**Instructions:** Complete this form when seeking project support from the ACCG. Before completing this form, please review the ACCG Project Development & Approval Process (link to flowchart here) and ACCG Project Endorsement Guidelines (link to document). Do not hesitate to contact the ACCG Administrator with any questions: Regine Miller, regine.chips@gmail.com.

Submission Date: 9/6/2019

Project Name: View 88 Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project

Organization making request: Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS)

Project Proponent Contact (name, phone, and email address):

Steve Wilensky, (209) 419-1919, stevedwilensky@gmail.com

Committed Project Partners: US Forest Service, Eldorado NF, Amador RD and the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA)

Grant Program (if applicable): Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Name and address to who the Letter of Support from the ACCG should be addressed:

Angela Avery

Executive Officer

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

11521 Blocker Dr., Ste 205

Auburn, CA 95603

Due Date for Letter of Support: 10/1/2019

Project Budget Total Amount: $1.25MM

Project Dollar Amount Being Requested through Grant Program (if applicable): $1MM

Has this project been presented to the ACCG before? If so, when?

No, the View 88 Fuels Reduction and Forest Health EA was completed in 2011 prior to the Eldorado NF’s ACCG participation. However, treatment activities implemented within the View 88 Project have been discussed at ACCG meetings.

Describe the environmental, social, and local economic benefits of this project. Reference ACCG’s Principles and Policies to Guide Operations. (link to document here).

The proposed project’s environmental benefits include reducing surface fuels in strategic locations along ridge tops and upper slopes to reduce wildfire intensity across a broad area, increase forest resilience, protect Mokelumne River surface water supply for local and downstream users, and; enhance aspen habitat function and diversity.

Economic benefits include creating work opportunities for local contractors using innovative contracting mechanisms through CHIPS. Work opportunities will help to establish a local forest restoration and stewardship economy, potentially benefiting disadvantaged communities. The View 88 project aligns with the Mokelumne Avoided Cost Analysis which evaluated the costs and benefits of fuel treatments in the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed and was undertaken with support from Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy, the Forest Service, and the ACCG.

Social benefits include protecting life and private property in the WUI defense zone, helping to creating fire safe communities, providing safe ingress/egress along Highway 88, and maintaining and enhancing State Route Highway 88 as a designated state scenic highway and designated forest service scenic byway.

Provide a brief written summary of the project:

Within the ACCG planning area, many forest health projects have been implemented on private, federal, and industrial lands creating a landscape scale restoration approach in the area surrounding the proposed project. View 88 complements ACCG principles and projects, and supports restoration beyond CFLRA funding by leveraging partnerships to help increase the pace and scale of forest restoration.

The proposed project is designed to implement recommendations contained in the Highway 88 Scenic Byway Management Guidelines developed under the direction of Management Practice 13 in the Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Visual Resource Inventory and Planning.

The guidelines establish strategies to:

1) Maintain and enhance Highway 88 as a designated state scenic highway;

2) Protect private property in the WUI defense zone;

3) Reduce surface fuels and alter vegetation structure in strategic locations;

4) Reduce stand densities to increase resilience to insect attack and density-related mortality;

5) Enhance the function and natural diversity in the vicinity of oaks, aspen, and meadows, and; 6) Conduct treatments in an economically effective manner. Highway 88 is a designated emergency evacuation egress route, and is one of the few routes across the Sierra Nevada that is open year-round.

CHIPS will treat approximately 1,000 acres of roadside Sierra mixed conifer, white fir and red fir habitat through mechanical and hand treatments and prescribed and pile burning, and up to 12 acres of remnant aspen stands through put up/take down of temporary fencing and hand removal of encroaching conifers. Treatments will be implemented through contracts awarded and managed by CHIPS which may include its own staff conducting hand thinning treatments. Under this grant, all project partners are committed to local contracting, hiring and vending to benefit high poverty communities.

Fuels reduction treatments include hand thinning, mechanical brush raking and piling of surface and ladder fuels, follow-up prescribed and pile burning, and mastication of brush and other surface fuels. The Forest Service will perform additional activities within the project area using Federal funding including prescribed and pile burning, brush cutting, hazard tree removal, clearing around the base of large trees, fencing, and hand line.

Project activities will reduce surface fuels in areas previously commercially thinned, creating a safe and scenic highway corridor and lowering the risk, intensity and spread of future fires. View 88 will improve the effectiveness additional Forest Service fuels reduction work in the area including the adjacent Panther Creek and Power Fire projects thereby promoting landscape scale forest restoration and watershed protection. The project will enhance fire safe conditions adjacent to developments and private property, and provide for safe evacuation and firefighter deployment. Lastly, View 88 will create conditions conducive to restoring aspen stands and enhancing vegetation that supports distinctive plant and animal communities.

Project implementation will occur over a three year grant term.

Potential Controversy: There is no known opposition to this project

Describe desired outcomes/future conditions that the project achieves/supports:

This project supports the development of healthy, mature conifer stands that could reduce future wildfire risk in an effort to protect remaining habitat, surface water supply, and adjacent communities, and will improve forest and watershed health and climate resilience.

Describe status of environmental documentation (NEPA/CEQA/other):

NEPA is complete for the View 88 Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project Environmental Assessment. The Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed by the Forest Supervisor, the Responsible Official, on June 6, 2011.

Attach project map and any other supporting documentation that would enhance the ACCG’s understanding of the project.

Decision documents are available upon request.