project, action or strategy.
3. **Local Project Identification:** Develop detailed interview/survey form to identify needs in the region – including project ideas, location/size, capacity building needs, funding, policy barriers/changes, regulatory challenges/changes, technical assistance needs - including quantification of benefits (and co-benefits) and scale of project, permitting requirements/needs, project development status. A list of short term vs longer term projects will be identified, including those that are time sensitive and can move forward with minimal permitting requirements. Develop an approach for reviewing existing plans and associated project and asset data sets and mapping to seek a more complete understanding of the project needs (implementation, programmatic) in order to develop full catalog of both short and long term needs at varying scales in region. These data would be integrated with information derived from the WRTC and CAFSC capacity assessment survey to be completed in October.
4. **Integrate Regional and Local Information:** Overlay information derived from step 3 onto regional map described in step 1
5. **Regional Needs Assessment:** Evaluate data gaps, funding gaps, capacity gaps based on integrated maps and information identified in step 4. Provide targeted technical assistance where there are clear data gaps; where projects have not been identified in areas with high wildfire risk and high concentrations of values and assets.
6. **Develop Priority Actions & Strategies:** Prioritize actions and strategies at the regional scale based on the integrated regional/local data described in step 4
7. **Develop Prioritized Project List:** Apply project prioritization criteria to current list of identified projects, with the understanding that the NCRP will continue to identify and prioritize projects over time
8. **Technical Assistance:** Offer technical assistance to project proponents - with an emphasis placed on economically disadvantaged communities and entities - to facilitate priority project development and permitting to generate implementation-ready projects.
9. **Develop Demonstration Project Request for Proposal (RFP):** Conduct the demonstration project application process in two rounds to ensure that project proponents have more than one opportunity to submit. The demonstration project application will be conducted in two phases: 1) a simple preliminary application to be evaluated using the criteria listed in step 2, followed by a full application for those invited to submit. The RFP will include options for demonstration projects in various categories (eg, innovations in vegetation management,

evaluation of new equipment and practices, tool/template development, innovative programmatic approaches to regulation/permitting, policy enhancements, economic innovations and opportunities). Preliminary criteria for demonstration projects: scalable, measurable, transferable, impact, increases scope and scale of forest/community health efforts.

iii. **DRAFT FOREST ADVISORS CRITERIA & SELECTION PROCESS**

**NCRP TRIBAL AND COUNTY TECHNICAL FOREST ADVISORS**

**Role:** Representatives from groups and Tribes in the region, supported by Program funding, will be selected to provide technical review and input on regional and sub-regional priority project planning and help set criteria for the selection of demonstration projects and technical assistance recipients. In addition, Advisors will inform and review the development of a process for the allocation of technical support for project development and permitting. Staff is assuming a group no larger than ten Forest Advisors. Stipends will be provided to cover expenses.

**Selection Process:** Per the grant agreement, the NCRP will solicit a letter of interest and RFQ to groups and Tribes in the region and beyond, seeking technical review and input on the regional and sub-regional Regional Priority Plan (RPP), as well as criteria for the selection of demonstration projects and technical assistance recipients. NCRP staff and the NCRP Forestry Ad Hoc Committee will review and make a recommendation to the NCRP PRP for the make-up of this group of advisors, comprised of a balance of expertise.

**Selection Criteria:** The NCRP is seeking a group of Forest Advisors that represent the geographic and thematic diversity of forest and fire issues in the North Coast region, and who have knowledge in one or several of the following areas:

- In depth knowledge of forest health and forest ecosystems in the North Coast region, including their role in carbon sequestration, climate adaptation, maintaining biological diversity and culturally-significant natural and historic values, human health and safety, sustaining local economies, and water quality and supply. Demonstration of experience in this field.
- In depth knowledge of wildfire risks, hazards, and ignition sources as well as an understanding of fuel loading, fire behavior characteristics, and fire management and wildfire response.
- Understanding and experience with the practical application of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in relationship to restoring and protecting fire resilient landscapes and cultural use areas.
- Knowledge and demonstrated experience in identifying shared values and priorities among diverse partnerships using processes that balance wildfire risks and hazards with community, economic, cultural, and natural values and assets.
- Knowledge and demonstrated experience in the identification, prioritization, and design of forest management techniques to establish healthy and resilient forests and achieve other benefits; using methods such as prescribed fire, cultural burning, forest thinning and sustainable timber harvest, grazing, and habitat restoration.

- Knowledge of and work experience in the landscape and human communities of the North Coast region.
- Knowledge of and work experience in forest economics, social science, policy and regulation
- Knowledge of biomass utilization techniques and emerging industry trends
- Knowledge of and demonstrated experience with forest thinning, prescribed fire, and biomass processing workforce development and crew training, including the associated maintenance of existing and acquisition of new equipment and infrastructure.
- Possession of certifications, licenses or professional membership will be taken into account, but not required

#### iv. **DRAFT NCRP REGIONAL PRIORITY PLAN OUTLINE**

The initial draft outline for the NCRP Regional Priority Plan: Forestry, Fire Protection, and Watershed Improvement for the North Coast is under review by the NCRP Forestry Ad Hoc Committee. The draft plan outline can be found in this document as **Attachment A** along with a proposed process for outline and Plan development.

## **IX NCRP Leadership Handbook**

In April 2019, the PRP developed a policy directing staff to prepare and present the NCRP Leadership Handbook (NCRP Handbook) to the PRP for review and approval consideration on an annual basis. The NCRP Handbook - the dynamic part of the NCRP Plan - describes the governance structure, goals/objectives, PRP decisions and policies made during the quarterly meetings. It also lists the PRP & TPRC membership, NCRP projects, and MoMU signatories and other elements of the NCRP that change over time. The NCRP Handbook includes the following sections:

- i. North Coast Resource Partnership Governance
- ii. North Coast Resource Partnership Major Themes
- iii. NCRP Goals and Objectives
- iv. NCRP Funding Awards
- v. NCRP Useful Website Links
  - Appendix A Policy Review Panel and Technical Peer Review Committee Members
  - Appendix B NCRP Policy Review Panel Motions and Direction
  - Appendix C North Coast Resource Partnership Management Structure and Roles
  - Appendix D NCRP Policies
  - Appendix E NCRP Projects
  - Appendix F NCRP MoMU signatories
  - Appendix G NCIRWMP Memorandum of Mutual Understandings

### **i. NCRP Policies**

The PRP is the governance and decision-making body for the NCRP, and sets policy on a regular basis to provide direction to the NCRP TPRC and NCRP staff. The policies and processes of the NCRP are regularly reviewed and updated by the PRP based on new information and the needs and opportunities facing the NCRP and the North Coast region. Policy updates have been historically recorded in NCRP Quarterly Meeting summaries, the NCRP Handbook *NCRP Policy Review Panel Motions and Direction* appendix and various review guidelines. The NCRP has a strong focus on transparent decision making and regional equity, and seeks to share and disseminate its policies and processes in one place as an Appendix to the NCRP Handbook so that stakeholders in the North Coast region have a clear understanding of the decision-making process and policies that guide the NCRP.

The draft policies were presented to the PRP during the April 2019 meeting and the PRP directed staff to send the draft policies via email to the PRP and TPRC for further review. These were sent to the leadership team in May and September of 2019 for review. The revised NCRP Handbook Policy Appendix is included as **Attachment B** in this document and has been updated to include existing policies, an updated policy and 3 new policies, as well as input provided during the 2019 review periods. Please note, that new proposed language is underlined and text proposed to be removed is crossed-out.

- Updated: ON-GOING PROJECT INCLUSION PROCESS INTO THE NCRP PLAN
- New: NCRP POLICY ON EXTERNAL PLAN INTEGRATION
- New: NCRP PROCESS FOR EVALUATION OF FUNDING & LEGISLATIVE OPPORTUNITIES
- New: NONCOMPLIANCE POLICY

**Recommendation:** PRP review, edit and approve the NCRP Policies to be included in the updated Handbook as an Appendix.

### **ii. NCRP Handbook, 2019 Review & Approval**

The draft NCRP Leadership Handbook, 2019 is provided at [https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/site/assets/uploads/2019/10/NCRP\\_Handbook\\_2019\\_draft.pdf](https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/site/assets/uploads/2019/10/NCRP_Handbook_2019_draft.pdf)

**Recommendation:** PRP review, edit and approve the NCRP Handbook, 2019.

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## **X NCRP PROJECT SOLICITATION AND SELECTION PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS**

The NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee met on May 9, July 29 and October 1 2019 to debrief the NCRP 2019 Proposition 1 IRWM Project Solicitation, project review and selection process and make suggestions for improvement. The TPRC acknowledged a number of positive process elements and recommend that these elements be maintained. The TPRC will continue to meet to discuss improvements and identify approaches and specific actions to incorporate into the next funding solicitation.

## XIV Updates

### ii. Regional Administrator & Project Implementation Update: Humboldt County

#### Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Projects:

Prop. 84 Round	Total Projects	Grant Amount	Amount Invoiced	% Complete	Projects Complete at End of Year (estimated for 2019, 2020, 2021)				
					2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<i>Round 1 (2013)</i>	18	\$8.2 million	\$7.7 million*	100%	10	18	18	18	18
<i>Round 2 (2014)</i>	12	\$5.4 million	\$5.3 million	98%	7	9	12	12	12
<i>Drought (2015)</i>	11	\$8.7 million	\$6.5 million	75%	3	7	11	11	11
<i>Final (2016)</i>	25	\$11.0 million	\$6.6 million**	60%	6	10	14	22	25
<b>Totals</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>\$33.3 million</b>			<b>26</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>66</b>
* Several Prop 84 Round 1 projects came in under budget, resulting in surplus funding **Included \$1.1 million advanced payment									

#### Notes:

- The Humboldt County Regional Administrator Team (Admin Team) continues to collaborate with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and local project sponsors (LPS) to ensure quality grant deliverables and timely reimbursement payments. Feedback and questions are welcome, and members of the Admin Team are available to discuss suggestions or concerns regarding their work on behalf of the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP).
- **Prop 84 Round 1:** This grant round is closed, and all projects have been completed. Several LPS encountered insurmountable obstacles to completing the full scope of their projects. There was insufficient time to reallocate the resulting surplus funding to other projects, resulting in unspent grant dollars. The Admin Team is now putting the final touches on the Grant Completion Report.
- **Prop 84 Round 2:** This grant round closed on June 30, 2019. All projects have completed construction implementation and have finalized all invoicing. There are three LPS working to complete their Project Completion Reports; Big Rock Community Services District, the County of Siskiyou, and the Yurok Tribe. Once all Project Completion Reports are received and approved, the Admin Team will finalize and submit the Grant Completion Report.



- **Prop. 84 Drought Round:** The completion deadline for this grant round has been extended from June 30, 2019 to December 31, 2019. This extension will allow for a more robust closeout process for the five remaining projects and ensure that the highest quality final reporting and invoicing can be completed.
- **Prop 84 Final Round:** The completion deadline for this grant round has been extended from August 31, 2020 to March 31, 2021. This extension was requested to accommodate LPS that are encountering delays and to ensure that the Admin Team has adequate time to close out the grant round.
- **The Prop. 1 Round 1:** This first round of Prop 1 funding is still in the regional application stage. Implementation projects have been selected through the standard NCRP solicitation process and incorporated into the regional proposal which was submitted to DWR in September of 2019 (for \$12.7 million). The Admin Team is currently updating and revising the Grants Compliance Manual to incorporate Prop. 1 requirement and create a more user friendly and effective guide. The Prop 1 Round 2 solicitation is expected in late 2020 or early 2021.

**Planning Projects:**

<b>Title and Funding Source</b>	<b>Grant Term</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
<i>North Coast Resource Partnership Outreach &amp; Involvement: Tribal Engagement &amp; Economic Opportunity for Disadvantaged Communities (DACTI)</i> Dept. of Water Resources, Proposition 1	April 2017 to April 2020	In progress	\$2.65 million
<i>Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program</i> CA Natural Resources Agency, administered by the CA Dept. of Conservation	May 2019 to March 2022	In progress	\$4.03 million

**Notes:**

- **Tribal Engagement & Economic Opportunity for Disadvantaged Communities:** The Tribal Engagement & Economic Opportunity for Disadvantaged Communities project aims to continue, expand and improve Tribal and disadvantaged community engagement in the NCRP and the Integrated Regional Water Management program. West Coast Watershed (WCW) and the California Environmental Indian Alliance (CIEA) continue to work closely with the Humboldt County Admin Team to implement this project. An amendment request has been submitted to DWR to extend the term of the grant to keep the project and associated technical assistance needs aligned with the second round of Prop 1 implementation funds. The amendment additionally proposes to reorganize the work plan based on lessons learned from the first phase of the project and to allocate contingency funds to project tasks accordingly.
- **Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Block Grant:** The NCRP was awarded a Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Block Grant by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) in the amount of \$4,037,500. This block grant is intended to support regional planning for priority forest health and fire resiliency opportunities, pre-project planning and permitting, project demonstration, and outreach and education across the region.

The Humboldt County Admin Team executed a grant agreement with the CNRA in May 2019, developed an invoicing and reporting process, and will be submitting an advance payment request at the end of October. Initial contracting with the existing NCRP consultant team, consisting of WCW and CIEA, has been completed or is underway. The Admin Team, in coordination with WCW and CIEA has focused on developing a detailed work plan; processes for onboarding advisors, technical consultants, and an NCRP ad hoc committee; and an annotated outline of the Regional Priority Plan – a primary deliverable of this project.

**Contacts:**

Name	Contact Information	NCRP Admin Role
Hank Seemann, Deputy-Director	<a href="mailto:hseemann@co.humboldt.ca.us">hseemann@co.humboldt.ca.us</a>	Program Management
Cybelles Immitt, Natural Resources Planning Manager	<a href="mailto:cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us">cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us</a>	Planning Projects and Program Oversight
Lauren Rowan, Environmental Analyst	<a href="mailto:lrowan@co.humboldt.ca.us">lrowan@co.humboldt.ca.us</a>	Prop. 84 Final Round
Denise Monday, Environmental Analyst	<a href="mailto:dmonday@co.humboldt.ca.us">dmonday@co.humboldt.ca.us</a>	Prop. 84 Round 2 Prop. 84 Drought Prop. 1 Round 1
Julia Cavalli, Environmental Analyst	<a href="mailto:jcavalli1@co.humboldt.ca.us">jcavalli1@co.humboldt.ca.us</a>	Admin for DACTI and RFFC planning grants

**iii. Notable Legislation**

Susan Haydon, Sonoma Water

**Biomass**

**[SB 515](#) (Caballero D) Public Utilities Commission: high hazard zone fuel: report.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 7/2/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 8/30/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(12). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/21/2019) (May be acted upon Jan 2020)

**Location:** 8/30/2019-A. 2 YEAR

**Summary:** Current law requires each electrical corporation to annually prepare a wildfire mitigation plan and to submit its plan to the commission for review and approval, as specified. Current law requires that an electrical corporation’s wildfire mitigation plan include plans for vegetation management. Current law requires the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to enter into a memorandum of understanding to cooperatively develop consistent approaches and share data related to fire prevention, safety, vegetation management, and energy distribution system. This bill would require the commission to submit a report to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature on or before January 6, 2020, that contains specified information relating to high hazard zone fuel.

**[AB 352](#) (Garcia, Eduardo D) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 8/14/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 8/14/2019-From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on EQ.

**Location:** 8/14/2019-S. E.Q.

**Summary:** Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$3,920,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program. The bill would provide for the submission of these provisions to the voters at the November 3, 2020, statewide general election. The bill would provide that its provisions are severable.

**[AB 1298](#) (Mullin D) Climate Resiliency, Fire Risk Reduction, Recycling, Groundwater and Drinking Water Supply, Clean Beaches, and Jobs Infrastructure Bond Act of 2020.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 8/22/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 9/6/2019-From committee: Be re-referred to Coms. on W., P., & W. and NAT. RES. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (September 5). Re-referred to Com. on W., P., & W.

**Location:** 9/5/2019-A. W., P. & W.

**Summary:** Would enact the Climate Resiliency, Fire Risk Reduction, Recycling, Groundwater and Drinking Water Supply, Clean Beaches, and Jobs Infrastructure Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an unspecified amount pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance a climate resiliency, fire risk reduction, recycling, groundwater and drinking water supply, clean beaches, and jobs infrastructure program. The bill would require the bond act to be submitted to the voters at the November 3, 2020, statewide general election.

**[SB 45](#) (Allen D) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 9/10/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 9/10/2019-Senate Rule 29.3(b) suspended. (Ayes 29. Noes 8.) From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

**Location:** 4/25/2019-S. APPR.

**Summary:** Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4,189,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law

to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.

## Climate Policy

### [AB 1284](#) ([Carrillo D](#)) Carbon neutrality.

**Current Text:** Introduced: 2/21/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 4/26/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was NAT. RES. on 3/11/2019)(May be acted upon Jan 2020)

**Location:** 4/26/2019-A. 2 YEAR

**Summary:** This bill would require the State Air Resources Board to adopt a regulation defining carbon neutrality, as specified.

## Energy

### [AB 56](#) ([Garcia, Eduardo D](#)) Electricity: procurement by the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority.

**Current Text:** Amended: 7/3/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 9/15/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(15). (Last location was E. U., & C. on 8/28/2019)(May be acted upon Jan 2020)

**Location:** 9/15/2019-S. 2 YEAR

**Summary:** Would require the Public Utilities Commission to empower the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority to undertake backstop procurement of electricity that would otherwise be performed by an electrical corporation to meet the state resource adequacy, integrated resource planning, and renewable portfolio standard goals not satisfied by retail sellers or load-serving entities. The bill would authorize the authority to undertake backstop procurement consistent with specified objectives and to manage the resale of electricity for its contracted resources. The bill would require the commission to periodically review the need for, and the benefits of, continuing to empower the authority to undertake backstop procurement responsibilities.

### [SB 350](#) ([Hertzberg D](#)) Electricity: resource adequacy: multiyear centralized resource adequacy mechanism.

**Current Text:** Introduced: 2/19/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 7/10/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10). (Last location was U. & E. on 5/9/2019) (May be acted upon Jan 2020)

**Location:** 7/10/2019-A. 2 YEAR

**Summary:** Would authorize the Public Utilities Commission to consider a multiyear centralized resource adequacy mechanism, among other options, to most efficiently and equitably meet specified resource adequacy objectives.

**[SB 560](#) (McGuire D) Wildfire mitigation plans: deenergizing of electrical lines: notifications: mobile telephony service providers.**

**Current Text:** Enrollment: 9/19/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 9/19/2019-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3 p.m.

**Location:** 9/19/2019-S. ENROLLED

**Summary:** Would require that the procedures for notifying a customer who may be impacted by the deenergizing of electrical lines by a local publicly owned electric utility, an electrical cooperative, or an electrical corporation direct notification to all public safety offices, critical first responders, health care facilities, and operators of telecommunications infrastructure with premises within the footprint of potential deenergization for a given event. The bill would require each electrical corporation to also include protocols for the deenergization of the electrical corporation's transmission infrastructure in the wildfire mitigation plan, for instance when the deenergization may impact customers who, and entities that, are dependent upon the infrastructure.

## Fire

**[AB 1054](#) (Holden D) Public utilities: wildfires and employee protection.**

**Current Text:** Chaptered: 7/12/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 7/12/2019-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 79, Statutes of 2019.

**Location:** 7/12/2019-A. CHAPTERED

**Summary:** Would establish the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board consisting of 7 members appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, and Senate Committee on Rules, as provided, who would serve 4-year staggered terms. The bill would require the board, among other actions, to advise and make recommendations related to wildfire safety to the Wildfire Safety Division or, on and after July 1, 2021, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, as established pursuant to AB 111 or SB 111 of the 2019–20 Regular Session.

**[SB 182](#) (Jackson D) Local government: planning and zoning: wildfires.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 9/6/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 9/15/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(15). (Last location was DESK on 9/13/2019) (May be acted upon Jan 2020)

**Location:** 9/15/2019-A. 2 YEAR

**Summary:** Current law requires the planning agency to review and, if necessary, revise the safety element upon each revision of the housing element or local hazard mitigation plan, but not less than once every 8 years to identify new information relating to flood and fire hazards and climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the city or county that was not available during the previous revision of the safety element. Current law requires that the Office of Planning and Research, among other things, coordinate with appropriate entities, including state, regional, or local agencies, to establish a clearinghouse for climate adaptation information for use by state, regional, and local entities, as provided. This bill would require the safety element, upon the next

revision of the housing element or the hazard mitigation plan, on or after January 1, 2020, whichever occurs first, to be reviewed and updated as necessary to include a comprehensive retrofit strategy to reduce the risk of property loss and damage during wildfires, as specified, and would require the planning agency to submit the adopted strategy to the Office of Planning and Research for inclusion into the above- described clearinghouse.

**[SB 209](#) (Dodd D) Office of Emergency Services: Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center.**

**Current Text:** Enrollment: 9/18/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 9/18/2019-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.

**Location:** 9/18/2019-S. ENROLLED

**Summary:** Would require the Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to jointly establish and lead the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center, comprised of representatives from specified state and other entities. The bill would require the center to serve as the state’s integrated central organizing hub for wildfire forecasting, weather information, and threat intelligence gathering, analysis, and dissemination and to coordinate wildfire threat intelligence and data sharing, as provided. The bill would also require the center to, among other things, develop a statewide wildfire forecast and threat intelligence strategy, as provided, and protect and safeguard sensitive information. The bill would make various findings and declarations in this regard.

## Forest Management

**[AB 38](#) (Wood D) Fire safety: low-cost retrofits: regional capacity review: wildfire mitigation.**

**Current Text:** Enrollment: 9/26/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 9/26/2019-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 4 p.m.

**Location:** 9/26/2019-A. ENROLLED

**Summary:** Would require the Natural Resources Agency, by July 1, 2021, and in consultation with the State Fire Marshal and the Forest Management Task Force, to review the regional capacity of each county that contains a very high fire hazard severity zone to improve forest health, fire resilience, and safety, as specified. The bill would require the Natural Resources Agency to make the review publicly available on its internet website. On or after July 1, 2021, the bill would require a seller of real property located in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone to provide specified documentation to the buyer that the real property is in compliance with the wildfire protection measures as specified or a local vegetation management ordinance, or enter into an agreement with the buyer pursuant to which the buyer will obtain documentation of compliance, as provided.

**[AB 1516](#) (Friedman D) Fire prevention: wildfire risk: defensible space and fuels reduction management.**

**Current Text:** Enrollment: 9/24/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 9/24/2019-Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** 9/24/2019-A. ENROLLED

**Summary:** Current law requires that a person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains an occupied dwelling or structure in, upon, or adjoining a mountainous area, forest-covered land, brush-covered land, grass-covered land, or land that is covered with flammable material that is within a very high fire hazard severity zone, as designated by a local agency, or a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining those areas or lands within a state responsibility area, to maintain a defensible space of 100 feet from each side and from the front and rear of the structure, as specified. A repeated violation within a specified timeframe of those requirements is a crime. This bill would require a person described above to utilize more intense fuel reductions between 5 and 30 feet around the structure, and to create an ember-resistant zone within 5 feet of the structure, as provided.

#### Water Infrastructure

[SB 1](#)

**(Atkins D) California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act of 2019.**

**Current Text:** Vetoed: 9/27/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 9/27/2019-Vetoed by the Governor. In Senate. Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

**Location:** 9/27/2019-S. VETOED

**Summary:** Current state law regulates the discharge of air pollutants into the atmosphere. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act regulates the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the state. The California Safe Drinking Water Act establishes standards for drinking water and regulates drinking water systems. The California Endangered Species Act requires the Fish and Game Commission to establish a list of endangered species and a list of threatened species, and generally prohibits the taking of those species. This bill would, until January 20, 2025, require specified agencies to take prescribed actions regarding certain federal requirements and standards pertaining to air, water, and protected species, as specified. By imposing new duties on local agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

#### Water Tax/Fee

[SB 200](#)

**(Monning D) Drinking water.**

**Current Text:** Chaptered: 7/24/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 7/24/2019-Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 120, Statutes of 2019.

**Location:** 7/24/2019-S. CHAPTERED

**Summary:** Would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury to help water systems provide an adequate and affordable supply of safe drinking water in both the near and the long terms. The bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to provide for the deposit into the fund of certain moneys and would continuously appropriate the moneys in the fund to the state board for grants, contracts, or services to assist eligible recipients.

**[SB 669](#) ([Caballero D](#)) Water quality: Safe Drinking Water Fund.**

**Current Text:** Introduced: 2/22/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 5/16/2019-May 16 hearing: Held in committee and under submission.

**Location:** 5/13/2019-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

**Summary:** Would establish the Safe Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury and would provide that moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the State Water Resources Control Board. The bill would require the state board to administer the fund to assist community water systems in disadvantaged communities that are chronically noncompliant relative to the federal and state drinking water standards and do not have the financial capacity to pay for operation and maintenance costs to comply with those standards, as specified.

**Watershed Health**

**[AB 933](#) ([Petrie-Norris D](#)) Ecosystem resilience: watershed protection: watershed coordinators.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 7/11/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 8/30/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(12). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/12/2019) (May be acted upon Jan 2020)

**Location:** 8/30/2019-S. 2 YEAR

**Summary:** Would authorize the Department of Conservation, to the extent funds are available, to establish and administer the Ecosystem Resilience Program to fund watershed coordinator positions, as provided, and other necessary costs, throughout the state for the purpose of achieving specified goals, including the goal to develop and implement watershed improvement plans, and other plans to enhance the natural functions of a watershed, aligned with multiple statewide and regional objectives across distinct bioregions. The bill would require the department to develop performance measures and accountability controls to track progress and outcomes of all watershed coordinator grants.

**[SB 19](#) ([Dodd D](#)) Water resources: stream gages.**

**Current Text:** Chaptered: 9/27/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 9/27/2019-Signed by the Governor

**Location:** 9/27/2019-S. CHAPTERED

**Summary:** Would require the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board, upon an appropriation of funds by the Legislature, to develop a plan to deploy a network of stream gages that includes a determination of funding needs and opportunities for modernizing and reactivating existing gages and deploying new gages, as specified. The bill would require the department and the board, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Conservation, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, interested stakeholders, and, to the extent they wish to consult, local agencies, to develop the plan to



address significant gaps in information necessary for water management and the conservation of freshwater species.

**[SB 226](#)**

**(Nielsen R) Watershed restoration: wildfires: grant program.**

**Current Text:** Amended: 7/3/2019 [html](#) [pdf](#)

**Status:** 8/30/2019-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(12). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 8/14/2019) (May be acted upon Jan 2020)

**Location:** 8/30/2019-A. 2 YEAR

**Summary:** Would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, require the National Resources Agency to develop and implement a watershed restoration grant program, as provided, for purposes of awarding grants to eligible counties, as defined, to assist them with watershed restoration on watersheds that have been affected by wildfire, as specified. The bill would require the agency to develop guidelines for the grant program, as provided. The bill would require an eligible county receiving funds pursuant to the grant program to submit annually to the agency a report regarding projects funded by the grant program, as provided.

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**iv. NCRP Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Outreach & Involvement Program**

**PROGRAM VISION:** In keeping with North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) Goals & Objectives and building on past initiatives, this Program aims to continue, expand and improve Tribal and disadvantaged community<sup>1</sup> engagement with the NCRP and the Integrated Regional Water Management program.

**PROGRAM STATUS UPDATE**

**General Admin**

- A grant agreement amendment request has been submitted to DWR to adapt the work plan based on what has been learned through project implementation to date. The amendment also requests a one-year extension to keep the project term in line with the second round of

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<sup>1</sup> *Disadvantaged Communities Definitions:*

- *Disadvantaged Community (DAC): Census tract, block or place with an annual median household income (MHI) that is less than 80% of the statewide MHI (North Coast – 89%)*
- *Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC): Census tract, block, place w/annual MHI <60% of state MHI (NC – 57%)*
- *Economically Distressed Area: a rural county or municipality w/ population of < 20,000 with an annual MHI <85% of statewide MHI, & one of following:*
  - *Financial hardship*
  - *Unemployment rate 2% higher than the statewide average*
  - *Low population density*
- *Under-represented Community: Tribes have been historically under-represented in local and State water management and planning efforts*

Proposition 1 Implementation funding. This will allow for continued technical support for the development of quality projects and associated funding applications.

### **NCRP Leadership Support and Coordination**

- Monthly Tribal Representatives meeting by phone for development and review of the IRWM Plan Update, Russian River Pilot development, Fire Block Grant, DACTI Technical Assistance, NCRP Handbook Update and Needs Assessment Review.

### **NCRP Quarterly Meeting Planning**

- Meetings with NCRP staff and leadership were held to develop agenda and meeting materials
- Outreach to meeting presenters and participants; follow up communication and panel coordination

### **NCRP Outreach**

- NCRP web content was updated including regional and local news items, calendar events, and funding opportunities.
- The NCRP Community Tool Box is in the process of being updated and a web-friendly toolbox will be released in December and will be used as a focus for trainings and workshops in 2020
- Tribal community outreach ongoing
- Continued update of the Tribal Contact List, launched new NCRP Tribal Listserv to send Monthly Newsletter with resources, upcoming funding opportunities, trainings and meeting information
- NCRP staff participated in regional and statewide meetings to promote the NCRP, Tribes and disadvantaged communities: Roundtable of Regions, Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation, DWR workshops
- Subcontractors worked on locally important outreach efforts: regarding the highly contentious water quality threat of failing septic systems in the economically disadvantaged communities of the lower Russian River; and to provide information to legal cannabis producers regarding water conservation, beneficial rural road maintenance practices and proper use and disposal of toxic materials

### **NCRP Plan Update**

- NCRP Plan sections have been updated to comply with the 2016 IRWM Plan Standards
- NCRP Tribal representatives completed review of the Draft and Final updated NCIRWM Plan sections for 2019.
- NCRP Plan Appendices were updated and Tribal and staff input incorporated.
- The second draft NCRP Plan was developed for NCRP Policy Review Panel and Technical Peer Review Committee review in June and July.
- The NCRP PLAN, Phase IV, Public Review Draft was posted to the NCRP website in early August.
- The [NCRP Plan IV NonAdopted Sept 2019](#) was submitted to DWR for review in early September.

## Needs Assessment

- NCRP staff produced the North Coast Resource Partnership Disadvantaged Community & Tribal Needs Assessment Survey & Interview Summary for DWR Review. This draft summary represents a snapshot-in-time as the needs assessment process is on-going and will continue to inform the process of identifying project needs and the associated provision of technical assistance throughout the region.

## Needs Assessment - Tribal

- Completed Final Needs Assessment, received responses from 18 Tribes and completed the Draft Assessment Summary:
- We completed the interim Tribal Needs Assessment Report during our last reporting period, including the results of Needs Assessments from 18 Tribes. We are coordinating results with the lists of Indian Health Services (IHS) and the US EPA to identify potential projects and needs for each of the Tribes. Also, met with Cal-Rural Water Association and Rural Community Assistance Corporation to see what information they could provide since they provide circuit riding services for Tribes. The list of responding Tribes are as follows:

### North

- Elk Valley Rancheria
- Karuk Tribe
- Resighini Rancheria
- Tolowa Dee-Ni Nation
- Yurok Tribe Environmental Program

### Central

- Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria
- Blue Lake Rancheria
- Cahto Indian Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria
- Round Valley Reservation
- Sherwood Valley Rancheria
- Wiyot, Table Bluff Rancheria

### South

- Dry Creek Band of Pomo Indians
- Guidiville Indian Rancheria
- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria
- Pinoleville Pomo Nation
- Potter Valley Tribe
- Redwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Yokayo Tribe

## Interviews

Completed follow-up Interview Questions, and completed interviews with eight (8) of the eighteen (18) Tribes who completed the Needs Assessments including:

- *Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria*
- *Blue Lake Rancheria*
- *Yokayo Tribe*
- *Round Valley Band of Pomo Indians*
- *Redwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians*
- *Resighini Rancheria*
- *Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians*
- *Yurok Tribe*

We are in the process of creating technical assistance workplan for each Tribes who completed their needs assessments in order to provide support for IRWM proposal development, trainings/workshops, and onsite technical assistance and resources.

### **Technical Assistance**

- Local engineering firms (GHD, PACE, LACO) provided direct engineering technical assistance and grant proposal support for the regional NCRP Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Project Solicitation
- NCRP Tribal Coordinator facilitated the provision technical assistance for several Tribes to develop projects for the NCRP Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Project Solicitation and future solicitations. Tribes in need to technical assistance have been and continue to be identified.

### **Project Planning, Environmental Documentation or Engineering/Design**

- Revising the 1st Draft of List of Tribally vetted contractors, provided support for three Tribes developing projects. Provided by the Tribal Engagement Coordinator and Technical Assistance Consultant included selecting contractors who provide CEQA/NEPA hybrid services, and local sources with pricing for different types of storage tanks including information from Tribes on which companies provided services with positive outcomes.
- Round 2 will require more engineering and design support. Conducting in follow-up interviews a set of questions related to which contractors and organizations can be recommended by Tribes who have received their services for what kinds of projects. We anticipate an increase in Tribal proposals requiring some level of technical assistance in Round 2.

### **Proposition 1 IRWM Funding Application Assistance**

- For Round 1 we provided initial information on which kinds of projects are eligible for Implementation Projects and assisted Tribes in identifying projects that may be competitive. We have initial list of project proponents in need of assistance and through comparison with needs assessments and conversations with Tribes in interviews we are documenting more needs to provide technical assistance. We assisted Tribal review of DWR's Round 1 Prop1 PSP and resulting NCRP announcement and more recently the Grants Compliance Manual.
- The following Tribes have identified needs that the IRWM Program may be able to support or that the DACTI program will assist to leverage outside support:
  - Yokayo

- Resighini
- Blue Lake
- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians
- Cahto
- Sherwood Valley
- Round Valley
- Redwood Valley
- Yurok Tribe
- List of those who received support for Round 1 Project Support:
- Yokayo (1 project- CEQA tech assistance providers and estimate, light support for proposal development)
- Blue Lake (tank sources and comparative estimates, light support for proposal development)
- Yurok (CEQA/NEPA estimates)

#### **NCRP Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Project Grant**

- On March 15, the NCRP received 36 project proposals in response to the NCRP 2019 Proposition 1 IRWM Project Solicitation for a total request of \$35.5 million.
- The TPRC met in Eureka on April 18 & 19 to discuss the project proposals and select a draft suite of NCRP Priority Projects to be presented to the PRP during the NCRP Quarterly Meeting on April 26, in Yreka.
- On April 26, the PRP selected a suite of 20 projects and budget amounts to be included in the regional application for Proposition 1 IRWM Round Funding.
- Staff provided one-on-one support, guidelines and direction to priority project sponsors to develop additional materials for submittal to DWR as pre-application review, including budget and work plan templates.
- On September 6, the NCRP Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Project Grant was submitted to DWR for review. DWR's funding announcement is expected in late 2019 or early 2020.
- The Technical Peer Review Committee met on May 9, July 29 and October 1 2019 to debrief the NCRP 2019 Proposition 1 IRWM Project Solicitation, project review and selection process and make suggestions for improvement.
- The TPRC identified process needs and proposed approaches for improvement.
- Staff updated solicitation materials and process documents for review by the TPRC.

#### **Circuit Rider Program**

- Completed Draft Tribal technical assistance consultants list. Hired a second Tribal Engagement Tech Assistance support consultant: Steve Nevarez to work with Javier Silva in completing site assessments and interviews related to completed Tribal Needs Assessments. We are developing a set up tool to track technical assistance provided to each Tribe. Preparing for contracts for trainers and technical assistance providers at this time.

- Met with all three of the Tribal Pilots, completed interview and initial site visits; one in each District: Resighini Rancheria, Round Valley Reservation and the Yokayo Tribe. Developed workplans for each pilot.

### **Workshops and Trainings**

- Creating list of existing workshop and trainings. Coordinating with results of needs assessments and interviews. We are still completing follow-up questions to add to our list of trainings to bring to the North Coast. Coordinating with WCW and providing workshops that Tribes need but that are not available in the North Coast at this time.

### **Small Community Toolbox Enhancements**

- Using the Small Community Toolbox Enhancements for Tribal Pilots, and will continue to use. Toolbox review is being completed at this time. Some additional information for Tribes could be useful. We are putting these together with the assistance from IHS, RCAC and USEPA.

### **Model and Demonstration Projects**

- Three model projects have been identified in Tribal communities to demonstrate innovated approaches to addressing water resource challenges. These model projects or “pilots” will be developed into case studies to serve as examples for the North Coast Region.
- Each of the three Tribal Pilots is utilizing the improved Small Community Toolbox. Tribal Representatives approved one Pilot in each district (North, Central and South) are:
- Yokayo
  - Regulatory Compliance (State Resources Water Control Board regulated)
  - Establish entity to oversee community water services and establish fees
  - Develop drinking water main replacement and community wastewater treatment projects
  - Emergency water source
- Round Valley
  - Water storage tank inspections
  - Water meter replacement project development
  - Capacity training (board, operator, administration)
  - Water rate study
- Resighini
  - Water storage tank inspections
  - Community waste water feasibility study/project development
  - Capacity training (board, operator, administration)
  - Water rate study

#### **iv. Executive Committee, PRP direction and staff action**

##### **NCRP Executive Committee Comment & Support Letters**

On May 6, the NCRP Executive Committee submitted a letter in support of a revised Russian River Watershed pilot project, and of the intent of the NCRP to participate. On April 26, 2019 the NCRP PRP discussed a proposal submitted by the NCRP Tribal Representatives that will effectively restart the Russian River pilot with Russian River and Eel River Tribes in an initial coordinating role.

On May 10, the NCRP Executive Committee submitted a support letter to the Bureau of Reclamation for the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria's efforts to secure funding to improve their drinking water system and improving its ability to provide residents access to reliable and quality water.

On May 13, the NCRP Executive Committee submitted a comment letter regarding [SB-45 Wildfire, Drought and Flood Protection](#) expressing support for the watershed, forest resiliency and fuel load reduction elements in the bill and requesting the inclusion of language requiring or at least incentivizing agencies to allocate this funding via block grants. The letter was sent to Senator Ben Allen, Senator Stern, Senator Mike McGuire, Assemblymember Brian Dahle, Assemblymember Jim Wood, Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry.

NCRP Executive committee, met on October 14 to discuss and approve the meeting agenda and materials.



**ATTACHMENT A**  
**DRAFT NCRP REGIONAL PRIORITY PLAN OUTLINE**

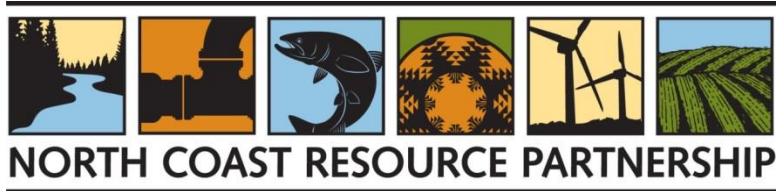


## DRAFT NCRP REGIONAL PRIORITY PLAN OUTLINE

### Background

The key deliverable for the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) forestry and fire block grant is a regional plan that includes priority actions, strategies and projects. A draft of the regional plan outline is included below for review. Following are the proposed steps for developing the regional plan:

- Develop a draft annotated outline of the plan for review by the California Natural Resources Agency, (CNRA), CA Department of Conservation (DOC), NCRP Policy Review Panel (PRP), NCRP Forestry Ad Hoc Committee, NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC), and eventually the NCRP Forest Advisors.
- Integrate input from the above reviewers into a draft of the plan to be re-circulated to the above group for a second round of review, and to other key partners such as Watershed Research and Training Center, CA Fire Safe Council, the North Coast RCD coalition
- Identify a comprehensive list of forest health and fuel load reduction projects for the North Coast region using the following methods:
  - Regional screening level analysis using remote sensing to determine areas of heavy fuel loading, vulnerable communities, etc. Methods for this analysis will be reviewed by local, state, academic and federal experts in remote sensing and mapping, as well as by the NCRP advisors listed above.
  - Identify a comprehensive list of projects via interviews, cross-walking with existing project lists for the region (ex: CAL FIRE and CWPP project lists), and a formal NCRP RFP process proposed for deployment in late December
  - NCRP formal RFP process will consist of a short form for conceptual or preliminary projects where no clear funding source has been identified, and a long form for demonstration projects
- Evaluate and rank the identified projects using criteria reviewed by the advisors listed above
- Incorporate key information from the regional remote sensing/mapping, interview and RFP process into the draft plan (eg, summarize needs, priorities and recommendations derived from the mapping/analysis, interview and RFP processes)
- Incorporate any lessons learned from the demonstration projects into the draft plan
- Circulate final draft plan to advisors, incorporate suggested revisions
- Circulate revised final draft via NCRP website
- Finalize plan



**DRAFT NCRP REGIONAL PRIORITY PLAN OUTLINE:**

**FORESTRY, FIRE PROTECTION, AND WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT FOR THE NORTH COAST**

*(Draft 9-23-19 – Note: This initial draft is under review by the NCRP Forestry Ad Hoc Committee. The draft plan outline will evolve based on the process described above; beginning with feedback from the full NCRP PRP at their October 18, 2019 quarterly meeting and after as well as the contractor pool hired over the next several months)*

**1. Planning Context & Background**

- 1.1. Background on Forest Block Grant program and rationale for award to NCRP
  - 1.1.1. California Natural Resources Agency Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Grant Guidelines
  - 1.1.2. Nexus with the California Forest Management Task Force and the Northern Region Prioritization Group
- 1.2. Other State Forest Health Objectives, Plans, and Policies
  - 1.2.1. CA Forest Carbon Plan
  - 1.2.2. Governor Brown Executive Order
  - 1.2.3. Governor Newsom Executive Order
  - 1.2.4. Supporting Legislation

**2. Plan Purpose & Expected Outcomes**

- 2.1.1. Compilation and integration of local, regional, tribal, state and federal priorities for forest health and resiliency
- 2.1.2. Increased capacity for North Coast partners to identify, prioritize and plan for North Coast wildfire and forest health needs
- 2.1.3. Coordination of fire planning and forest management efforts across watershed, jurisdictional and ownership boundaries
- 2.1.4. Identify priority forest health strategies and actions for the North Coast Region that will result in:
  - 2.1.4.1. GHG emissions reduction/avoidance
  - 2.1.4.2. Resiliency to extreme events and climate change
  - 2.1.4.3. Healthy and safe human communities
  - 2.1.4.4. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem function
  - 2.1.4.5. Protection and restoration of cultural and historic values
  - 2.1.4.6. Protection and enhancement of water supply and quality
  - 2.1.4.7. Local economic vitality – jobs and revenue remaining in the region
  - 2.1.4.8. Economic opportunities for disadvantaged communities and Tribes
- 2.1.5. Identify Priority Projects for implementation in the North Coast Region
- 2.1.6. Continue and enhance the NCRP collaborative structure to perform regional assessments and planning to support on the ground outcomes

- 2.1.7. Continue and enhance regional, state and national support for the NCRP Regional Priority Plan and identified projects through broad inclusion of stakeholders and partners
- 2.1.8. Exemplify the NCRP long term commitment to credible, science based, inclusive process for identifying the highest priority actions, strategies and projects, relying on the best available data, as well as input and guidance from Tribal, state, federal, regional and local partners and experts
- 2.1.9. Summarize and share findings and learnings from demonstration projects
- 2.2. Document streamlined permitting opportunities and provide resources for current and future projects
- 2.3. Attract short-term and long-term funding to the above listed strategies, actions, projects

### **3. NCRP Overview\_**

- 3.1. History of the NCRP
- 3.2. Goals and Objectives
- 3.3. Governance
- 3.4. Technical Capacity
  - 3.4.1. Staffing
  - 3.4.2. Technical Peer Review Committee
  - 3.4.3. Forest Advisors
  - 3.4.4. Project Proponents
  - 3.4.5. RCDs, WRTC, CAFSC
- 3.5. State and Federal Partners
- 3.6. Accomplishments to date

### **4. North Coast Region Overview\_**

- 4.1. Planning Boundaries: watershed, county, Tribal, regional
- 4.2. Bio-physical
  - 4.2.1. Natural Capital and ecosystem services
    - 4.2.1.1. Forests
    - 4.2.1.2. Streams and wetlands
    - 4.2.1.3. Coastal areas
  - 4.2.2. Forest Carbon
  - 4.2.3. Climate Change models and expected impacts
    - 4.2.3.1. Downscaled climate data (BCM)
    - 4.2.3.2. Forest Health Impacts
    - 4.2.3.3. Aquatic ecosystem impacts
    - 4.2.3.4. Sea Level Rise models
    - 4.2.3.5. Extreme Events – fires and flooding
    - 4.2.3.6. Human Health impacts (disease, heat events, smoke, fires, flooding)
- 4.3. Socio-economic status
  - 4.3.1. Cultural
  - 4.3.2. Demographics
  - 4.3.3. Socio-Economic status
  - 4.3.4. Human capacity
- 4.4. Built Infrastructure
  - 4.4.1. Wood products and processing
  - 4.4.2. Transportation
  - 4.4.3. Communications

- 4.4.4. Energy
  - 4.4.5. Water supply
  - 4.4.6. Wastewater
  - 5. Fire history and Impacts
    - 5.1. Tribal use of fire
    - 5.2. Historic management, resource extraction and forest stocking levels
    - 5.3. Land use change and rural development
    - 5.4. Current state:
      - 5.4.1. Stocking
      - 5.4.2. Disease
      - 5.4.3. Climate change
      - 5.4.4. Current management
        - 5.4.4.1. *Industrial timberlands*
        - 5.4.4.2. *Publicly owned forestlands*
        - 5.4.4.3. *Small forest landowners*
        - 5.4.4.4. *Tribes and watershed groups*
        - 5.4.4.5. *Other forest landowners (eg, RFFI, land trusts, Conservation Fund)*
      - 5.4.5. Forest Policy & Regulation
        - 5.4.5.1. Overview of CA forest policy
        - 5.4.5.2. Regulatory challenges to effective forest management
    - 5.5. Last 100, 20, 5 years: fires and their impacts
      - 5.5.1.1. Overview and map of fires over the last 100 years
      - 5.5.1.2. Human health and safety (mortality, smoke, water supply & quality)
      - 5.5.1.3. Greenhouse gas emissions
      - 5.5.1.4. Stand replacement/conversion
      - 5.5.1.5. Biodiversity impacts
      - 5.5.1.6. Economic impacts to nation, state and communities
        - 5.5.1.6.1. Differential outcomes for DACs and Tribes
        - 5.5.1.6.2. Federal (FEMA, OES, etc), State and local government expenditures
        - 5.5.1.6.3. Impacts to local economies – tourism, exodus, housing stocks, mental and physical health costs, homelessness
    - 5.6. Climate Change & Forest Health
      - 5.6.1. Climate Change models and expected increase in extreme events (increased fires, flooding, heat events, disease spread, biodiversity impacts)
      - 5.6.2. Emissions associated with wildfire
- 6. Regional Priority Plan Development Process & Methods**
  - 6.1. North Coast Resource Partnership Regional Priority Plan was developed with the following inputs and information
    - 6.1.1. Development of a plan outline, annotated outline, draft and final – developed by NCRP staff and consultant team and reviewed at each step by: NCRP Forestry Ad Hoc, TPRC, PRP, Forest Advisors, CNRA/DOC, the North Coast community and stakeholders
    - 6.1.2. Regional mapping and spatial analysis of forest status, fuel loading, values and assets, and wildfire priority treatment (screening level/modeled)
      - 6.1.2.1. Maps and charts of screening level regional analysis and wildfire priority treatment score
      - 6.1.2.2. (hyperlink to methods for assigning wildfire priority treatment score)
      - 6.1.2.3. Regional and local input on wildfire treatment score methods

- 6.1.2.3.1. NCRP Forestry Ad Hoc, Tribal and County Forest Technical Advisors, Staff, PRP/TPRC)
- 6.1.2.3.2. Align with CAL FIRE and USFS methodologies (including the Northern Region Prioritization Group approach lead by CAL FIRE and USFS), CalAdapt, CA's 4<sup>th</sup> Climate Change Assessment, and the Adaptation Clearinghouse to ensure treatment score methodology is consistent with the best available data
- 6.1.2.3.3. Technical Expert Input - Forest Management Taskforce Science Advisory Panel
- 6.1.2.3.4. Technical Expert Input – Tribes, consultants, academics, agency partners
- 6.1.2.3.5. Community input
- 6.1.2.3.6. Research – peer reviewed and “grey literature”
- 6.1.3. Integration of information gleaned from project identification (described in section 7)
- 6.1.4. Identification of priority strategies and actions for the North Coast Region (described in section 8)

## **7. Identification and Ranking of Regional Priority Projects**

### 7.1. Project Identification methods

- 7.1.1. Interviews (interview form, list of interviewees, responses Appendix XX)
- 7.1.2. Request for proposals – short form (form + list of project proponents Appendix XX)
  - 7.1.2.1. Cross-walk with local, state and federal plans that identify projects.
  - 7.1.2.2. Provide technical support to fill data gaps where needed projects have not been identified
- 7.1.3. Request for proposals – demonstration projects (form + list of projects Appendix XX)
- 7.1.4. Cross-walk with Northern Region Prioritization Work Group project list/Coordinate with CAL FIRE to obtain spatial data and project descriptions
- 7.1.5. Project evaluation and ranking criteria description (appendix AA)
  - 7.1.5.1. Conceptual projects/short form respondents and existing plan review
  - 7.1.5.2. Demonstration projects/long form respondents
    - 7.1.5.2.1. Measurable forest thinning projects that are scalable and evaluate multiple key metrics (biomass, fuel loading, ignition reduction, useable product from project, mw produced)
    - 7.1.5.2.2. Innovative, scalable wood product uses – e.g., identification/creation of markets, funding
    - 7.1.5.2.3. Testing new tools and equipment
    - 7.1.5.2.4. Innovations in regional/local spatial analysis and remote sensing that reduce costs for landscape prioritization
    - 7.1.5.2.5. Innovative policy/regulatory/economic white papers that outline market or legislative opportunities to increase the scope and scale of prescribed fire, forest management, and/or woody biomass utilization
  - 7.1.5.3. reviewers/contributors – evaluation criteria
- 7.1.6. Ranked list of priority projects
  - 7.1.6.1. (Intent: reflect and support the expertise of project proponents in the region who understand local and regional needs and create a list of priority projects that will address the goals of the CNRA/DOC/NCRP program. Use information from the project solicitation process to inform the NCRP Regional Plan.)
  - 7.1.6.2. (table of all projects with description, timeline, cost, expected benefits – link to appendix for full descriptions)

- 7.1.6.3. Table of prioritized demonstration projects – link to appendix for full descriptions
- 7.1.6.4. Technical support for project proponents
  - 7.1.6.4.1. NCRP staff support for proposal development
  - 7.1.6.4.2. Permitting templates and streamlining

## **8. Priority Strategies and Actions for the North Coast Region \_**

- 8.1. Overview of research and information gathering to support the identification of priority strategies and actions for the North Coast region
  - 8.1.1. NCRP advisory and governance groups
  - 8.1.2. CNRA/DOC/CAL FIRE
  - 8.1.3. Other state, tribal and federal partners and agencies
  - 8.1.4. WRT, CAFSC, RCD coalition
  - 8.1.5. Information gleaned from project identification process (#7, above) by project proponents (eg, interviews/RFPs)
  - 8.1.6. timber industry advisors
  - 8.1.7. Sierra Institute, PPIC, Blue Forest Carbon, New Island Capital, Moore Foundation, Bechtel Foundation, Conservation Fund, other similar organizations
  - 8.1.8. Peer and grey literature review
- 8.2. Proposed strategies and policy enhancements:
  - 8.2.1. Vegetation management and fuel load reduction
  - 8.2.2. Home hardening
  - 8.2.3. Evacuation routes
  - 8.2.4. Wildfire preparedness
  - 8.2.5. Biomass – technical and regulatory challenges and opportunities
    - 8.2.5.1. Biomass integrated micro-grids
    - 8.2.5.2. Biomass regulatory hurdles
    - 8.2.5.3. Much more to add here....
  - 8.2.6. Prescribed Fire - technical and regulatory challenges and opportunities
  - 8.2.7. Good Neighbor Authority – technical and regulatory challenges and opportunities [removing barriers and increasing capacity for counties and tribes to enter into and administer these agreements would increase pace and scale of forest management projects...]
  - 8.2.8. Regional and Statewide collaboration and information sharing – adaptive learning
  - 8.2.9. Data and Science: Region wide LIDAR, formal collaborations with NASA, CDFW, UC/CSU, clarity re: value of screening level spatial analysis and modeling integrated with on-the-ground knowledge
  - 8.2.10. Streamlined Permitting (Sustainable Conservation and Resources Legacy Fund)
    - 8.2.10.1. [NEPA streamlining]
    - 8.2.10.2. California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), a project specific implementation approach for streamlining CEQA review
  - 8.2.11. Funding and investment in new tools and equipment for increasing pace and scale of forest management
  - 8.2.12. Capacity Building
    - 8.2.12.1. Job training
    - 8.2.12.2. Infrastructure capacity
    - 8.2.12.3. Support organizations

#### 8.2.13. New Economic Models

8.2.13.1. Pre-disaster Mitigation: FEMA, RAMP, RCIS, et al

8.2.13.2. Payment for Ecosystem Services

8.2.13.3. advanced payment and long term block grants (state and federal granting programs)

8.2.13.4. Collaborations with Private Sector: Insurance Companies, Forest Landowners

8.2.13.5. PAYS applied to small forest landowners?

8.2.13.6. EIFDs?

8.2.13.7. Making bio-power economically viable

#### 8.2.14. Legislation

#### 8.2.15. Regulatory changes

### 9. Plan and Project Implementation Strategy

9.1. Summarize the delta between identified project need and currently available funding (need derived from modeled region-wide analysis of forest health and fuel loading, as well as comprehensive project list identified by interviews, RFP, other sources)

9.2. Summarize the resources and effort needed to implement the identified priority strategies and actions (as described in section 8)

9.3. Identify highest priority funding sources: state, federal, philanthropic, funding innovations as described above

### 10. Next Steps: Project Implementation and Adaptive Planning

10.1. Plan implementation monitoring and measuring progress towards desired outcomes

### 11. Appendices A-G

A. Groups contacted or interviewed for plan review and project identification

B. Project prioritization criteria and ranking process

C. Spatial analysis, mapping and modeling methods

D. Priority project table/matrix

E. List of regional and local plans evaluated

F. Performance measures

G. other



**ATTACHMENT B**

**NCRP 2019 POLICIES**





# NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP

## NCRP POLICIES, 2019

*[final NCRP Policies will be provided as an Appendix in the NCRP Handbook]*

### Background

The North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) is led by a Policy Review Panel (PRP) comprised of voting members from North Coast Tribes and counties. The PRP is the governance and decision-making body for the NCRP, and sets policy on a regular basis to provide direction to the NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) and NCRP staff. The NCRP has a strong focus on transparent decision making and regional equity, and seeks to share and disseminate its policies and processes so that stakeholders in the North Coast region have a clear understanding of the decision-making process that is used by the NCRP. The policies and processes of the NCRP are regularly reviewed and updated by the PRP based on new information and the needs and opportunities facing the NCRP and the North Coast region. Approved policy updates are included and/or referenced in the NCRP Handbook.

### I. MEMORANDUM OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS, 2010

The Memorandum of Mutual Understandings (MoMU) developed in 2004 and updated in 2010, defined the purpose, general goals, definitions and mutual understandings of North Coast agencies towards developing a North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan<sup>2</sup> and planning process to increase regional coordination and collaboration to obtain funding for water-related projects. The MoMU, delineated the North Coast boundary and described the roles, composition and decision-making process of the Policy Review Panel (PRP) and Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC). The 2010 MoMU established adherence to the Ralph M. Brown Act and outlined the Tribal Representation Process. A copy of the MoMU can be found in the NCRP Handbook, Appendix E.

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<sup>2</sup> The North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan was the original name of the North Coast Resource Partnership.

## **II. NCRP STRUCTURE, ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, STAFFING, 2011 - current**

During the July 2011 NCRP Meeting the PRP adopted the [NCRP Handbook](#) that described the roles and responsibilities of the project team: PRP as decision-making body, TPRC providing technical review and advice, Humboldt County as contract administrator & overseeing project implementation, and SCWA providing ongoing support & direction for planning & fund development. The PRP established the Executive Committee comprised of the Policy Review Panel Chair, Vice-Chair, a third member nominated and approved by the PRP and a fourth member nominated by the Tribal representatives and approved by the PRP. Additionally, the PRP allowed the formation of Ad Hoc Committees on an as needed basis to address a short duration issue or topic. The NCRP Handbook has been updated on an annual basis and includes detailed descriptions of the NCRP roles and election processes.

## **III. NCRP PROJECT REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS GUIDELINES, ongoing**

The [NCRP Project Review and Selection Process Guidelines](#) standardize the process steps and guidelines developed by the NCRP PRP and utilized by the PRP and TPRC to identify, rank, and select priority projects to implement the NCRP Plan. The NCRP Project Review and Selection Process Guidelines are subject to continual review and refinement per recommendations of the PRP, TPRC, NCRP staff, and the current Grant Program Guidelines and solicitation requirements.

## **IV. NCRP PROPOSITION 1 IMPLEMENTATION CONTRACT ADMIN FUNDING, 2018**

Since 2006, 5% of each grant award has been allocated to the County of Humboldt for the costs of grant administration. During the April 2018 NCRP meeting the Policy Review Panel authorized an allocation of up to 6% for grant administration, for the Proposition 1 implementation project grant funding. The actual proposed administration percentage (up to 6%) will be determined by the County after the projects are selected, but before the funding application is submitted to DWR, based on the total number of projects, the number of first-time subgrantees, an assessment of the administrative workload needed to satisfy the IRWM program requirements, and an estimate of projected costs.

## **V. PROJECT BUDGET UNDER-RUNS AND FUNDING REALLOCATION PROCESS, 2018**

**Background:** In some cases, a NCRP implementation project may complete under budget or otherwise not expend their entire grant allotment. Typically, the funding agencies have allowed reallocation of available funds to another project *within the suite* of projects included in the grant agreement. Reallocation of funding after a grant agreement is executed may be necessary for a variety of reasons. Potential scenarios include: when a project is completed under-budget; or when a sub-grantee elects not to implement their approved project, or is determined to be substantially out of compliance with

the sub-grantee agreement. Another potential scenario is the availability of excess funds from the grant administration budget category. With concurrence from DWR, the NCRP allows reallocation of funds to another project within *the existing suite* of projects to supplement budget short-falls and/or expand the current scope of work to increase the project benefits. Funds will not be reallocated to a project not included within the existing suite of projects. NCRP staff will have the discretion to determine if a portion of the reallocation is necessary to supplement the grant administration budget.

### **NCRP Project Funding Reallocation Process**

1. For amounts less than \$50,000, NCRP staff will use discretion to reallocate the funds to an eligible project within the existing suite of projects with a priority for:
  - a. Supplementing budget short-falls.
  - b. Supplementing a project that received less than their requested amount during the original selection process.
2. For amounts greater than \$50,000, project funding reallocation will occur, to the greatest extent feasible, within the County or Tribal region where the original project is located and is within *the existing suite* of projects in the grant agreement. PRP members from the County or Tribal region, where the original project is located, will determine which projects receive reallocation and the amount of funding.
  - a. If the original funds are from a non-Tribal project, they will be made available to another project within the existing suite of projects in the county where the original project was located. The PRP members representing that County will determine which projects receive reallocation and the amount of funding.
  - b. If the original funds are from a Tribal project, the funds will be made available to another project within the existing suite of projects in the Tribal region where the original project was located. The PRP member representing that Tribal region will determine which projects receive reallocation and the amount of funding.
3. If the County or Tribal region of origin option is not available (i.e., no projects from the County or Tribal region of origin within the project suite need additional funding):
  - a. Staff will announce the availability of funds to project proponents within the grant agreement suite of projects; staff will solicit project requests and description of need from eligible project proponents
  - b. Staff will determine eligible projects
  - c. TPRC ad hoc committee will be formed via email or at NCRP meeting if timing allows
  - d. Ad hoc committee will develop criteria for project reallocation selection
  - e. Ad hoc committee will develop project reallocation option recommendations
  - f. PRP will review and approve recommendations at the next PRP meeting
  - g. TPRC ad hoc committee will be disbanded

## VI. NCRP DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SELECTION PROCESS, 2018

During the January 2018 NCRP meeting, the PRP adopted a process for selection of entities to receive technical assistance based on a Water and Wastewater Service Provider Needs Assessment in North Coast disadvantaged communities to better understand the capacity, training and project needs in the region. Technical Assistance for North Coast Tribes will be selected through a subsequent process led by the North Coast Tribal Representatives and the Tribal Engagement Coordinator. The technical assistance process is subject to review and refinement per recommendations of the PRP, TPRC, NCRP staff, and the current Grant Program Guidelines, technical assistance funding opportunities and requirements.

## VII. ON-GOING PROJECT INCLUSION PROCESS INTO THE NCRP PLAN, 2012 updated 2019

Increasingly, funding opportunities for project implementation require or give preference to projects that are included in an [Integrated Regional Water Management Plan \(IRWM\)](#) Plan. [Regardless if projects are being submitted during a regular IRWM project selection cycle or between regular cycles, each project must be first recommended by the TPRC and be approved by the PRP.](#) The following process will provide a mechanism for including projects on an on-going basis into the NCRP Plan.

1. Project proponents will complete preliminary project information:
  - Project Name
  - Organization Name, Type & Contact information
  - Project location address
  - Funding Program names
  - Total project cost & Funding request
  - Start/End dates (tentative)
  - Alignment with NCRP Plan Objectives (selection boxes)
  - Project Summary & Goals
  - Project partners
  - Description of benefits (including if/how the project will benefit disadvantaged communities)
  - Project management strategies/ project elements (selection boxes)
2. Project proponent will submit a signed [Memorandum of Mutual Understandings \(MoMU\)](#) if one has not already been submitted.
3. Staff will review the project and follow-up with project proponents regarding any eligibility concerns (Urban Water Management Plan, Agricultural Water Management, Surface Water Diverter, Groundwater Management Plan, CASGEM/SGMA compliance, proponent type)
- 3.4. [Staff will submit the project to the NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee \(TPRC\) for 30 days of TPRC review.](#)

5. The TPRC will review ~~and accept~~ eligible projects to ensure alignment with the NCRP Goals and Objectives and for technical comment.
- 4-6. Should the TPRC identify that the project is in alignment, the TPRC will recommend the project be provided to the PRP for approval at a NCRP Quarterly Meeting for review and comment. If the timing of the NCRP Quarterly Meeting does not align with the project deadline, it may be submitted by the TPRC to the Executive Committee for approval.
- 5-7. Staff will 'Publish' eligible NCRP Projects and project summaries will be included on the website; and staff will report to the PRP at a NCRP Quarterly Meeting
- 6-8. Additional project information will be required when NCRP funding solicitations and calls for proposals occur; NCRP project proponents will be allowed to edit preliminary project information.
- 7-9. NCRP Projects will be reviewed and scored by the TPRC if required by a respective funding solicitation; NCRP Priority Projects will be selected by the PRP. NCRP Priority Project proponents will need to adopt the NCRP ~~IRWM~~-Plan when completed ~~as~~ per the IRWM Guidelines.

## **VIII. NCRP POLICY ON EXTERNAL PLAN INTEGRATION, 2019**

The NCRP engages in multi-objective integrated planning to achieve its regional goals and to guide local project implementation. The NCRP regularly reviews local, regional, state and federal planning documents, and where relevant, integrates or references data and information from these plans into updated NCRP plans as updated. NCRP data integration from local and statewide plans may include local Tribal, RCD or watershed plans, reports from business or academic partners, State plans focused on watershed and community health, sustainable groundwater management, and data and planning related to climate change. The NCRP has a history of synchronizing statewide planning priorities with local planning efforts, including Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plans and Storm Water Resource Management Plans. Occasionally, the NCRP will be requested to fully integrate or ratify the recommendations from other planning processes, or to lend support to outreach and stakeholder engagement for planning processes not initiated by the NCRP. For the purposes of this policy discussion, plans that are not commissioned or executed by the NCRP will be called External Plans. The following section outlines the NCRP policy and process for addressing External Plans.

The NCRP process to a) incorporate or integrate External Plan recommendations, b) be referenced as supporting an External Plan – in part or in full, or c) engage with another planning process, is outlined below. When any variation on items a-c (above) are requested, NCRP staff will initiate the following:

- 1) NCRP staff will work with External Plan staff or plan proponents to determine the purpose of the External Plan, its potential relevance to the NCRP planning process, and alignment with NCRP goals, objectives, technical review and decision-making processes, and an approach to NCRP staff support, and stakeholder outreach and engagement.
- 2) The TPRC will be notified of the staff recommendations, and a 30-day comment period will be initiated for the TPRC to review, confirm alignment with the NCRP Goals and Objectives, and for their technical comment. Before the conclusion of the comment period, the TPRC Co-chairs will

[coordinate with NCRP staff to provide the TPRC with the opportunity to meet in person or by phone to discuss the merits of the proposal.](#)

- 3) [NCRP staff will then bring the request and a staff recommendation to the NCRP Executive Committee for consideration. The Executive Committee will determine if the proposal should be brought forward during a regular quarterly meeting cycle, or if the proposal should be expedited between these cycles. Based on the time required for action the Executive Committee will also determine if the full PRP or the Executive Committee will make the final decision.](#)
- 4) [Any Local Plan project proponents seeking funding that requires project inclusion into an IRWM Plan will follow the steps outlined in the On-Going Project Inclusion Process into the NCRP Plan found in the NCRP Handbook.](#)

## **VIII.IX. NCRP PLAN & STORM WATER RESOURCE PLAN INTEGRATION PROCESS, 2018**

The development of Storm Water Management Plans satisfies the requirements of Senate Bill 985 and State Water Board SWRP Guidelines to establish eligibility for local agencies and organizations to receive future State Storm Water Grant implementation funds. The purpose of a SWRP is to integrate storm water management with other basic aspects of aquatic resource protection and overall water management including flood control, water supply, and habitat conservation.

The following process was approved by the PRP on January 20, 2018 to incorporate a SWRP into the NCRP Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan.

1. The SWRP plan will include a summary of the NCRP Plan under the Existing Plans section.<sup>3</sup>
2. The SWRP Plan, Implementation Strategy and Scheduling of Projects section will include a discussion on how the SWRP will be incorporated into the NCRP Plan per the following steps.
  - The Public Draft SWRP will be provided to the NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) for review to ensure alignment with the NCRP Goals and Objectives and for technical comment. The comment period will be ~~21~~30 calendar days.
  - The Public Draft SWRP will be presented to the NCRP Policy Review Panel (PRP) at a NCRP Quarterly Meeting for review and comment. If timing of the NCRP Quarterly Meetings does not align with the SWRP finalization, the SWRP may be submitted to the PRP via email for review and comment.

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<sup>3</sup> An example description: The North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NCRP Plan) provides a centralized and collaborative framework for addressing local, regional, and statewide water resource priorities. The NCRP Plan emphasizes the creation of a sustainable environmental and socio-economic framework for the North Coast, by engaging in integrated planning for water infrastructure and natural resources. Planning and project focus areas include the recovery of salmonid populations, enhancement of the beneficial uses of water, support for energy independence, climate adaptation, local autonomy and intra-regional cooperation. The NCRP Plan focuses on areas of common interest and concern to North Coast stakeholders and on attracting funding to the North Coast Region, and recognizes unique local solutions in different parts of the Region. The NCRP is comprised of the seven North Coast counties and Tribes within the NCRWQCB watershed boundary. The NCRP Plan is supported by over 100 agencies, special districts, Tribal organizations, non-governmental organizations, watershed groups, and other stakeholders.

- Any TPRC or PRP commentary will be considered and addressed prior to finalizing the SWRP with a “response to comments” memo.
- At a NCRP Quarterly Meeting, a copy of the Final SWRP and “response to comments” memo will be presented to the NCRP PRP for the final decision vote. If timing of the NCRP Quarterly Meetings does not align with the SWRP finalization, the SWRP may be submitted to the PRP via email for consideration at the next NCRP Quarterly Meeting. <sup>4</sup>
- SWRP project proponents seeking funding that requires project inclusion into an IRWM Plan will follow the steps outlined in the On-Going Project Inclusion Process into the NCRP Plan.

## **X. NCRP PROCESS FOR EVALUATION OF FUNDING & LEGISLATIVE OPPORTUNITIES, 2019**

The NCRP has been very successful in pursuing funding and influencing legislation to achieve the goals and objectives approved by the PRP. Typically, NCRP staff apprises the PRP and TPRC of funding and legislative opportunities at the NCRP quarterly meetings, and makes staff recommendations to the PRP related to these opportunities, whereby the PRP provide direction to staff and the Executive Committee regarding any approved actions on these opportunities. Formal authorization to accept a grant agreement is typically agendized at a NCRP quarterly meeting, and requires the approval of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, acting as the NCRP fiscal and contracts sponsor.

There are times when funding or legislative opportunities have a rapid turnaround, and in these cases the Executive Committee is authorized to direct and provide guidance to staff in order for the NCRP to pursue these opportunities. Actions that may be taken between quarterly meetings by the NCRP staff with guidance and review from the NCRP Executive Committee include:

- 1) Writing letters related to legislation or funding opportunities that are in support of NCRP Goals and Objectives and aligned with NCRP policies and previous PRP direction
- 2) Evaluating funding or legislative opportunities that are aligned with NCRP goals, objectives and policies, including attending meetings, engaging in discussions, and drafting preliminary concepts for legislator, agency or funder review
- 3) Prior to substantively proceeding on any funding or legislative opportunity, NCRP staff would receive approval from the Chair at a minimum, and would request approval from the full Executive Committee. Where relevant, TPRC co-chairs will be consulted and engaged.
- 4) NCRP meeting materials will include a summary of any actions taken by the Executive Committee and/or staff related to funding or legislative opportunities
- 5) A decision to formally support legislation would be voted on by the full PRP
- 6) A decision to formally submit a grant application would be voted on by the full PRP
- 7) A decision to accept grant funding would be voted on by the full PRP and approved by Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, acting as fiscal and contract sponsor for the NCRP.

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<sup>4</sup> *The SWRP Guidelines note that for the purposes of receiving project funding, submittal of the SWRP to the IRWM group (for further incorporation into the existing IRWM plan) fulfils the requirement for “incorporation”.*

- 8) Any funding request would honor the PRP approved approach to local autonomy – allowing Tribes or counties to opt out of any element of the funding request in which they do not wish to participate.
- 9) Funding requests or legislative input will predominantly focus on NCRP project implementation, but may also include stakeholder outreach and coordination, technical support for project proponents, data, analysis and planning, or enhanced funding for economically disadvantaged communities
- 10) The PRP may choose to form an Ad Hoc committee focused on funding and/or legislative opportunities – either for specific funding and/or legislative opportunities, or in service of developing more general funding and legislative strategies. An ad hoc committee will be created as needed, serve for a specified period of time, and be disbanded when no longer required. The ad hoc committee is intended to advise NCRP staff and make recommendations to the PRP, and may be comprised of PRP and TPRC members appointed by the PRP.
- 11) Refinements to this approach may be added at each NCRP quarterly meeting, and refined PRP direction may apply generally or to a specific legislative or funding opportunity.

## **XI. NONCOMPLIANCE POLICY, 2019**

The County of Humboldt (COUNTY), in its role as the Regional Grant Administrator on behalf of the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP), aims to create an environment in which each Sub-Grantee can be successful. The COUNTY intends to actively assist Sub-Grantees in understanding and meeting the grant agreement requirements. However, it is the responsibility of the Sub-Grantee to comply with grant agreement terms and conditions, NCRP policies, and applicable laws and regulations. When errors or delays arise, the COUNTY will work with the Sub-Grantee to try to find solutions before they become compliance issues. However, when sufficient corrective actions are not taken by a Sub-Grantee to resolve compliance issues, the COUNTY will initiate the following Noncompliance Policy procedures.

### **Failure to Execute the Sub-Grantee Agreement**

The Project Sponsor is required to sign and return the Sub-Grantee agreement within six (6) months of receiving the agreement from the COUNTY so that it may be fully executed.

- If the Sub-Grantee is unable to sign the agreement within six (6) months, the submittal of a time extension request is required. In order to be approved, a written the request shall explain the reason the extension is necessary and provide a proposed timeline, stating when the signed agreement will be submitted to the COUNTY. Approval of the extension request will be at the discretion of the COUNTY grant manager.
- If the Sub-Grantee fails to submit the signed Sub-Grantee Agreement or an acceptable extension request within six (6) months, County staff may recommend that the NCRP Policy Review Panel (PRP) withdraw the project funding offer and initiate the process of reallocating the funds to a different project, per the NCRP Policy, *Project Funding Reallocation Process*.



## **Other Significant Compliance Issues**

Compliance with Sub-Grantee Agreement terms and conditions, NCRP policies, and applicable laws and regulations is a mandatory requirement to maintain good standing with this grant program. Common non-compliance circumstances include the following:

- Repeated failure to follow required administrative procedures and requirements after multiple reminders, such as:
  - Late invoice and report submittals
  - Insufficient quality and completeness of forms and reports
  - Incorrect or altered forms
  - Inadequate communication to remediate errors, delaying the payment process
- Repeated lack of responsiveness to communications regarding grant compliance
- Failure to submit signed grant agreement amendments within three (3) months of receipt from the COUNTY
- Noncompliance with state and local permits
- Noncompliance with DWR contract requirements

## **Procedures to Remediate Significant Compliance Issues:**

1. When COUNTY staff determines that there are significant compliance issues, the Sub-Grantee will be notified via email that they are out of compliance and a corrective action is required within 10 calendar days.
  - a. If corrective action is not taken and communicated to the COUNTY within 10 days, the Sub-Grantee shall submit a written request for a time extension to come into compliance, with an explanation for why an extension is warranted and a schedule for coming into compliance.
  - b. Mandatory Compliance Refresher Training:

The County will hold a conference call or personal meeting with the Sub-Grantee to review the applicable procedures and requirements of the agreement.

A follow-up letter will be sent to the Sub-Grantee identifying the issues discussed during the refresher training. The letter shall be signed by the Sub-Grantee and returned to the COUNTY, acknowledging an understanding of and commitment to comply with the terms of the grant agreement.
2. Formal Noncompliance Letter:

If the Sub-Grantee still fails to correct the issue within 10 days, the COUNTY will send a Noncompliance Letter to the Project Manager, the Project's Agency Director, and copied to the NCRP Executive Committee Members. The letter will reference the compliance issue, prior attempts from the COUNTY to attain compliance, and the suggested actions to bring the Sub-Grantee back into compliance within 10 days.
3. Conference Call/Meeting:

The Non-Compliance Letter will suggest a conference call or meeting to discuss the compliance issues and corrective action required. The call or meeting is an opportunity for the Sub-Grantee to present a corrective action plan that can be agreed upon by the Sub-Grantee and the COUNTY to resolve the compliance issues.

4. Termination of Agreement:

If the compliance issue remains uncorrected after the deadline indicated in the letter and there continues to be no agreed upon plan of action as a result of the meeting, COUNTY staff may recommend that the NCRP Policy Review Panel authorize termination of the Sub-Grantee agreement and initiate the reallocation of funds, per the NCRP Policy, *Project Funding Reallocation Process*.

The Sub-Grantee will be added to a list of entities that failed to comply with the grant agreement requirements, which will be provided to the Technical Peer Review Committee as a reference at ~~the future~~ project review meetings for ~~future~~ funding opportunities.

DRAFT