

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE)
California Climate Investments
Fire Prevention Program Grant Application
Fiscal Year 2019-20 Funding Opportunity



Please request a Project Tracking # for each separate application by following the instructions for the 2019-20 CCI Grant Guidelines on the [Fire Prevention Grants Web Page](#). Submit the application and all supporting materials to the [www.box.com](#) folder assigned to your tracking number **no later than 3:00pm PST on December 4, 2019**. Please note: Items marked in red are required.

1. **Project Tracking #:** 19-FP-FKU-2044 CalMapper ID: 168_4300-2018-FPL-009

Project Name/Title: Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal

County: Fresno

CAL FIRE Unit/Contract County (Please use this 3-letter Unit Identifier for file naming. See Question 14): FKU - Fresno-Kings Unit

2. **Organization Type:** County If Other, please specify:

If Non-Profit, are you a registered 501(c)(3)? ☐ Yes ☒ No

3. **Sponsoring Organization:** County of Fresno

Project Manager

Title: Staff Analyst III

First Name: Adan

Last Name: Ortiz

Address Line 1: 1221 Fulton Street, 5th Floor

Address Line 2:

City: Fresno

State: California

Zip Code: 93721

Phone Number: (559) 600-4064

Secondary Phone Number: (559) 600-4065

Email Address: aortiz@fresnocountyca.gov

Fax Number:

Tracking #: 19-FP-FKU-2044

Page 1 of 5

Project Name: Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal

4. For which primary activity is funding being requested? Fuel Reduction

5. **Grant Period:** Please provide the estimated start date and completion date for your project. Projects **MUST** be completed by March 15, 2024. Note that final billing is due 30 days after project completion. Please use MM/DD/YYYY format.

Project Start Date: 09/01/2019

Project Completion Date: 03/15/2024

6. **Limiting Factors:** Are there any existing forest or land management plans; Conservation Easements; Covenant, Conditions & Restrictions (CC&R's); matters related to zoning; use restrictions, or other factors that can or will limit the fire prevention proposed activity?

☐ If checked, describe existing plan(s) and the limitations, if any, in the attached Scope of Work.

7. **Timber Harvest Plans:** For fuel reduction projects, is there a timber harvesting document on any portion of the proposed project area for which a "Notice of Completion" has not been filed with CAL FIRE?

☐ If checked, provide the THP identification number and describe the relationship to the project in the attached Scope of Work document.

THP ID Number:

8. **Community at Risk:** Is the project associated with a community that is listed as a Community at Risk? See the list of [Communities at Risk](#) on the Office of the State Fire Marshal web page.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Number of Communities in the project area: 11

9. **Disadvantaged/Low Income Community:** Is the project associated with a low-income community that is listed as a Community at Risk? See the information on [Priority Population Investments](#) on the California Air Resources Board web page.

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, select all that applies:

☐ Disadvantaged ☐ Low Income ☐ Both ☒ Buffer Zone

Tracking #: 19-FP-FKU-2044

Page 2 of 5

Project Name: Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal

10. Describe how your proposal would reduce the total amount of wildfire (and thereby reduce wildfire emissions) around communities, homes, infrastructure, and other highly valued resources. Please focus on GHG benefits. (Limited to 700 characters.)

The proposal will improve defensible space to 18 communities; make these communities more resilient to a wildfire, create a healthier forest landscape, and will allow for faster reforestation. This proposal includes fuels thinning and modification along ingress and egress routes. Specific project boundaries border PG&E and Southern California Edison utility infrastructure, which will result in enhanced protection. Merchantable dying trees go to the mill, and non-merchantable trees are chipped and utilized as biomass. Protecting the public, preventing wildfires, and emergency response to fires is the County's priority.

11. Federal Responsibility Area: Does your project/activity include work on Federal Lands that might require NEPA, or use a framework similar to Good Neighbor Authority?

Non-Tribal Lands: ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, how many acres? 3.00

Tribal Lands: ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, how many acres?

12. Project Area Statistics: For all projects, provide an estimate of the Project Influence Zone (PIZ) acres and the Treatment Influence Zone (TIZ) acres.

PIZ - The Project influence Zone (PIZ) is the broad geographic area encompassing the neighborhoods or communities that the grant proposal is designed to protect with fuel reductions, public education, or planning activities. This can be the sum of all treatment areas or could include a buffer area around the planning/public education target. Please keep the PIZ from encompassing an overly large area, unless benefits are clearly defined in the Scope-of-Work.

TIZ - Treatments are areas within a PIZ, where on-the-ground activities are accomplished (e.g. hazard fuel reductions, shaded fuel breaks, masticating, etc.). There can be multiple discrete Treatment areas associated with a PIZ. Some projects (e.g. Planning & Public Education) may NOT have treatment areas.

	LRA	FRA	SRA
Project Influence Zone (PIZ)		2.00	23,215.00
Treatment Influence Zone (TIZ)		0.25	10.00

Tracking #: 19-FP-FKU-2044

Page 3 of 5

Project Name: Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal

13. **Project Budget:** What is the proposed budget? Please include a discussion of the project budget in the Scope of Work and enter the amount from the Project Budget workbook (.xls).

Budget Item	Amount
Grant Funding Requested (\$)	2,565,920.00

14. **Local Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Plans:** Is the project in, consistent with, or build on a larger plan that deals with the risk and potential impact to habitable structures in the WUI covered by this project? If so, discuss in the Scope of Work. **Select all that apply.**

- ☒ CAL FIRE Unit Strategic Fire Plan
- ☒ Homeowners' Association Plan
- ☒ Fire Safe Council Action Plan
- ☒ County Fire Department Strategic Fire Plan
- ☐ Local Fire Department Plan
- ☐ FIREWISE Community Assessment
- ☐ Other Local Plan (Identify in Scope of Work)
- ☒ Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ☒ Community Wildfire Protection Plan

15. **CEQA Compliance:** Describe how compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will be achieved in the Scope of Work. Is there an existing (CEQA) document that addresses this project or can be used to meet CEQA requirements?

Please indicate the CEQA document type (For planning, education and other projects that are exempt from CEQA, select "Not Applicable"):

Notice of Exemption

Document Identification Number:

Tracking #: 19-FP-FKU-2044

Page 4 of 5

Project Name: Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal

16. Application Submission:

Note to Applicant: If you modify the language contained in any part of this document, other than to fill in the blanks or to provide requested information, your application **will be rejected**.

Use the table below as a tool to make sure you have all documents ready prior to submitting the application.

Replace "XXXX" in the file name with the project's ID Number. Replace "UUU" in the file name with the 3-letter identifier for the Unit where the project is located. Unit identifiers are listed in the instructions for this application form.

Attachments	File Name
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Form (.pdf)	19-FP-UUU-XXXX-Application.pdf
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scope of Work (.doc)	19-FP-UUU-XXXX-SOW.doc
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Budget (.xls)	19-FP-UUU-XXXX-Budget.xls
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Map (.pdf)	19-FP-UUU-XXXX-MAP.pdf
<input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation (.pdf) - Applies to Non-Profits only	19-FP-UUU-XXXX-AOI.pdf
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NIFC/Mapping	Create a Geo Point & Polygon web link

I certify that the above and attached information is true and correct:


Original Signature Required: Grantee's Authorized Representative

11/26/19
Date Signed

David Pomaville
Printed Name

Director
Title

Executed on: 11/26/19 at Fresno
Date City

Please fill out this form completely. Be sure to save a copy of this form and all attachments for your records. Submit the application and all supporting materials to the [www.box.com](#) folder assigned to your tracking number **no later than 3:00pm PST on December 4, 2019**. Please submit the documents as early as possible to avoid unanticipated issues. **Applications submitted or modified on the [www.box.com](#) folder after this date will be considered late.** Access to [www.box.com](#) after the due date may be revoked.

Tracking #: 19-FP-FKU-2044

Page 5 of 5

Project Name: Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal

Project Name: Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal

Budget Category		Cost Basis			Cost Share (%)			Funding Source (\$)			Total (\$)
		Quantity	Units	Cost/Unit	Grant	Grantee	Partner	Grant	Grantee	Partner(s)	
A. Salaries and Wages											
	Staff Analyst - Grant Mgt	1900	Hours	\$ 36	0%	100%	0%	\$ -	\$ 68,400	\$ -	\$ 68,400
	Sr. Staff Analyst - Forest Health	1	Each	\$ 83,000	100%	0%	0%	\$ 83,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 83,000
		0	Hours	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Days	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Hours	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Hours	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Hours	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Hours	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-Total Salaries and Wages:								\$ 83,000	\$ 68,400	\$ -	\$ 151,400
B. Employee Benefits											
	Staff Analyst - Grant Mgt	1900	Each	\$ 21		100%	0%	\$ -	\$ 39,900	\$ -	\$ 39,900
	Sr. Staff Analyst - Forest Health	1	Days	\$ 43,000	100%	0%	0%	\$ 43,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43,000
		0	Hours	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Days	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Hours	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Hours	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Hours	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Hours	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-Total Employee Benefits:								\$ 43,000	\$ 39,900	\$ -	\$ 82,900
C. Contractual											
	Registered Prof Forester	1500	Hours	\$ 110	100%	0%	0%	\$ 165,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 165,000
	Licensed Timber Operator	10	Contract	\$ 200,000	100%	0%	0%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Acres	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Miles	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-Total Contractual:								\$ 2,165,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,165,000
D. Travel & Per Diem:											
		0	Days	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Days	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Days	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Days	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-Total Travel & Per Diem:								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
E. Supplies											
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-Total Supplies:								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
F. Equipment											
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-Total Equipment:								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
G. Other Costs											
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		0	Each	\$ -	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-Total Other Costs								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Direct Costs								\$ 2,291,000	\$ 108,300	\$ -	\$ 2,399,300
Indirect Costs (Exclude Equipment)						12%	\$ 274,920				\$ 274,920
Total Project Costs								\$ 2,565,920	\$ 108,300	\$ -	\$ 2,674,220
Less Program Income								\$ -			
Total Grant Proposed Costs								\$ 2,565,920	\$ 108,300	\$ -	\$ 2,674,220



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
(CAL FIRE) California Climate Investments
Fire Prevention Grants Program
Project Scope of Work



Project Name: Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal

Project Tracking Number: 19-FP-FKU-2044

Project Description Summary: Please provide a paragraph summarizing proposed project including the location, habitable structures, acres treated, etc. (Please type in blank space below. Please note there is no space limitations).

The project is located in the tree mortality priority County of Fresno, a tier one high hazard zone area and high fire hazard severity zone. The project will remove dead and dying trees that are within 300 feet of 4,636 habitable structures, drivable roads, and infrastructure in and around the communities of Auberry, Meadow Lakes, Shaver Springs, Tollhouse, Pine Ridge, Shaver Lake, Cressmans, Bretz Mountain Village, Quartz Mountain, Wildflower Village, Millwood, Pinehurst, Etheda Springs, Cedarbrook, Dunlap, Miramonte, Deer Crossing and Squaw Valley covering 23,215 acres as illustrated on the attached maps. The proposed application also includes funding to begin thinning fuels along dedicated fire escape routes. The County is prepared to create a position that will move the County towards promoting a healthier forest landscape. The County currently lacks personnel with the technical expertise to educate private landowners on how to manage their lands; be a liaison to the U.S. Forest Service, CalFIRE, PG&E, Southern California Edison, Resource Conservation Districts, Bureau of Land Management, Fire Safe Councils, and other local agencies as it pertains to promoting good forest management. The County has identified 4 miles of fire escape routes within communities that have not been treated in years. Approximately 3,500 dead and dying trees and 125,000 cubic yards of cleanup material has been identified for removal in the entire project area. This project will provide these communities with a reduced risk of hazard trees impacting habitable structures, safer ingress and egress routes along local roads, safer community egress on fire escape routes, and less fuel loads within communities. County maintained roads are being treated with County General Fund dollars and California Disaster Assistant Act (CDAA) funds. As indicated on the map, there are several fuel breaks adjacent to the project and Southern California Edison and PG&E continue to remove trees along power lines in these communities.

A. Scope of Work

This item is broken into project specific criteria depending on the type of project being proposed: planning, education or hazardous fuel reduction. Please **answer one section of questions** that pertain to the primary activity type for your project.

Section 1: Hazardous Fuel Reduction/Removal of Dead or Dying Tree Projects

1. Describe the geographic scope of the project, including an estimate of the number of habitable structures and the names of the general communities that will benefit.
2. Describe the goals, objectives, and expected outcomes of the project.
3. Provide a clear rationale for how the proposed project will reduce the risks associated with wildfire to habitable structures in the WUI.
4. Identify any additional assets at risk to wildfire that will benefit from the proposed project. These may include, but are not limited to, domestic and municipal water supplies, power lines, communication facilities and community centers.
5. Is the scale of the project appropriate to achieve the stated goals, objectives and outcomes discussed in Item 2 above?
6. How will the project/activity utilize the left over woody biomass? Will the project/activity use a biomass facility to reduce greater greenhouse gas emissions?

The County was awarded FY 2016-17 SRA grants in early 2017 to treat this Eastern portion of the County. Priority funding was given to dead and dying tree removal projects that posed a threat to habitable structures and roads while distributing funds as much as possible throughout the area. Priority was also given to homeowners that could not afford to fell and dispose of their own trees. The County spent all of the SRA funds in these areas while only securing approximately 50% of the right of entry permits (ROE) that were mailed out.

On September 26, 2018, the County was awarded FY 2017-18 CCI Fire Prevention Program Grant (FPP) dollars to treat areas in the Eastern portion of Fresno County that were not funded with FY 2016-17 SRA dollars. In that application, the County requested funding to remove and dispose of approximately 17,139 dead and dying trees and 75,000 cubic yards of cleanup material. Disposal costs continue to increase by approximately 28% for Fresno County. All FY 2017-18 CCI Fire Prevention funds are committed to be spent by March, 2020 while additional ROE's continue to be mailed in and additional projects continue to be identified.

On May 30, 2019, the County was awarded one of two FY 2018-19 FPP applications requesting funding for tree and ground fuels removal projects in Eastern Fresno County high hazard zones. In the FY 2018-19 FPP application, the County identified 5,600 dead and dying trees for removal and 175,000 cubic yards of ground fuels cleanup projects. Unfortunately, the application proposing to remove and dispose of 2,500 dead and dying trees and the cleanup of 75,000 cubic yards of ground fuels was not funded.

Prior to the tree mortality, the trees were not a ground fuel that was immediately available to burn. Now however, these trees have died, are falling, and will continue to fall, increasing the ground fuel loading from approximately 50 tons per acre to over 1,500 tons per acre. The added fuel loading will only increase the impacts of fire on these communities unless removed. This project also supports the current and broader scale planned community fuel break projects for surrounding areas. CAL FIRE and the local Fire Safe Councils will continue to work on fuel breaks. Having access to the fuel breaks by clearing the roads and clearing around structures will create a safer community. The expansion of defensible space and buffering of manmade assets will

Project Tracking Number: 19-FP-FKU-2044

make these areas and assets more resistant to the impacts of fire. The proposed hazardous fuel reduction will also provide enhanced protection to water systems that supply water to 1,100 homes and sewer systems that provide service to 1,784 homes. Specific project boundaries border PG&E and Southern California Edison utility infrastructure, which will result in enhanced protection for the utility companies. Law enforcement, Fire, and Forest Service Communication infrastructure and community centers throughout the County will also benefit from hazardous fuel reduction.

The County continues to assess high hazard zone areas and has been tracking residents' concerns of falling trees and decked logs and slash on their property. The County and its contracted Registered Professional Foresters continue to assess vulnerable communities where dead and dying trees, overgrown vegetation, and ground fuels on private property, SRA, and FRA pose a threat to the public and infrastructure. The County has noticed recent die-off within months of treating certain areas. Based on this assessment, the County mails out Right of Entry Forms (ROE) to the property owners to offer the appropriate treatment option. However, many property owners are reluctant to sign the ROE due to indemnification language. The County is increasing efforts to follow-up with property owners that do not sign the ROE to try and educate them on the importance of having these hazards removed. The County's contracted Foresters and Licensed Timber Operators are also utilized to make contact with property owners in an effort to secure signed ROEs.

The County proposes to remove approximately 3,500 dead and dying trees and 125,000 cubic yards of ground fuels with FY 2019-20 FPP grant funds. Trees and slash cleanup that is within 300 feet of permanent private structures, roadways, and public or private infrastructure has been identified for removal and disposal in this area. Funding will also be utilized to continue thinning fuels along roadways to improve egress for threatened communities including campgrounds; and removal of ground fuels such as log decks and slash that property owners cannot afford to dispose of.

The County also proposes to utilize FY 2019-20 grant funds to transition the County towards promoting a healthier forest landscape. The County currently lacks personnel with the technical expertise to educate private landowners on how to manage their forested lands; be a liaison to the U.S. Forest Service, CalFIRE, PG&E, Southern California Edison, Bureau of Land Management, Sierra Resource Conservation District, and other local agencies as it pertains to promoting good forest management. Hiring a Forest Management Coordinator would allow the County to develop a forest management plan; partner with CalFIRE and the U.S. Forest Service on good neighbor authority and stewardship agreements; and educate the public on healthy forest management through community meetings, social media, and direct contact. This position would also assist community groups, private landowners, and fire safe councils with funding opportunities for projects that would benefit the SRA. In addition, this position will provide education on prescribed fire, wood utilization, and forest pests.

The project area is within 23,215 acres in the Eastern portion of the County of Fresno. Approximately 4,636 habitable structures exist within the project boundaries that are

adversely affected by dead and dying trees, and ground fuels within the communities of Auberry, Meadow Lakes, Shaver Springs, Tollhouse, Pine Ridge, Shaver Lake, Cressmans, Bretz Mountain Village, Quartz Mountain, Wildflower Village, Millwood, Pinehurst, Etheda Springs, Cedarbrook, Dunlap, Miramonte, Deer Crossing and Squaw Valley.

The County has environmental clearance within this area. Within 2-3 months from grant award, tree and ground fuels removal will be out to bid for Licensed Timber Operators. Time is of the essence for the County. The County's goal is to have the project completed within 24 months from award, weather permitting.

The Licensed Timber Operators (LTO) under contract with the County have a good working relationship with Rio Bravo, Fresno, and Wheelabrator, Shasta, two biomass-fired electrical generating facilities. The County's bidding guidelines require the LTOs to dispose of all the woody material. The LTOs have been collaborating with Rio Bravo and Wheelabrator to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

B. Relationship to Strategic Plans

Does the proposed project support the goals and objectives of the California Strategic Fire Plan, the local CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plan, a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), County Fire Plan, or other long term planning document? (Please type in blank space below. Please note there is no space limitations).

This hazardous tree and ground fuels removal project, and coordination efforts for a healthier forest landscape is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Fresno County Tree Mortality Plan, Fresno Kings Unit Fire Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the California Strategic Fire Plan. This project will also make man-made assets more resistant to the occurrence and effects of wildland fire.

United States Forest Service lands are directly adjacent to this project. Locally, projects are prioritized and implemented across landscapes. Fires in this area will impact both Federal and private lands. This project is also in line with the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management strategies which address wildland fire management across all lands in the United States.

C. Degree of Risk

1. Discuss the location of the project in relation to areas of moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zone as identified by the latest Fire and Resource Assessment Program maps. Fire hazard severity zone maps by county can be accessed at: http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_wildland_zones_maps.php
2. Describe the geographic proximity of the project to structures at risk to damage from wildfire in the WUI. (Please type in blank space below. Please note there is no space limitations).

This project is situated within the designated very high hazard and high hazard severity zones. Approximately 17,942 acres (77%) of the project is within a very high hazard severity zone, 1,883 acres (8%) within a high hazard zone, and 3,390 acres (15%) within a moderate severity zone. Fresno County has experienced catastrophic tree mortality with many areas showing 100% mortality. This project is in an area with 80-100% tree mortality and many of the trees have died over 4 years ago increasing the likelihood of these trees falling at any time.

This project will treat approximately 4,636 habitable structures at risk to damage from wildfire in the WUI. In addition, approximately 20 drivable roads and fire escape routes will be treated with fuels thinning.

D. Community Support

1. Does the project include any matching funds from other funding sources or any in-kind contributions that are expected to extend the impact of the proposed project?
 2. Describe plans for external communications during the life of the project to keep the effected community informed about the goals, objectives and progress of the project. Activities such as planned press releases, project signage, community meetings, and field tours are encouraged.
 3. Describe any plans to maintain the project after the grant period has ended.
 4. Does the proposed project work with other organizations or agencies to address fire hazard reduction at the landscape level?
- (Please type in blank space below. Please note there is no space limitations).

The County has contributed a 1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) position to the County's Tree Mortality Program. The County is prepared to continue contributing 1.0 FTE to fulfill the Program's tree mortality hazardous removal mission which has allowed for grant administration, bidding of contractors, assessment and prioritization of projects, coordination, and one point of contact with partner agencies. Maintenance of the project will continue after the grant period has ended and will rely on homeowners maintaining cleared landscapes. Should this grant proposal be approved, the County will hold community meetings to notify the public of the fuel thinning efforts on fire escape routes that will have to be maintained by someone other than the County since they are on private land. The County wants to be in a position to submit for future funding opportunities and will continue to monitor the area.

This project meets the goals and objectives of the Fresno County Tree Mortality Task Force which includes representatives from: 168 Fire Safe Council, Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council, Cal Trans, Fresno County Sheriff, Fresno County Ag, CAL FIRE, Fresno County OES, Fresno County Public Works & Planning, PG&E, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Sierra Resource Conservation District, So. Cal. Edison, USFS-Sequoia, and USFS-Sierra.

This project will increase the effectiveness of the existing fuel breaks adjacent to these communities. The larger landscape fuel breaks will be constructed by CAL FIRE, USFS, Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council, and the 168 Fire Safe Council. This fuel break system is currently being expanded and dead and dying trees are being removed using various funding sources from State and Federal agencies. CAL Trans is removing trees along highways 168, 180, and 245 which traverse through this project area.

External communications with community groups include media releases, public meetings, and status updates on the County's website.

E. Project Implementation

1. Discuss the anticipated timeline for the project. Make sure to take seasonal restrictions into account.
2. Verify the expected timeframes to complete the project will fall under the March 15, 2024 deadline.
3. Describe the milestones that will be used to measure the progress of the project.
4. Describe measurable outcomes (i.e. project deliverables) that will be used to measure the project's success.
5. If applicable, how will the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) be met?
(Please type in blank space below. Please note there is no space limitations).

The County of Fresno has contracts in place with 17 Registered Professional Foresters and 27 LTOs. Should this application be approved, the County anticipates this project will be completed no later than March 15, 2024. The County is prepared to commence multiple projects at one time to remove as many trees and treat ground fuels in the shortest amount of time. The County will place three separate sets of time-lines and milestones on this project. The first time-line will be placed on the new position to develop a forest management plan and educate private landowners on how to manage their lands within 9 months of award. The second time-line and milestone will be placed on the County Project Manager assigned to oversee grant requirements, secure ROE's, work with the Registered Professional Forester, and contract for tree removal services. The third time-line and milestone will be assigned to the LTOs and will include the number of trees to be removed by certain deadlines; and project progress deadlines at 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% completion.

The County has signed ROE's from several property owners and 100% environmental clearance within this area. Within 1-2 months of grant award, the County will have additional signed ROE's to enter private property. Within 2-3 months from grant award, dead and dying trees and debris cleanup will be identified and mapped, and ready to be put out to bid to secure LTOs. Within 3 months of grant award, trees, slash, and logs will begin to be removed and disposed; and thinning of fuels along roads will begin. Time is of the essence for the County. The County's goal is to have the project completed within 24 months from award, weather permitting.

F. Administration

1. Describe any previous experience the project proponent has with similar projects. Include a list of recent past projects the proponent has successfully completed if applicable. Project proponents having no previous experience with similar projects should discuss any past experiences that may help show a capacity to successfully complete the project being proposed. This may include partnering with a more experienced organization that can provide project support.
2. Identify who will be responsible for tracking project expenses and maintaining project records in a manner that allows for a full audit trail of any awarded grant funds. (Please type in blank space below. Please note there is no space limitations).

On January 29, 2016, the County of Fresno was awarded SRA grant #5GS15103 for the Miramonte / Pinehurst fuel reduction project and SRA grant #5GS15104 for the Meadow Lakes / Shaver Lake fuel reduction project. The County successfully completed both projects and is in closeout mode for these grants.

In early 2017, the County of Fresno was awarded 13 SRA grants for dead and dying tree removal and disposal projects. As of November 30, 2018, all 13 of these projects have been completed and funds expended.

In 2018, and early 2019, the County was awarded additional CCI Fire Prevention Program Grant (FPP) dollars for hazardous tree and fuels removal projects.

The County was also awarded CDAA funds from CalOES to continue removing dead and dying trees around County maintained roads and infrastructure.

The position assigned to all tree mortality SRA/FPP/CDAA grants continues to be assigned to the Program. This individual has over 15 years of grant management experience which includes the application process, bidding and contracting for services, preparing claims for reimbursement, tracking expenses, and maintaining project records in a manner that allows for a full audit trail. Experience also includes knowledge of available wood utilization and disposal markets to ultimately lower greenhouse gas emissions.

G. Budget

A detailed project budget should be provided in an Excel spreadsheet attached to this grant application. The space provided here is to allow for a narrative description to further explain the proposed budget.

1. Explain how the grant funds, if awarded, will be spent to support the goals and objectives of the project. If equipment grant funds are requested, explain how the equipment will be utilized and maintained beyond the life of the grant.
2. Are the costs for each proposed activity reasonable for the geographic area where they are to be performed? Identify any costs that are higher than usual and explain

any special circumstances within the project that makes these increased costs necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the project.

3. Is the total project cost appropriate for the size, scope, and anticipated benefit of the project?
4. Identify all Indirect Costs and describe why they are necessary for a successful project implementation. Administrative expenses to be paid by the Fire Prevention Grants must be less than 12% of the total grant request (excluding equipment).
5. Explain each object category in detail and how that would support meeting the grant objectives.

(Please type in blank space below. Please note there is no space limitations).

This application solicitation is for \$2,565,920. Grant funds will be primarily utilized to contract with Licensed Timber Operators, which are required to provide their own traffic control, fell, remove, and dispose of all material. Funds will also be utilized to contract with Registered Professional Foresters for their expertise in assessing, marking trees and cleanup sites, and communicating with property owners. The Registered Professional Foresters will also be utilized to write the prescription to treat fire escape routes. The County has gained additional experience contracting with Licensed Timber Operators and has become more familiar with market rates and trends. The County does not anticipate costs that are higher than usual; however, bids for projects where trees are within 10 feet of a home have traditionally been higher and disposal rates continue to increase. 12% Administration is being budgeted to allow the County to offset staff time not contributed towards the project. Staff time includes GIS services, procurement, ROE's, site visits, traffic control review, and assessments. The County does not anticipate the need to purchase equipment. The County's goal is to remove as many dead and dying trees and cleanup sites that pose a threat to the public and to lower Greenhouse Gas emissions.

The proposed Forest Management Coordinator would allow the County to develop a forest management plan; partner with CalFIRE and the U.S. Forest Service on good neighbor authority and stewardship agreements; and educate the public on healthy forest management through community meetings, social media, and direct contact. This position would also assist community groups, private landowners, and fire safe councils with funding opportunities for projects that would benefit the SRA by creating a healthier forest landscape.

H. California Climate Investments

The space provided here is to allow for a narrative description to further explain how the project/activity will reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions.

1. How will the project/activity reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions?
2. Is the project located in a Low-Income or Disadvantaged Community? If not, does the project benefit those communities. Please explain.
3. What are the expected co-benefits of the project/activity (i.e. environmental, public health and safety, and climate resiliency)?

4. When are the Greenhouse Gas emissions and/or co-benefits expected to occur and how will they be maintained?
(Please type in blank space below. Please note there is no space limitations).

The County has allowed a chipping operation to process material that is utilized as biomass by Rio Bravo, Fresno, and Wheelabrator, Shasta, two biomass-fired electrical generating facilities. Contracted LTOs have a good working relationship with these co-generation facilities for the material from felled trees and from cleanup projects. Numerous property owners felled their own hazard trees but do not have the means to properly dispose of them, or received grants that only allowed for the felling but not the disposal, which resulted in log decks and slash on the ground. These property owners are faced with limited options for removing this fire fuel from the ground. Options they have mentioned include burning on site or allowing it to decompose naturally. The most likely way the material will be disposed of if this grant is not awarded will be by open pile burning which will release more stored carbon back into the atmosphere than disposing of the material at the cogeneration facilities. The sooner we assist these property owners with the removal and disposal of woody material the sooner landscapes can transition to the reforestation phase.

Although the project is not located in a Low-Income or Disadvantaged Community, potential smoke from a wildfire will adversely affect these communities.

The proposal will reduce the wildfire emissions around the Auberry, Meadow Lakes, Shaver Springs, Tollhouse, Pine Ridge, Shaver Lake, Cressman, Bretz Mountain Village, Quartz Mountain, Wildflower Village, Millwood, Pinehurst, Etheda Springs, Cedarbrook, Dunlap, Miramonte, Deer Crossing and Squaw Valley communities. The proposal will also make the above areas more resilient to a wildfire, create a healthier forest landscape, and will allow for appropriate reforestation. The trees being removed died because of the drought and subsequent forest pest outbreak. By removing the material and maintaining a landscape that is more appropriately stocked will allow the forest to be more resilient and the remaining trees should be able to withstand low rainfall years because of lower stocking rates.

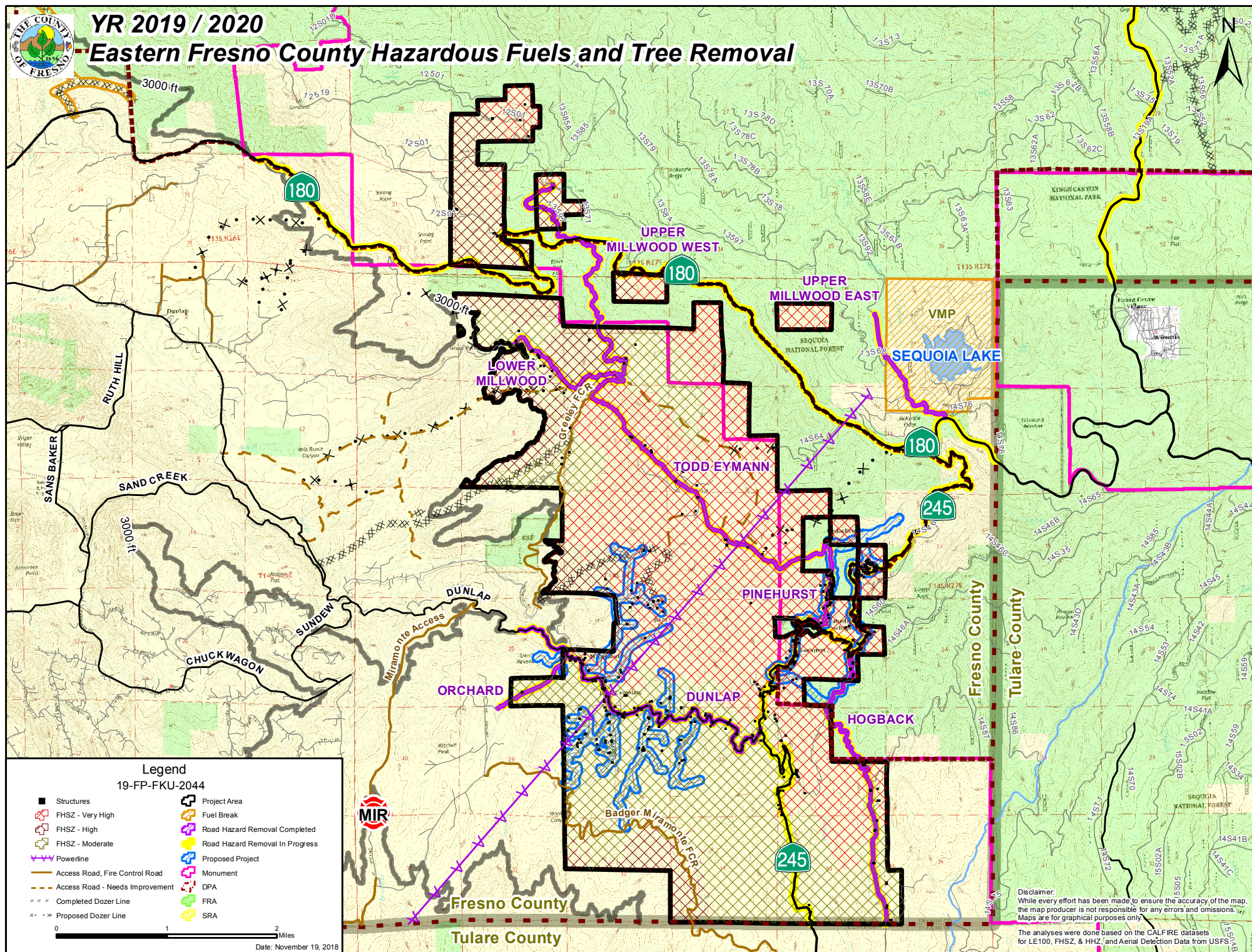
By clearing the immediate fuels that can exacerbate a wildfire, the County will have lowered Greenhouse Gas emissions. County staff is willing and available to calculate project emissions with CalFIRE. Maintaining lower emissions after the grant funds are expended will be accomplished through education and brokering of disposal options for the public.

The Rio Bravo, and Wheelabrator co-generation facilities are familiar with tree and fuels removal projects in the County of Fresno. County staff also notifies the facilities of other available biomass on private lands in an effort to get it off the ground.



YR 2019 / 2020

Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal



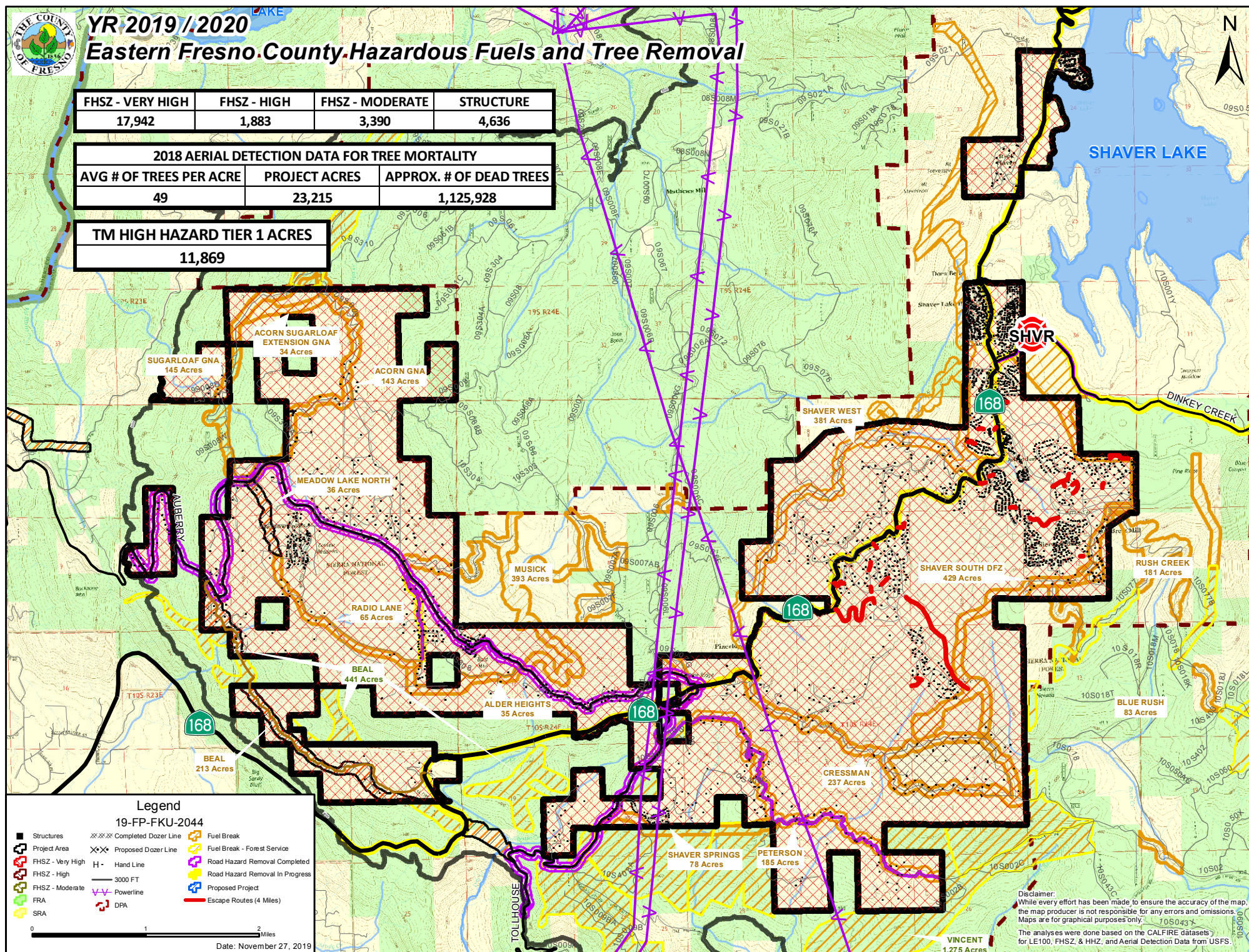


YR 2019 / 2020 Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal

FHSZ - VERY HIGH	FHSZ - HIGH	FHSZ - MODERATE	STRUCTURE
17,942	1,883	3,390	4,636

2018 AERIAL DETECTION DATA FOR TREE MORTALITY		
AVG # OF TREES PER ACRE	PROJECT ACRES	APPROX. # OF DEAD TREES
49	23,215	1,125,928

TM HIGH HAZARD TIER 1 ACRES
11,869





FRESNO COUNTY FIRE

PROTECTION DISTRICT

210 South Academy Avenue
Sanger, California 93657
Telephone: (559) 493-4300
Fax: (559) 875-7451
www.fresnocountyfire.org

November 27, 2019

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection – CAL FIRE
Attention: Grants Management Unit/Fire Prevention Grants
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: Letter of Support County of Fresno
Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal Grant Proposal
2019/2020 California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant Program

To Whom It May Concern,

The Fresno County Fire Protection District would like to extend support for funding of the Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal project submitted by the County of Fresno under the 2019/2020 California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant Program.

The Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal project is a collaborative effort between the County of Fresno, Fresno-Kings Unit of CAL FIRE, Sierra National Forest, and the Fresno County Fire Protection District. This proposal will remove dead hazard trees and decked logs within communities and treat hazardous fuels along community escape routes which will reduce the impacts of wildfire on communities and provide safe public evacuation routes. The County of Fresno has done a tremendous job implementing projects over the last four years that have had a positive impact to the communities of Eastern Fresno County. To date they have removed over 25,000 dead trees within communities, around critical infrastructure and along public and private roads. This proposal will continue that work and treat 4 miles of dedicated emergency access roads that have been neglected for many years within communities. These roads provide a secondary egress for the communities near Shaver Lake and are surrounded by existing community fuel breaks created over the last three years by CAL FIRE. This project has been identified as a critical element for community protection from wildfire within the Fresno-Kings Pre-Fire Management Plan and the local Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Eastern Fresno County Hazardous Fuels and Tree Removal project also falls entirely within the tier 1 high hazard zone for tree mortality.

Please consider this project for funding for the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Johnson
Chief – Fresno County Fire Protection District