Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Forest Health Grant Program
SNC Project Number 1312

SNC ID Number: 1312
Applicant: Butte County Resource Conservation District
Project Title: Concow Resilience Project: Implementation
SNC Subregion: North Central
County: Butte
Funding Amount Requested: $2,127,857
Funding Amount Recommended: $2,127,857
Total Project Cost: $2,573,272
Funding Authority: State of California Budget Act of 2020

Project Scope / Description

The Concow Resilience Project is in the Wildland Urban Interface of Butte County where dense conifer forest burned at high severity in the 2018 Camp Fire, resulting in almost 100 percent forest loss. The project is located on United States Forest Service (USFS) lands that surround the rural community of Concow, 25 miles north of Oroville. Submitted by the Butte County Resource Conservation District (BCRCD), the project will restore 784 acres of severely burned Sierra foothill forestland using methods that will make future fire behavior less severe and result in a climate-resilient, carbon-stable woodland.

Project collaborators seek to actively manage the project area toward open, oak-dominated woodlands, conditions that are consistent with the presettlement landscape in addition to being drought- and fire-resilient. The full project consists of seven units arranged across the landscape to create a resilient mosaic and tie into existing fuel reduction and prescribed fire projects. The project consists of four treatment types: oak/hardwood release (387 acres), oak-pine savannah (106 acres), assisted migration experimental plots (50 acres – funded separately through Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSWRS)), and founder stand pyrosilviculture (241 acres). The goals of the project are: 1) to break up unnaturally large patches of continuous brush, prevent large-scale type conversion from forestland to brushland, and instead create an open, hardwood dominated woodland adapted to the anticipated future climate; 2) plant small numbers of the most drought- and climate-resilient native conifers (e.g., ponderosa pines); 3) pilot the feasibility of “assisted migration” by planting experimental plots of native tree seeds sourced from hotter and drier subregions of California (funded by PSWRS); 4) plant native grasses as needed to develop a fuel

type/vegetation community consistent with maintenance via low-intensity fire; and 5) solicit and incorporate Maidu traditional knowledge during project implementation. The project is part of the Upper Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and is philosophically and biologically linked to BCRCD's and partners' post-Camp Fire strategy of climate-resilient reforestation.

The project is strategically tied into other local forest health projects such as Sierra Pacific Industries' V-Line fuelbreak, the Crain Ridge fuelbreak, the planned Concow Pyrodiversity Project (where environmental analysis and compliance is currently being supported by Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) project #929), Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) planned climate-resilient reforestation initiative on Jordan Hill, south of Concow, and BCRCD's Emergency Forest Restoration Project technical assistance to private landowners affected by the Camp Fire. The Concow Resilience Project's vegetation management has been planned to fit in and around the Concow Pyrodiversity Project's 3,000+ acres.

The BCRCD is an independent special district with extensive fuels reduction and post-fire restoration project experience. The BCRCD has secured and managed numerous large post-fire restoration grants, completed California Environmental Quality Act/National Environmental Policy Act on the Concow Resilience Project, and has a master stewardship agreement with the Plumas National Forest, the project's land manager.

The project is a partnership between the Plumas National Forest, BCRCD, PSWRS, American Forests, and Konkow Valley Cultural Preservation LLC, and was developed using SNC planning grant #929. Consultations with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, local fire safe councils, the Butte County Fire Safe Council, and local residents have also been part of the planning process. The project is part of an overarching climate-resilient reforestation framework applied across private and public lands by collaborators including BLM and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and through BCRCD's technical assistance outreach to private landowners. The PSWRS and American Forests will provide a total of about $125,513 to fund the research plots. The USFS will contribute about $319,900 in pile burning and in-kind support.

The SNC Strategic Plan 2019-2024 recognizes climate change "will require innovative, science-based approaches to address changes in plant and animal communities," a challenge this project tackles by implementing an assisted migration project to restore severely burned forests so they are more climate-resilient in a warmer and drier future. The project supports California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan Goal of increasing the pace and scale of forest health treatments by allowing a local Resource Conservation District, using a shared stewardship agreement, to treat federal acres which may otherwise burn repeatedly and remain brushfields. Additionally, Konkow Valley Cultural Preservation Association's monitoring of cultural botanical resources will improve opportunities for future cultural fire and cultural gathering in the restored woodland. Most of the project area drains to Lake Concow, the source of drinking water

for the 10,000 people served by the Thermalito Water and Sewer District, and all of the project area drains to Lake Oroville, the source of drinking and irrigation water for 23,000,000 Californians as part of the State Water Project.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Progress reports	Every 6 months
Site prep for 156 acres of restoration planting	Fall 2021 – Early 2022
Planting on 156 acres: 106 acres oak-pine savannah and 50 acres of pyrosilvicultural founder stands followed by manual shrub control and oak release (multiple entries)	Spring 2022 – Fall 2024
Oak release and improvement on 578 acres (multiple entries) including mastication, hand-cut-piling, selective chemical control, bunchgrass planting	Summer 2022 – Summer 2024
Tribal monitoring	Ongoing thru December 2024
Estimated Project Completion Date	**December 2024**

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project management, Forester, Assistant	$157,375
Implementation – site prep, mastication, planting, oak release, hand cutting, native grasses, etc.	$1,644,405
Tribal monitoring	$48,530
Administrative costs	$277,547
Total	**$2,127,857**

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Plumas National Forest - Feather River District Ranger
- Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians
- American Forests
- Butte County Fire Safe Council
- Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee
- University of California, Davis – Department of Plant Sciences
- Sierra Forest Legacy
- Wildlife Conservation Board

Opposition:

- None received

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