

# STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

*Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Grant Program*

**SNC ID Number:** 1061

**Applicant:** Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCDTC)

**Project Title:** Tramway Road Fuel Break Network

**Project Category:** One

**SNC Subregion:** North Central

**County(ies):** Tehama

**Funding Amount Requested:** \$235,858

**Funding Amount Recommended:** \$235,858

**Total Project Cost:** \$533,580

**Final Score:** 83.50

## **PROJECT SCOPE / DESCRIPTION**

The Resource Conservation District of Tehama County's (RCDTC) Tramway Road Fuel Break Network Project is located on private lands along the unpaved county-maintained Tramway Road in eastern Tehama County. The 254-acre strategic fuel break lies close to many small communities including Lyman Springs, Manton, and Mineral. The largest populated city near the project area is Red Bluff, located downstream 22 air miles away. The Project area passes over Payne's Creek and several smaller unnamed tributaries, and is adjacent to Battle Creek, a major anadromous-fish bearing stream that delivers flows to the Sacramento River. Nearby public lands include Lassen National Forest, Lassen Volcanic National Park, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Tehama Wildlife Area), Bureau of Land Management, and the Ishi Wilderness Area.

Crews will hand cut, chip, and masticate overgrown vegetation and dead/downed ground fuels to develop a 300' wide 7-mile-long (254 acre) roadside shaded fuel break. Subsequent application of state and county approved herbicides will help extend the life of vegetation treatments. The high priority need for the Tramway Road Fuel Break Network Project was identified in the recently revised Tehama East Community Wildfire Protection Plan as prepared by the RCDTC in 2017. This project is aligned with the Tehama East Watershed Assessment and Management Plan that was completed in 2010. Priorities contain measures to stop or slow wildfire, protect habitat, and enhance water quality and other watershed resources in the Paynes and Antelope Creek watersheds.

The Project strategically connects three large roadside vegetation treatments completed in the area by the RCDTC in cooperation with SPI and the California Fire Safe Council. Combined treatments significantly break up the continuity of dense forest and chaparral stands within a significant portion of eastern Tehama County. This work creates a framework that can be built upon through cooperative agreements between the Lassen National Forest (who has funded prior treatments along this fuel-break system), SPI and other neighboring land owners. This project also aids in the protection of significant in place/in process federal- and State-financed stream improvement efforts and infrastructure particularly within the Paynes Creek and Antelope Creek watersheds. The SNC funded the CEQA for this project (#460).

Over the past 12 years, RCDTC staff have completed roughly \$2,000,000 in fuels projects throughout Tehama County. Among the largest of these was the development of the A-Line Road/F-line Road/Road 90-A Shaded Fuel Break, a 21-mile roadside fuel break completed along wildland roads on private timberlands adjacent to the Lassen National Forest, that connects to the Tramway Road Fuel Break Network Project. RCDTC has successfully completed two SNC grant projects and is presently completing two others. The RCDTC's Project partner, Sierra Pacific Industries, has a long history of successfully implementing fuel reduction projects on properties under company management. On SPI lands adjacent to the Project area, more than 40 miles of fuel treatments have been recently completed. SPI has also performed 3 large scale thinning projects totaling 1,980 acres of treated forestlands with an additional 733 acres planned for 2019. It is anticipated that these thinning projects will both reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire as well as improve forest health through a reduction in competition among conifer and oak species.

The Paynes, Antelope, and Battle Creek watersheds are major tributaries to the Sacramento River, which provides 35% of the state's developed water supply. Both streams support populations of anadromous salmonids and will be afforded significant direct protection by project work completed in connection with the Tramway Road Fuel Break Network Project. A primary goal of this effort is to create and support conditions that will allow the rapid development of large carbon-sequestering fire-resistant tree species intermixed with open areas of grasslands can help to slow fast moving high-intensity wildfires. Improved watershed conditions protect mountain headwater supplies, ensure high quality drinking water to downstream water users, and protect and enhance California's ecosystem benefits.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>PROJECT TASKS / DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Establishing Crew Agreement for CCC, CALCC, or CAL FIRE Conservation Camp Crews	Spring/Summer 2019
Flagging: Project Area Boundaries, Hand and Mechanical Treatment Areas, and Mechanical Treatment Exclusion Buffers	Spring/Summer 2019
Initiation of Cutting and Chipping (Hand) Operations Treatments	Spring/Summer 2019
Completion of Mechanical and Hand Treatments	Spring/Summer 2020
Herbicide Applications/follow up cutting or mastication treatments	Late Summer/ Early Fall 2022
SNC Progress Reports	Every 6 months
SNC Final Report	December 2022
<b>Estimated Project Completion Date</b>	<b>January 1, 2023</b>

**PROJECT COSTS**

<b>BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>SNC FUNDING</b>
<b>Project Costs:</b>	
Project Management	\$64,581
Project Implementation	\$132,185
Materials and Supplies	\$7,588
Reporting, Performance Measures	\$1,000
<b>Administrative:</b>	
Administrative Costs	\$30,504
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$235,858</b>

## **PROJECT LETTERS OF SUPPORT / OPPOSITION**

### **SUPPORT:**

- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Richard and Christine O'Sullivan, owners of Turner Ranch
- County of Tehama, Department of Public Works
- Bureau of Land Management, Redding Office
- CAL FIRE- Dave Russell – Division Chief, Ishi Conservation Camp Tehama/Glenn Unit
- Department of Fish and Wildlife, Northern Division

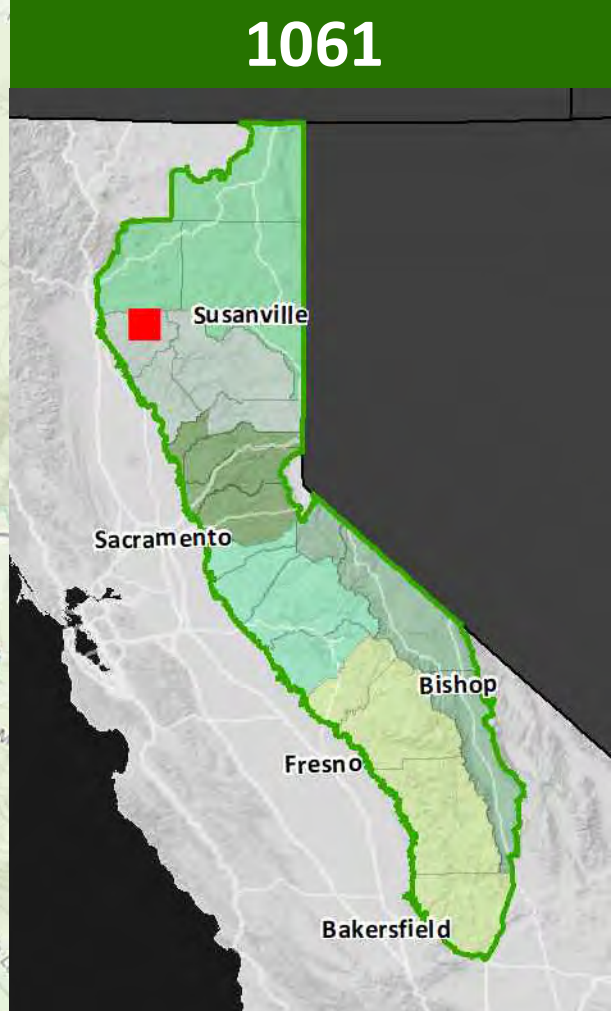
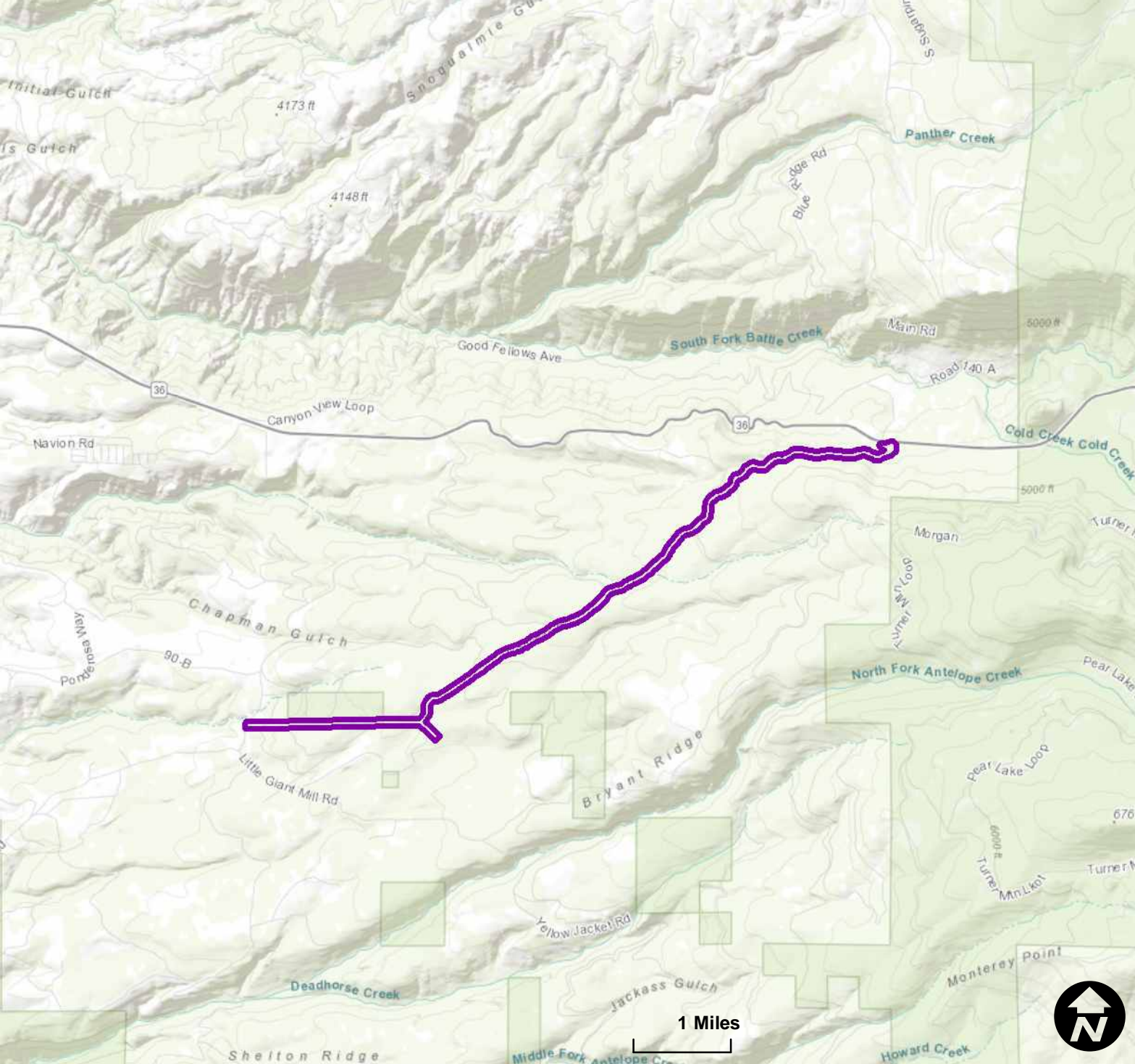
### **OPPOSITION:**









- None

## **PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

*There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to identify one to three project specific Performance Measures in their application. Please note, Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified before the grant agreement is executed.*









- Acres of Land Improved or Restored
- Number of Significant Sites Protected or Preserved



-  Project Location
-  Project Boundary
-  North Subregion
-  North Central Subregion
-  Central Subregion
-  East Subregion
-  South Central Subregion
-  South Subregion

**Tramway Road Fuel Break Network**  
**Resource Conservation District of Tehama County**



-  Project Location
-  Project Boundary
-  North Subregion
-  North Central Subregion
-  Central Subregion
-  East Subregion
-  South Central Subregion
-  South Subregion

## CEQA Documentation

**SNC #:** 1061

**Project Title:** Tramway Road Fuel Break Network

**Applicant:** Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

**CEQA:**

The Resource Conservation District of Tehama County is Lead Agency on an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. The SNC may file a Notice of Determination on the IS/MND as a Responsible Agency.

- **Notice of Determination:** See Below
- **Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration:** [Click Here](#)

# Notice of Determination

# Appendix D

**To:**  
 Office of Planning and Research  
U.S. Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk  
County of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**From:**  
Public Agency: Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Address: 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603  
Contact: Shannon Ciotti  
Phone: (530) 823-4689

Lead Agency (if different from above):  
Resource Conservation District of Tehama County  
Address: 2 Sutter Street Suite D  
Red Bluff, CA 96080  
Contact: Rob Rianda  
Phone: (530) 737-5179

**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.**

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2014112036

Project Title: Tramway Road Fuel Break Network (SNC #1061)

Project Applicant: Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

Project Location (include county): The project is located in northeast Tehama County on county-maintained Tramway Road between Sierra Pacific Industries' (SPI) N-Line Road from the community of Lyman Springs in the south to its northerly junction with State Route 36E and SPI Road 90A located approximately five miles west of the town of Mineral.

**Project Description:**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) would provide \$235,858 to the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCDTC) for the Tramway Road Fuel Break Network project (project). The project will implement several methods of roadside vegetation treatments in an area with dense stands of shade tolerant tree and brush species. These treatments will complete the 28-mile Tramway Road/A-Line Road/F-Line Road/Road 90-A Shaded Fuel Break.

Project work entails development of 300-foot wide roadside fuel break utilizing hand treatments (i.e., hand cutting and use of a chipper) adjacent to both sides of this 7-mile long, unpaved, county-maintained road. Chipped material will be blown back onto treatment areas in order to create a protective cover. A total of 254 acres will be completed along Tramway Road. Also included as proposed project work is the development of a 1-mile long, 300-foot wide (36-acre) cross-country fuel treatment spur route that will be developed using mechanical treatments (i.e., in place mastication of small trees and brush) within a shallow draw located between Tramway Road and the down slope Little Giant Mill Road. In addition to the hand and mechanical fuel treatments described above, appropriate herbicides registered for use within brush and forest stands will be applied along Tramway Road and the spur treatment areas once initial cutting, chipping, and mastication work has been completed.

The entire project area and all proposed activities were evaluated in the Tramway Road/A-Line Road/F-Line Road/Road-90A Shaded Fuel Break Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (SCH# 2014112036). All mitigation measures specified in the IS/MND to minimize impacts related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, hazards and hazardous materials, and transportation and traffic will be implemented by RCDTC and through contractual obligations with its contractor, SPI, and any subcontractors hired by SPI. SNC has reviewed the IS/MND prepared by RCDTC and has independently determined that the project would not result in significant adverse environmental impacts.

*Continued on next page*



This is to advise that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has approved the above  
( Lead Agency or  Responsible Agency)  
described project on March 7, 2019 and has made the following determinations regarding the  
above (date)  
described project.

1. The project **will not** have a significant effect on the environment
2. A Negative Declaration **was** prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA
3. Mitigation measures **were** a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan **was** adopted for this project
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted for this project.
6. Findings **were** made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Negative Declaration and record of project approval is available to the General Public at:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy, 11521 Blocker Drive Suite 205, Auburn, CA 95603

Signature (Public Agency): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_