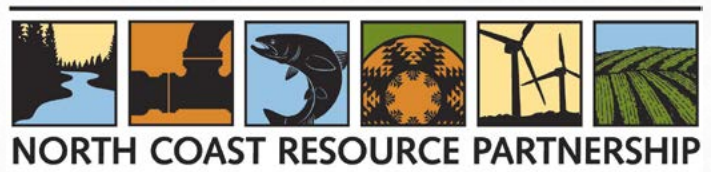


# Proposal for NCRP Demonstration Projects and Processes

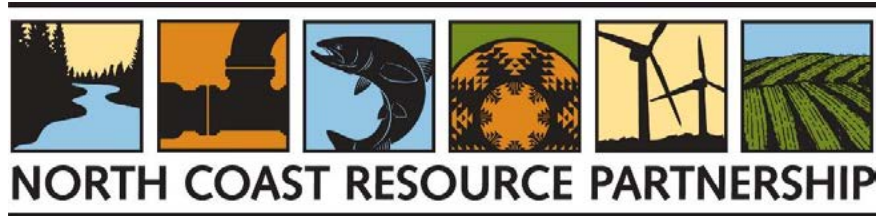
Drone image of Dry Creek Rancheria after the kincadee fire taken by Anthony Falzone



**DRY CREEK  
RANCHERIA**







## EXHIBIT A PROPOSAL COVER PAGE

### Proposal Type

☒ Concept Proposal for Demonstration Projects and Processes

### Organization Name (Lead Applicant)

**Dry Creek Rancheria**

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### 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: Chris Ott  
Title: EPA Director  
Email: Chris.Ott@riverrockcasino.com  
Phone Number (include area code): 707-337-5533

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

P.O. Box 607, Geyserville, CA 95441

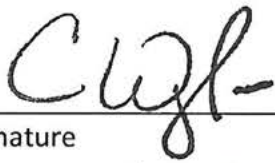
Authorized Representative (if different from the contact name)

Name: Chris Wright  
Title: Chairman  
Email: ChrisW@drycreekrancheria.com  
Phone Number (include area code): 707-814-4155

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  
5/22/2020  
Date

# Organization Statement of Qualifications

## Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

Settlement in the Dry Creek area by the Southern Pomo, called the Mihilakawna and Makahmo, was evident by 500 A.D. Descendants of these ancient inhabitants survive and continue to live as a tribe in the Alexander Valley, and are known as the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians. The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians is a federally-recognized Indian tribe located in Sonoma County, California. The Dry Creek Rancheria was established on June 1, 1915, and consists of 93 acres, located in Alexander Valley north of Healdsburg and southeast of Geyserville. Loss of traditional lands was a direct result from the decades of forcible relocation and today, the original Dry Creek Pomo habitation area is flooded by the water from the Warm Springs Dam and Lake Sonoma. In addition to the Rancheria, the Tribe owns and operates the Alexander Valley RV Park and Campground on the banks of the Russian River and recently purchased 306 acres of vineyard along Rancheria Creek and the Russian River.

The Tribe wants to participate in regional restoration and management efforts on both Rancheria Creek and the Russian River. The Tribe has initiated development of a coalition of federal and state agencies, Sonoma County, and land owners to create a comprehensive plan for restoration and sediment control in the Alexander Valley Reach of the Russian River starting with restoration actions on Rancheria Creek and the Russian River on the Tribe's vineyard property.

**Reference:** Patrick McLafferty, Hydros Argeitch, 916-225-6065, patrickm@hydrosageitch.com

## FlowWest

FlowWest is an interdisciplinary team of problem solvers working on the world's toughest water resources and aquatic ecosystem challenges. Our passion, innovative use of technology, and commitment to building a diverse and inclusive team drives our ability to deliver unique and highly effective solutions. Our core values include objectivity, technical quality, collaboration, creativity, equity, empathy, and respect. We provide a wide array of planning, analysis, design, restoration construction management, monitoring, data science, and decision support services. FlowWest brings a wealth of relevant experience gained through extensive work managing and restoring West Coast rivers for two decades. Our engineers, scientists, planners, and data scientists work seamlessly together to bring clear and quantitative understanding of the watershed processes. FlowWest is especially well-known for our ability to translate ecological, hydrological, hydraulic, and fluvial geomorphic analyses into improved understanding and management of ecological functions and design of restoration projects. We have applied this capability on high profile watershed planning and conservation efforts throughout California, in the Klamath Basin, and in the Sacramento San Joaquin Bay Delta. Finally, FlowWest takes great pride in our ability to work with water resources and ecosystem managers from every corner of the complex water systems of the West. We regularly work with local, state, and federal agencies, private companies, environmental NGOs, and water districts, always delivering objective, data-driven solutions to client challenges. FlowWest is a California small business (1190062) and an Oakland-certified Small Local Business Enterprise (SLBE).

**Reference:** Sarah Ryan, Deputy Tribal Administrator/ Environmental Director, Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, 707-263-3924 x132, sryan@big-valley.net

## Spatial Informatics Group (SIG)

Founded in 1999, Spatial Informatics Group, LLC (SIG) is a group of scientists with expertise in environmental fields ranging from ecology and forestry to natural resource economics. SIG provides a wide range of geospatial services and products integrated with professional consulting services in areas such as ecology, forestry, soils science, and risk and hazard management. SIG has completed several projects directly related to the proposed project, including preparation of several Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), on the ground planning and implementation of hazardous fuels reduction

# Organization Statement of Qualifications

projects, and detailed assessments of fire risk and hazards for multiple projects across California. Members of the team work extensively with Fire Safe Councils, utilities, tribal, federal, state, and local government entities and landowners to develop and seek funding for collaborative fuels reduction projects.

**Reference:** Coty Sifuentes-Winter, Senior Resources Management Specialist, Midpenninsula Regional Open Space District, 650-691-1200, csifuentes@openspace.org, Porject: Wildland Resilency Program

## Fire Poppy Consulting

Fire Poppy Consulting, LLC is a dynamic fire and conservation management organization owned and operated by company principal Sasha Berleman, PhD. Dr. Berleman is a leader in prescribed burn planning and coordination for diverse organizations and agencies, including burn plan development, restoration/treatment design and development, outreach and communications, pre- and post-fire mapping and assessment, and ecological monitoring/ analysis. She provides expertise in fire ecology, wildland fire science, plans and maps development, and relationship management.

**Reference:** Julia Clothier, Chief Operations Officer, Audubon Canyon Ranch  
707-938-4554 x301, julia.clothier@egret.org

## Key Project Technical Staff

Full professional resumes for all staff are included here: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Y\\_oQnzF-smMrJGsWrbvaJYRj9UbkcZcp2j](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Y_oQnzF-smMrJGsWrbvaJYRj9UbkcZcp2j) In this section, we present the following demonstrations of our staff's capabilities:

- Project Descriptions
- Brief individual biographies of key technical staff
- An Organizational Chart describing the makeup of our team and how we will work together with North Coast Resource Partnership

## Recently Related Project Experience:

### FlowWest

#### ***Dry Creek Climate Adaption Plan, Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians***

The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Sonoma County, California. The Dry Creek Rancheria was established on June 1, 1915. Loss of traditional lands was a direct result from the decades of forcible relocation and today, the original Dry Creek Pomo habitation area is flooded by the water from the Warm Springs Dam and Lake Sonoma. The Tribe wants to participate in regional restoration and management efforts on both Rancheria Creek and the Russian River.

FlowWest Principal, Anthony Falzone, initially helped Dry Creek Rancheria apply for a Climate Adaptation Grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in 2014, then completed the plan in 2016, completed CEQA for a Prop 1 grant in 2017, wrote the grant application in 2017, and is currently implementing the project.

Climate Adaptation Plan: FlowWest identified the Bureau of Indian Affairs Climate Adaptation Grant Program and helped Dry Creek Rancheria apply for the grant. After the \$174,000 grant was awarded, FlowWest was hired by the Tribe to analyze climate impacts on the Rancheria and develop a watershed based restoration roadmap for Dry Creek Rancheria's property along Rancheria Creek and the Russian

# Organization Statement of Qualifications

River. FlowWest implemented a hydrology monitoring network to access stream flow enhancement needs. FlowWest identified the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Prop 1 program as a potential funding source for implementation of the Climate Adaptation Plan recommended restoration actions. To obtain the WCB Stream Flow Enhancement and Restoration Grant, the Dry Creek Rancheria hired FlowWest to complete CEQA within three months to meet the grant deadline. Mike Urkov, FlowWest Senior Environmental Planner, worked closely with the lead agency, Sonoma County Permit & Resource Management Department, to successfully complete CEQA. FlowWest drafted the grant application for the WCB Stream Flow Enhancement Program, and is currently implementing the 16 restoration actions in the \$5 million project. Dry Creek Rancheria obtained \$3.4 million in funding to complete final design and start on implementation of the project from the WCB. FlowWest tasks include project management, permitting, design, grant writing, construction management, and monitoring.

## **SIG**

### ***Development of Wildfire Resiliency Program for the MidPeninsula Regional Open Space***

This comprehensive program covers over 64,000 acres of preserve wildlands managed by Midpen, including all 26 of the District's preserves. The program consists of several components, including a Vegetation Management Plan a Prescribed Fire Plan that defines prescribed fire units and methods; Resource Advisor Maps and Wildland Fire Pre-Plan; and a Monitoring Plan. More information is here [https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/AppendixG\\_Monitoring%20Methods.pdf](https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/AppendixG_Monitoring%20Methods.pdf)

### ***California's 4th Climate Assessment: Fuel Treatments for Forest Resilience and Wildfire Mitigation***

For this report, SIG reviewed what is known about the effects of fuel treatments on stored forest carbon, wildfire risk and wildfire emissions in California's forests. The full report is here <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/d34d/96bec8b013c01f83cd2205c503f98ffc54e5.pdf>

## **FirePoppy**

### ***Fire Forward Consulting Program Director for North Bay Nature Conservation Non-Profit Audubon Canyon Ranch***

As Consulting Director of the Fire Forward Program for Audubon Canyon Ranch, Sasha is leading a regional cooperative fire program in the North Bay Area. This position entails leading and managing the Fire Forward team and coordinating with the diverse cooperating organizations and agencies across the Bay Area, including through the development of partnership MOAs. Key components of this position include community organizing, capacity development, and planning and coordination of fuels treatments, restoration projects, demonstration sites and prescribed burns. <https://www.openspace.org/our-work/projects/wildland-fire-resiliency>

### ***Wildfire Resiliency Program Pre-Fire Planning and Field Mapping and Public Outreach/ Presentation Development for Mid-Peninsula Open Space District***

Sasha's role in this project is as a local fire specialist. This role translates to contribution of expertise in a variety of ways to assist the project, but includes field assessment and mapping of fire risk, expected fire behavior, and pre-fire mapping of infrastructure and fire-fighting points of interest such as lookouts, gates, shaded fuel breaks, and safety zones. This includes developing and providing public outreach and presentation materials to assist in communications of fire ecology, fire history, and fire management to the public. Sasha will also be involved in fuels treatment and prescribed fire plan and prescription development, as well as some monitoring development and implementation. <https://deercreek.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=74175448689248a9b7788f7313e3519a>



# Organization Statement of Qualifications

## Key Technical Staff



**Chris Ott, P.E.**  
**Dry Creek Rancheria, Civil Engineer**  
 B.S., Civil/Environmental Engineering,  
 University of California, Davis

Chris Ott, the Department of Environmental Protection Director has a Bachelor's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from UC Davis. He has 25 years of experience in the Civil and Environmental fields; public and private sector. Mr. Ott has

his California Professional Engineers registration (License # 70413) and is a Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) and Qualified Industrial Stormwater Practitioner (QISP). The DEP Director is finalizing the completion of the landside stabilization, culvert replacement, and channel restoration project on the site. The total cost for the project \$1,100,000 and the project includes channel restoration and culvert replacement components that will be replicated downstream.

**Sherrie Smith-Ferri**  
**Dry Creek Rancheria**

Ph.D., Sociocultural Anthrology, University of Washington, Seattle  
 B.A., Sociocultural Anthrology, Univeristy of California, Davis

In her career at the Grace Hudson Museum, Dr. Smith-Ferri originated and served as Project Director for an ambitious project named The Wild Gardens, which reconfigured the Museum's 4 acre outdoor campus into a series of linked native plants gardens.

The Wild Gardens are used to teach visitors of all ages about the local plants and animals that enabled Pomo peoples to live a comfortable and settled life for thousands of years in their northern California homelands. In addition, the Wild Gardens aims to highlight the sophisticated and complex biological knowledge Pomo peoples employed when shaping, managing and "tending" this homeland.



**Anthony Falzone, M.L.A, CFM**  
**FlowWest, Prinical Geomorphologist**  
 M.L.A., Environmental Planning, University of California, Berkeley  
 B.A., Economics, Minor Forestry, University of California, Berkeley

Mr. Falzone is a geomorphologist and Certified Floodplain Manager (# US-12-06605) with extensive fluvial geomorphology, river ecology/ restoration, flood control, and hydraulics experience in California and nationally. He has over 19 years of consulting

experience focused on developing, conducting, and compiling monitoring data to adaptively manage land use disturbances and restoration projects in river corridors. Mr. Falzone is also a leader in the application of advanced technology to the collection of field data and analysis of spatial data in river corridor ecosystems. This interdisciplinary expertise enables Mr. Falzone to develop innovative solutions to the most complex river management challenges.



**Jason Moghaddas, MS**  
**SIG, RPF 2774 - Director of Natural Hazards**  
 M.S., Environmental Science, Policy and Management, University of California  
 B.S., Resource Management, University of California

Mr. Moghaddas brings over 25 years of experience in forestry, fuels reduction, and natural resource project planning and management. Jason is a recognized leader in the field of wildland fire risk assessment and planning, having worked for or on projects with SIG, the Feather

River Land Trust, the Plumas National Forest, and El Dorado County Fire Safe Council. He is a current Registered Professional Forester.

# Organization Statement of Qualifications



**Sasha Berleman, Ph.D.**  
**FirePoppy, Principal & Wildlife Ecologist**  
 Ph.D. Wildland Fire Science, University of California, Berkeley  
 B.S., Conservation and Resource Studies

Sasha has been working with California tribes since 2010, including the Yurok and Karuk, and more recently, since 2016, with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. Sasha has been working in the North Bay area since 2015 and is highly familiar with the local botanical

communities and ecologies in unburned, prescribed burned, and post-wildfire environments, as well as some ethnobotanical applications/uses. In her experience working and collaborating with diverse tribes, and through her studies Peace and Conflict at UC Berkeley, Sasha understands the importance of listening to the goals, objectives, and values of the community and working hand-in-hand with tribal representatives to build tribal capacity and support actualize dreams.

## Organization Chart





## NCRP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND PROCESSES CONCEPT PROPOSAL BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Project Name: Dry Creek Rancheria Vegetation Management and Demonstration Project Using Native Vegetation and TEK

Major Tasks	Task Description	NCRP Task Budget	Funding Match *	Total Task Budget	Scaled NCRP Budget **	Start Date	End Date
Task 1-Site Evaluation	Field and GIS based site evaluation, planning, and mapping.	\$25,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$20,000.00	7/1/20	10/31/20
Task 2-Native Plant Propagation	Collection and propagation of native plant materials for restoration and revegetation	\$25,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$22,500.00	8/1/20	6/30/21
Task 3-Implementation	Field implementation for invasive species mitigation, fuel reduction, and restoration/revegetation	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$160,000.00	\$70,000.00	11/1/20	6/30/22
Task 4-Water Quality	Develop and implement a monitoring network at DCR to monitor stream flow, water quality, and sediment.	\$45,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$40,000.00	7/1/20	6/30/22
Task 5- Education	Develop signage, educational materials, and events for K-12 students, the community, and landowners.	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$22,500.00	11/1/20	6/30/22
Task 6-Monitoring	Develop a monitoring protocol that can be easily implemented by locally trained staff, students, and community members	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$12,000.00	11/1/20	6/30/22
Task 7-Project Management	Project meetings, reports, other communications, and project closeout	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00	7/1/20	6/30/22
Travel	All travel (mileage, hotel, per diem)	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00	7/1/20	6/30/22
Equipment	Hydrological monitoring equipment	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$9,000.00	7/1/20	6/30/22
Signage	Production of weather proof outdoor signage	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00	7/1/20	6/30/22
NA	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	NA	NA
NA	NA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	NA	NA
Total NCRP 2020 Demonstration Project Request		\$245,000.00	\$195,000.00	\$440,000.00	\$206,000.00		
* List the sources and status of matching funds: \$200,000 EPA Data Exchange Network Grant, funded & active, \$30,000 applied to Task 6 for development of the water quality app for visualization and analysis of hydrology and water quality monitoring data; \$3.5 million WCB Stream Flow Enhancement and Restoration Project, funded & active, \$10,000 applied to Expenses for existing stream monitoring equipment; \$131,273 BIA 2019 Kincadee Burned Area Emergency Response Plan, \$94,730 funded and active, \$60k applied to Task 1 & Task 6 for site assessment							
** Is Requested Budget scalable? If yes, indicate scaled totals; if no leave as \$0. Yes. The primary impacts of reduced project would be 1) approximately 20% acres less treated for fuels, revegetation, and weeds, 2) fewer field trips (3 instead of 5), 3) simplified monitoring program;							
Project scalability information for the reviewers (optional):							

# Exhibit C

**Project Name:** Dry Creek Rancheria Vegetation Management and Demonstration Project Using Native Vegetation and TEK

## 1. Project Abstract

The Dry Creek Rancheria proposes to use approximately 100 acres located in the Alexander Valley as a demonstration project for post burn fuel reduction and re-vegetation management using native plants and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). 50% of the demonstration property was burned in the 2019 Kincade Fire providing a data driven opportunity to teach and monitor impacts from burned versus untreated wildlands and to demonstrate reforestation and fuel treatments in the burned areas to reduce the probability and intensity of future fires. An educational program will be developed to showcase techniques for fire management in the wildland urban interface (WUI).

## 2. Project Location and Area Served

Settlement in the Dry Creek area by the Southern Pomo, called the Mihilakawna and Makahmo, was evident by 500 A.D. Descendants of these ancient inhabitants survive and continue to live as a tribe in the Alexander Valley, and are known as the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians. The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians is a federally-recognized Indian tribe ("the Tribe") located in Sonoma County, California. The Dry Creek Rancheria ("the Rancheria") was established on June 1, 1915, and consists of 93 acres, located in Alexander Valley north of Healdsburg and southeast of Geyserville. The Tribe has purchased an additional 306 acres along Rancheria Creek and the Russian River ([Figure 1: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1mdX\\_6A2TGxy5LViwvad83FRKgP-bqLh7](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1mdX_6A2TGxy5LViwvad83FRKgP-bqLh7)). Loss of traditional lands was a direct result from the decades of forcible relocation and today, the original Dry Creek Pomo habitation area is flooded by the water from the Warm Springs Dam and Lake Sonoma. The Tribe participates in regional restoration and management efforts on both Rancheria Creek and the Russian River. The Tribe has initiated development of a coalition of federal and state agencies, Sonoma County, and landowners to create a comprehensive plan for restoration and sediment control in the Alexander Valley Reach of the Russian River starting with restoration actions on Rancheria Creek and the Russian River on the Tribe's vineyard property. After the Kincade Fire in 2019 the Tribe identified the critical need for vegetation management to reduce the probability and intensity of future fires and restore burned areas using native vegetation and TEK.

## 3. Project Description

The Project Description should include: the intended purpose of the project; a problem statement: why the project or process is needed; setting and background; the major components of the project or process; a description of how the project or process will be implemented; and a summary of the expected benefits, and detailed information about how this project or process supports and achieves the objectives of the NCRP RFFC objectives.

The purpose of this project is to implement a demonstration project for fire and re-vegetation management using native plants and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) at Dry Creek Rancheria. 50% of the property burned in the 2019 Kincade Fire ([Figure 2: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jPjHBFRz4uX7jjosIP3geRp-Whv3hp5A](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jPjHBFRz4uX7jjosIP3geRp-Whv3hp5A)). The Kincade Fire followed the 2017 Tubbs Fire and these two fires clearly illustrate the need for improved fuel management in the North Coast Region. This demonstration project is an opportunity to teach and monitor impacts from burned versus untreated wildlands and to demonstrate TEK, Native Plant Restoration and fuel treatments to reduce the probability and intensity of future fires. An educational program will be developed to showcase techniques for

# Exhibit C

fire management. The 7 components of the project include:

**1. Field and GIS based site evaluation, planning, and mapping**

We will develop a plan for treatment of invasive species, fuel reduction, and restoration/revegetation actions using TEK based techniques and native plant species. Field data will be aggregated into online maps

**2. Collection and propagation of native plant materials for restoration and revegetation**

We will leverage TEK from DCR Tribal Elders who maintain the Dry Creek Rancheria Native Plant Nursery. We will use plants from the Tribes Nursery and DCR has been collecting and cultivating culturally significant species for ongoing restoration projects.

We will continue to collect seed from on-site or near-site native bunchgrasses, herbaceous species, and high-value trees seasonally. Take cuttings from select shrub and rhizomatous native species for propagation in the fall. We plan to sow grass and forb seed as appropriate. In the fall, propagate other seed and cuttings for later planting to meet revegetation and TEK-relevant species promotion and utilization goals. Incorporate tribal community in collection, direct seeding, propagation, and planting to build community leadership and participation.

**3. Field implementation for invasive species mitigation, fuel reduction, and restoration/revegetation**

We will use paid crews to hand pull target weed species. Invasive species appropriate for hand pulling include: stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*), french broom (*Genista monspessulana*), Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*). We will use a combination of hand thinning, pruning, chipping, moving, and burning to reduce accumulated live and dead fuels less than 8 inches in diameter. Reduce basal resprouts on trees in burned areas down to 3-4 dominant resprouts. Keep and promote oaks as much as possible and leave burned trees standing for 3-5 years for resprouting. Lastly, we will utilize herbicide crews to remove exotic species in locations or of sizes that are not readily removable by hand pulling. Utilize propane torch as needed to support invasive species management efforts.

**4. Water quality monitoring**

We will develop and implement a monitoring network at DCR to monitor stream flow, water quality, and sediment. We will add to the existing water quality monitoring activities conducted by DCR and incorporate data into the EPA Exchange Network water quality app currently in development.

**5. Develop signage, educational materials, and events for K-12 students, the community, and landowners**

We will design and print signage which can remain on permanent display onsite, describing the project. Interpretive signs will cover ecology, management activities, and tribal values. Additional interpretive signs can share botanical identifications of sign-adjacent plants and associated TEK. We will build upon educational programs developed



## Exhibit C

for K-12 educational programs (<http://www.learninglandscapes-frlt.org/quincy-outdoor-classrooms.html>) and modify the material and program for the North Coast Region and DCR. Online educational materials will be developed for a range of lessons on local ecology, TEK, and restoration efforts. Lastly, we will prepare, train staff, and lead up to 5 community or school field trips of the demonstration project.

### 6. **Monitoring**

We will develop a monitoring protocol that can be easily implemented by locally trained staff, conducting regular visual inspections of the property, developing permanent photo points to quantifying vegetation cover, species, and fuel loadings over time. SIG, Fire Poppy, and FlowWest have developed a detailed monitoring program for vegetation and fire which may be utilized to develop a comprehensive monitoring plan for MidPen Openspace District ([https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/AppendixG\\_Monitoring%20Methods.pdf](https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/AppendixG_Monitoring%20Methods.pdf)).

### 7. **Regular project team meetings and project management**

#### 4. **Specific Project Goals/Objectives**

1. Reduce fire hazard on 25 acres by removing dead material resulting from the 2019 Kincadee fire.
2. Re-establish native vegetation within 25 acres of land burned by the 2019 Kincadee fire.
3. Treat invasive plant species such as Scotch broom on 10 acres
4. Provide school and community educational opportunities to further understanding of local ecosystems and their management using Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
6. Provide a demonstration site which other landowners may use to observe various fuel reduction and revegetation techniques over time.

**5. Describe how the project or process addresses the NCRP Goals and Objectives ( <https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/partnership/> ) and the intent of the NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Block Grant ( <https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/site/assets/uploads/2020/02/NCRP-CNRA-Grant-Agreement-Work-Plan.pdf> ).**

This project directly addresses the following NCRP Goals:

- Goal 1: Interregional Cooperation and Adaptive Management
  - Objective 2 - Provide an ongoing framework for inclusive, efficient intraregional cooperation and effective, accountable NCRP project implementation
  - Objective 3 - Integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge in collaboration with Tribes to incorporate these practices into North Coast Projects and Plans
- Goal 3: Ecosystem Conservation and Enhancement
  - Objective 6 – Conserve, enhance, and restore watersheds and aquatic ecosystems, including functions, habitats, and elements that support biological diversity
  - Objective 7 – Enhance salmonid populations by conserving, enhancing, and restoring required habitats and watershed processes
- Goal 5: Climate Adaptation and Energy Independence
  - Objective 11 – Address climate change effects, impacts, vulnerabilities, including droughts, fires, floods, and sea level rise. Develop adaptation strategies for local and regional sectors to improve air and water quality and promote public health
- Goal 6: Public Safety

## Exhibit C

- Objective 13 – Improve flood protection, forest and community resiliency to reduce the public safety impacts associated with floods and wildfires

### **Forest and Fire Capacity Program Block Grant Tasks**

This project contributes to Task 3 - Coordination, Outreach, and Education and Task 5 - Demonstration Projects of the NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Block Grant. Educational information developed for this project will be shared with the NCRP staff for use for outreach and education. The project directly achieves Task 5 objective for funding demonstration projects to test concepts, processes, and innovative techniques for fuel load reduction and forest health. The results from this demonstration project will be quantified and can be scaled up in the region and elsewhere as required in Task 5. Of the performance metrics listed in Task 5, this project will achieve quantifiable results on a regional level for new technologies tested, and will achieve local level quantifiable results for number of personnel trained, number of local jobs created/maintained, various water quality, climate and ecosystem metrics.

### **6. Describe how the project is scalable, replicable, measurable, innovative and results in outcomes that will increase the scope and scale of multi-benefit forest management in the North Coast.**

The project will provide a demonstration site and readily available documentation applicable to similar vegetation types (oak woodland, grasslands) at the southern extent of the North Coast Region. The recent Kincade and Tubbs fires shows the critical need for widespread implementation of vegetation management including re-vegetation to reduce burn intensity in the WUI. The size and scale of the DCR demonstration project is perfectly suited for application for landowners in the WUI that represents the largest risk to structure damage in the North Coast Region. This demonstration project scales to individual property ownership adjacent wildlands over the North Coast Region. Although the individual property acreage is typically small, in aggregate these properties represent the largest risk to loss of structures and life. The proximity of DCR to the large population centers of the southern extent of the North Coast Region will increase the impact of this demonstration project. This project is innovative in its approach of using TEK and native vegetation management in the WUI and on small scale properties that are easily adopted by landowners.

### **7. Describe the need for the project and how the project addresses forest health and climate change/extreme event resiliency.**

The 2019 Kincade Fire, burned 50 acres of the DCR property, burned over 77,000 acres in the County and destroyed 374 structures. The Kincade followed the catastrophic 2017 Tubbs Fire, which destroyed 5,643 structures and killed 22 people. These two fires clearly illustrate the need for improved fuel management in the WUI in the North Coast Region. Demonstration projects are needed to show landowners and local, state, and federal regulatory agencies how vegetation can be managed using TEK and native vegetation. This project helps address fire related vegetation mortality that is increasing current and future fire hazard. By reducing live and dead fuels, this project will increase potential drought and fire resiliency over time.

### **8. Describe the size of the project and the communities served by this project.**

The size of the demonstration project is 100 acres, of which 50 acres were burned in the 2019 Kincade Fire. Active management will be conducted on 25 acres. Although the site is small, Dry Creek Rancheria contains almost the entire Rancheria Creek Watershed and the confluence with the Russian River providing a unique site from the forested headwater of Rancheria Creek through the oak woodlands,

## Exhibit C

grasslands, and vineyards to the riparian corridor along the Russian River. DCR is located between the community of Geyserville to the north and Healdsburg to the south. DCR is a 30 minute drive from Santa Rosa. This project will serve all three of these communities and will focus on areas impacted by the Tubbs (Santa Rosa) and Kincade (Healdsburg) fires. Together these communities include almost 200,000 people in the WUI.

### **9. List and describe the partnerships involved in the project and local and/or political support.**

Dry Creek Rancheria has been a leader in developing a coalition of the stakeholders, local, state, and federal agencies for resource management in the Alexander Valley. DCR is currently implementing the first phase of a \$5 million stream flow enhancement and restoration project on Rancheria Creek and the Russian River. Project funders include the Wildlife conservation Board, USFWS, BIA, and EPA. DCR has the support of the Sonoma County Supervision James Gore and Sonoma County Permitting and Planning, who was the lead agency for CEQA for the stream flow enhancement and restoration project. DCR has developed good working relationships with the USACE, NOAA, CDFW, and Caltrans.

### **10. List the estimated quantifiable, measurable benefits expected to result from the proposed project.**

The project will result in ecological, educational, and community benefits. Specifically, this project will

- Reduce fire hazard on 25 acres of land that had previously burned with high severity
- Re-establish native plant species within 25 acres of land previously burned with high severity
- Reduce exotic invasive species on 10 acres of land
- Provide educational field trips for approximately 250 students, residents, and community members. These trips will help community members and others better understand the role of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in post fire recovery and ecosystem restoration.

### **11. List any scientific studies, plans, designs or reports completed for the project or process.**

All permitting required to implement fuels reduction and vegetation planting has been completed under the Bureau of Indian Affairs Categorical Exclusions and USFWS Consultation as part of the 2019 Kincade Fire Burned Area Emergency Response Plan (<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1j3cA-nLcJLptDiFGlu-9crm9AOty4NAul>).

### **12. Describe the approach to data collection, performance measures, and project reporting of outcomes and lessons learned.**

Data will be collected during field work over entire ownership using GPS and photographs to map condition and treatment locations for invasive species, fuel reduction, and restoration/revegetation. Aggregated field data will be presented in online maps and in GIS compatible formats for distribution to the project team. Water quality data will be reported on the water quality app that is currently being developed through a EPA Data Exchange Network grant. A drone will also collect annual imagery of the project area to document treatment actions and untreated plots.

Reporting for the project will be compiled in a final report that documents all action with the year of the project. The report will also outline future management and identify funding opportunities to continue educational programs. Additionally, we present our results to the NCRP.

The project team will present results at conferences related to fire management, flood management, and restoration. Abstracts will be submitted to the annual conferences and programs of organizations such as the California Society of American Foresters, California Society for Ecological Restoration, Floodplain Management Association, Salmonid Restoration Federation, and Forest Vegetation Management Conference.