



**MEMORANDUM**  
**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER &**  
**SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**  
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors DATE: July 26, 2022  
FROM: Josh Huntsinger, Agricultural Commissioner  
BY: Kerri Timmer, Regional Forest Health Coordinator  
SUBJECT: Resolution ratifying grant application and accepting CAL FIRE funds for French Meadows Ecological Restoration Project

**ACTION REQUESTED**

1. Adopt a resolution ratifying the submission of a grant application to CAL FIRE California Climate Investments Forest Health grant program in the amount of \$1,187,704.95 for the Placer County French Meadows Ecological Restoration project and authorizing the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, or designees, to execute any required documents including, but not limited to, agreements or amendments necessary to complete the project.

**BACKGROUND**

CAL FIRE manages a California Climate Investments Forest Health grant program funded by the Fiscal Year 2021-22 General Fund and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund monies to increase fuels management, fire reintroduction, reforestation, and conservation of forests degraded by overcrowding, drought, pest infestation, and catastrophic fire. The Forest Health Program is part of California Climate Investments (CCI), a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment. CAL FIRE's Forest Health Program awards funding to landscape-scale land management projects that achieve the following objectives:

- Restore forest health and disaster resilience to California's forests.
- Protect upper watersheds where California's water supply originates.
- Promote long-term storage of carbon in forest trees and soils.
- Minimize the loss of forest carbon from unnaturally large high severity wildfires.
- Further the goals of the California Forest Carbon Plan, California's Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan, and AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan.

The proposed French Meadows Ecological Restoration project meets local and state goals by reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire through proven fuel treatments to protect habitat, recreational resources, communities, and critical water/power infrastructure.

The application solicitation was released on January 3, 2022, with full proposals due by March 4, 2022. Under the authority granted by your Board to the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer in Resolution No. 2022-014 (dated January 25, 2022), an application was submitted to this program by the deadline. On May 5, 2022, Placer County was notified that the French Meadows application was selected for grant funding for work between July 26, 2022 and March 31, 2026. In order to process the grant agreement, CAL FIRE requires a Resolution in its mandatory template. As a result, CAL FIRE requested that the submitted Resolution (2022-014) be replaced with the attached Resolution authorizing application submission and receipt of grant funds.

In order to move forward with a CAL FIRE grant agreement, staff recommends that your Board ratify the submission of the grant application to and receipt of grant funds from the CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant program using the attached Resolution. In addition, Placer County certifies that we have sufficient funds to meet the match requirement listed in the grant application and are available to begin the project and expend all grant funds by March 30, 2026.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

Two Notices of Exemption (NOE) were filed for the FMP Project: 1) The Project is consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 (Class 8 CEQA Categorical Exemption: Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment) because it is an action authorized by the Placer County Grading Ordinance that will help assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment, and the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. This exemption was filed on December 21, 2018; and 2) The Project is consistent with Senate Bill (SB) 901. SB 901 provides that until January 1, 2023, CEQA would not apply to prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This exemption was filed on January 24, 2019. The NEPA Decision Notice for the French Meadows Restoration Project was signed by the TNF Forest Supervisor on December 12, 2018.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The total grant award of \$1,187,704.95 requires a match of \$599,695.20. The match of \$599,695.20 will be funded from the FY 2022-23 budget for CC02004 - Regional Forest Health. There is no additional impact to the general fund.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Resolution

On file with Clerk of the Board:

1. CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant Proposal for French Meadows Ecological Restoration Project

# Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

**In the matter of:**

A Resolution ratifying the submission of a grant application to CAL FIRE California Climate Investments Forest Health grant program in the amount of \$1,187,704.95 for the Placer County French Meadows Ecological Restoration project, and authorizing the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, or designees, to execute any required documents including, but not limited to, agreements or amendments necessary to complete the project.

Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held on July 26, 2022 by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of said Board

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WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California in cooperation with the California State Legislature has enacted State of California Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding, which provides funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for forest health programs; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary procedures governing application by local agencies, non-profit organizations, and others under the program, and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out a forest health project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California, that the Board hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for “State Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding” forest health grant program funds; and
2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and
3. Certifies that funds under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer are available to begin the project; and
4. Certifies that said applicant will expend grant funds prior to March 30, 2026; and
5. Appoints Josh Huntsinger, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, or designees, as agents of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

**From:** [Webmaster@CALFIRE](mailto:Webmaster@CALFIRE)  
**To:** [CALFIRE\\_Grants@CALFIRE](mailto:CALFIRE_Grants@CALFIRE)  
**Subject:** Grant Submission Received  
**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2022 2:53:53 PM

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**Warning:** this message is from an external user and should be treated with caution.

A new grant submission has been received.

**Project ID**

21-FH-NEU-044

**Project Title**

French Meadows Ecological Restoration - Project Completion (FMP)

**Brief Project Description**

The French Meadows project (FMP) is a collaborative effort to improve forest health/resilience in the MF American River headwaters. The project meets local/state goals by reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire through proven fuel treatments to protect habitat, recreational resources, communities, and critical water/power infrastructure. Once complete the FMP will offer many direct- and co-benefits, as well as providing opportunities for evaluation and sharing lessons learned.

**County**

Placer

**Project Latitude and Longitude**

39.1556, -120.3941

**Project Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY)**

06/01/2023

**Project End Date (MM/DD/YYYY)**

03/31/2026

**Grant Funding Requested**

\$1,187,704.95

**Total Project Cost**

\$2,572,600.00

**Applying Organization**

Placer County

**Organization Type**

Local Government

**If other, please specify**

n/a

**If Non-Profit, is the organization a registered 501 (c)(3)?**

**Title**

Regional Forest Health Coordinator

**First Name**

Kerri

**Last Name**

Timmer

**Address 1**

11477 E Avenue

**Address 2**

**City**

Auburn

**State**

California

**Zip Code**

95603

**Phone Number**

530-889-7369

**Secondary Phone Number**

530-320-8539

**Email Address**

ktimmer@placer.ca.gov

**Fuels Reduction**

Yes

**Acres of fuels reduction**

818

**Prescribed Fire**

No

**Acres of prescribed fire****Pest Management**

No

**Acres of pest management****Biomass Utilization**

No

**Acres of biomass utilization****Tons of biomass utilized****Reforestation**

No

**Acres to be reforested****Trees planted****How many acres of project area are under federal ownership?**

22,000

**How many acres of the project area are under state ownership?**

0

**How many acres of the project area are privately owned?**

0

**Number of acres under other ownership**

0

**Specify "other" ownership**

n/a

**Scope of Work**

True

**Forest Health Workbook: Project Budget, Treatment Tracking, Work Plan, & Environmental Compliance**

True  
**Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Benefit Data**

True  
**Uneven-aged Management**

Yes  
**Management Plan**  
No

**Specify Management Plan**

**Existing Carbon Offset**  
No

**Describe Offset Project**

**Matching Sources of Funding**

**Matching Source of Funding #1**

Timber Revenue already generated from previous treatments

**Amount of Funding #1**

\$549,695.05

**Matching Source of Funding #2**

**Amount of Funding #2**

**Matching Source of Funding #3**

**Amount of Funding #3**

**Other California Climate Investment Funding**

No

**Other California Climate Investment Program Funding**

**CAL FIRE Priority Landscapes**

**Reducing Wildfire Risks to Ecosystem Services**

True

**Action #1: Reducing Wildfire Risks to Ecosystem Services**

A portion of the area surrounding French Meadows Reservoir (ID 284) are ranked 5;  
outlying areas (ID 295) are ranked 4

**Restoring Fire Damaged Areas**

False

**Action #2: Restoring Fire Damaged Areas**

**Restoring Pest Damaged Areas**

True

**Action #3: Restoring Pest Damaged Areas**

Virtually the whole treatment area is HHZ Tier 2.

**Reducing Wildfire Threat to Communities**

False

**Action #4: Reducing Wildfire Threat to Communities**

**The project does not overlap a priority area**

False

**Climate Refugia**

FMP is an area of high conservation value providing multiple habitat benefits. It has within it a designated State Game Refuge and is recognized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as having high climate resilience indicating a high likelihood it will provide climate change refugia. The project encourages mature forest conditions that will provide important habitat for wildlife species. Reducing density so forests are more resilient in the face of multiple years of drought or other disturbances will protect refugia for wildlife providing climate resiliency for, among others, California Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk in the FMP area. Proposed treatments will help to retain existing habitats and promote faster development of late seral habitats, thereby shifting the project area toward a state that will support late seral/old forest habitats that can be protected into perpetuity as national forest lands.

**Co-benefits**

Reduced fire risk, safer fire suppression, biomass diverted from landfill, improved air/water quality, improved watershed health, protected water supplies, improved wildlife habitat, improved recreation opportunities, benefits to local economy, benefits to local culture, jobs created/supported

**Jobs Supported**

No

**Full-time Jobs DIRECTLY Supported**

**Full-time Jobs INDIRECTLY Supported**

**Full-time INDUCED Jobs**

**CARB's Job Co-benefit Modeling Tool**

True

**Disadvantaged and/or Low Income Community Benefit**

**Step 1: Identify Priority Population(s)**

**1A. Within disadvantaged census tract**

False

**1B. Within low-income census tract**

False

**1C. Within 1/2-mile of disadvantaged community AND within a low-income census tract**

False

**1D. Within low-income household**

False

**Does not meet qualifying criteria**

True

**Step 2: Address a Need**

**Describe identified community or household need(s) identified using the approach above.**

**Step 3: Provide a Benefit**

**Describe the Benefit**

**Local & State Compatibility**

**Local CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plan**

False

**Local Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

True



**Safeguarding California Plan**

True

**Strategic Fire Plan for California**

True

**California Forest Carbon Plan**

True

**CA Natural & Working Lands Implementation Plan**

True

**California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan**

True

**Other**

True

**Identify other plans not listed above.**

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP)

Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP)

Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

Placer County Sustainability Plan

Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Sierra Business Council Wildfire Strategy

Placer County Wildfire Protection and Biomass Utilization Strategic Plan

**Identify the contact(s) at the local CAL FIRE Unit(s) that has/have been briefed on this proposed project.**

Chief Brian Estes, NEU, brian.estes@fire.ca.gov

Chief Steve Garcia, NEU, steven.garcia@fire.ca.gov

**Is this project an identified regional priority?**

Yes

**Discuss relationship to these regional groups.**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is using a \$1.9 million grant from the RFFCP to expand capacity building work in the Sierra Nevada Region by working with local organizations to promote robust, collaborative forest health partnerships. The SNC has funded the CA Association of RCDs to manage RFFCP efforts to support forest health through implementation of landscape-level forest health and wildfire resiliency. The Association of RCDs is working specifically in the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative collaborative forest restoration region, which includes Placer County and the French Meadows project area. A letter of support from the Association of RCDs for this project is included in the Sharepoint folder.

**Letter of support**

True

**Community Engagement**

No engagement

**Primary project partner #1**

Kerri Timmer, Regional Forest Health Coordinator, Placer County

**Role in project**

Project and grant manager, procurement, invoicing, reporting, fund development

**Email**

ktimmer@placer.ca.gov

**Letters of commitment**

True

**Primary project partner #2**

Mary Grim, American River District Ranger, USDA Forest Service - Tahoe National Forest

**Role in project #2**

property owner, land manager, field oversight, and overall responsibility for work performed

**Email #2**

Mary.Grim@usda.gov

**Primary project partner #3**

Darin Reintjes, Director of Resource Management, Placer County Water Agency

**Role in project #3**

facilitate partnership meetings, coordinate with FERC License requirements, provide fiscal/ policy/admin/communications/outreach/logistical support

**Email #3**

dreintjes@pcwa.net

**Primary project partner #4**

Dan Porter, Forest Strategy Lead, The Nature Conservancy

**Role in project #4**

private partner, funder providing philanthropic and grant funding, science advisor, implementation team

**Email #4**

dporter@TNC.ORG

**Annual operating budget**

\$1,024,477,507

**Statement of Qualifications**

True

**Full Name**

Kerri L. Timmer

**I do hereby attest and certify that the above and attached information is true and correct.**

True

**Executed on (MM/DD/YYYY)**

03/04/2022

**Submitter Email**

ktimmer@placer.ca.gov

**Instructions to Submitters**