



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

**Friday, July 16, 2021; 10 am – 3:00 pm
Tish Non Village Community Center, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria**

Conference Call #: Conference Call #: 1-888-947-3988; Conference Code: 427330

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following items correspond to the NCRP Quarterly Meeting agenda for July 16, 2021 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/>

VI NCRP STAFF UPDATE

RFFC Plan Development

The NCRP staff team is continuing to develop the RFFC Regional Priority Plan, based on direction from the RFFC Ad Hoc Committee and Policy Review Panel during their respective April 2021 meetings. Activities include close collaboration with Department of Conservation, CAL FIRE, USFS and other partner agencies, implementing spatial analysis and regional assessments, continuing to refine the plan content and strategic actions, continued project development, refinement of performance metrics, and ongoing collaboration and shared learning with partners within and beyond the North Coast Region. NCRP staff planned and implemented a July 15, 2021 workshop focused on prioritizing investments in forest and community resilience.

XI POTENTIAL NAME CHANGE – POLICY REVIEW PANEL

As part of its ongoing deliberation regarding process improvements and refinements, the Executive Committee of the NCRP discussed the option of changing the name of the Policy Review Panel to something that more accurately reflects its role in strategic planning, leadership, governance and decision making. The NCRP Executive Committee and NCRP staff discussed some preliminary ideas for names, including the following:

- North Coast Resource Partnership Leadership Council
- North Coast Resource Partnership Governing Council
- North Coast Resource Partnership Leadership Team
- North Coast Resource Partnership Governing Body

If the name is changed, the NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook would be updated to reflect this change, and NCRP staff would research the best way to document that the new name is a “dba” (or similar) so that the NCRP Memorandum of Mutual Understanding (MoMU) does not require updating and re-adoption by over a hundred entities.

VIII NCRP STAFF DIRECTION & DECISIONS

NCRP REGIONAL FOREST & FIRE CAPACITY PROGRAM BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

The California Department of Conservation (DOC) has been allocated \$50 Million in the Early Action Wildfire Resilience Budget. This funding can be expended until 2025. The Legislature is considering an additional \$60 million of RFFC Funding in the 2021-22 State Budget. This funding can be expended until 2028-29. There is additional funding being proposed by the Legislature for programs across the wildfire and forest resilience policy area. Budget appropriations likely will be passed and signed by July 1, but they can be made until the end of session (September 10th). DOC is planning to enter into grant agreements that spend new funding from the Early Action and 2021-22 state budget in the first quarter of fiscal year 21-22 (eg, July-August). The RFFCP has a funding principle of balancing resources between the 4 regions (North, Sierra, South and Coastal). DOC is looking at a combined total of resources (early action and 2021-22 budget) when making regional allocations. DOC will be working initially with the following block grantees to develop workplans. Future block grantees may be added on a continuous basis based on needs and funding availability.

1. North Coast Resource Partnership
2. RCD of Tehama County Coalition
3. Napa RCD Coalition
4. Irvine Ranch Conservancy and COAST Network
5. Sierra Nevada Conservancy
6. Tahoe Conservancy
7. Coastal Conservancy

8. Inland Empire RCD
9. RCD of Greater San Diego County
10. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Early Action Funding

Early Action Funding of \$2.96 million can be expended until 2025. Workplans will prioritize expenditures that have an expedient and demonstrable benefit to reducing landscape and community wildfire or post wildfire risk. Workplans should prioritize based on urgent deployment but can include expenditures that take place over the full expenditure period if there is a justification of effectiveness or equity.

Expenditure Categories of highest priorities for these funds are as follows:

- **Project Development:** A top priority is to greatly increase the scale and speed of project development so that implementation programs have extensive statewide lists of implementation-ready projects. Project development strategies should be equitable, supporting subregions with both higher and lower capacity.
- **Demonstration Projects** – Projects that implement techniques new to the area, highlight new technology or approaches, and could be scaled up. These projects should include an outreach component that will allow you to share results with other regions or practitioners.
- **Capacity Investments** – Capacity investments that help partners manage increases in project development and implementation workload. We are still determining if these can include field equipment.

There is also a \$5 million Opportunity Fund that the NCRP may wish to apply to in order to fund innovative efforts or analyses.

2021-22 State Budget RFFC Funding

Funds included in the 2021-22 State Budget for RFFC are intended for long-term support for program implementation over a 7-year period. Preliminary amount is estimated at \$3.5 million. These funds are intended to fund broad range of capacity development, planning, project development, and demonstration project implementation that help a region develop and assemble the strategies to increase wildfire and forest resilience and develop the pipeline of shovel ready projects to achieve them. While final approved amounts are not yet known, NCRP staff are assuming that the Governor's proposed funding of \$60M will be adopted by the date of this meeting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the NCRP staff team to negotiate a grant agreement between the County of Humboldt (on behalf of the NCRP) and the California Department of Conservation for future RFFC funding via the Early Action Budget and 2021-22 State Budget. NCRP staff will work with the RFFC Ad Hoc Committee on a detailed work plan and implementation approach and will provide regular updates to the Policy Review Panel.

CAL FIRE PILOT GRANT AGREEMENT

This concept for a pilot project supports an integrated approach to achieving the mutual objectives of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) program and CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program. To test the concept, a pilot project will be jointly developed and implemented by CAL FIRE and the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP); the RFFC Grantee for the North Coast Region. Over the last 17 years, the NCRP has demonstrated the capacity to prioritize, plan and implement projects that achieve the State of California's ambitious goals for forest health, watershed resiliency, human community health and safety, climate action and economic vitality. Given that the NCRP has a stable, equitable, science-based identification, prioritization and implementation process that has already resulted in hundreds of successful projects on the ground, there is an opportunity to pilot a partnership between CAL FIRE, Forest Health and the NCRP, RFFC to test new ways of working between state agencies and regional partners. Potential elements of a pilot include the following:

1. Working closely with CAL FIRE staff at the state, regional and Unit levels, and representatives from the Natural Resources Agency and the Department of Conservation, the NCRP will lead the process of designing a multiyear "pilot project" to model RFFC and Forest Health Program integration while achieving the objectives of both programs.
2. The NCRP will then work closely with the CAL FIRE's Northern Region staff, CAL FIRE Forest Health Foresters and Program staff, CAL FIRE Unit Chiefs in the North Coast Region, Executive Staff and other key personnel to confirm criteria and objectives for prioritizing projects and developing a pilot project packet that is aligned with the requirements of the Forest Health Program and is guided by the outputs of the NCRP RFFC mapping and modeling framework.
3. NCRP will convene local, regional, state, and federal stakeholders and partners to assist in the identification of work areas that will be included in the initial packet of projects under the pilot.
4. Work areas will also reflect priorities emerging from the NCRP RFFC Regional Priority Plan process which is being informed by a prioritization framework that integrates regional mapping and modeling with local knowledge and aligns with state and federal objectives, priorities, evaluation and reporting approaches.
5. The prioritization framework will be used to evaluate potential projects collected from a variety of sources, including but not limited to, community wildfire protection plans, the Northern Region Prioritization Group project list, CAL FIRE Unit Plans and CalMAPPER, National Forest Plans, RCD Project Tracker, and potentially through a project concept RFP process. Projects selected from any of these sources for the packet of projects under this pilot will also be evaluated and prioritized based on how well they will achieve CAL FIRE Forest Health Program objectives, including how well they address forest restoration and private landowner forest resilience needs.
6. By January 31, 2022, the NCRP and partners will provide CAL FIRE Forest Health Program leads with a sequence of work areas/packet of priority projects to be included in the pilot. These projects will meet Forest Health Program and RFFC objectives
7. To signal commitment to this effort, CAL FIRE agrees to set aside \$5 to 10 million, contingent on the volume of work identified through the pilot project process and the confirmed capacity

within the region to complete priority work by March 30, 2025. Future funding may be sequenced with need once a grant agreement and work schedule is developed.

8. The NCRP RFFC grant will fund project prioritization, evaluation, technical assistance, readiness and other tasks needed to identify and prepare projects for CAL FIRE Forest Health Funding.
9. The County of Humboldt, in its role as Regional Administrator on behalf of the NCRP, will execute a grant agreement with CAL FIRE, manage contracted implementation partners, manage permitting, and administer all invoicing and reporting associated with the CAL FIRE Forest Health Program funds.
10. NCRP will maintain performance reporting for individual projects and the pilot packet as a whole. Performance reporting will use metrics that reflect and integrate CAL FIRE, NCRP and Resources Agency objectives.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize NCRP staff team to negotiate a grant agreement between the County of Humboldt, on behalf of the NCRP, and CAL FIRE for the Pilot project for the North Coast Region, and work with the RFFC Ad Hoc Committee on a detailed work plan and implementation approach. Provide regular updates to the Policy Review Panel.

**HUMBOLDT AREA FOUNDATION & WILD RIVERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT:
FIRE RESPONSE CAPACITY ASSESSMENT & ENHANCEMENT**

A recent anonymous gift was made to Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF) and Wild Rivers Community Foundation (WRCF) to support capacity building, including strengthening the long-term sustainability of fire response programs of area Tribes and very rural fire departments and protection districts. HAF and WRCF seek to regrant funds through local collaboratives already engaged in capacity building of these programs, departments and networks.

Program goals and parameters:

- A. Must be Tribes and organizations in Del Norte, Humboldt (could include Karuk Tribe and their fire response work in Siskiyou portion of tribal territory) or Trinity Counties
- B. Outcomes of the work will increase sustainability over time and may include:
 - i. Greater financial stability and sustainability
 - ii. Strengthening organizational structure, which may include recruitment and retention, management systems, certifications, or other operational improvements
 - iii. Strengthening regional fire response system by addressing key vulnerabilities
 - iv. Establishing or further enhancing partnerships

Role of Humboldt Area Foundation/Wild Rivers Community Foundation:

- Amy Jester, Program Director of Health and Nonprofit Resources, will act as the Foundation’s lead point of contact on this project. She will be responsible for partnership development/management with the NCRP.

Role of North Coast Resource Partnership:

- Cybelle Immitt, NCRP Director of Administration and Contracting: coordination of overall grant agreement and deliverables, ongoing collaboration with HAF/WRCF and NCRP team
- Sherri Norris, NCRP Director of Tribal Engagement: getting input from NCRP Tribal representatives and sharing draft work products with Tribal representatives, gathering input to share with lead consultants and HAF/WRCF
- Karen Gaffney, NCRP Director of Strategic Planning and Communications: coordination of sub-consultant work products, alignment with the RFFC Plan, collaboration with HAF/WRCF, Cybelle and Sherri, gathering input from and sharing draft work products with the NCRP staff team, Ad Hoc Committees, technical and governing bodies.

Role of Subcontractor:

- Plan West Partners/Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo): staff lead consultant responsible for close coordination with NCRP leads, and fire service representatives, developing comprehensive plan and work products. Plan West, through its role as LAFCo staff within the counties of Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity has knowledge of local fire service challenges and experience with identifying strategies to increase the sustainability of operations. Contracting with Plan West to expand the NCRP team to take on the additional workload is a standard and tested NCRP model that allows for maximum flexibility and the leveraging of appropriate expertise for any given work plan.
- Other subcontractors as needed, particularly to support Tribal fire programs.

Proposed Work Tasks:

- A. Perform a detailed needs assessment of all Tribal fire response programs, Tribal communities, small rural fire departments and protection districts via interviews, meetings, polls and surveys. Assessment will include questions related to strengthening the individual community and regional fire response system by identifying key vulnerabilities, as well as opportunities for establishing, stabilizing or further enhancing partnerships.
- B. Document and prioritize activities and capacity most needed in each Tribe, community, fire department or protection district to ensure long term, sustainable fire response capacity - including (but not limited to) financing mechanisms; certifications, recruitment, training, and retention; accounting, administrative or project management systems; funding development skills; operational structures; regional sharing of resources, etc. The project team will develop a preliminary report and set of priorities, and will share this draft with the Tribes, communities, and districts that have provided input, and will revise as needed based on their review
- C. For items identified in work task B, above, create detailed 10-year budgets for the needed personnel (staff and/or contractors), equipment and infrastructure
- D. Identify which of the top priorities can be accomplished with funding from the HAF/WRCF grant, and which should be included in future grant applications or funding requests. Identify potential funding sources and a timeline for pursuing them

- E. Implement the priorities identified in work task D (tbd, per work task D, but perhaps a toolbox, set of templates, trainings, funding sources, grant writer support for one year, etc). Provide a more detailed scope for this task after steps A through D are complete

Time Period:

July 2021-May 2023

Grant Amount:

\$400,000

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize NCRP staff team to negotiate a grant agreement between the County of Humboldt, on behalf of the NCRP, and Humboldt Area Foundation/Wild Rivers Community Foundation, and work with the RFFC Ad Hoc Committee on a detailed work plan and implementation approach. Provide regular updates to the Policy Review Panel.

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH SUSTAINABLE FEEDSTOCK PROJECT

Of the 4.2 million acres burned in California in 2020, 1.2 million acres were in the North Coast region. Over 17.2 million tonnes of greenhouse gases were emitted from the region's fires. The four years prior, 2015-2019, a total of 4.5 million acres were burned in California with over 1/4 of that being burned in the North Coast Region.

Woody biomass utilization is a critical part of the solution set for reducing fuel loads and thus fire risk, achieving long term forest health and resiliency, avoiding carbon emissions, and ensuring viable local economic and workforce development. New and existing wood products businesses are struggling to access long-term feedstock contracts necessary to access financing and to assure business stability. With funding from the CNRA/DOC RFFC program, the NCRP is developing and refining regional maps, analyses and models of fuel loading, vulnerable communities and assets, source areas for biomass, and location and capacity of existing or shuttered wood processing facilities. Limiting factors to implementing the plan successfully will be a sustained, reliable, affordable biomass supply for businesses, and a stable market at a price that makes removal and transport a viable option.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research may have funding for pilot projects evaluating biomass feedstock and utilization opportunities. NCRP proposes implementing a pilot project designed to explore the potential for leveraging private, non-commercial vegetation management as a base feedstock supply in a rural, economically challenged forested region that is extremely vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire. Building on the RFFC funded analysis and modeling of feedstock supply and wood processing facilities, the pilot will select 1-3 counties or sub-regions within the North Coast Region, and will evaluate feedstock aggregation opportunities, functional legal and governance structures and financing mechanisms that can be scaled up to other parts of the North Coast Region and other similar areas in California.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize NCRP staff team to negotiate a scope of work and grant agreement between the County of Humboldt, on behalf of the NCRP, and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and work with the RFFC Ad Hoc Committee on a detailed work plan and implementation approach. Provide regular updates to the Policy Review Panel.

ENHANCED COLLABORATION WITH THE NORTH COAST DURABLE COLLABORATIVE

Background

The North Coast Durable Collaborative (Durable Collaborative) and the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) are committed to working more effectively with one another on behalf of the North Coast region and its communities.

Resource Conservation Districts and the North Coast Durable Collaborative

Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) are among the country's earliest conservation organizations. Born out of the Dust Bowl Era, RCDs were first conceived by the federal government and later authorized by the State of California in 1938 to assist Californians in caring for the natural resources upon which their communities depend. While legal subdivisions of the State, RCDs are non-regulatory and, therefore, empowered to work in voluntary cooperation with local land managers to support their stewardship of soil, water, and forest resources. Grounded in their communities' past and future, RCDs serve as trusted local partners in providing critical technical assistance, education and outreach programs, and on-the-ground implementation. As flexible entities designed to adapt alongside their communities, RCDs are equipped to provide thoughtful and cost-effective services that support landowners and local organizations in developing solutions to natural resource challenges as they evolve. The primary work of RCDs includes the following:

- Agricultural, natural resource, forestry, and resource management technical assistance;
- Accessing and managing local, state, and federal grants;
- Developing plans at the county, watershed, neighborhood, or parcel scale;
- Community education on natural resource management;
- Data collection, assessment, and communication at the county, watershed, neighborhood, or parcel scale.

North Coast RCDs have been advancing locally-led conservation and contributing to community vitality within their respective districts for decades, but the scale of California's natural resource challenges and the nature of the state's grant funding cycles require collaboration across landscapes and jurisdictions. In response to this reality, in July of 2019, the following RCDs entered into an MOU to establish the North Coast Durable Collaborative: Del Norte, Gold Ridge, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Shasta Valley, Siskiyou, Sonoma, and Trinity. These eleven RCDs recognize that – together – they are greater than the sum of their parts. In this spirit, the Durable Collaborative seeks to increase coordination across the North Coast in order to enhance the quality and efficiency of their work, expand

the on-the-ground impacts of their programs, and improve regional dialogue and information-exchange. The Durable Collaborative also seeks to strengthen its voice at the regional and state levels in order to ensure that RCDs' interests are heard and that their input is valued commensurate with their collective impact on the ground.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize NCRP staff team to develop a MOU with the North Coast Durable Collaborative, actively collaborate with the Durable Collaborative on shared messaging, legislative and funding opportunities, and negotiate contracts or grant agreements with individual RCDs and the Durable Collaborative for technical assistance to project sponsors in the NCRP region. Work with the RFFC Ad Hoc Committee on a detailed work plan and implementation approach, and provide regular updates to the Policy Review Panel.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD, SAFE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM GRANT

NORTHERN REGIONAL WORKGROUP DESIGN PLAN

Background

The Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (Task Force) director seeks to ensure clear roles and relationships between the Task Force, the Northern Regional Workgroup and associated subregional collaboratives (RFFC Grantees), including the NCRP. Following is a list of objectives:

- A. Ensure vertical integration and downscaling of policy guidance from the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (Task Force) via the Northern Regional Workgroup and associated subregional collaboratives (RFFC Grantees). There is a hierarchical relationship among these entities.
- B. Ensure good communication pathways, alignment and integration of goals, objectives and priorities among the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (Task Force), the Northern Regional Workgroup and the RFFC Grantees in the Northern Region – including:
 - i. The North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) – covering all or a portion of Del Norte, Modoc, Siskiyou, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, and Sonoma counties.
 - ii. The RCD of Tehama County Coalition – covering Shasta, Tehama, Glenn counties and the very southern part of Siskiyou Country – the section not covered by NCRP or Sierra Nevada Conservancy.
 - iii. The Napa RCD Coalition – covering Napa, Lake, Solano, and parts of Yolo and Colusa counties.
- C. Actively collaborate and share information and resources among the Northern Region Workgroup Leads (CAL FIRE and USFS) and representatives of the three RFFC Grantees in the

Northern Region; provide shared recommendations to Patrick Wright, Keali'i Bright, Jason Ko (or whomever fills the role of Shared Stewardship Coordinator).

- D. Ensure stakeholders in the Northern Region receive information about (and have the opportunity to provide input on) Task Force activities and priorities.

Proposed Process and Tasks:

1. Regular meetings with Northern Regional Workgroup Leaders and the three subregional RFFC Grantees to discuss Task Force priorities and activities through the lens of the Northern Region, and develop a list of Northern Region priorities and information to share with Patrick Wright
2. Quarterly meetings convened by the Northern Region Workgroup Leads (CAL FIRE and the USFS), with support from the leads for the three subregional RFFC Grantees to share information from the Task Force and the Northern Region (these could “rotate” among the regional collaboratives)
3. Attendance at Task Force meetings to support Northern Regional Workgroup Leaders in report outs or to participate in discussions as needed/requested
4. Assist with planning and hosting meeting of the Task Force in the Northern Region

Participants:

- Patrick Wright, Director, Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force
- Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation, Assistant Director Division of Land Resource Protection; RFFC Program Manager
- Chief Gabe Schultz, CAL FIRE Northern Region Staff Chief, Regional Resource Manager, Chair Northern Regional Workgroup of the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force
- United States Forest Service Shared Stewardship Coordinator (TBD)
- Representative from the RCD of Tehama County Coalition
- Representative from the Napa RCD Coalition
- Cybelle Immitt, Natural Resources Planning Manager, Humboldt County; Director of Administration and Contracting, North Coast Resource Partnership
- Karen Gaffney, CEO, West Coast Watershed; Director of Strategic Planning & Communication, North Coast Resource Partnership

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize NCRP staff team to work with the Task Force to develop a framework for ensuring integration among the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, the Northern Regional Workgroup, and the North Coast Resource Partnership. Work with the RFFC Ad Hoc Committee on a detailed work plan and implementation approach, and provide regular updates to the Policy Review Panel.

UPDATES

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR & PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM) IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS									
Grant Round	Total Projects	Grant Amount	Amount Invoiced	% Complete	Projects Complete at End of Year (Estimated for 2021)				
					2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<i>Prop 84 Drought (2015)</i>	11	\$8.7 million	\$8.3 million	95%	3	7	7	10	11
<i>Prop 84 Final (2016)</i>	25	\$11.0 million	\$9.12 million*	83%	1	3	4	17	25
<i>Prop 1 Round 1</i>	20	12.7 million	\$2.3 million**	2%	--	--	--	--	1
Totals	56	\$32.7 million			4	10	11	27	37

**Included \$1.1 million advanced payment / **Included \$1.7 million advanced payment*

Overview

The Humboldt County Regional Administrator Team (Admin Team) continues to collaborate with funders and local project sponsors (LPS) to ensure quality grant deliverables and timely reimbursement payments. Members of the Admin Team are available to discuss suggestions or concerns regarding their work on behalf of the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP); see contact list below.

Proposition 84 Drought Round

This grant agreement ended on June 30, 2020; however, DWR allowed projects affected by the Covid-19 Public Emergency an extension of time to close out the grants. There is one project currently working to complete grant closeout activities, including submittal of the Project Completion Report and deliverables. It is anticipated that the grant will be completely closed within the next quarter. The Admin Team continues to obtain, review, and submit post-performance monitoring reports from the LPS, which will be ongoing per the agreed upon duration and schedule.

Proposition 84 Final Round

The County of Humboldt successfully closed out three projects and retention was released; staff is in the process of reviewing two project completion reports to ensure that project objectives were met and to allow for retention release to the LPS. DWR invoice payment turnaround has been roughly 30-45 days. Amendment 8 was recently approved to request budget adjustments necessary for the successful completion of the program. One LPS encountered organizational capacity challenges and the Admin Team was able to transfer the project to a new sponsor to ensure project completion before the grant term ends. A few LPS have encountered obstacles to moving forward with their projects and the Admin

Team is working closely with them to identify solutions; this may result in addition subgrantee agreement amendments.

Proposition 1 Round 1

The County of Humboldt received the advanced grant fund payment for six projects for a total of \$1.7 million in June 2021, which is 50% of the project grant funds for the six LPS. The advance payment of grant funds allows these LPS to start making progress on their projects without the added cash-flow burden of waiting on reimbursement from the State. With construction season upon us and the advance payments received, projects are starting to make progress. The County of Humboldt assisted two Tribal projects and one NGO with their CEQA determinations, by taking the role as lead agency for the three CEQA categorically exempt projects. Additionally, the Admin Team gained approval of the designs and environmental documentation from DWR for six projects, allowing the start of construction activities. The Admin Team continues to provide grant agreement administration support and coordinate with the LPS and DWR to secure approval for construction activities and invoice payments.

PLANNING PROJECTS			
Title and Funding Source	Grant Term	Status	Grant Amount
<i>North Coast Resource Partnership Outreach & Involvement: Tribal Engagement & Economic Opportunity for Disadvantaged Communities (DACTI)</i> Dept. of Water Resources, Proposition 1	April 2017 to April 2022	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	\$4.25 million

Tribal Engagement & Economic Opportunity for Disadvantaged Communities

A fourth amendment was executed in May 2021 to replenish the administration budget which had been depleted due to the longer than expected grant term, which was previously extended to align with the Proposition 1 Round 2 Implementation funding round. There is still some concern that even with the year extension, the planning and project development technical assistance provided through this program will not be adequately aligned with Prop 1 Round 2 implementation funds. Staff are working with DWR to determine the need and potential for an additional extension. Despite the delay of Round 2 and the challenges encountered, the NCRP project team, including West Coast Watershed (WCW) and the California Environmental Indian Alliance (CEIA), will continue to find innovative ways to adapt and meaningfully engage with the DACs and Tribes around the region in need of support and technical assistance.

Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Block Grant

The Humboldt Admin Team continues to work toward the goals of the project in close coordination with WCW and CIEA, with County staff providing grant agreement administration and project management support, including the administration of 13 demonstration projects.

The California Department of Conservation (DOC), the Natural Resources Agency (NRA), and the NCRP RFFC staff team are continuing to scope a second round of RFFC funds sourced from estimated allocations from both the Early Action Wildfire Resilience budget (~\$2.9 million) and the 2021-22 State Budget (~\$3.5 million). A draft Work Plan and Budget are currently in development. Staff expect to execute a second grant agreement with DOC/NRA before the end 2021. Meanwhile, an amendment granting a one-year extension to the current grant agreement has been approved and is awaiting final signatures.

CONTACTS		
Name	Contact Information	NCRP Admin Role
Hank Seemann, Deputy-Director	hseemann@co.humboldt.ca.us	Program Management
Cybelle Immitt, Natural Resources Planning Manager	cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us	Regional Administration Team Management and Program Oversight
Denise Monday, Senior Environmental Analyst	dmonday@co.humboldt.ca.us	Lead Admin for Prop. 84 Drought and Prop. 1 Round 1
Lauren Rowan, Environmental Analyst	lrowan@co.humboldt.ca.us	Lead Admin for Prop. 84 Final Round
Julia Cavalli, Senior Environmental Analyst	jcavalli1@co.humboldt.ca.us	Lead admin for DACTI and RFFC planning grants, including RFFC Demo Projects

NOTABLE LEGISLATION

State of California Budget Update

California’s budget in 2021 enjoys a record surplus that the Legislature and Governor continue to negotiate, despite the June 15 deadline for the Legislature to deliver a proposed budget. The Legislature met the constitutional June 15 deadline by delivering something of a placeholder budget proposal via AB 128. AB 128 was signed by the Governor on June 28, the same day the Legislature passed SB 129 that proposes its second major budget proposal, refining many of the proposals in AB 128. While SB 129 provides drought funding and some climate-oriented funding, proposed funding for climate resilience, wildfire, remaining drought funding and more remain outstanding and likely will not be decided upon until after the Legislature returns from its summer recess in mid-August.

The following packages reflect agreed upon funding amounts with details to be finalized in negotiations throughout the summer:

- \$730,700,000 for a water and drought resilience package
- 440,000,000 for a climate resilience package. Purportedly there is an agreement for a \$3.7 billion climate resilience package to be funded over the next three years.
- \$200,000,000 for an agriculture package
- \$200,000,000 for a local parks package

- \$258,000,000 for a wildfire package. An additional \$500,000,000 may be made available in FY 2021-22 if ordered by the Department of Finance.

The following appropriations can be found in SB 129, which awaits the Governor's signature:

- \$663,000,000 to DWR:
 - \$200,000,000 Small Community Drought Relief
 - \$100,000,000 Urban Community Drought Relief
 - \$200,000,000 Multi-benefit Projects
 - IRWM regions purportedly will be eligible for the above funding.
 - \$60,000 for SGMA implementation
 - \$100,000,000 for Water Conveyance Projects
- \$1,385,000,000 to SWRCB:
 - \$650,000,000 for drinking water projects
 - \$650,000,000 for wastewater projects
 - \$85,000,000 for groundwater cleanup and water recycling
 - \$50,000,000 of these funds are earmarked for the North City Project, phase one of the Pure Water San Diego Program.
- \$50,000,000 to CDFA for the Healthy Soils Program

Bills to Watch

BIODIVERSITY

[AB 315](#) ([Stone D](#)) Voluntary stream restoration property owner liability: indemnification.

Current Text: Amended: 4/21/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Calendar: 7/6/2021 1:30 p.m. - Senate Chamber SENATE JUDICIARY, UMBERG, Chair

Summary: Current law authorizes a habitat restoration or enhancement project proponent to submit a written request for approval of the project to the Director of Fish and Wildlife. Current law requires the director to approve the project if the written request includes certain information, as specified, and provides for an alternate authorization process by the State Water Resources Control Board. This bill would require the state to indemnify and hold harmless a property owner who voluntarily allows their property to be used for such a project to restore fish and wildlife habitat from civil liability for property damage or personal injury resulting from the project if the project meets specified requirements, including that the project is funded, at least in part, by a state or federal agency whose mission includes restoring habitat for native fish and wildlife, and the liability arises from, and the property owner or any person or entity retained by the property owner does not perform, the construction, design specifications, surveying, planning, supervision, testing, or observation of construction related to the project to restore fish and wildlife habitat.

[SB 716](#) ([McGuire D](#)) Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/19/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary: The Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act authorizes a project proponent to submit a habitat restoration or enhancement project to the Director of Fish and Wildlife for approval. This bill would extend the operation of the act until January 1, 2027, and would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to submit a report on the implementation of the act to the Legislature no later than December 31, 2025.

BONDS

AB 1500 (Garcia, Eduardo D) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022.

Current Text: Amended: 5/11/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary: Would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$7,080,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.

Notes: The climate resilience bonds are no longer moving this year as climate resilience funding is now coming through the budget process.

SB 45 (Portantino D) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022.

Current Text: Amended: 4/8/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary:

Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,595,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.

Notes: The climate resilience bonds are no longer moving this year as climate resilience funding is now coming through the budget process.

CLIMATE POLICY

AB 284 (Rivas, Robert D) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: climate goal: natural and working lands.

Current Text: Amended: 6/29/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Calendar: 7/13/2021 9 a.m. - John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203) SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER, STERN, Chair

Summary: Would require the State Air Resources Board as part of the next scoping plan update, in collaboration with the Natural Resources Agency and other relevant state agencies and departments and no later than January 1, 2023, to identify a 2045 climate goal, with interim milestones, for the state's natural and working lands, as defined, and to integrate into the scoping plan update recommendations developed by the Natural Resources Agency and the Department of Food and Agriculture regarding practices, policy and financial incentives, market needs, and potential reductions in barriers that would help achieve the 2045 climate goal, among other recommendations. The bill would require the state board, in collaboration with the Natural Resources Agency and other relevant state agencies and

departments, to include this information in each subsequent update to the scoping plan and update that information, as appropriate. The bill would require the state board, no later than January 1, 2024, to develop standard methods for state agencies to consistently track greenhouse gas emissions and reductions, carbon sequestration, and, where feasible, additional benefits from natural and working lands over time.]

[AB 1395](#) ([Muratsuchi D](#)) **The California Climate Crisis Act.**

Current Text: Amended: 6/28/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Calendar: 7/12/2021 9 a.m. - John L. Burton Hearing Room 4203) SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, ALLEN, Chair

Summary: The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 requires the State Air Resources Board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every 5 years. This bill, the California Climate Crisis Act, would declare the policy of the state to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, but no later than 2045, and to achieve and maintain net negative greenhouse gas emissions thereafter. The bill would require the state board to work with relevant state agencies to ensure that by 2045 statewide anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to at least 90% below the 1990 level, to ensure that updates to the scoping plan identify and recommend measures to achieve these policy goals, identify a variety of policies and strategies that support nature-based climate solutions in California, as specified.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

[AB 339](#) ([Lee D](#)) **Local government: open and public meetings.**

Current Text: Amended: 7/5/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Calendar: 7/13/2021 1:30 p.m. - Senate Chamber SENATE JUDICIARY, UMBERG, Chair

Summary: The Ralph M. Brown Act requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. Under existing law, a member of the legislative body who attends a meeting where action is taken in violation of this provision, with the intent to deprive the public of information that the member knows the public is entitled to, is guilty of a crime. This bill would require local agencies to conduct meetings subject to the act consistent with applicable state and federal civil rights laws, as specified.

[AB 361](#) ([Rivas, Robert D](#)) **Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.**

Current Text: Amended: 5/10/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Calendar: 7/13/2021 1:30 p.m. - Senate Chamber SENATE JUDICIARY, UMBERG, Chair

Summary: Would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act when a legislative body of a local agency holds a meeting for the purpose of declaring or ratifying a local emergency, during a declared state of emergency or local emergency, as those terms are defined, when state or local health officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, and during a declared local emergency provided the legislative body determines, by majority vote, that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

RECREATION ECONOMY

[SB 285](#) ([McGuire D](#)) **California Tourism Recovery Act.**

Current Text: Amended: 5/20/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary: The California Tourism and Marketing Act, establishes a nonprofit mutual benefit corporation named the California Travel and Tourism Commission under the direction of a board of commissioners composed of 37 members, including the Director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development. This bill, the California Tourism Recovery Act, would require the commission to, upon a determination by the State Department of Public Health that it is safe to resume travel in California, implement a strategic media and jobs recovery campaign known as the “Calling All Californians” program for the purpose of reversing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in California, as specified.

Notes: This bill is no longer advancing and is now considered a two-year bill.

REGIONS

[AB 897](#) ([Mullin D](#)) **Office of Planning and Research: regional climate networks: regional climate adaptation action plans.**

Current Text: Amended: 7/1/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Calendar: 7/13/2021 9 a.m. - John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203) SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER, STERN, Chair

Summary: Current law requires, by July 1, 2017, and every 3 years thereafter, the Natural Resources Agency to update, as prescribed, the state’s climate adaptation strategy, known as the Safeguarding California Plan. Current law establishes the Office of Planning and Research in state government in the Governor’s office. Current law establishes the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program to be administered by the office to coordinate regional and local efforts with state climate adaptation strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change, as prescribed. This bill would authorize eligible entities, as defined, to establish and participate in a regional climate network, as defined. The bill would require the office, through the program, to encourage the inclusion of agencies with land use planning authority into regional climate networks. The bill would authorize a regional climate network to engage in activities to address climate change, as specified.

TRIBES

[AB 379](#) ([Gallagher R](#)) **Wildlife conservation: conservation lands.**

Current Text: Amended: 4/29/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Calendar: 7/13/2021 9 a.m. - John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203) SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER, STERN, Chair

Summary: Current law requires the Wildlife Conservation Board in the Department of Fish and Wildlife to authorize the acquisition of real property, rights in real property, water, or water rights, as specified. Existing law authorizes the board to authorize the department to, among other things, accept federal grants and receive financial support from public or private sources, lease degraded potential wildlife habitat real property to nonprofit organizations, local governmental agencies, or state and federal agencies, and acquire former wildlife habitat real property and restore and sell the real property to private owners, local governmental agencies, or state departments and agencies. This bill would also

authorize the board to grant funds to, and enter into agreements, loans, or contracts with, a California Native American tribe to the same extent as any public or private entity as authorized under specified laws.

WILDFIRES

[AB 9](#) (Wood D) Fire safety and prevention: wildfires: fire adapted communities: Office of the State Fire Marshal: community wildfire preparedness and mitigation.

Current Text: Amended: 7/5/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Calendar: 7/13/2021 9 a.m. - John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203) SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER, STERN, Chair

Summary: Would establish in the Department of Conservation the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program to support regional leadership to build local and regional capacity and develop, prioritize, and implement strategies and projects that create fire adapted communities and landscapes by improving watershed health, forest health, community wildfire preparedness, and fire resilience. The bill would require, among other things, the department to, upon an appropriation by the Legislature, provide block grants to regional entities, as defined, to develop regional strategies that develop governance structures, identify wildfire risks, foster collaboration, and prioritize and implement projects within the region to achieve the goals of the program.

[AB 642](#) (Friedman D) Wildfires.

Current Text: Amended: 6/30/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Calendar: 7/6/2021 9 a.m. - Senate Chambers SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, DODD, Chair

Summary: Would require the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify areas in the state as moderate and high fire hazard severity zones. The bill would additionally require the director classify areas into fire hazard severity zones based on additional factors, including possible lightning-caused ignition. The bill would require a local agency, within 30 days of receiving a transmittal from the director that identifies fire hazard severity zones, to make the information available for public comment. Because the bill would impose additional duties on local agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

[AB 697](#) (Chau D) Forest resources: national forest lands: Good Neighbor Authority Fund: ecological restoration and fire resiliency projects.

Current Text: Amended: 6/17/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Calendar: 7/13/2021 9 a.m. - John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203) SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER, STERN, Chair

Summary: Would reorganize the law relating to the State Treasury the Good Neighbor Authority Fund. The bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, under an agreement between the state and the federal government, to establish a program for purposes of conducting ecological restoration and fire resiliency projects on national forest lands, with priority given to forest restoration and fuels reduction projects that are landscape scale, focused on ecological restoration and based on the best available science, emphasize the use of prescribed fire, and include community fire protection and protection of water infrastructure and other infrastructure as important goals, as provided.

[AB 1255](#) ([Bloom D](#)) Fire prevention: fire risk reduction guidance: local assistance grants.

Current Text: Amended: 4/19/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Summary: Would require the Natural Resources Agency, on or before July 1, 2023, and in collaboration with specified state agencies and in consultation with certain other state agencies, to develop a guidance document that describes goals, approaches, opportunities, and best practices in each region of the state for ecologically appropriate, habitat-specific fire risk reduction. The bill would require the guidance document to be developed through a public process, including region-specific public workshops hosted by the agency, and would require the agency to post the document on its internet website.

Notes: This bill is no longer advancing this year and is now considered a two-year bill.

[SB 63](#) ([Stern D](#)) Fire prevention: vegetation management: public education: grants: defensible space: fire hazard severity zones.

Current Text: Amended: 6/16/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Calendar: 7/12/2021 Upon adjournment of Session - State Capitol, Room 4202 ASSEMBLY HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CHIU, Chair

Summary: Would, among other things, require the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify areas of the state as moderate and high fire hazard severity zones and would require a local agency to make this information available for public review and comment, as provided. By expanding the responsibility of a local agency, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill would also make conforming changes.

[SB 332](#) ([Dodd D](#)) Civil liability: prescribed burning operations: gross negligence.

Current Text: Amended: 6/23/2021 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Calendar: 7/7/2021 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 4202 ASSEMBLY NATURAL RESOURCES, RIVAS, LUZ, Chair

Summary: Would provide that no person shall be liable for any fire suppression or other costs otherwise recoverable for a prescribed burn if specified conditions are met, including, among others, that the burn be for the purpose of wildland fire hazard reduction, ecological maintenance and restoration, cultural burning, silviculture, or agriculture, and that, when required, a certified burn boss review and approve a written prescription for the burn. The bill would provide that any person whose conduct constitutes gross negligence shall not be entitled to immunity from fire suppression or other costs otherwise recoverable, as specified. The bill would define terms for its purposes.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PRP DIRECTION AND STAFF ACTION

NCRP Executive Committee Meetings

The NCRP Executive Committee held a meeting on June 11, 2021 to discuss the following topics:

- July 15-16 meeting agendas and approach

- Potential name change – Policy Review Panel
- NCRP Executive Committee Strategic Planning meeting in Sacramento – combined with visits to legislators and agency staff

NCRP Executive Committee Support Letters

- [AB 9 support letter](#), April 8, 2021
- [Letter of Support for the CCI CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Fuel Reduction Grant submitted by Blue Forest Conservation](#) in collaboration with the Ore-CAL RC&D for work in Siskiyou County, May 9, 2021
- [Letter of Support for the CCI CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Fuel Reduction Grant submitted by the Coast Ridge Community Forest](#) (a NCRP RFFC technical assistance recipient) for work in Sonoma County, May 14, 2021
- [Local Government Commission and ARCCA sign-on letter](#): recommendations for May revise budget, climate resilience package, May 26, 2021
- [Governor’s Budget comment letter](#) sent to Governor Newsom, Secretary Crowfoot, and Legislative Leaders, May 28, 2021
- [Letter advocating for additional funds to address trespass cannabis grows](#), June 1, 2021
- [Letter of Support for proposed \\$3.7 billion dollar “Climate Resilience” package](#), June 28, 2021

NCRP Executive Committee & Staff Presentations

Association of California Water Agencies 2021 Spring Conference; NAVIGATING A NEW FUTURE TOGETHER: Collaboration & Regional Planning, May 12, 2021; Supervisor Madrone & Staff