

EXHIBIT A
Work Plan, Schedule and Budget
For Fiscal Years 2019-2020 through 2021-2022

PROJECT NAME: Fire School Pilot Program at Lake Sonoma & Dry Creek

SUBGRANTEE NAME: The Center for Social & Environmental Stewardship (CSES)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This demonstration project was selected to help the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) realize the goals of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program. Under the RFFC Program, the NCRP will develop a North Coast Regional Priority Plan (RPP). The RPP will include a comprehensive and integrated set of strategies, actions and projects to support forest and community health and long-term resilience to wildfire. The purpose of the demonstration projects selected by the NCRP is to model processes and on-the-ground projects designed to test concepts, methods, and innovative techniques to identify effective management practices for fuel load reduction and forest health that can be quantified and scaled up in the region and elsewhere. Data, performance measures, and project outcomes/lessons learned from this demonstration project will be documented and integrated into the RPP to ensure adaptive learning and information sharing throughout the region.

The Center for Social & Environmental Stewardship will partner with Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District, the UC Cooperative Extension, Sonoma RCD, and LandPaths to pilot a fire-focused, paid workforce development and training program for underserved youth (ages 16-25). Youth will learn about and implement diverse fuels management strategies, as well as participate in a Wildland Fire Fighter Type 2 Certification course and other educational career-building activities. This project will allow for testing of UCCE's innovative new web-based geospatial tool, which helps landowners identify, estimate costs for, and prioritize fire fuels management strategies for their unique properties. It will also protect critical high-risk infrastructure, including Lake Sonoma, which provides water for 600,000 people, and Dry Creek, a key salmonid spawning stream.

This project will address the need for more fire fuels management contractors in the region, as well as NCRP RFFC objectives, by creating a Fire School Pilot Program that will provide seven (7) weeks of hands-on, paid workforce development training for underserved youth (ages 16-25). The trainees funded through this demonstration project will receive training from project partners on fire ecology, the basics of planning and permitting, and fire BMPs, while implementing a diversity of fuels management treatments in the critically important Lake Sonoma and Dry Creek watersheds.

Additionally, these treatments will serve as testing grounds for improvement of an innovative web-based geospatial tool, currently in the final stages of development by UCCE Sonoma County. This tool will assist landowners in developing and prioritizing fuels reduction activities on their properties. The tool uses datasets and information gathered from fire specialists to estimate the potential cost of various fuel reduction strategies, and the reports generated can serve as jumping off points for landowners to apply for cost-share grants through NRCS or CAL FIRE for implementation of vegetation management projects.

Approximately 24 acres will be treated under this project. Treatment may include clearing periphery fuel breaks and fence lines for much larger acreage to be later treated through prescribed fire and grazing. Treatments will integrate with community preparedness efforts funded by other sources, including a CAL FIRE grant currently being utilized by the project partners in the Lake Sonoma watershed. Key practices will be shared, with the goal of expanding this program and supporting the creation of similar programs elsewhere in the region.

Task 7.1 Project Management

General project management, including compliance with subgrantee requirements, project planning and oversight, necessary meetings, as well as invoicing and reporting.

Task 7.1.A Demonstration Project Detailed Work Plan and Budget Development

Work with the NCRP staff team to develop a detailed work plan and budget based on the successful project concept proposal. This will include at least one strategic planning meeting with NCRP staff and may involve additional meetings with NCRP staff and consultants as well as other demonstration project sponsors.

Deliverable:

- Detailed work plan and budget

Task 7.1.B Sub-grantee Agreement Execution and Management

Execute a sub-grantee agreement with COUNTY for work to be completed on this project. Manage the sub-grantee agreement including compliance with grant requirements, and preparation and submission of supporting grant documents.

Deliverables:

- Fully Executed Sub-Grantee Agreement

Task 7.1.C Invoicing

Compile invoices including relevant supporting documentation. Submit invoices to COUNTY according to the Subgrantee schedule presented in Table 3 below for review and inclusion in the master invoice packet.

Deliverables:

- Invoices, provided in a format approved by, and including backup documentation as specified by COUNTY

Task 7.1.D Progress Reporting

Prepare progress reports detailing work completed during reporting period. Submit reports to COUNTY according to the Subgrantee schedule presented in Table 3 below for review and inclusion in the master progress report

Deliverables:

- Quarterly Project Progress Reports, using the format required by COUNTY

Task 7.1.E Environmental Compliance Documentation and Permitting

Obtain all necessary federal, state, and local permits and CEQA documentation as described in the County of Humboldt Environmental Compliance Checklist. Identify a lead agency to conduct CEQA review for all fuel reduction activities and provide associated documents prior to beginning on-the-ground work.

Deliverables:

- Environmental Compliance Checklist, using the form provided by COUNTY
- Copy of applicable environmental documentation
- Copy of all required permits

Task 7.1.F Labor Compliance Program

Take all measures necessary to ensure compliance with applicable California Labor Code requirements, including, preparation and implementation of a labor compliance program or including any payments to the Department of Industrial Relations under Labor Code Section 1771.3.

Deliverables:

- Proof of labor compliance as applicable, upon request

Task 7.1.G Contractor Acquisition and Management

As applicable and based on subgrantee purchasing policies, secure contractors and award contracts. Subcontracts will be developed for the following contractors:

UCCE will be subcontracted to provide training, technical support, planning tool development, and assistance in identifying landowners for demonstration projects.

Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District will be subcontracted to assist in prioritizing treatment areas and to train program participants in vegetation management techniques.

Deliverables:

- Sole source justification, if required by purchasing policy
- Documentation of subcontractor insurance, upon request

Task 7.2 Integration with NCRP Regional Priority Planning Process

This task will ensure that the project is well integrated into the RPP and NCRP planning processes for information sharing to other parts of the region. This will include at least one kickoff planning meeting with NCRP staff and subsequent meetings as needed to ensure integration of the demonstration project results.

Task 7.2.A Project Reporting

Develop a section for inclusion in the RPP that describes the project, outcomes and project applicability to the North Coast region. Provide outline, annotated outline and drafts to NCRP staff for review and input. NCRP staff may wish to interview CSES staff about the project to gather additional information for the RPP.

Develop a workforce development program framework document that identifies replicable steps that can be adapted by other groups seeking to develop a similar program. Include program curriculum, things to consider, and lessons learned. Share model with other groups through the UCCE network, school systems, and other non-profits and agencies. If budget allows, the NCRP may wish to document the project via video or other mechanism to illustrate key elements of the RPP.

Deliverables:

- Applicable data, documents, and reports on lessons learned to be integrated into the RPP: review outline, draft and final
- Workforce development program framework document

Task 7.3 Project Activities

Pilot a workforce development program focused on fire fuels management and home hardening. Support successful completion of the program by providing participants with compensation; free housing or camping as possible given pandemic complications; tools; personal protective equipment; transportation; and social services. Provide opportunities to apply classroom learning and accomplish fuels reduction in the Lake Sonoma and Dry Creek watersheds; use the geospatial decision support tool developed by UCCE to plan the treatments. Solicit and incorporate feedback from landowners on use of the tool.

When planning for meetings described below, COVID guidelines will need to be considered. Remote virtual meetings may be an alternative to holding them in person.

Task 7.3.A Workforce Development Program

Conduct seven weeks of experiential learning projects as career training for 6-12 underserved youth.

Partner with experts to provide weekly educational activities in the field and/or in the classroom: Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District will assist with vegetation management and train program participants in the same; Sonoma RCD will provide technical support and lead career exploration activities for program participants related to forestry and fire fuels management; in addition to hosting trainees at their Riddell Preserve and providing camping support, LandPaths will provide ecology training and nature connection activities. Work with partner experts to adapt available curriculum to be audience-specific and career-focused.

In addition, teach the basics of fire ecology, tool use, planning, permitting, and fuels reduction methods; and arrange participation in a Wildland Fire Fighter Type 2 Certification course.

Deliverables:

- Pre- and post-project surveys of participating youth
- Outreach and educational materials, including press releases, developed or distributed
- Participant list for wildland fire certification course

Task 7.3.B Fuels Management

Identify 3-7 treatment areas encompassing an approximate total of 24 acres in the Lake Sonoma and Dry Creek watersheds for strategic fuels management; include Riddell Preserve as a treatment area to help protect the preserve's perennial streams that feed salmonid habitat. Use GIS and LiDAR data, and local knowledge, to prioritize additional treatment areas based on high fire risk, potential benefits to salmonids, and protection of critical water infrastructure. Work with UCCE, Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District, and the Northern Sonoma County COPE Group to identify landowners whose properties meet these criteria, as potential hosts for strategic fuels management. Demonstrate the use of the data-driven decision support tool developed by UCCE on each treatment area. Reports will be generated from the online tool that can be printed and used in the field to inform The Center's fuels treatment work.

Deliverables:

- Maps, photos, and documentation of approximately 24 acres of fuels treatment

Task 7.3.C Geospatial Tool Refinement

Use the geospatial tool developed by UCCE Sonoma County to develop project plans with a minimum of 3 landowners. Using each parcel's biophysical attributes and vegetation, the decision support tool will assist landowners with prioritizing fuels reduction treatment areas based on relationship to structures, roads, and/or resource goals. Circulate a survey to landowners to evaluate the need for and utility of the decision support tool. Use landowner feedback to improve user interface and functionality of the new tool in partnership with UCCE.

Coordinate at least one (1) educational workshop hosted by UCCE for landowners on use of the geospatial tool. Advertise the workshop and disseminate educational materials to potential workshop participants through social media and email. Provide workshop information to NCRP to post to its calendar of events.

Deliverables:

- Agenda, sign-in sheet or participant list, and meeting materials for at least one (1) workshop
- Completed feedback surveys from workshop participants
- Copy of outreach materials shared or developed
- Summary of landowner/land manager feedback on use of the decision support tool
- Web link to updated decision support tool and user guide

Task 7.4 Project Closeout

Compile a Project Closeout Packet including, but not limited to California Climate Investments (CCI) reporting metrics; a summary of contributions to NCRP goals and objectives; a section for the RPP that describes the project, outcomes and project applicability to the North Coast region; photographic documentation; final project location map, as applicable; and an RFFC Program feedback survey. Submit the packet to COUNTY according to the schedule presented in Table 3 below.

Deliverables:

- Project Closeout Packet, using the format required by COUNTY