

Exhibit A

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Forest Health Grant Program SNC Project Number 1337

SNC ID Number: 1337

Applicant: Placer County Water Agency

Project Title: Middle Fork American River Watershed Restoration Project

SNC Subregion: Central

County: Placer

Funding Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

Funding Amount Recommended: \$1,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$2,000,000

Funding Authority: State of California Budget Act of 2020

Project Scope / Description

Through participation in the French Meadows Partnership, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) is partnering with Placer County and the American River Ranger District (ARRD) to implement the Middle Fork American River Watershed Restoration Project (Project) in Placer County. This Project will implement 494 acres of forest treatments on land managed by the ARRD adjacent to French Meadows Reservoir and in the upper Middle Fork American River watershed above it. This Project expands upon several thousand acres of forest treatments that have already been completed with grants through the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI) as well as other funding. The Project will help protect critical water infrastructure and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the upper watershed.

This Project will restore 494 acres of forest within the greater French Meadows Restoration Project to an ecological condition that can support naturally occurring fires, while enhancing the region's water supply and habitat for critical species by improving forest structure. There are three steps to the treatment plan for this acreage: 1) Within the Project area, a variety of tree sizes between 10 and 30 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) (focusing on trees in the 10 to 24 inch range) will be harvested using guidance from General Technical Report 220 to promote tree species and spacing heterogeneity. Trees suitable for saw logs will be processed at the landings for loading and hauling under separate contract. Slash that is not suitable for lumber will be burned at the landings or chipped and used for biomass energy. 2) Once the above treatment is completed, approximately 432 of the 494 acres will receive mechanical thinning of trees between 4 and 10 inches DBH through mastication or chipping. 3) Approximately 330

acres in this area will receive further mastication of brush and small trees under 4 inches. It is estimated that total treatment will cost about \$4,100 per acre (\$2 million), of which this Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grant will cover half the cost. The other half of the cost will derive from net timber revenues and other funding contributions by the partners.

This Project is a continuation of the ongoing 28,000-acre French Meadows Restoration Project, which to date, has completed treatments on 3,300 acres of federal land and 1,100 acres of adjacent private land. The SNC has provided significant investment into the greater project. The SNC grants include \$100,000 toward National Environmental Policy Act planning, \$1 million for biomass removal, and \$942,000 for prescribed fire. In addition, SNC is the grantee on behalf of the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative and administers a \$3.5 million California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection grant for forest restoration. The SNC also provided a \$500,000 grant to the American River Conservancy for their American Headwaters forest restoration project, which is part of the overall French Meadows Project.

Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) has been a partner in the Project from the start and will be working directly with Placer County to manage this grant. Placer County has been providing leadership and management of the French Meadows Project since its inception. Tahoe National Forest is also one of the founding partners in the French Meadows Project.

Partners on the French Meadows Project include the Tahoe National Forest, Placer County, PCWA, The Nature Conservancy, and the American River Conservancy. The total estimated cost for this Middle Fork American River Watershed Restoration Project is \$2 million. Match funding to complete the 494 acres of treatments include an estimated \$400,000 from timber sales, \$300,000 from the Middle Fork Project Financing Authority (a joint Placer County/PCWA entity), and \$300,000 from Tahoe National Forest.

The French Meadows Project is one of the cornerstones of the TCSI and the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program. The use of a Partnership approach to expand the capacity of the Forest Service to restore the National Forest at a landscape level has provided a model of successfully increasing pace and scale of forest restoration and has secured many millions of dollars of leveraged funding. The Project's focus on improving the upper headwaters of the Middle Fork American River is an effort to protect vital water and power infrastructure of Placer County and PCWA, including French Meadows Reservoir and the Middle Fork Project. These assets provide water for Placer County and Folsom Lake. The water and power provided by the Middle Fork American River and the Middle Fork projects service downstream users far beyond the Sierra Nevada.

Project Schedule

| Project Tasks and Deliverables | Timeline |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Project management and reporting | August 2021 – November 2022 |
| Forest treatments | September 2021 – November 2022 |
| Estimated Project Completion Date | November 2022 |

Project Costs

| Project Costs | SNC Funding |
|--|--------------------|
| Thinning of trees from 10"-30" DBH on 494 acres | \$393,000 |
| Thinning of trees from 4"-10" DBH on 432 acres | \$344,000 |
| Thinning and mastication of trees under 4" diameter and brush on 330 acres | \$263,000 |
| Administrative costs | \$0 |
| Total | \$1,000,000 |

Project Letters of Support or Opposition

Support:

- None received. This is a project of the French Meadows Partnership with a broad range of partner support.

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