

December 18, 2020

**To:** Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG) Planning Work Group

**From:** ACCG community and economic benefits Planning WG ad hoc committee

**Re:** Proposal to integrate community and economic benefits into project review form

Our ad hoc work group has met in person and by Zoom several times over the last 10 months to discuss the best way to integrate community and economic benefits into the ACCG's project review process. After receiving initial comments from the full ACCG earlier this fall, the ad hoc engaged in an issue resolution process. The attached document reflects the most current version of the project submission form which incorporates the refinements that came out of those discussions.

The ACCG's underlying philosophy is that local forest and watershed programs and projects should have Environmental, Community, and Economic benefits (sometimes called "the triple bottom line"). In 2010, the ACCG collaboratively developed a set of [Principles and Policies to Guide Operations](#) to help define the group's common ground regarding these three benefits.

Over the last year, the ACCG developed [the Forest Treatment Guidance Document](#) to better define zones of agreement and guide additional discussion regarding the environmental aspects of proposed projects. Since that tool does not include community and economic factors, the ACCG Planning Work Group formed an ad hoc committee to look into how to incorporate those two critical aspects of the triple bottom line into the [project development and review process](#). Incorporating defined community and economic benefits in a project is consistent with the ACCG's founding philosophy and can provide competitive advantages in some grant opportunities.

The ad hoc committee proposes to add the enclosed list of community and economic benefits into the Project Details section of the Project Submission Form (based on the Principles and Policies document). The list is intended to help project proponents consider ways to add local community and economic value to their projects. **The list is neither intended to be a project screen nor a comprehensive list. Instead, our hope is that it will provide greater awareness of the need for and value of incorporating community and economic benefits in local forest and watershed projects.**

We look forward to discussing our proposal with the ACCG Planning Work Group at our February 2021 meeting and with that full ACCG at the March general meeting.

# Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

ACCG Request for Project Support Submission Form

(revised draft version: December 18, 2020)

**Instructions:** Complete this form when seeking project development engagement or support from the ACCG. Before completing this form, please review the ACCG Project Development & Support Process (see [flowchart](#)) and ACCG Project Endorsement Guidelines (see [guidelines](#)). Contact the ACCG Administrator with questions: Regine Miller, [regine.chips@gmail.com](mailto:regine.chips@gmail.com).

1. Submission Date:
2. Project Name:
3. Organization/Entity Requesting Support:
4. Project Proponent Contact (name, phone, and email address):
5. Committed Project Partners:
6. Grant Program (if applicable) or Prospective Funding Sources:
7. Name and address to whom the Letter of Support from the ACCG should be addressed:
8. Due Date for Letter of Support:
9. Project Budget Total Amount:
10. Project Dollar Amount Being Requested through Grant Program (if applicable):
11. Has this project been presented to the ACCG before? If so, describe prior engagement with the ACCG about this project.
12. Project Details
  - a) Describe the specific location of the project, the existing condition of the landscape, the project's purpose and need/ goals and objectives, the work that will be performed and the project acreage.
  - b) Describe the local Environmental benefits of your project. Please reference the *ACCG Principles and Policies* in your response (See [Principles and Policies document](#)).
  - c) Indicate with an X which of the following local Community and Economic benefits your project will provide ( See [Principles and Policies document](#)). The following checklist is intended to help ACCG members understand the community and economic benefits of individual projects and to provide opportunities for dialogue aimed at enhancing and promoting such benefits, when possible. Please check all boxes that you believe apply to some extent.  
  
 Provides local, sustainable jobs with fair compensation.

- Supports and strengthens locally-owned businesses.*
- Includes bid preference for local contractors. Local refers to those areas within the ACCG planning area boundary which generally align with Amador and Calaveras counties and Alpine County. It also refers to those adjacent foothill counties of El Dorado and Tuolumne. Regional refers to the broader Sierra Nevada and foothills.*
- Supports local investment, purchasing and ownership of forest enterprises.*
- Includes job training and/or certification opportunities.*
- Provides local community education and engagement opportunities.*
- Reduces potential damage to life and property by promoting the creation and maintenance of fire-safe communities.*
- Protects critical infrastructure and uses such as water and power, roads, sewer, communications, etc.*
- Enhances or protects drinking water quality.*
- Enhances or protects healthy forest-based activities such as recreation, hunting, and fishing, etc.*
- Creates or expands uses or local markets for “underutilized” forest products (i.e., biomass, firewood, mushroom foraging, etc.).*
- Uses local and regional networks and markets to optimize local benefits (e.g., firewood sold locally in stores and distributed to those in need, Christmas trees, fiber board & wood-shaving facilities, etc.).*
- Includes community engagement and education in planning and implementation.*
- If cultural resources present, engages tribal representatives early and consistently from conceptual planning through implementation and monitoring to ensure respect and sensitivity to Native American cultural sites, practices, resources.*
- Protects historical or locally important sites.*
- Protects and/or enhances scenic beauty.*
- Incorporates cooperative partnerships that increase effectiveness and local competitiveness.*
- Includes an assessment of community and economic benefits.*

d) Use this space to further describe and quantify the Community and Economic benefits of your project or to provide more information to help others understand its benefits.

e) If your proposed project is primarily designed to achieve environmental goals, what are some ways your project has been adapted or could be adapted in the future to enhance Community and Economic benefits, if appropriate?

f) Describe any actions that would benefit from additional discussion with ACCG members about the project design, indicating the topic(s) in the following document (link to Forest Treatment Guidance document). Have you attempted to resolve any issues with ACCG members? What are some possible solutions you could employ to address ongoing issues?

13. Describe desired outcomes/future conditions that the project achieves/supports.

14. Describe the status of environmental documentation (NEPA/CEQA/other).

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