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| **SNC Grant #** |  1214 |
| **Applicant Organization** | Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions |
| **Project Name** | View 88 Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project |
| **County(ies) in which project is located** | Amador |
| **Project Category** | [x]  **Category One** On-the-ground site improvement or fee title acquisition. Maximum $1,000,000 grant award*.*[ ]  **Category Two**Pre-project activities that are necessary for a specific, future on-the-ground project(s). Maximum $100,000 grant award. |
| **SNC Grant Request $** | $1,000,000 |

# Contact Information

Please provide information below for both the **primary contact related to the application** and, if different, the **representative who is authorized to apply for a grant and enter into a grant agreement** on behalf of the applicant organization.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicant Contact Name** | **Authorized Representative Name** |
| Regine Miller | Steve Wilensky |
| **Applicant Contact Title** | **Authorized Representative Title** |
| Executive Director | Board Chairperson |
| **Applicant Contact Phone** | **Authorized Representative Phone** |
| (530)277-3843 | (209) 419-1919 |
| **Applicant Contact Email** | **Authorized Representative Email** |
| regine.chips@gmail.com | stevedwilensky@gmail.com |
| **Applicant Contact Address** | **Authorized Representative Address** |
| P.O. Box 616West Point, CA 95255 | P.O. Box 616West Point, CA 95255 |

# Project Summary

Provide a Project Summary of no more than five sentences including the project location, acreage, purpose, partners, and estimated cost.

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The View 88 Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project (hereafter referred to as View 88) is located on the Amador Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest in Amador County, California. View 88 project area begins approximately 5 miles east of Pioneer and is classified as Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) defense and/or threat zones. The purpose of this project is to reduce surface fuels and alter the vegetation structure in strategic locations along ridge tops and upper slopes to reduce wildfire intensity across a broad area, increase forest resilience and protect Mokelumne River surface water supply; protect private property in the WUI defense zone; enhance habitat function and diversity in the vicinity of aspen, and; maintain and enhance State Route Highway 88 as a designated state scenic highway and designated forest service scenic byway of the highest quality. This project is a partnership between Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS), the Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest (NF) and the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA), a Joint Powers Agency comprised of six water agencies and the counties of Amador, Calaveras and Alpine. This project falls under a Master Stewardship Agreement (MSA) between the Forest Service and UMRWA, signed May 18, 2016, and is estimated to cost $1,250,000 including the Forest Service contribution for oversight and additional fuels reduction treatments.

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# Project Description

Provide a brief overview of the project including why the project is a priority, project acreage, proposed treatments (Category One) or planning approach (Category Two), timeframe, and the expected natural resource and community benefits.

If SNC would be funding only a portion of a larger project, please clearly identify how and where SNC funds would be used.

Proposals for Category Two planning projects should describe both the planning effort and the specific potential future implementation project.

Provide a general overview only, no more than two pages. A more detailed Project Description will be required in the Application.

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The upper Mokelumne River watershed has experienced catastrophic wildfires over the past two decades, damaging tens of thousands of acres of forested lands and critical habitat in the upper watershed, and threatening the local and downstream surface water supply. This project will reduce future wildfire risk in an effort to protect remaining habitat, important surface water supply, and adjacent communities, and will improve forest and watershed health and climate resilience.

The Mokelumne River watershed is a major drainage of the western Sierra Nevada which contains extensive forestlands supplying water to 1.3 million downstream users, recreation, hydropower generation, tourism, agriculture, and species of significance. Within the Mokelumne River watershed, steep topography, dense vegetation and a Mediterranean climate create conditions capable of producing high intensity wildfires as evidenced by CAL FIRE’s Very High Fire Hazard Severity designation. Fuels are dense, and would readily support crown torching significantly impacting crucial natural resources, and threatening public safety. The topography, access, and weather patterns in the View 88 area indicate that in the event of a large wildfire, primary firefighting efforts would be focused along the major ridges and roadways, most notably State Route Highway 88. It is critical to change forest structure and reduce fuel loadings in this area to decrease wildfire risk, severity and rate of spread, and increase safety for firefighter deployment and public evacuation.

View 88 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.

View 88 is part of a larger forest health project developed by the Eldorado NF in conjunction with the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG), an all lands community-based forest collaborative group. The Eldorado NF and CHIPS have worked together to complete over 20 miles of Highway 88 roadside fuels clearing over the past two years. Additionally, stand densities were reduced in the project’s initial treatment phase using Federal funds, however, a lack of Forest Service staff and funding resources have prevented the critical completion of the surface fuels reduction and aspen stand restoration parts of the project. View 88 will achieve the Highway 88 guidelines by leveraging CHIPS’ existing partnerships with the Forest Service and the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA).

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. Treatments will be implemented through contracts awarded and managed by CHIPS and funded by this grant. 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. Taken together, CHIPS and Forest Service project activities will reduce surface fuels in an expansive area 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. Project implementation will be economically effective and expeditious using SNC grant funding, over a three and a half year grant term.

Aspen stands in View 88 were previously overtopped by conifers, resulting in a lack of successful regeneration and declining stand health. The Forest Service removed competing conifers and reduced the insulating litter layer to maximize sun exposure and stimulate sprouting, creating conditions conducive to restoring the remnant stands. Under this scope, CHIPS will erect/take down follow-up temporary fencing around 12 acres of the remnant aspen stands to prevent damage to young sprouts from browsing domestic animals in adjacent allotments, support sapling vigor and age class diversification, and create valuable and diverse wildlife habitat.

View 88 is a high priority for treatment due to dense surface and ladder fuels and heavy recreational use during summer and fall seasons when wildfires are more likely to occur, creating conditions susceptible to catastrophic wildfire, and due to the project area contributing significantly to the Mokelumne River surface water supply supporting local and downstream users and species of significance. This project aligns with the SNC’s Watershed Improvement Program (WIP) goals to implement projects in the most strategic locations possible, support healthy watersheds and forests and create resilient communities.

View 88 will reduce surface fuels in areas where stand structure has been previously thinned to affect a change in wildfire behavior. Treated areas will lower the risk, slow the spread and reduce the intensity of future fires thereby reducing damage to both treated and untreated areas and the impacts of large, uncharacteristically severe wildfires. The project will improve forest resilience and resistance to insect and disease-related attack, and promote large tree characteristics supporting increased carbon sequestration, by lowering vegetation densities and decreasing competition for water and other limited resources. 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.

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# Project Location and Map

Please prepare the documents below.

The documents will be compiled into one .pdf file with the Pre-Application form following the submission instructions.

1. One or more Project Location Maps in .pdf format.
* For Category One grants the map should clearly delineate where SNC funds will be used and, if the proposed SNC activities are part of a larger project, approximate boundaries of that larger project.
* For Category Two grants the map should identify where pre-project activities will be focused and the potential location of the future implementation project.
1. Photographs of the project site - no more than 6. All photos must be labeled and compiled into one .pdf document.

In addition, please list or succinctly describe the project location in the space below, including

* the county
* nearby communities and public lands
* the watershed in which the project is located
* any downstream beneficiaries of the project

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The View 88 Project is located on the Eldorado National Forest in Amador County, California. The project area is east of Pioneer and adjacent to Dew Drop, Ham’s Station and Cook’s Station along the north and south sides of Highway 88. The project area ranges in elevations from 3,880 to 7,680 feet, in forested areas, the majority of which drain into the Mokelumne River. Beneficiaries of this project include Amador and Calaveras County residents many of whom depend upon Mokelumne River surface water supply and most of whom reside within disadvantaged communities, and East Bay Municipal Utility District's (EBMUD) 1.3 million customers in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Additional beneficiaries include Pacific Gas & Electric’s hydropower generation facilities, recreation users, the region’s tourism industry, and species and habitats of significance including fall run Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, kokanee salmon, California spotted owl, northern goshawk, mountain lion, ringtail cats and bears, among others.

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# Project Workplan and Schedule

Provide a general workplan with anticipated schedule and potential deliverables. Identify who might implement various project activities (i.e. grantee, federal agency, county). Expected project start dates would be June or September 2020, depending on award date. Projects should be complete by January 1, 2024.

Charts, tables, or bulleted lists may be used.

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View 88 will be implemented by CHIPS in close coordination with the United States Forest Service, Eldorado NF and the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA). CHIPS expects to contract with a qualified consultant to assist with project management and implementation.

**Task 1. Project Management and Administration.**

CHIPS (and/or a qualified consultant) will manage the project schedule and budget, inform participants of progress of deliverables, manage billing, keep records, prepare, solicit, and award contracts, manage contractors, report accomplishments and financials, coordinate regularly with project partners, and provide media outreach.

*Milestones:* Administrative work, as needed.

*Deliverables*: Executed grant agreement, invoices and backup documentation, media releases, progress reports, final report.

*Schedule*: Q2 2020-Q4 2023.

**Task 2. Project Implementation: Field Site Preparation.**

CHIPS, with support from the Forest Service, will perform on-the-ground flagging and acreage determination of treatment units based on the View 88 Fuels Reduction and Forest Health EA, and develop maps, treatment prescriptions, and specifications for preparing contracts for implementation. 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, and put up/take down of temporary aspen stand fencing.

*Milestones*: CHIPS to identify units for treatment and prepare written prescriptions and specifications.

*Deliverables*: Estimated 1,000 acres field prepared, progress reports.

*Schedule:* Q2 2020-Q2 2022.

**Task 3: Project Implementation: Contract and Field Administration.**

CHIPS will perform contract administration and field work to implement on the ground activities in close coordination with the Forest Service. Includes development and publishing of contractor Request for Proposals (RFP), pre-work bid tour, contractor selection, pre-work conferences, quality control, photo-documentation, and contract performance monitoring and compliance.

*Milestones*: CHIPS to provide field administration of contracts. Implementation from contract award through completion.

*Deliverables*: Request for proposals, progress reports.

*Schedule*: Q2 2020-Q2 2023.

**Task 4. Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 Signage.**

CHIPS will draft signage design and submit to SNC for review. Upon approval, CHIPS will procure and install sign.

*Milestones:* CHIPS will install on-site sign acknowledging SNC partnership and Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 funding.

*Deliverables:* Photo-documentation of installed sign.

*Schedule:* Q1 2023-Q4 2023.

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# Proposed Budget

Complete the summary budget chart below with anticipated costs requested within the proposed SNC grant.

**Direct Project Costs** include staff time and all expenses directly related to the project. Costs related to project-specific deliverables, project reporting, and required signage are eligible.

**Administrative Overhead** refers to shared overhead expenses. Administrative costs may not exceed 15% of direct project costs.

**Additional Project Costs** refers to in-kind or additional funds from sources other than SNC which are directly invested into this specific project, within this workplan and timeframe.

NOTE: In the event of an audit, projects with budgets that include administrative costs must be able to document the appropriateness of these expenses. A typical method for documenting administrative overhead expenses is a Cost Allocation Plan (CAP): a formal accounting plan used to calculate and document the method for recurring overhead costs. SNC strongly recommends that grantees consult with an accounting professional to develop an appropriate method for calculating an overhead rate and prepare a CAP.

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| **ACTIVITY** | **ANTICIPATED COST** |
| **Direct Project Costs** |
| Project Management | $35,000  |
| Project Implementation | $862,000  |
| OtherSignageTravel | $1,500$1,500  |
| **Administrative Costs** |
| Administrative Overhead *No more than 15% of direct project costs* | $100,000  |
| **TOTAL SNC GRANT REQUEST** | **$1,000,000**  |
| **Additional Project Costs** |
| Additional Project Costs*In-kind contributions or funds from sources other than SNC directly invested into this specific project, within this workplan and time frame.*United States Forest Service, Eldorado NF – complementary fuels reduction treatment activities within the project area. Forest Service staff and equipment to be deployed in support of the project including site preparation, oversight and joint implementation.  | $250,000  |
| **TOTAL PROJECT COST** | **$1,250,000**  |

# Partners and Community Support

Identify project partners, if the project is part of a larger plan or collaborative effort (i.e. an Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Forest Health Collaborative, etc.), and if there is known opposition to the project.

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Project partners are CHIPS, the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA), and the United States Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest. The Eldorado NF developed View 88 with the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG), an all lands community-based forest collaborative comprised of diverse stakeholders that work to create fire-safe communities, healthy forests and watersheds, and sustainable local economies. ACCG has Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act (CFLRA) status and is partnered with UMRWA in two Master Stewardship Agreements. The project as proposed is covered under one of those agreements, the Eldorado National Forest MSA.

ACCG fosters partnerships among a diversity of private, nonprofit, local, State, and Federal entities, businesses, citizens and others, including the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, with a common interest in health and well-being of the landscape and communities in the Mokelumne and Calaveras watersheds. The group is advancing an all-lands strategy to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration and foster environmental stewardship, local jobs, greater local economic stability, and healthy forests and communities. ACCG’s principles reflect the group’s emphasis on its triple bottom line for balancing environmental, social, and economic goals.

Within the ACCG planning area, many forest health projects have been implemented using State and Federal grants 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 to continue to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration.

CHIPS, as a non-profit community-driven organization, has a long history of collaborating with local Native American communities. The organization employs a staff of 45 field crew members, including cultural site monitors. Over 70 percent of the staff are Native American representing Miwok, Paiute, and Washoe (Hung A Lel Ti) tribes. CHIPS holds working agreements with the Washoe tribe of California and Nevada and the Mariposa Indian Council.

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. This project is part of the priority recommendations under the MACA report.

View 88 is included in the Amador County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) which identifies at risk communities through the WUI and Federal areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments that will protect WUI communities. The View 88 project area and fuels reduction treatments are consistent with those recommended and prioritized in the CWPP.

There is no known opposition to this project.

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# Land Ownership and Restrictions on Land Use

Identify all legal property owners and land managers within the project area, as well as any property easements or other restrictions that may impact the project.

Please note that the full Application will require letters of support from all landowners. Category One applications will be required to include a draft land tenure agreement and acquisition projects will be required to include a willing seller letter. The grant agreement will require a formal land tenure agreement with all landowners giving permission for the project. SNC can provide sample land tenure agreements for private and public properties.

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The View 88 Project is situated entirely on National Forest System lands managed by the United States Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest, Amador Ranger District. There is a Cal Trans roadside easement, a Volcano Communications telephone cable easement, and multiple range allotments within the project area, however, none of these are expected to restrict project implementation. Prior to submission of the full application, CHIPS, the Eldorado NF and UMRWA will prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) documenting the Eldorado NF has full authority to implement the project as proposed and gives permission to CHIPS to serve as grant applicant and administrator for the project.

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# Environmental Compliance

SNC requires that all projects comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) at the time the SNC Governing Board authorizes a grant. Since the complexity of CEQA compliance will vary depending on project activities, it is important to consult with SNC staff as early as possible to discuss which documents may be required in an Application. A project will only be eligible to submit an Application if SNC determines there is a reasonable expectation that CEQA compliance will be completed in sufficient time for Board consideration. In addition to CEQA, projects subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) must be NEPA compliant.

**Note:** In the full Application, projects not exempt from CEQA must identify the Lead Agency for CEQA and provide documentation from that Agency confirming intent to serve as Lead.Applicants may request that SNC serve as Lead Agency if there is no other organization with standing to serve as Lead, but this request must come during the Pre-Application process.

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Brief Description of CEQA Status.
*Explain if and why a project is exempt from CEQA, or the current status of CEQA analysis if not exempt. Identify the potential Lead Agency or if applicant is requesting SNC serve as Lead Agency.*

All project activities are exempt from CEQA under SB901 (2018) Minor Alteration 18.36.070 because the activities will occur on Federal land and are covered under NEPA. With that said, SNC as a State agency must be assured that the project meets all CEQA requirements if they were to be applied, the NEPA-CEQA crosswalk will be completed by Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA), who will serve as lead agency as they have in the past, pending Board approval.

Brief Description of NEPA Status**.***Describe the current status of NEPA analysis, if applicable.*

NEPA is complete for View 88. The Forest Service prepared the View 88 Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations. The Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed by the Forest Supervisor, the Responsible Official, on June 6, 2011.

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# Site Visits for Category One Projects

SNC will conduct site visits for all Category One Pre-Applications to provide a greater understanding of the project for SNC and assist in developing the project and the Application. Key participants include a representative from the applicant organization (required), technical expert(s) associated with the project, landowner(s), and appropriate SNC staff. All site visits will be limited to a maximum of two hours and may occur during inclement weather. It is important to have a confirmed site visit date set as soon as possible. SNC will contact applicants after submission of the Pre-Application to schedule a visit. SNC aims to complete all site visits before September 27, 2019.

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[x]  As this is a Category One project, we agree to work with SNC to schedule a site visit with the representatives listed above.

[ ]  As this is a Category Two project, a site visit is not required.

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# Considerations for a Future Full Application

Please check the boxes below to confirm awareness of the following requirements if projects are deemed eligible to submit a full Application. **These are NOT requirements for the Pre-Application***.*

[x]  Under Proposition 1 and Proposition 68, applicants for Category One implementation projects are required to consult with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) to determine if it is feasible for the Corps to play a role in the project. Projects that only include planning or property acquisition are exempt from this requirement. The Corps have an email consultation process in place that takes five business days to complete. The CCC has developed a [Corps Consultation Review Document](https://sierranevada.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/236/2019/06/Prop68CorpsConsultationProcessandFormRev.-04152019.pdf) to help determine whether it is feasible for CCC or CALCC to provide services for the proposed project. Applicants will be required to submit the email consultation as part of the full Application. Please see the [CCC website](https://ccc.ca.gov/) and [CALCC website](http://calocalcorps.org/) for more information about the process.

[x]  SNC strongly encourages Native American engagement with projects. In the Application, all applicants will be required to demonstrate that appropriate Tribal representatives were notified of the project. SNC can assist applicants with identifying Native American Tribes whose ancestral homelands may be in the project areas and contact information for those Tribes.

[x]  The Application will require letters of support from all landowners as well as a draft copy of the proposed land tenure agreement for Category One projects. If the project is awarded, a signed formal land tenure agreement with all landowners giving permission for the project must be submitted before the grant agreement can be executed. SNC can provide sample land tenure agreements for private and public properties.

[x]  The Lead Agency responsible for CEQA compliance must be identified in the Application with documentation from that Agency confirming intent to serve as Lead. Applicants may request that SNC serve as Lead Agency if there is no other organization with standing to serve as Lead. This request **must** come during the Pre-Application process. The project will only be eligible to submit an Application if SNC determines there is a reasonable expectation that CEQA compliance will be completed in sufficient time for Board consideration.

[x]  The Application will require a description of the long-term management and sustainability of the project. Category One projects must be maintained for a minimum of ten years, and SNC must have permission to monitor the project site for 25 years.

[x]  SNC will establish a GIS record of the project location. SNC staff will work with applicants to develop or transfer GIS files. Submission Instructions

* + 1. Compile the documents listed below into one .pdf document.
* The compiled Pre-Application documents should be named with Project Number, underscore, PreApplication. **Example:** **9999\_Pre-Application**
* If you are unable to compile the documents into one .pdf document, they may be submitted as separate documents.
* Please check the boxes below to confirm that all documents are included.

[x]  **Completed Pre-Application form.**

[x]  **Project Location Map(s)**

* For Category One grants the map should clearly delineate where SNC funds will be used and, if the proposed SNC activities are part of a larger project, boundaries of that larger project.
* For Category Two grants the map should identify where pre-project activities will be focused and the location of the potential future implementation project(s).

[ ]  **Project site photos.**

* No more than 6 photographs of the project site.
	+ 1. Open the Project Submission Folder
			- The link to the Project Submission Folder is in the Welcome Email.
			- Each Project Submission Folder is a Microsoft OneDrive folder specific to each project. Only people with whom you share the link have access to the folder.
			- If you lose the link or have trouble accessing it, please contact the SNC Grants Team at grants.snc@sierranevada.ca.gov or 530-823-4689.
		2. Upload the compiled Pre-Application document (or separate documents) to the Project Submission Folder.
			- Open the folder using the link
			- Drag and drop documents into the folder
			OR
* Select :Upload” from the menu ribbon across the top of the page and navigate to the documents to upload.
	+ 1. Using the Project Number as the subject of the email, send an email to notify SNC that the Pre-Application files are complete.

GrantSubmission@sierranevada.ca.gov

* + 1. Please save backup copies of all documents submitted to SNC, as well as the email record of submission and receipt, for your own files.