**Amador Calaveras Consensus Group**

**Operations Work Group Meeting – March 13, 2014**

**ATTENDEES**: Kristan Ingebretsen, SBA; Pat Ferrell, FS; M Gagnon, FS; Joe Sherlock, FS; Tim Bordges; Merv Vicini; Sheri Elliott, FS; Sarah Ackerman, FS; G & N Gladen; C. Loffland, FS; J. Griffin; M. Young, FS; K Evatt; S. Wilensky; T McClung, FS; K Zeman, FS; J Heissenbuttel; J. Hofmann, Amador County; R. Woods, FS; Rick Hopson, FS; C Koos Breazeal; J Kusel.

*[Please note: meeting notes were only taken after 11:30 a.m.]*

1. Kristan Ingebretsen, SBA: presentation on Hub Zone program and services provided by Small Business Administration (handout provided). Hub Zones are historically underutilized business zones and include Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Alpine counties. Registration is required through SAM. Woman-owned – self certify, 51%+ in 83 specific NAICS 4-digit code underrepresented industries. Federal contracting officers can restrict and have additional flexibility for awards.

Small business assistance – Delta College: www.sbcddelatacollege.edu

SCORE – free business assistance by retired executives, Stockton chapter, 946-6293

1. Sarah Ackerman, USFS CFLR contracting officer, Malheur NF, Region 6, Oregon. Contracting officers can give added weight to “local.” For her area, “local” is defined as the two immediate counties; the next “local” would be those counties surrounding the immediate counties, etc. This does not restrict only to those local counties, but if a contractor from out of those target counties bids, s/he must explain how their contract dollars will help those two counties. FS then determines the impact – how realistic is their proposal? They will conduct random field labor interviews to check and get proof. CO discretion – CFLR does not specify a percentage. She uses 90%. She often pushes authority with technical and other factors being weighted more than the dollar bid – best value determination. There is some potential for negotiation at certain times.

Evaluation factors are tailored to each project. 4 restrictions: hazardous fuels, watershed, water quality, thinning. Mostly services and stewardship, no size limit.

Definition of economically challenges comes from Public Law 101-624, Section 2374

Question: will Regional Office staff be willing to work to define “local benefit”? Response: cannot move forward without that definition; must stay within the law.

Question: prevailing wage? Response: depends on location and wage determination. Sustainable Northwest helped the Malheur NF with wages and calculating returns to the local economy.

Question: Can Sarah write us a paragraph describing “Local.”