



**MEMORANDUM
PUBLIC WORKS
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DIVISION**
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors **DATE:** August 9, 2022
FROM: Ken Grehm, Director of Public Works
BY: Jared Deck, P.E., Program Manager
SUBJECT: North Tahoe Truckee Biomass Task Force Memorandum of Understanding

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Authorize the County Executive Officer, or designee, to finalize and execute a Memorandum of Understanding between Placer County, Town of Truckee, NorthStar Community Service District, County of Nevada, and the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation for establishment of the North Tahoe Truckee Biomass Task Force subject to approval by County Counsel and Risk Management.
2. Approve and execute Funding Contract with Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation to accept \$11,000 for the Green Waste Integrated Infrastructure and Fuel Supply Study.
3. Approve acceptance of \$2,000 per agency from Town of Truckee, NorthStar Community Service District, and County of Nevada and contribution of \$2,000 from Placer County for a total of \$8,000 toward the Green Waste Integrated Infrastructure and Fuel Supply Study.

BACKGROUND

As wildfire continues to be the greatest potential for catastrophic loss of property and life in Placer County, several agencies within the North Tahoe region have joined together to find local solutions for this issue and the biomass byproducts of fuel management programs which span across jurisdictional lines. The North Tahoe Truckee Biomass Task Force (Task Force) is comprised of Placer County (County), Town of Truckee (Truckee), Northstar Community Service District (NSCSD), County of Nevada (Nevada), and Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) all of which are intimately involved with the continuously growing biomass issue. The Task Force aligns with the previous Board approval and recommendation for reopening feasibility analysis on the County Cabin Creek Biomass project and has identified one of its highest priorities as finding feasible solutions for the shortfall of available biomass outlet capacity versus incoming biomass from residential defensible space and forest management programs. Currently, a lack of biomass outlets has continued to drive up the cost of disposal and is pushing some programs to leave biomass material on the forest floors increasing fuel loading for future wildfires.

By formally establishing the Task Force through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), this group hopes to leverage resources, share costs, create educational outreach, and provide an integrated regional solution to biomass related issues. This regional plan has the potential to create renewable energy and heating, centralize biomass processing, reduce the overall cost of biomass disposal, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from open pile burning and long trucking routes all while reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

As a first step, the Task Force has initiated an Integrated Infrastructure and Fuel Supply study which will lay the framework for integrating potential biomass facilities by the County, Truckee, and NSCSD along with establishing an understanding of the current biomass fuel available and its long-term sustainability. TTCF has stepped forward as the main contributor for this effort along with all other agencies placing funding in as well.

Staff supports finalizing and executing this MOU to unify the North Tahoe region as we move forward with biomass solutions and accept funds along with sharing in the cost of the current study and future efforts. If any larger projects are identified as a solution for the region, an item will be returned for Board approval.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Authorizing agreements or grant applications does not constitute a “Project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment, as identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). However, CEQA would apply to any projects identified for grant funds where those projects or actions require discretionary approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is minimal fiscal impact associated with acceptance of the Funding Contract and entering into the MOU. Upon approval of the action items, \$17,000 (\$11,000 TTCF, \$2,000 Truckee, \$2,000 NSCSD, \$2,000 Nevada County) received will be recognized in CC12006 – Solid Waste Management to offset study costs. Additionally, Solid Waste will contribute \$2,000 toward the study, and there are sufficient funds available in the FY 2022-23 budget for Solid Waste for this expense with no budget amendment required. Additional funding needs specific to projects will be included in future budgets. There is no impact to the General Fund.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Funding Contract TTCF



ATTACHMENT A

FUNDING CONTRACT

Partner: Placer County

Amount: \$11,000

Grant Period: 2022 Forest Futures Phase 2 Funding Cycle - March 14, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Purpose: Funding shall be used to pay a consultant to complete Tasks 1 - 3 in the North Tahoe Regional Green Waste Infrastructure Integration Plan by March 25, 2022. Tasks 1 - 3 include the following:

Task 1: Green Waste Sources

- Identify green waste sources and yearly amounts produced in bone dry tons
 - 30-mile range or one hour drive from Cabin Creek facility
- Categorize the types of wood material by use and grades
- Identify the long-term sustainability of these green waste sources •
-

Task 2: Green Waste Outlets

- Identify current green waste outlets
 - Include capacity of yearly green waste consumption
- Identify potential future green waste outlets in the North Tahoe region
 - Include capacity of yearly green waste consumption
- Discuss the shortfall of green waste produced vs available outlets
- Discuss the need and benefits for multiple facilities within the North Tahoe region

Task 3: Fuel Distribution Network

- Define how the wood fuel supply network and procurement plan to each jurisdiction's facility would work using Eastern Regional Landfill (ERL) as the processing facility
 - Verify capacity of ERL processing and trucking availability

Budget and Finance: TTCF understands that projects and operations may not proceed exactly as planned. If you find this to be the case, please contact Nicole Lutkemuller, Program Director, nicole@ttcf.net to discuss any requested amendments to the terms of the Grant. Significant or material changes in the budgetary allocations of the grant award should be submitted to **TTCF** for written approval. Any portion of the grant not expended as set forth in the budget should be discussed with TTCF to determine the best course of action.

Payment: Prior to any funds being distributed, the Foundation must have on file a countersigned copy of this agreement letter. A check will be sent immediately upon receipt of this letter.

Collaboration and Review: TTCF will continue to participate in North Tahoe Biomass Task Force meetings to assist with review of the Plan as necessary. Tahoe National Forest, Sierra Business Council, and other relevant stakeholders will be provided the opportunity to review the draft plan. Best practices for evaluating biomass sources and consumption will be used by the consultant to develop the plan. In addition, **TTCF** may ask to monitor and conduct an evaluation of operations under this grant. This evaluation may also include a review of financial and other records related to activities funded by this grant. Your organization, therefore, agrees to make such records available to authorized representatives of the Foundation.

Funding Recipient Initials: _____





FUNDING CONTRACT

Publicity and Acknowledgment: TTCF will alert you once the grant is made public. The Foundation requests that you recognize this grant in your publications and through the media (such as a letter to the editor, press on your project that acknowledges **TTCF's** donation, or a specific press release on the award).

Branding Requirements: The Foundation requests when recognizing this grant that use of the “Forest Futures Powered by Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation” logo and messaging will be included in 3 of the specific formats outlined below. The Grant recipient is required to provide TCCF evidence that these requirements have been met. The “Forest Futures” logo may be downloaded by clicking on the “For Grant Recipients” section in the following link: <https://www.tccf.net/media-kit/>. Use of the logo is required for the period of the grant.

- Apply logo to website
- Shout-out on social media
- Acknowledge in press
- Acknowledge in annual report or print products
- Feature in a storytelling article

TTCF Acknowledgment: The Foundation will recognize this grant in the following ways:

- Posting of Grantees after each grant cycle within one month of approval
- Sharing grantee list with donors each year
- Social Media highlights of grantees
- Mention in Annual Report

If you have questions about the usage of the “Forest Futures” logo, please contact us.

In the unlikely event that your organization should fail to abide by the terms set forth in this letter of agreement, the **Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation** may terminate the funding, upon written notice to your organization. Your organization would then be required to return to **TTCF** any portion of the grant funds, including interest earned, not yet used or spent for purposes not specified in this letter or not otherwise approved by the Foundation.

To confirm your understanding of, and agreement to, the above conditions of this grant, please have one copy of this letter signed and initialed on each page by an authorized officer of your organization’s Board of Directors and the lead staff person where applicable. Retain the other copy for your files.

Funding Recipient Initials: _____





FUNDING CONTRACT

By signing this contract, you also agree that:

- Your organization’s charitable tax exempt status under the Internal Revenue Service, if applicable, has not been revoked or modified, and that if it is revoked or modified, you agree to notify **TTCF** immediately.
- **TTCF** assumes no obligation to provide other or additional support.

Should you have any questions about the grant or the conditions set forth, please email or call at 916-303-3513 and ask for Nicole.

Nicole Lutkemuller, Director of Forest Futures
Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation

date

Print or type name and position of BOARD OFFICER signing

Signature

date

Print or type name and position of STAFF PERSON signing (if applicable)

Signature

date

Funding Recipient Initials: _____



