ACCG Funding Coordination Work Group Action Items

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Meeting Brief:

* Michael Pickard provided a brief legislative update reporting that Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is slated to receive an additional $5M in funding for a total of $75M. Michael briefed the group on Secretary Crowfoot’s presentation at the Watershed Improvement Program summit, stating that it appears as though the $1B in forest health funding may be the majority of what the state provides in the next 5 to 7 years. Michael stated that project proponents can no longer use the SB901 CEQA exemption. The Natural Resources Secretary did not renew the SB901 program due to changes in NEPA cumulative effects analysis.
* 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. Michael added that SNC is working with UMRWA to adjust their proposed scope and budget to reflect that CEQA will be completed without use of an SB901 exemption. Richard shared that UMRWA authorized development of a MOU with Blue Forest Conservation to perform a forest resilience bond feasibility study.
* The group discussed upcoming funding opportunities including the CAL FIRE Fire Prevention, CAL FIRE Forest Health, Wildlife Conservation Board Riparian Habitat Conservation, and USDA Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) grant programs as they relate to the projects on the group’s list. Michael stated CAL FIRE will assist with Greenhouse Gas Emission (GHG) calculations which are required for the CAL FIRE Forest Health program. Richard stated that UMRWA has the capacity and is eager to partner on potential applications. The group brainstormed project concepts including:
  + CAL FIRE Fire Prevention

## Cross-jurisdictional project on Calaveras County Water District and private land (Davies Ranch) which ties into Calaveras Ranger District’s Last Chance fuel break.

## South Fork Mokelumne fuel reduction on BLM and private lands (CHIPS’ SNC 1068)

## Bummervillle fuel reduction on BLM lands (CHIPS’ SNC 1226)

## Amador Ranger District Foster Firs, Lost Horse, and/or View 88 prescribed fire preparation – Need an applicant other than UMRWA

## Pine Ridge Fuel Break

## NEPA planning

* + CAL FIRE Forest Health – Forest Health category
    - Amador Ranger District Cole Creek project
    - Amador Ranger District Power Fire recovery
    - Butte Fire recovery
  + CAL FIRE Forest Health – Forest Research
    - ACCG Monitoring WG to discuss at their 3/10 meeting
  + WCB Riparian Habitat Conservation Program
    - Mattley Meadow - Richard sent RFP to Plumas Corporation
    - Onion Valley – Rich Farrington reported the project is fully funded
  + USDA RCDI
    - **Fund could be used to** improve community and economic development within the ACCG focus area. The grant could potentially fund t**echnical assistance, training, Board and organizational development, strategic planning, and fundraising for ACCG participants/members to expand the local forest stewardship economy. Grant deadline is March 22; Regine suggested the group consider applying in 2022.**
* Regine briefly updated the group on Megan Layhee’s efforts to obtain spatial data from the Forest Service , UMRWA and Cal Am Team for potential stimulus funding projects.
* April 13, 3-4 pm next meeting.

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| **ACTION ITEM** | **RESPONSIBLE PARTIES** |
| Richard will ask CAL FIRE if the Fire Prevention grants program can be utilized for NEPA planning. | Richard |
| Regine will reach out to Pat McGreevy to inquire Cal Am’s interest in applying for CAL FIRE funding, particularly as it relates to lands covered under CHIPS’ planning grants in Bummerville and the South Fork of the Mokelumne but also the Pine Ridge fuel break, Davies Ranch and Butte Fire footprint. | Regine |
| Robin will inquire with Rick Hopson about the Amador District’s need for funding and priority to implement the Cole Creek project, prescribe fire preparation on the Lost Horse, Foster Firs or View 88 project areas, and/or fire recovery within the Power Fire footprint. | Robin |
| Jessica Self will inquire with Michael Minkler about CCWD’s potential interest in applying for CAL FIRE funding for projects in and around the West Point treatment plant and reservoir. | Jessica |
| Regine will send Robin and Becky Estes a link to the CAL FIRE Forest Health solicitation so that the Monitoring WG can evaluate their potential interest to apply for Forest Research funding. | Regine |
| Megan will 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 |

**Meeting Participants:**

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| **Name** | **Affiliation** | **Time**  **(Hours)** |
| Michael Pickard | Sierra Nevada Conservancy | 0.5 |
| Regine Miller | Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions | 1.0 |
| Richard Sykes | Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority | 1.0 |
| Rich Farrington | UMRWA Board | 1.0 |
| Jessica Self | CCWD | 1.0 |
| Robin Wall | ENF | 1.0 |