



EXHIBIT A
PROPOSAL COVER PAGE

Proposal Type

- ☒ Concept Proposal for Demonstration Projects and Processes

Organization Name (Lead Applicant)

Northwest CA Resource Conservation & Development Council

Organization Type

- ☐ Federally recognized Indian Tribe
- ☐ California State Indian Tribe
- ☐ Public agency
- ☐ Local or state agency/special district
- ☐ Resource Conservation District
- ☒ Non-profit organization
- ☐ Public utility
- ☐ Other: _____

Contact Name/Title

Name: Mark Lancaster

Title: Executive Director

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Phone Number (include area code): (530) 623-0671

Organization Address (City, County, State, Zip Code):

P.O. Box 2813, Weaverville, CA 96093

Authorized Representative (if different from the contact name)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number (include area code): _____

Certification of Authority

By signing below, the person executing the certificate on behalf of the proposer affirmatively represents that s/he has the requisite legal authority to do so on behalf of the proposer. Both the person executing this proposal on behalf of the proposer and proposer understand that the NCRP is relying on this representation in receiving and considering this proposal. The person signing below hereby acknowledges that s/he has read the entire Request for Proposals document and has complied with all requirements listed therein.

Official Authorized to Sign for Proposal


Signature

5/3/13/2020
Date



PROPOSALS FOR NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP

Demonstration Projects and Processes

California Resource & Habitat Zone Development Proposal

Statement of Qualifications

The Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development Council/5C Program is a natural resources non-profit specializing in habitat and water quality restoration with extensive experience in land use and natural resources and fire planning. The principal staffs working on this proposal are Mark Lancaster and Sandra Perez. They have been at the forefront of developing local government based conservation planning, policy recommendations and impact assessments. The project will utilize sub-contractors BBW and others to be determined.

Mark Lancaster is the Executive Director for the Council and has over 42 years of diverse and increasingly complex experience in forestry, natural resources management, endangered species conservation, policy development, grant/budget management, community fire planning and land use planning. He was a Principle Planner and Natural Resources Planner for Trinity County for 20 years. He has decades of experience in wildland fire and fuels management and a Battalion Chief with the Junction City Volunteer Fire Department and serves on Strike Team 3275 Charlie when it is activated. For his work he was recognized with the Nathaniel Bingham Memorial Award, US Fish and Wildlife Service (2006) as well as California State Senate and Assembly resolutions recognizing his conservation work.

Sandra Perez is the Program Manager for the Council and has worked with the 5C Program for 19 years. Her emphases include multi-stake holder programs for private roads assessments, urban stream restoration designs, database management, and community development programs. She has experience in land use planning, permitting, and was key in the development and adoption of the Roads Manual and DIRT programs as regional resources. Her work contributed to the 5C Program receiving the Governor's Economic and Environment Leadership Award and Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition in 2003

Mark Andre, is a registered professional forester working for BBW part time. He is also the City of Arcata Director of Environmental Services. In this role, Mark oversees Arcata's environmental programs, natural resources, parks and recreation, community forest, wildlife areas, and public utilities. Mark was appointed to the California board of Forestry by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2010 and

reappointed to additional terms by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. He was recently recognized by the California State Assembly with a resolution recognizing his nine years of service to the Board including his work on the State Forest Carbon Plan and leadership working on forest practices regulations.

Jared Gerstein is a principal partner in BBW & Associates. He has been practicing forestry and watershed management since 1998, conservation easement valuation as well as timber sale administration, harvest plan development, road and culvert inventory and design, and silvicultural planning. Mr. Gerstein specializes in uneven aged forestry and the restoration of complex stand structures. He has published articles in Western Journal of Applied Forestry and for the UC Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Jared holds a Master of Science degree in Forest Science from Oregon State University. He is Registered Professional Forester #2826.

A consultant(s) with GIS experience will be contracted to assist with development of the proposal.

A consultant(s) with experience working with local governments, CSAC, legislative staffs (non-lobbying) and other will be contracted to assist with development of the proposal.

A consultant(s) with legal experience in development of Tax policy and land use regulation will be contracted to assist with development of the proposal

An economic consultant will be retained to determine the costs of implementing the program, savings in wildfire expenses and other fire related expenses as well as the natural capital value to landowners, wildlife, water quality and aesthetics.

Concept Proposal for Demonstration Project To Establish a Statewide

Resource and Habitat Zone (RHZ)

This project will create a template for state legislation and a “model” County Resource and Habitat Zoning (RHZ) district ordinance(s) utilizing formats similar to the “Williamson” and “Z’berg Forest Taxation Reform” Acts. The RHZ would be a voluntarily entered zoning district with a ten year, annually self-renewing clause, which would result in greater wildland fire protection to communities, improved riparian and wildlife habitat, reduced non-native invasive species, reduced wildfire acres burned (and reduced carbon emissions), and will complement existing state and federal programs such as CFIP, EQIP and restoration grants. Significant difference between RHZ and TPZ is the relative parcel size required to be enrolled and the commodity production outputs. Where Williamson Act and TPZs require large parcel sizes, the RHZ is based on unique habitat values and topographic or other safety factor values and parcel size is not a significant factor for eligibility for inclusion.

The proposed RHZ could provide mechanisms for private landowners to locate and maintain regionally significant fuel breaks, retain longer rotation forest stands, improve riparian habitat elements, create wildlife habitat elements, and retain and enhance floodplains by providing property tax incentives, increased flexibility for use of state resources on private lands (where public trust values are involved) and prioritize restoration funding to lands dedicated to these benefits.

The state of California in 1965 adopted the Land Conservation “Williamson” Act that provides relief of property tax to owners of farmland and open-space land in exchange for a ten-year agreement (self-renewing annually) that the land will not be developed or otherwise converted to another use. In 1976, the state adopted the Z’berg-Warren-Keene-Collier Forest Taxation Reform Act applying similar tools on forest lands. Both of these acts provide property tax relief for productive farm and forestlands in exchange for keeping the lands in managed production.

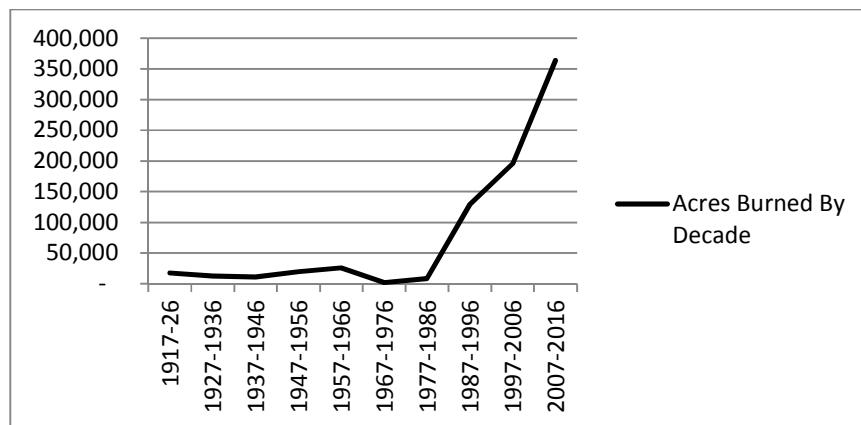
Since the passage of these acts, and local zoning ordinances to implement them, additional laws, species listings and court cases have constrained management options on some lands and put management and habitat enhancement in conflict. In addition expansion of wildland-urban interface areas combined with climatic factors, population growth, and wildland fires have complicated both production and sustainability of lands. In the past three decades the rate of wildland fire has grown astronomically (see figure below). The same factors have imperiled species, reduced water flow and altered habitats on an ever increasing scale.

Under this proposal incentivizes for the construction and maintenance of regional fuelbreaks, a critically needed safety component of most areas of California, would be further encouraged. The increase in the number and location of fuelbreaks is well understood and throughout the state Community Wildfire Protection Plans are being developed. The need for these plans is in response to climatic changes, increased wildfire severity, loss of structures and lives, cancellation of homeowners insurance policies and other impacts that have become obvious over the past few decades.

Current rates of forest stand replacing, high intensity fire are alarming and increasing (Figure 1). These fires are releasing millions of metric tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere as well as converting conifer

and hardwood forest to early seral vegetation types which can be very flammable. Declines in water quality, sedimentation and wildlife losses are significant and increasing. The loss of human life from wildfires is increasing at alarming rates. Reliance on fire suppression forces alone is not adequate to meet the increased fire severity. Increased use of thinning, fuel breaks, and other “holistic” mechanisms are needed. The establishment of, and maintenance of fuelbreaks, is a highly cost effective tool to slow and modify fire behavior at a time of rapid fire growth. Fuelbreaks can also increase safe areas for firefighters and even wildlife fleeing an advancing fire.

Figure 1. Acres Burned by Decade in Trinity River Watershed in Trinity County.



Unfortunately for forest resource planners, fuelbreaks are topographically located and, in general, are not effective if they must be stopped, narrowed or offset because landowners are not willing or comfortable with them on their property.

Under the RHZ targeted practices will be developed but could include fuelbreaks, habitat setbacks, timber rotation ages, endangered species habitat, migratory habitats, wildlife migration corridors, critical ranges (e.g. deer winter range), floodplains, wilderness in-holding. The RHZ could provide a bridge for land owners uncomfortable with entering into conservation easements, but willing to provide similar benefits under a renewing zoning program, again similar to Williamson Act.

This project will develop standards and guidelines as well incentive components of the RHZ by working with Department of Conservation, CalFire, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Legislative staff, Boards of Supervisors, CSAC, CA Association of Assessors, Tribal representatives, Farm Bureau, CA Licensed Forester Association, CA Forestry Association, Forest Landowners of California, Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, CA Deer Association, and other interested public and conservation groups to.

The final products of this effort included: Draft legislative language for RHZ; workshops with stakeholders; Draft model County RHZ District Ordinance; Examples of application of RHZ in three counties- one coastal, one central and eastern; economic costs and benefits of RHZ

The general scope of work and timeline is as follows:

Major Tasks	Task Description	Start Date	End Date
Project Administration	In cooperation with the County of Humboldt sign a sub-grantee agreement for work to be completed on this project. Develop invoices with support documentation.	7/30/20	7/30/21
Project Reporting	Data collection, performance measures, and project reporting of outcomes/lessons learned	7/30/20	7/30/21
Develop Baseline Goals and Objectives for RHZ	Establish baseline elements for inclusion in RHZ. The developemnt of baseline elements will be guided by the NCRP TRRP and PRP committees at their quarterly meetings	8/30/20	11/30/20
Selection of Participating Counties	Select 3 representative counties within the NCRP area (Coastal, Central and Eastern) to serve as demonstation counties	8/30/20	11/30/20
Select Consultants for Study	Retain a GIS consulting firm; legislative consultant; economic consultant, and legal consultant	8/30/20	11/30/20
GIS Date Development	Conduct GIS analysis of existing lands in Williamson Act and TPZ zoning contracts within representative counties	9/1/20	2/28/21
	Conduct GIS assessment of existing fuelbreak plans utilizing CalFire, Federal Fire Agencies planning data, Community Wildlfire Protection Plans, and other documented fuelbreak needs within representative	9/1/20	2/28/21
	Conduct GIS assessment of existing wildlife and botanical habitat elements utilizing existing state, federal data sets including CNDDB, CNPS, CalFish, CDFW migratory route maps, and other data sets	9/1/20	2/28/21
State Stakeholder Involvement	Assemble a region-wide committee to guide formation of RHZ eligiability components. The committee would include Department of Conservation, CalFire, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Legislative staff, Boards of Supervisors, CSAC, CA Association of Assessors, as well as landowner, other stakeholder organizations	10/1/20	2/28/21
Landowenr Stakeholder Involvement	Conduct outreach to Tribal representatives, Farm, Forest and REcreational Landowners	10/1/20	5/30/21
Other Stateholders and Partners Involvement	Conduct outrean and workshop(s) with Farm Bureau, CA Licensed Forester Association, CA Forestry Association, Forest Landowners of California, Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, CA Deer Association, Fire Safe Councils, Wilderness Society, and other interested public and conservation groups	10/1/20	5/30/21
Revise RHZ	Develop revised Baseline Goals and Objectives for RHZ based on stakeholder outreach	5/30/21	5/30/21
Economic Analysis	Contract with Economic Consulting Firm to assess costs and benefits of	11/1/20	5/30/21
Draft Model Act and Ordinance	Complete a model RHZ Act draft and County draft Ordiance	3/30/20	5/30/21
Public Meeting	Present the completed draft Ordinances to the Boards of Supervisors of the representative counties selected for development of the model	5/30/21	5/30/21
Project Closeout	Finalize Draft RHZ Act and sample zoning ordinance		7/30/21

NCRP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND PROCESSES CONCEPT PROPOSAL BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Project Name: California Resource & Habitat Zone Development Proposal

Major Tasks	Task Description	NCRP Task Budget	Funding Match *	Total Task Budget	Scaled NCRP Budget **	Start Date	End Date
Project Administration	In cooperation with the County of Humboldt sign a sub-grantee agreement for work to be completed on this project. Develop invoices with support documentation.	\$8,150.00	\$0.00	\$8,150.00	\$0.00	7/30/20	7/30/21
Project Reporting	Data collection, performance measures, and project reporting of outcomes/lessons learned	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	7/30/20	7/30/21
Develop Baseline Goals and Objectives for RHZ	Establish baseline elements for inclusion in RHZ. The developemnt of baseline elements will be guided by the NCRP TRRP and PRP committees at their quarterly meetings					8/30/20	11/30/20
Selection of Participating Counties	Select 3 representative counties within the NCRP area (Coastal, Central and Eastern) to serve as demonstation counties	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	8/30/20	11/30/20
Select Consultants for Study	Retain a GIS consulting firm; legislative consultant; economic consultant, and legal consultant	\$2,500.00				8/30/20	11/30/20
GIS Date Development	Conduct GIS analysis of existing lands in Williamson Act and TPZ zoning contracts within representative counties	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	9/1/20	2/28/21
	Conduct GIS assessment of existing fuelbreak plans utilizing CalFire, Federal Fire Agencies planning data, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and other documented fuelbreak needs within representative counties	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	9/1/20	2/28/21
	Conduct GIS assessment of existing wildlife and botanical habitat elements utilizing existing state, federal data sets including CNDDDB, CNPS, CalFish, CDFW migratory route maps, and other data sets	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	9/1/20	2/28/21
State Stakeholder Involvement	Assemble a region-wide committee to guide formation of RHZ eligibility components. The committee would include Department of Conservation, CalFire, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Legislative staff, Boards of Supervisors, CSAC, CA Association of Assessors, as well as landowner, other stakeholder organizations	\$7,500.00	\$45,000.00	\$52,500.00	\$0.00	10/1/20	

NCRP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND PROCESSES CONCEPT PROPOSAL BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Project Name: California Resource & Habitat Zone Development Proposal

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