

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Forest Health Grant Program SNC Project Number 1314

SNC ID Number: 1314

Applicant: Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

Project Title: Sierra Brooks – Smithneck Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Project

SNC Subregion: North Central

County: Sierra

Funding Amount Requested: \$1,075,059

Funding Amount Recommended: \$1,075,059

Total Project Cost: \$1,138,309

Funding Authority: State of California Budget Act of 2020

Project Scope / Description

Submitted by the Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD), the Sierra Brooks – Smithneck Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Project (Project) is in Sierra County, one mile southeast of the community of Loyalton on 723 acres of state and Tahoe National Forest lands. The Tahoe National Forest portion consists of 558 acres and the Smithneck Wildlife Management Area, managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), adds an additional 165 acres. The Project area is adjacent to the Sierra Brooks Subdivision, which is composed of approximately 200 single family homes and 400 private parcels. The primary purpose of the Project is to improve forest health, increase forest resiliency, reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire adjacent to the community and provide for future opportunities to manage fuels using prescribed fire.

The Project site is predominately ponderosa pine with heavy fuel loading, dense brush, and forest stand conditions that are highly susceptible to high-intensity wildfire. The primary treatment method will be mechanical mastication in the Wildland Urban Interface. The long-term goal of the Project is to return the landscape to a condition within the range of natural variability, allowing for prescribed underburns that will maintain healthy forest conditions. The implementation of proposed treatments will benefit wildlife, including critical winter range for the Truckee-Loyalton Deer Herd; increase forest resilience and resistance to destructive wildfire, disease, and insect infestation; and protect the community of and water supply for Sierra Brooks. Treatments were identified as high priorities for fuels reduction in the Sierra County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, by the Sierraville Ranger District and the Sierra

Brooks Firewise Community. The Project furthers the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the Upper Feather River Watershed and meets the goals of improving local water retention and improving water quality.

The Project will complement existing adjacent forest health and fuels reduction projects which have recently been completed by private landowners. Several minor projects have been executed within the last five years and include manual fuel treatments along the Forest Service 04 Road, mastication and manual thinning in the Loyalton Pines Subdivision, and thinning/brush abatement within the Sierra Brooks Subdivision.

The SVRCD has been conducting ecosystem restoration and providing forest health assistance with landowners in Sierra County for over 25 years. They have successfully completed several SNC-funded projects including Carmen Creek Watershed Ecosystem Health improvement Project, (project #509) and several agricultural lands improvement projects (projects #94, #666, and #699) funded by Proposition 84.

The primary Project partners are the Tahoe National Forest's Sierraville Ranger District, providing \$28,750 of in-kind contributions and the CDFW, providing \$34,500 of in-kind support. Additional collaborators include the County of Sierra and University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension (Sierra and Plumas counties). The Project is a high priority for the Sierra County Fire Department, Sierra Brooks Homeowners Association, Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council, Sierra County Board of Supervisors, United States Forest Service Wildlife Forum, and the Sierra County Fire Commissioner.

Consistent with the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program and the California Budget Act of 2020, the Project will increase the pace and scale of science-based, ecological restoration to reduce the potential for high-intensity wildfire and degradation of forest ecosystems. Smithneck Creek contributes to the municipal water supply for the disadvantaged communities of Sierra Brooks and Loyalton and contains two well sites for domestic water, as well as pumphouses and storage tanks. The watershed also contributes to the Middle Fork Feather River and the State Water Project, which delivers water to over 25 million Californians.

Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Deliverables	Timeline
Progress reports	Every 6 months
Pre-project monitoring	August 2021
Project area delineation	August 2021
Communication/outreach	August 2021 – September 2024
Contractor bids	September – October 2021
Implementation – mastication	October 2021 – October 2023
Post-project monitoring	June – September 2024
Estimated Project Completion Date	December 30, 2024

Project Costs

Project Costs	SNC Funding
Project and fiscal management	\$28,500
Implementation - mastication	\$957,975
Travel	\$3,800
Publications, printing, reporting	\$3,500
Meetings	\$1,650
Administrative costs	\$79,634
Total	\$1,075,059

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- Tahoe National Forest, Sierraville Ranger District
- Sierra County Board of Supervisors
- Sierra County Fire Protection District #1
- Sierra Brooks Firewise Committee

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