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Increasing Pace and Scale: Taking Critical RCD Projects to Implementation

Responding to the statewide unprecedented wildfire events, California's resource conservation districts work with communities to complete critical fire resilience and reduction work to decrease the severity and impacts of wildfire.

SACRAMENTO, CA, June 21, 2022 – The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) announced the recent award of grants to 10 resource conservation districts (RCDs) located throughout California to fund forest fuel reduction and fire readiness projects.

The size and intensity of California wildfires have increased in recent years. In 2021, over 2.5 million acres of California burned, destroying over 3,500 structures. Research has demonstrated the effectiveness of fuel reduction treatments in increasing the resilience and resistance of landscapes. In June 2022, CAL FIRE awarded CARCD a 4 million Wildfire Resilience Block Grant to provide sub-grants to RCDs through a non-competitive process. RCDs will use the grants to complete technical assistance to landowners to develop forest management plans, burn plans, and Fire Risk Evaluations, along with the creation and implementation of other fuel reduction projects.

The project utilizes and supports the unique talents of RCDs, who are well integrated into their communities, while removing key barriers, including staffing. RCDs will be supported in time and money to create forest management plans, create prescribed burn associations, implement prepared fuel-reduction projects, and deliver technical assistance and outreach to landowners to develop forest health projects. This project provides for Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) to be on retainer, who will enable RCDs to meet the high-quality standards of Forest Management Plans and develop projects at a higher capacity. This project is estimated to reach 295 forest landowners and result in technical assistance and/or implementation on approximately 17,110 acres of land.

“As fire does not recognize property lines, landowners play a crucial role in collectively reducing California’s wildfire threat,” said Karen Buhr of CARCD. “This project will decrease the financial and logistical barriers that RCDs face in their forest health work. It will also help RCDs support private landowners in their efforts to live with wildfire. We’re excited to see this program increase the pace and scale at which RCDs are able to implement community-based forest health projects.”

The RCD recipients of the grant are the **Butte County RCD, Contra Costa RCD, Humboldt County RCD, Mariposa RCD, RCD of Greater San Diego County, San Mateo RCD, RCD of Santa Cruz County, Sierra RCD, Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD, and Western Shasta RCD**. Recipients include those RCDs who helped develop the block grant with CARCD.

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts is a 501c3 non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to serving as a strong advocate, technical resource, and partner to the state’s 95 Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs). RCDs make conservation happen on-the-ground by partnering with local communities on a voluntary basis to care for California’s land, water, soil, and other natural resources.

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