

Background

As part of the ongoing fund development effort, the SNC recently supported preparation and submission of four major grant applications for partners in the Region:

1. \$134,225 for the North Fork Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Project (applicant: Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council);
2. \$146,711 for the Wilseyville CHP Project (applicant: Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions, Inc.);
3. \$715,000 for the Sierra Investment, Enhancement, Restoration, and Renewal Accelerator (SIERRA) Jobs and Innovation Accelerator project (applicant: Sierra Institute for Environment and Community); and
4. \$823,019 to complete an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the Yosemite-Mariposa Region (applicant: Mariposa Resource Conservation District).

Current Status

We are pleased to report that the North Fork CHP project was selected for funding by the Woody Biomass Utilization Grant (WBUG) program administered through the U.S. Forest Service. The North Fork CHP project application sought \$134,225 to complete design and engineering services leading to the construction of a small, community-scale bioenergy facility at the North Fork Mill Site. This project would act as a model for other communities adjacent to the Region's national forests and would promote a network of distributed bioenergy facilities that bring environmental, economic, and social benefits to the Sierra Nevada. While the SNC provided support through its contract with The Grant Farm to develop the application, the SNC will not play an active role in the implementation of this project.

The Yosemite-Mariposa Region IRWMP application has been recommended for funding by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the amount of \$823,019. While staff considers it unlikely that significant changes will be made to the recommendations, they will not be finalized until after DWR's public review and comment process has concluded. DWR anticipates authorizing grants by the end of September 2012.

SNC provided grant writing and program development assistance to help improve the current IRWMP application because the Yosemite-Mariposa Region's previous efforts to obtain IRWMP funding have not been successful. If authorized, this grant would provide funding for a comprehensive plan that addresses all water resources in the Yosemite-Mariposa Region, as well as issues regarding watershed health. The IRWMP is a prerequisite to obtaining many grants for water and watershed projects, so this success would have the potential to leverage many additional dollars for the Region. The SNC would not play an active role in the implementation of the project.

Unfortunately, the Wilseyville CHP WBUG application and the Sierra Investment, Enhancement, Restoration, and Renewal Accelerator (SIERRA) Jobs and Innovation Accelerator project application were not successful.

Next Steps

The SNC will track DWR's IRWMP authorization process, continue to distribute funding information to stakeholders throughout the Region, and actively seek opportunities to support partners in projects that further SNC program goals and objectives.

Recommendation

This is an informational item only; no formal action is needed by the Board at this time, although Boardmembers are encouraged to share their thoughts and comments.