ACCG Funding Coordination Work Group Action Items

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Meeting Brief:

* Michael Pickard provided a legislative update reporting that the Governor signed the budget, allowing for Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to begin to accept applications for the $20M in early action funding. An additional $50M will become available through SNC beginning July 1. The funding is for fuel reduction and watershed protection implementation, and has an expiry date of January 1, 2025 with no means to extend the deadline. SNC will conduct a special board meeting in July to authorize funding for applications received before April 30. Michael stated that the State budget also included significant funding for CAL FIRE and the Wildlife Conservation Board. Michael shared that the Natural Resources Secretary reauthorized the SB901 program; project proponents can once again use the SB901 CEQA exemption.
* Richard Sykes provided an update on UMRWA’s applications to the SNC Forest Health and California Department of Fish and Wildlife Ecosystem Restoration programs for NEPA planning on National Forest system lands within the Mokelumne River watershed. The $200K application to SNC is proposed for funding award. A portion of the SNC grant was allocated for CEQA planning but, now with SB901 reauthorized, more of grant budget will be applied toward other work. The CDFW has not announced grant awards yet.
* The group discussed upcoming funding opportunities including the CAL FIRE Prevention, CAL FIRE Forest Health and SNC Forest Health grant programs as they relate to the projects on the group’s list and the action items resulting from the work group’s April meeting. The results of the discussion indicated that:
	+ UMRWA is pursuing an application to the CAL FIRE Forest Health program in coordination with the Amador Ranger District, likely for a large scale fuel break project.
	+ CCWD is considering an application to the CAL FIRE Fire Prevention program for fuel reduction on its lands located West Point, the Wilseyville treatment plant, and/or Hunter Dam. Jessica Self believed that planning is complete for two of these three sites.
	+ The Cal-Am Team is expected to submit two applications to the CAL FIRE Fire Prevention program: one for a project in coordination with the Forest Meadows Homeowners Association, and a second for fuel break maintenance in Amador County.
* Robin Wall and Regine Miller discussed the ACCG Monitoring Work Group’s strong interest in incorporating a monitoring component into all future grant applications.
* Regine shared that Megan Layhee is networking with the Cal Am Team and the Forest Service to obtain spatial data for their potential projects.
* May 11, 3-4 pm next meeting.
	+ The group will focus on potential applications to SNC’s Forest Health grant program.

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| **ACTION ITEM** | **RESPONSIBLE PARTIES** |
| Contact Calaveras Ranger District to ask if they have possible fuel break maintenance projects that are in need of funding.  | Richard Sykes |
| Email Amanda Watson to inquire if Amador Fire Safe Council or Amador Resource Conservation District are proposing to CAL FIRE Fire Prevention or Forest Health grant programs.  | Regine Miller |
| Email Carinna Robertson Calaveras RD and Leana Weissberg of BLM the CDFW Cannabis Restoration grant solicitation as an FYI.  | Regine Miller |
| Email Richard, Karen and Jessica the ACCG Monitoring Strategy and CHIPS’ draft Upper Mokelumne Forest Restoration Project Monitoring Plan and WCB and CAL FIRE grant application monitoring language.  | Regine Miller |
| Continue to network with the Forest Service, UMRWA and Cal Am Team to obtain spatial data for some of the projects on the SNC stimulus list spreadsheet. | Megan Layhee |

**Meeting Participants:**

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| **Name** | **Affiliation** | **Time** **(Hours)** |
| Michael Pickard | Sierra Nevada Conservancy | 1.25 |
| Regine Miller | Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions | 1.25 |
| Richard Sykes | Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority | 1.25 |
| Rich Farrington | UMRWA Board | 1.25 |
| Jessica Self | CCWD | 1.25 |
| Robin Wall | ENF | 1.25 |
| Chuck Loffland | ENF | 1.25 |