



**Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority Agenda**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes

Members of the Board

City of Bishop Councilmember Stephen Muchovej - Chair,
Town of Mammoth Lakes Mayor Chris Bubser - Vice Chair , Inyo County Supervisor Jeff Griffiths,
Inyo County Supervisor Trina Orrill, Mono County Supervisor Lynda Salcido,
Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember John Wentworth,
City of Bishop Councilmember Karen Schwartz, Mono County Supervisor Paul McFarland

NOTE: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Assistant Clerk at (760) 965-3615. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 13.102-35.104 ADA Title II)

NOTE: Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Town Offices located at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230 during normal business hours. Such documents are also available on the ESCOG website at www.escog.ca.gov subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

NOTE: You may watch this meeting on the Town of Mammoth Lakes' (TOML) website at <https://pub-townofmammothlakes.escribemeetings.com/?Year=2025>, via Zoom or on TOML's local government cable channel 18. Public comments may be submitted to the ESCOG Clerk at clerk@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov before and during the meeting or may be made via Zoom or in person.

Remote participation for members of the public is provided for convenience only. In the event that the remote participation connection malfunctions for any reason, the members of the Board reserve the right to conduct the meeting without remote access.

ZOOM INFORMATION

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

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Or join by phone:

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***To raise your hand press *9, To Unmute/Mute press *6 Webinar ID: 924 2142 7651**

International numbers available: <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/92421427651>

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Notice to the Public: This time is set aside to receive public comment on matters not calendared on the agenda. When recognized by the Chair, please state your name and address for the record and please limit your comments to three minutes. Under California law the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board is prohibited from generally discussing or taking action on items not included in the agenda; however, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board may briefly respond to comments or questions from members of the public. Therefore, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board will listen to all public comment but will not generally discuss the matter or take action on it.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 30, 2025

4.2 Receive ESCOG Wildfire Coordinator Report

4.3 Receive Inyo Mono Broadband Coalition Coordinator Report

5. POLICY MATTERS

5.1 Receive a Presentation from Christiana Darlington, California Law Empowering Renewable Energy, regarding Opportunities for Funding to Support Biomass Utilization through JPA Led Initiatives

5.2 Receive a Presentation from Nick Buckmaster, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Supervisor regarding Golden Mussels

5.3 Approve Fiscal Year 2025-2026 ESCOG Budget

5.4 Approve Modification to Collection Agreement 22-CO-11050400-003 Planning Support for the Eastern Sierra Communities and Climate Resilience Project between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the United States Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service Inyo National Forest

5.5 1) Establish Ad Hoc Committees for Consultants and Contracts for each of the Following Projects:

a) Project Coordinator – Regional Sustainable Recreation Capacity Incubator and Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis Project

b) Strategic Planning Facilitation Services for Regional Recreation Collaborative

c) Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis

d) Inyo Mono County Activation Plan for Advancing Agricultural and Economic Diversification

2) Authorize the Executive Director to Enter into Contracts with Selected Contractors

5.6 Update on Regional Wildfire Coordinator Activities

5.7 Executive Director Update Report

6. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS

Informational reports from Member Agency representatives on committees, commissions, and organizations; general reports on Board Member activities

7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8. ADJOURNMENT

The ESCOG will adjourn to the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on August 27, 2025.



Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) - Joint Powers Authority (JPA)

Minutes of Special Meeting

April 30, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

**Dual Locations: Bishop Council Chambers and Mammoth Lakes Council
Chambers**

Bishop Council Chambers 377 West Line Street, Bishop, CA 93514

**Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers 437 Old Mammoth Rd., Ste Z Mammoth
Lakes, CA 93546**

Members Present: Chair Stephen Muchovej, Vice Chair Chris Bubser, Board
Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board
Member John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz,
Board Member Paul McFarland

Members Absent: Board Member Trina Orrill

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Stephen Muchovej called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. in the Bishop Council Chambers at 377 West Line Street, Bishop, CA. Vice Chair Chris Bubser and Board Member Lynda Salcido attended the meeting from the Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes, CA.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Karen Schwartz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments given at this time.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Paul McFarland requested that Item 4.4 be pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Moved by Board Member John Wentworth
Seconded by Board Member Jeff Griffiths

Approve the Consent Agenda.

For (7): Chair Stephen Muchovej, Vice Chair Chris Bubser, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Paul McFarland

Absent (1): Board Member Trina Orrill

Carried (7 to 0)

4.1 Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 26, 2025

4.2 Approve the Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium 2024-2025 Audit

4.3 Receive the Inyo Mono Broadband Consortium Activities Report

4.4 Receive the ESCOG Wildfire Coordinator Report

Board Member Paul McFarland requested that this item be pulled from consent for further discussion.

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

Inyo County County Administrative Officer Nate Greenberg and Wildfire Preparedness Coordinator Kristen Pfeiler provided additional information.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala, Inyo County staff, and members of the Board.

5. POLICY MATTERS

5.1 Receive a Presentation on the Final Towns-to-Trails Feasibility Analysis

Executive Director Elaine Kabala introduced the item and reported that a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption had been filed for this project.

Alta Planning + Design, Inc. Senior Design Associate Tim Bevins outlined the information in the Town to Trails presentation and the Eastern Sierra Town to Trails Feasibility Study for Inyo, Alpine, and Mono Counties.

Vice Chair Chris Bubser read a comment she had received from Lynn Boulton stating that there were errors on the map that should be corrected

before it is published, including some campgrounds that do not exist and the Burger's Retreat.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala, Mr. Bevins, and members of the Board.

Staff was given direction to remove the narrative description in Appendix 1 in the Towns to Trails Feasibility Study.

5.2 Receive a Presentation on Eastern Sierra Community Housing Silver Peaks Affordable Housing Project and Approve a Letter of Support for the Silver Peaks Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Application

Eastern Sierra Community Housing Executive Director Patricia Robertson outlined the information in the Silver Peaks Presentation.

There was discussion between Ms. Robertson, Executive Director Elaine Kabala, and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member Jeff Griffiths

Seconded by Board Member Karen Schwartz

Approve the Letter of Support for the Silver Peaks Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Application.

For (7): Chair Stephen Muchovej, Vice Chair Chris Bubser, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Paul McFarland

Absent (1): Board Member Trina Orrill

Carried (7 to 0)

5.3 1) Approve Subaward Agreements between the Sierra Business Council and the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments for Sierra Jobs First Catalyst Funding Awards and Authorize the Executive Director to Negotiate and Execute the Agreements:

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member John Wentworth
Seconded by Board Member Paul McFarland

Approve the following Subaward Agreements between the Sierra Business Council and the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments for Sierra Jobs First Catalyst Funding Awards and Authorize the Executive Director to Negotiate and Execute the Agreements: a) Subaward Agreement No. SBC-2025202 “Business Resource Center Catalyst Program”, b) Subaward Agreement No. SBC-2025203 “Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis”, c) Subaward Agreement No. SBC2025204 “Eastern Sierra Regional Collaborative Capacity Incubator”. Authorize the Executive Director to Prepare and Issue Requests for Proposals for Consultants and Contractors to Execute the Scope of Work for the Subaward Agreements.

For (7): Chair Stephen Muchovej, Vice Chair Chris Bubser, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Paul McFarland

Absent (1): Board Member Trina Orrill

Carried (7 to 0)

5.4 Approve the Agreement Between the County of Inyo and the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments for the Provision of Project Management, GIS, and Grant Administration Services

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

Inyo County County Administrator Nate Greenberg provided additional information and discussed the capacity within the County for this project.

Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Town Manager Rob Patterson provided additional information about how the administrative roles in the region could support this project within their agencies and acknowledged the work that had been done so far.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Patterson, and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member Jeff Griffiths
Seconded by Board Member Paul McFarland

Approve the Agreement Between the County of Inyo and the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments for the Provision of Project Management, Geographic Information System (GIS), and Grant Administration Services.

For (7): Chair Stephen Muchovej, Vice Chair Chris Bubser, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Paul McFarland

Absent (1): Board Member Trina Orrill

Carried (7 to 0)

5.5 Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the Sierra Business Council Regarding Implementation of the Sierra Jobs First Business Catalyst Program

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member Paul McFarland
Seconded by Board Member Jeff Griffiths

Approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the Sierra Business Council Regarding Implementation of the Sierra Jobs First Business Catalyst Program as amended to include the term to be concurrent to the Sierra Jobs First Funding Opportunity on August 31, 2026.

For (7): Chair Stephen Muchovej, Vice Chair Chris Bubser, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Lynda Salcido, Board Member John Wentworth, Board Member Karen Schwartz, and Board Member Paul McFarland

Absent (1): Board Member Trina Orrill

Carried (7 to 0)

5.6 Executive Director Update Report

Executive Director Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report. Ms. Kabala added that as part of the work that the ESCOG was doing in support of wildfire capacity expansion was to participate in

conversations with the Town of Mammoth Lakes and all the partners in Mono County around the Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resiliency Project (ESCCRP) including a discussion on planning for a Biomass facility in the Eastern Sierra, and reported that an opportunity came up yesterday with an organization that had a specialty in Biomass facility planning for forest service feedstock aggregation through California Law Empowering Renewable Energy (CLERE) which had some funding to bring to the Eastern Sierra to assist in this process.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

6. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS

This item was taken out of order.

Board Member Jeff Griffiths reported that he had met with some of Inyo County's tribal partners and said that the Head Start Program was being completely eliminated, the Tribal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) employees had been laid off, said that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was gone, and voiced concern over how Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA) could continue. Mr. Griffiths said that he had met with Governor Newsom on Friday, and said that funding would now be more local and regional, making ESCOG more valuable.

Board Member Jeff Griffiths left the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Board Member Lynda Salcido reported that she attended the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Conference last weekend and provided an update on the topics and cuts that had been discussed. Ms. Salcido said that the Eastern Sierra was in better condition financially, and also as it relates to homelessness, than many other counties across the State and reported that there was a decision yesterday for a \$4B payout in the Los Angeles County lawsuit.

Vice Chair Chris Bubser announced that there was a groundbreaking ceremony at 3:00 p.m. today for the Southern Mono Healthcare District in Mammoth and reported that the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Office of Outdoor Recreation (OOR) and Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District (MLFPD) Wildfire Task Force had done a lot of work on fire mitigation within the Town's boundaries.

Board Member John Wentworth said that it had become apparent to the Town that they would have to put money into wildfire mitigation. Mr. Wentworth reported that there was an Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership

(ESSRP) meeting coming up on Monday and said that he thought it would be good for the members of the Board to attend it.

Board Member Paul McFarland reported that the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps program had been eliminated recently which impacted several organizations throughout Inyo and Mono Counties. Mr. McFarland said that he had met with several others at the Small Business Resources Center to discuss the potential of creating a Community Foundation for Inyo and Mono Counties with the goal of building resiliency within the region, and reported that Mono County Sheriff Ingrid Braun attended the last Mono County Board of Supervisors meeting and presented a study on dispatch improvements and discussed the potential creation of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) for the region to share dispatch resources, employ certified medical dispatchers, and for asset training.

Board Member Karen Schwartz reported that the City of Bishop was looking to build a new wastewater treatment plant, combining services with the Eastern Sierra Community Services District and bringing the Tribe into the Bishop Area Wastewater Authority (BAWA). Ms. Schwartz said that they had recently received an engineering report outlining various types of treatment plants and recommendations.

Chair Stephen Muchovej reported that the Local Transportation Commission (LTC) for Inyo County had changed their priorities to improve local streets.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items requested.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on June 25,2025.

Angela Plaisted, Assistant Clerk



Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) Joint Powers Authority Agenda

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority
From: Kristen Pfeiler, ESCOG staff
Subject: Wildfire Coordinator Report
Meeting date: June 25, 2025
Attachments: A) Wildfire Update Presentation

Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program:

Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator:

- Staff is working to build capacity to support the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator and strengthen relationships with federal and NGO partners leveraging Inyo National Forest (INF) Liaison Funding. This includes:
 - Meeting monthly with INF to identify project priorities and gaps/solutions to implementation.
 - Continuing to develop a workplan for the INF Interagency Liaison scope of work.
 - Attending ESSRP meetings on 5/5/25 and 6/2/25.
 - Developing a strategy around how to organize recreation partners around priorities and functions, including:
 - Attending the Recreation Meet and Greet hosted by Mono County on 5/21/25.
 - Creating an initial draft of a recreation partner database.
 - Generating interview questions for SWOT-style analysis for partners.
- Staff met with multiple agencies and local organizations to provide wildfire mitigation education, implement Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) priorities, plan the formation of the Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance (ESWA), and seek collaborative efficiencies/solutions across the region.
 - Staff is part of the core planning team for the Eastern Sierra Riparian Resilience Working Group. Meetings were held on 5/22/25 and 6/10/25.
 - Staff is part of the core planning team for the Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance. Meetings were held weekly to plan convenings.
- Staff attended Cerro Coso Workforce Summit on 5/2/25 and Employer Internship Information Session on 5/14/25.
- Staff attended Wildfire Resilience Month Webinar by Yana Valachovic, UC Cooperative Extension Fire Advisor, titled "Lessons Learned from Los Angeles" on 5/8/25.

- Staff was awarded the 2025 CALFIRE County Coordinator grant (\$151,500 available from May 2025-June 2026) and attended the grant award webinar on 6/4/25. Subaward agreement was approved by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors on 6/10/25.
- Staff co-hosted a virtual Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance meeting on 5/1/25 and an in-person meeting in Bishop on 6/5/25.
- Staff attended the CA Wildfire Taskforce Regional Meeting virtually on 6/6/25.

California Jobs First Initiative:

- Staff attended project kickoff meetings with Recreation sector coordinator, Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access, on 5/20/25 and 5/22/25.



Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) Joint Powers Authority Agenda

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority
From: Scott Armstrong, Regional Broadband Coordinator
Subject: Informational Broadband Update
Meeting date: June 25, 2025
Prepared on: June 18, 2025

Attachments: none

The following report provides information and updates associated with regional broadband activities. I would be happy to discuss these topics or any other broadband-related topics in more detail at your convenience.

General Broadband Information:

The Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium (IMBC) website (<https://ConnectedEasternSierra.net/>) includes broadband-related information for residents, businesses, and Internet Service providers in our region. The site also includes a variety of tools, such as a broadband needs estimator, *updated speed tests*, service issue reporting options, and several broadband-related maps.

Grants Information:

FFA Round 2 Grant, Limited Opportunity (Construction):

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) announced a Round 2 for the Last-Mile Federal Funding Account (FFA) grant on April 2. This grant opportunity is limited to projects in the 6 counties in which no Federal Funding Account grants were awarded. Those six counties include *Inyo*, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Monterey and Trinity Counties.

The application window opened April 15, and after some issues with the CPUC Broadband Grant Portal, the application window closed on June 2. Stimulus Technologies, Golden State Connect

Authority and Frontier submitted a total of 13 applications. Public information on the projects hasn't yet been made public in the CPUC Broadband Portal.

No other applications submitted during the initial FFA application round will be evaluated or awarded.

- FFA Awards and Recommendations: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/broadband-implementation-for-california/last-mile-federal-funding-account/federal-funding-account-awards>
- CPU Broadband Portal: <https://broadbandportal.cpuc.ca.gov/>
- CPUC FFA Awards Dashboard: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/cpuc.broadbandsupport/viz/FederalFundingAccountAwardsDashboard/FFADashboardOriginal>

BEAD (Construction):

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program is a Federal broadband construction grant program that requires earth-based, last-mile infrastructure to deliver 100Mbps/20Mbps service to all unserved locations.

The CPUC is administering the implementation of the State's BEAD construction grant program, and the State is required to have project applications for all unserved locations in its Final Proposal to the NTIA late this fall. The BEAD application window closed May 9, 2025, and applications were submitted for projects in both Mono and Inyo Counties. Based on conversations with our regional provider, applications were submitted for all unserved locations in Inyo County, and for the two northernmost Census Block Groups in Mono County.

The NTIA issued a policy update to the BEAD program on June 6, 2025, which requires states to revise their BEAD subgrantee selection process. This notice modifies the technologies allowed for funding as well as the scoring rubric for evaluating applications. The emphasis on fiber-optic last-mile infrastructure is removed, the requirements for affordable plans and pricing models are removed, weighted or preferential scoring for projects connecting to public networks is not allowed, approval for any non-deployment costs has been rescinded, and licensed fixed wireless, unlicensed fixed wireless, and low-earth-orbit satellite are to be evaluated as equivalent to fiber-optic service.

- Policy update notice: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/BEAD_Restructuring_Policy_Notice

Every state will be required to conduct at least one additional subgrantee selection round using the new technology-neutral rules and scoring rubric. Additionally, the NTIA rescinded all Final Proposal approvals in other states that occurred prior to the publication of the policy update notice and will require them to reevaluate the applications based on the updated guidance.

The CPUC stated that they are "currently evaluating the new requirements and will provide additional updates when available."

USDA BTA 2023 (Technical Assistance only, no construction):

The USDA Broadband Technical Assistance network-design project for Hammil (Mono County) is in the contract preparation stage, and the contract work for the network-design in Furnace Creek (Inyo County) is underway.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

None.

LEGAL REVIEW:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

None, informational only.

Forest Residue Assessment and Market Enhancement

Christiana Darlington

| christiana@clereinc.net

| June 25th, 2025

California's Wildfire Resilience Strategy: 2025 Key Deliverables

Since 2021, Task Force agencies have invested nearly \$6 billion in forest health and wildfire resilience projects, increased treatments to more than 700,000 acres annually (including doubling prescribed fire acreage), streamlined project approvals, and invested over \$140 million in building capacity for local and regional collaborative efforts.

The 2025 Key Deliverables outline the highest priority actions underway this year to achieve the commitments in the 2021 Action Plan while advancing key new initiatives that will feature in the forthcoming Action Plan update later this year.



- Draft governance structures, entity action plans, long-term objectives, feedstock acquisition strategies, and financing models.
- Create foundational documents for new public entities/PPPs to mobilize biomass.
- Modify existing entity documents to enable biomass mobilization for member agencies.
- Develop insurance frameworks for reliable long-term biomass supply contracts.
- Conduct Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone studies evaluating business viability, workforce readiness, and infrastructure needs.
- Enable counties, cities, water/fire districts, and conservation groups to drive regional biomass projects.
- Establish long-term financing mechanisms for public entities.
- Support enhancements to OPR's Digital Marketplace for forest biomass transactions.

Biomass Utilization Workshop outcomes in other regions

Several workshops across Northern California have been held, with several of the existing JPA and new JPA entities determining that working together is a good thing for all involved.



One important take away from the workshop was this program should leverage existing activities like Jobs First and existing relationships with the US Forest service; to ensure efforts are not duplicated.



Deepening Federal Partnerships:

Strengthening working relationships with federal partners, including utilizing Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreements to facilitate cross-boundary forest management and biomass removal



Business Support:

Developing mechanisms to support existing and new businesses in the biomass sector, with particular emphasis on establishing contract guarantee funds for operators in this space



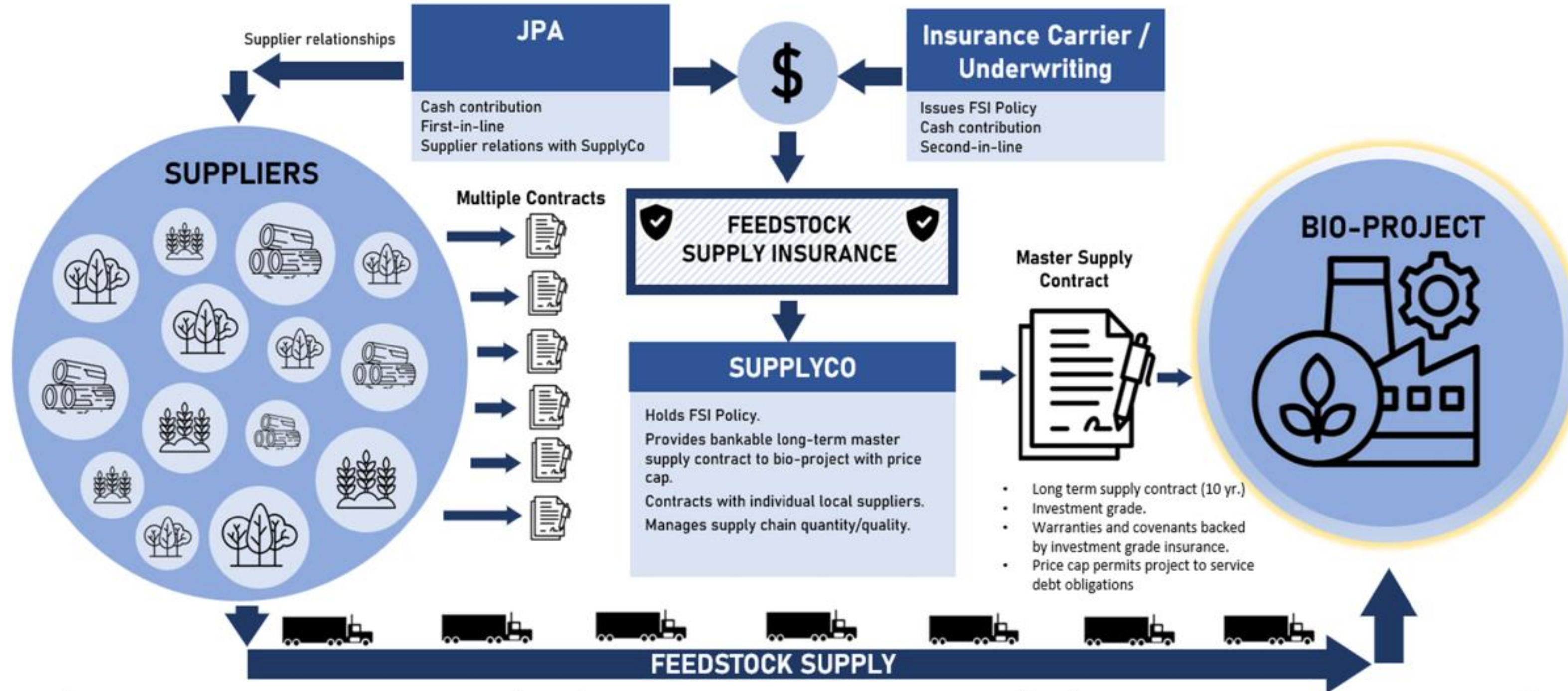
Regional Collaboration:

Building a unified regional voice on biomass utilization issues and identifying new funding sources for implementation work



Economic Development:

Focusing on economic and workforce development to ensure sustainable growth in this sector



- Many small/medium size non-investment grade suppliers.
- Various contract lengths including spot.
- Firm supply contracts before financial close are difficult to obtain.
- Multiple supply contracts with no recourse make bio-project financing difficult.

- SupplyCo works with JPA to develop and contract with local suppliers.
- SupplyCo issues Master Supply Contract *before* financial close and with price cap on delivered feedstock cost.
- Master Supply Contract covenants are backed by FSI/investment credit.

- Securing capital is faster, easier and less expensive.
- Bankable supply chain decreases project debt cost by 150 – 300 bpts.
- More bio-projects built in California.

PART ONE: LONG-TERM FEEDSTOCK CONTRACTS AND RISK MITIGATION

Key Components

- Multi-year supply agreements
- Specified quantity, quality, and pricing terms
- Provisions for quantity/price adjustments



Mitigation

- **Feedstock Supply Insurance (Caps Feedstock costs and secures long-term debt repayment obligations)**
- **Surety bonds (Guarantees contractual obligations will be met)**
- **Guarantee funds (provides financial backstop for supply agreements)**

Benefits

- Enhances project bankability
- Transfers risk to insurance markets
- Facilitates access to capital
- Accelerates bioenergy project development



PART 2: JPA MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTS FOR BIOMASS UTILIZATION

Associated Funding

Manage federal funds allocated for GNA projects

Leverage additional state and local financial resources

Coordinate multi-year budgeting for long-term projects

Contract Management

Issue RFPs and select qualified contractors

Ensure compliance with federal, state, and local regulations

Monitor project progress and contractor performance

Financial Administration

Track project expenses and revenues from biomass sales

Manage cash flow and distribute payments to contractors

Reinvest proceeds into further forest management activities



PART 3: ATTRACT AND ADMINISTER FUNDING

- Funding is expected from government sources
- Many private funding sources are attracted to transparency and public accountability of JPA, they also like regional (large geographic area) of funding
- Philanthropic and foundations could put funding with the JPA
- Large federal grants could also be pursued
- A nonprofit subsidiary or a public benefit corporation development along side the JPA might be attractive possibility

ESCOG Next Steps

1. The ESCOG Board should express interest in future funding. Following board approval, ESCOG staff and the state subcontractors (CLERE Inc. and Stacy Corless Consulting) should work together to host important local conversations.
2. The team will focus on positioning the CSEDD pilot within various state processes, if possible, to secure timely funding allocation.
3. By the fall the ESCOG Board can consider communicating a more formal interest in receiving the funding associated with this work.





State Funding Commitment

- The Governor's Office of Climate and Land Use Innovation (LCI) is seeking funding pathways of \$1-3 million for each pilot program participating in the regional biomass initiative.
- This funding approach aligns with the Task Force's broader investment strategy, which has already directed billions toward forest health and wildfire resilience projects since 2021.
- The Taskforce has indicated support for finding funding for all key deliverables.
- There are other funding pathways, if needed.
- The funding will support implementation of regional biomass utilization strategies, including infrastructure development, business support services, and coordination mechanisms.

The expected timeline for funding disbursement ranges from July 2026 to summer 2027, allowing sufficient time for planning and preparation of program components.

Questions?

Christiana Darlington

| christiana@clereinc.net

| June 25th, 2025



Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) Joint Powers Authority Agenda

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority
From: Elaine Kabala, Executive Director
Subject: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget
Meeting date: June 25, 2025
Prepared on: June 16, 2025
Attachments: None

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

This staff report presents the proposed ESCOG budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The proposed budget includes revenues of \$1,988,500 and projected expenditures of \$1,988,500. Revenues include the \$25,000 contribution from each member agency remaining unchanged. Grant revenues estimated at \$1,988,500 include the California Fish and Wildlife Proposition 1 Grant (\$930,000), the Inyo National Forest Liaison Grant (\$100,000), and four Sierra Jobs First Grants: 1) ESCOG Capacity Grant (\$200,000), ESCOG Recreation Capacity Incubator (\$253,000), Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis (\$188,650) and Business Catalyst Grant (\$201,850).

The member agency contributions for the FY 25-26 fund ESCOG administrative staffing and insurance not otherwise eligible to be applied against existing grant programs. Insurance costs have increased approximately \$1,000 to \$3,651 in 2025. Staff is recommending including \$10,000 to prepare an external audit of the organization. Staff is also requesting \$15,000 to prepare an application for the establishment of an Economic Development District for the Eastern Sierra region. The Town of Mammoth Lakes has generously reduced the cost of clerking services by \$10,000. Member agency funded expenditures are detailed below.

EXPENDITURES	Member Contributions	FY 2025-26 Budget
Contract Services		
Executive Director	30,000	147,000
Inyo County Admin Fee (15%)	21,000	21,000
Legal	10,000	10,000
Town Clerk	10,000	10,000
Fiscal Agent	5,000	5,000
External audit	10,000	10,000
Website	4,000	4,000
Publications & Legal Notices	2,000	2,000
Travel & training	4,000	4,000
Liability insurance	4,000	4,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	100,000	217,000

The FY 2025-2026 budget includes three additional Sierra Jobs First Grants: the Sierra Jobs First Recreation Capacity Incubator (\$253,000), the Sierra Jobs First Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis (\$188,650) and the Sierra Jobs First Business Incubator (\$201,850). Consistent with the Boards direction to increase capacity, the budget includes funding for a Wildfire Coordinator, a Recreation Coordinator, collaboration with the Inyo County Project Management Office, and a part-time administrative assistant. The positions are funded through a blend of grant revenues.

Any surplus resulting once the books are closed is an opportunity to establish an economic reserve account for ESCOG. A reserve account is an important tool to establish stability in future budgets and counter cost increases in core spending objects that might otherwise result in higher member contributions.

REVENUES	FY 2024-2025		FY 2025-2026	
Grant Revenues				
CDFW Prop 1 Grant	\$	2,000,000.00	\$	930,000.00
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant (Towns to Trails)	\$	200,000.00	\$	15,000.00
Inyo National Forest Liaison	\$	50,000.00	\$	100,000.00
Sierra Jobs First ESCOG Capacity (Phase 1)	\$	247,300.00	\$	-
Sierra Jobs First ESCOG Capacity (Phase 2)	\$	-	\$	200,000.00
Sierra Jobs First Recreation Capacity Incubator	\$	-	\$	253,000.00
Sierra Jobs First Chipmunk Canyon	\$	-	\$	188,650.00
Sierra Jobs First Business Catalyst	\$	-	\$	201,850.00
Member contributions	\$	100,000.00	\$	100,000.00
<hr/>				
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	2,597,300.00	\$	1,988,500.00
<hr/>				
EXPENDITURES				
Grant Contractors				
Alta Planning + Design (Towns to Trails)	\$	370,443.00	\$	15,000.00
Whitebark	\$	1,900,000.00	\$	650,000.00
USFS	\$	50,000.00	\$	250,000.00
Inyo Mono Ag Study	\$	-	\$	100,000.00
Recreation Incubator Strategic Consultant	\$	-	\$	130,000.00
Chipmunk Canyon Consultant	\$	-	\$	171,150.00
SJF Business Catalyst Services	\$	-	\$	183,500.00
Other Contract Services				
Executive Director	\$	150,000.00	\$	147,000.00
Inyo County Admin Fee (15%)			\$	21,000.00
Assistant: Celeste Berg	\$	50,000.00	\$	-
Assistant: Kate Morley	\$	50,000.00	\$	-
Wildfire Coordinator	\$	-	\$	70,000.00
Recreation Coordinator	\$	-	\$	117,500.00
Inyo County PMO	\$	-	\$	49,350.00
Part-time Contract Assist	\$	-	\$	20,000.00
Legal	\$	10,000.00	\$	10,000.00
Town Clerk	\$	20,000.00	\$	10,000.00
Fiscal Agent	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00
External audit	\$	10,000.00	\$	10,000.00
Website	\$	10,000.00	\$	4,000.00
ESCOG Strategic Plan	\$	10,000.00	\$	-
Econ Dev District Application			\$	15,000.00
Publications & Legal Notices	\$	250.00	\$	2,000.00
Travel & training	\$	-	\$	4,000.00
Liability Insurance	\$	3,500.00	\$	4,000.00
<hr/>				
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	2,639,193.00	\$	1,988,500.00
<hr/>				

BUDGET IMPACTS:

The Board must adopt a budget to begin the fiscal year in July 2025.

LEGAL REVIEW:

ESCOG Counsel has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget as presented.



**Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority Agenda**

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority

From: Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Staff

Subject: Modification to Collection Agreement 22-CO-11050400-003 Planning Support for the Eastern Sierra Communities and Climate Resilience Project between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the United States Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service Inyo National Forest

Meeting date: June 25, 2025

Prepared on: June 17, 2025

Attachments: A) Modification to Collection Agreement 22-CO-11050400-003 Planning Support for the Eastern Sierra Communities and Climate Resilience Project between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the United States Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service Inyo National Forest

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

On June 15, 2021, the ESCOG was awarded a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration Grant & Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant in the amount of \$3,384,269 for implementation of the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator. On December 10, 2021 your Board approved Collection Agreement Collection Agreement 22-CO-11050400-003 Planning Support for the Eastern Sierra Communities and Climate Resilience Project (ESSCRP) between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the United States Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service Inyo National Forest for coordination and collaboration with the IDT consistent with the scope for work described in the CDFW grant and grant agreement.

The INF supported the development of the Environmental Assessment for the ESSCRP, which was finalized in September 2024.

At the October 10, 2024 ESCOG meeting, your Board authorized a grant amendment extending the term of the agreement to December 31, 2026 to expend unspent funds to expand to footprint of environmental planning beyond the initial study area in the upper Owens Watershed to include a significant portion of the western Mono Basin. The grant amendment included an increase in the Inyo National Forest Service budget in the amount of \$210,000 using awarded but unallocated CDFW funding.

The modification reflects the expanded scope and revised deliverables authorized under Amendment No. 1 to ESCOG's CDFW Grant Agreement Q2196015. Specifically, the project area has been expanded to include approximately 58,000 additional acres in the West Mono Basin, extending the total planning footprint to over 113,000 acres. The U.S. Forest Service will support planning and environmental review efforts in the West Mono Basin by assisting in the delineation of treatment units, determining the appropriate NEPA compliance pathway, contributing Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) staffing, and providing technical input and GIS data. USFS will also support the development, review, and finalization of NEPA documentation, including specialist reports and environmental assessments. These tasks build on lessons learned from phase one of the ESCCRP.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

The Agreement allocates \$210,000 and increases the not-to-exceed amount for the U.S. Inyo National Forest from \$228,692 to \$438,692 consistent with the scope for work described in the CDFW grant agreement amendment.

LEGAL REVIEW:

ESCOG Counsel John-Carl Vallejo has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board approve the Modification to Collection Agreement 22 CO-11050400-003 Planning Support for the Eastern Sierra Communities and Climate Resilience Project between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the United States Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service Inyo National Forest and authorize the Chair to sign.



MODIFICATION OF GRANT OR AGREEMENT

PAGE OF
PAGES
1

1. U.S. FOREST SERVICE GRANT/AGREEMENT
NUMBER:

22-CO-11050400-003

2. RECIPIENT/COOPERATOR GRANT or
AGREEMENT NUMBER, IF ANY:

Q2195015-01

3. MODIFICATION NUMBER:

002

4. NAME/ADDRESS OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE UNIT ADMINISTERING
GRANT/AGREEMENT (unit name, street, city, state, and zip + 4):

Pacific Southwest Region, Grants and
Agreements, 3237
Peacekeeper Way, Ste. 101 McClellan, CA 95652-
2614

5. NAME/ADDRESS OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE UNIT ADMINISTERING
PROJECT/ACTIVITY (unit name, street, city, state, and zip + 4):

USDA Forest Service, Inyo National Forest,
351 Pacu Lane, Bishop CA, 93514-3101

6. NAME/ADDRESS OF RECIPIENT/COOPERATOR (street, city, state, and zip
+ 4, county):

Elaine Kabala
Eastern Sierra Council of Governments
c/o Town of Mammoth Lakes
PO Box 1609
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Mono County

7. RECIPIENT/COOPERATOR'S HHS SUB ACCOUNT NUMBER (For HHS
payment use only):

8. PURPOSE OF MODIFICATION

CHECK ALL
THAT APPLY:

This modification is issued pursuant to the modification provision in the grant/agreement
referenced in item no. 1, above.



CHANGE IN PERFORMANCE PERIOD: 10/13/2021 - 12/31/2026



CHANGE IN FUNDING: Increase collection of \$210,000. Total collection not to exceed \$438,692 to support
environmental planning and project development tasks associated with the expanded scope in the West Mono Basin.



ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES:



OTHER (Specify type of modification): The project area has been expanded to include an additional 58,000 acres in
the West Mono Basin, bringing the total project area to approximately 113,000 acres. Corresponding deliverables
are now scheduled through November 2026.

**Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the Grant/Agreement referenced in 1, above, remain unchanged and in
full force and effect.**

9. ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR DESCRIPTION OF MODIFICATION (add additional pages as needed):

This modification reflects the expanded scope and revised deliverables authorized under Amendment No. 1 to ESCOG's CDFW
Grant Agreement Q2196015. Specifically, the project area has been expanded to include approximately 58,000 additional acres in
the West Mono Basin, extending the total planning footprint to over 113,000 acres. The U.S. Forest Service will support planning
and environmental review efforts in the West Mono Basin by assisting in the delineation of treatment units, determining the
appropriate NEPA compliance pathway, contributing Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) staffing, and providing technical input and GIS
data. USFS will also support the development, review, and finalization of NEPA documentation, including specialist reports and
environmental assessments. These tasks build on lessons learned from phase one of the Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities
Resilience Project (ESCCRP) and are scheduled for completion by December 31, 2026. If the USFS is unable to complete a
component of the assigned deliverables, those tasks will be fulfilled by another partner, and payment for those services will be
administered through a separate agreement between the USFS and that partner.

10. ATTACHED DOCUMENTATION (Check all that apply):



Revised Scope of Work



Revised Financial Plan



Other:

11. SIGNATURES

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: BY SIGNATURE BELOW, THE SIGNING PARTIES CERTIFY THAT THEY ARE THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES
OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTIES AND AUTHORIZED TO ACT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS FOR MATTERS RELATED TO THE ABOVE-
REFERENCED GRANT/AGREEMENT.



11.A. EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS SIGNATURE	11.B. DATE SIGNED	11.C. U.S. FOREST SERVICE SIGNATURE	11.D. DATE SIGNED
(Signature of Signatory Official)		(Signature of Signatory Official)	
11.E. NAME (type or print): STEPHEN MUCHOVEJ		11.F. NAME (type or print): Lesley Yen	
11.G. TITLE (type or print): Chair		11.H. TITLE (type or print): Forest Supervisor	

12. G&A REVIEW

12.A. The authority and format of this modification have been reviewed and approved for signature by: <div></div> U.S. Forest Service Grants & Agreements Specialist	12.B. DATE SIGNED <div></div>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FS-1500-19 (VER. 05/24)
OMB No. 0596-0217
EXP: 05/31/2027

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond, to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Persons are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-0217. Response to this collection of information is mandatory. The authority to collect the information Section 7 of the Granger-Thye Act (16 U.S.C. 580d) and Title IV of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751-1753). The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering, and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Clearance Officer, OIRM, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 404-W, Washington, D.C. 20250; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (OMB# 0596-0217), 725 17th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20503.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

The Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a and the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 govern the confidentiality to be provided for information received by the Forest Service.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORM FS-1500-19

1. Enter the original U.S. Forest Service agreement number.
2. Enter the cooperator's agreement number, if applicable.
3. Enter the number for this Modification, i.e. 01, 02, or 03. The first modification to an instrument is '01', subsequent modifications receive a subsequent modification number (for example, the fourth modification is '04').
4. Enter the address of the G&A Specialist/Signatory Official responsible for this agreement.
5. Enter the address of the U.S. Forest Service Program/Project Manager or Lead Scientist responsible for this agreement.
6. Enter the cooperator's address.
7. Enter the cooperator's HHS Sub-Account numbers, if funding is provided on this modification (for example: G2412345003) (Only used by NA/S&PF and NRS)
8. Select all boxes that apply:
 - Change in Performance = updated performance period agreed to.
 - Change in Funding = obligation OR de-obligation amount and new totals.
 - Administrative = change in pay address, administrator address, correcting typing errors, etc.
 - Other = any other modification not described, such as update new objective to study plan, change the Principle Investigator, etc.
9. Insert changes such as updated provision, tasks, or any other data needed by the modification, add additional pages as needed.
10. Check all boxes that apply and ensure to attach these documents to the modification. Other attachments could include SF-424 forms.
11. A – D, self explanatory.
11. E – H, Type or print the names of signatory officials.
12. G&A Specialist signs and dates before sending to the individuals in block 11, if all modification data are approved for signature.



**Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG)
Joint Powers Authority**

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority

From: Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Executive Director

Subject: 1) Establish Ad Hoc Committees for Consultants and Contracts for each of the Following Projects:

- a) Project Coordinator – Regional Sustainable Recreation Capacity Incubator and Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis Project
- b) Strategic Planning Facilitation Services for Regional Recreation Collaborative
- c) Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis
- d) Inyo Mono County Activation Plan for Advancing Agricultural and Economic Diversification

2) Authorize the Executive Director to Enter into Contract with Selected Contractors

Meeting date: June 25, 2025

Prepared on: June 16, 2025

Attachments: A) None

BACKGROUND:

At the April 30, 2025 ESCOG Board meeting, your Board provided direction for staff to enter into contract to receive and implement three Sierra Jobs First grant awards:

1. Programming Funding for the Eastern Sierra Small Business Resource Center
2. The Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis
3. The Eastern Sierra Regional Collaborative Capacity Incubator

Your Board further authorized staff to prepare and distribute RFP/RFQs as needed to hire contractors and consultants to provide capacity for project management and to prepare studies and plans as required deliverables. Due to ESCOG's bi-monthly meeting schedule and the expedited schedule for project execution under the Sierra Jobs First contract (funding expires in September 2026), staff is requesting the Board direct staff to convene an ad hoc committee to recommend selected contractors/consultants to limit delays between meetings to initiate projects. Staff is requesting the Board either appoint three separate ad hoc committees for contract selection or direct the Executive Director to create a contract selection committee. Staff recommends the committee(s) also include two regional managers and the Executive Director.

Staff is also requesting the Board authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute agreement with the selected contractor for the following contract work and respective not-to-exceed amounts:

- a) Project Coordinator – Regional Sustainable Recreation Capacity Incubator and Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis Project; not-to-exceed \$100,000.
- b) Strategic Planning Facilitation Services for Regional Recreation Collaborative; not-to-exceed \$130,000.
- c) Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis; not-to-exceed \$160,000.
- d) Inyo Mono County Activation Plan for Advancing Agricultural and Economic Diversification; not-to-exceed \$100,000.

Sierra Jobs First Funding Availability

Application	Total Award	ESCOG Administration
Business Resource Center Programming	\$201,850	\$18,350
Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis	\$171,500	\$17,150
ESRC Capacity Incubator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Facilitation Services for Regional Recreation Collaborative Inyo Mono County Activation Plan for Advancing Agricultural and Economic Diversification 	\$253,000	\$23,000

BUDGET IMPACTS:

All work completed under these agreements will be reimbursed by the corresponding grant funding.

LEGAL REVIEW:

ESCOG Counsel John-Carl Vallejo has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Provide direction to staff to establish ad hoc committees for consultants and contracts for each of the following projects:
 - a) Project Coordinator – Regional Sustainable Recreation Capacity Incubator and Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis Project
 - b) Strategic Planning Facilitation Services for Regional Recreation Collaborative
 - c) Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis
 - d) Inyo Mono County Activation Plan for Advancing Agricultural and Economic Diversification

- 2) Authorize the Executive Director to enter into contract with selected contractors up to the associate not-to-exceed amounts:
 - a) Project Coordinator – Regional Sustainable Recreation Capacity Incubator and Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis Project; not-to-exceed \$100,000.
 - b) Strategic Planning Facilitation Services for Regional Recreation Collaborative; not-to-exceed \$130,000.
 - c) Chipmunk Canyon Existing Conditions Analysis; not-to-exceed \$160,000.
 - d) Inyo Mono County Activation Plan for Advancing Agricultural and Economic Diversification; not-to-exceed \$100,000.

From Planning to Action: Wildfire Work in Motion

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments

Kristen Pfeiler

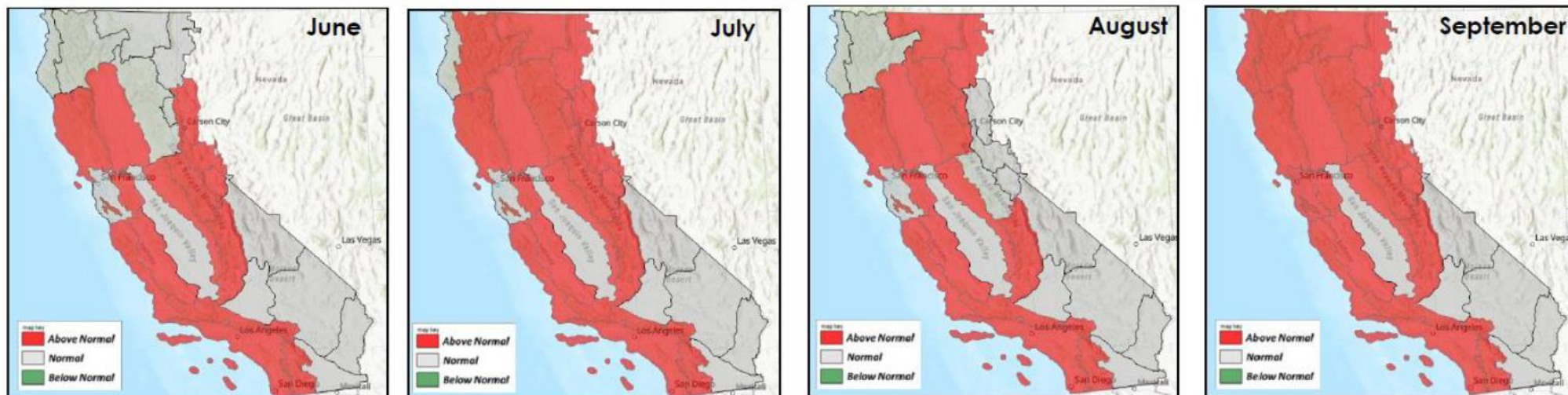
June 25, 2025

Agenda

- CA Wildfire Taskforce takeaways
- Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance timeline + next steps
- Eastside Riparian Resilience Working Group
 - Prep for Prop 4 funding (SNC + CALFIRE)
- Grants:
 - Prop 4 Funding opportunities
 - Community Wildfire Defense Grant (pending)
 - CALFIRE County Coordinator Grant
 - Community Directed Grants
 - CALFIRE Forest Health Grant
- Other
 - Hazard Zone Map Information

Significant Large Fire Potential | June - September 2025

ANCE INTEGRATION



Takeaways from the CA Wildfire Taskforce meeting on June 6, 2025:

- Regional collaboration is imperative
- Many models to learn from

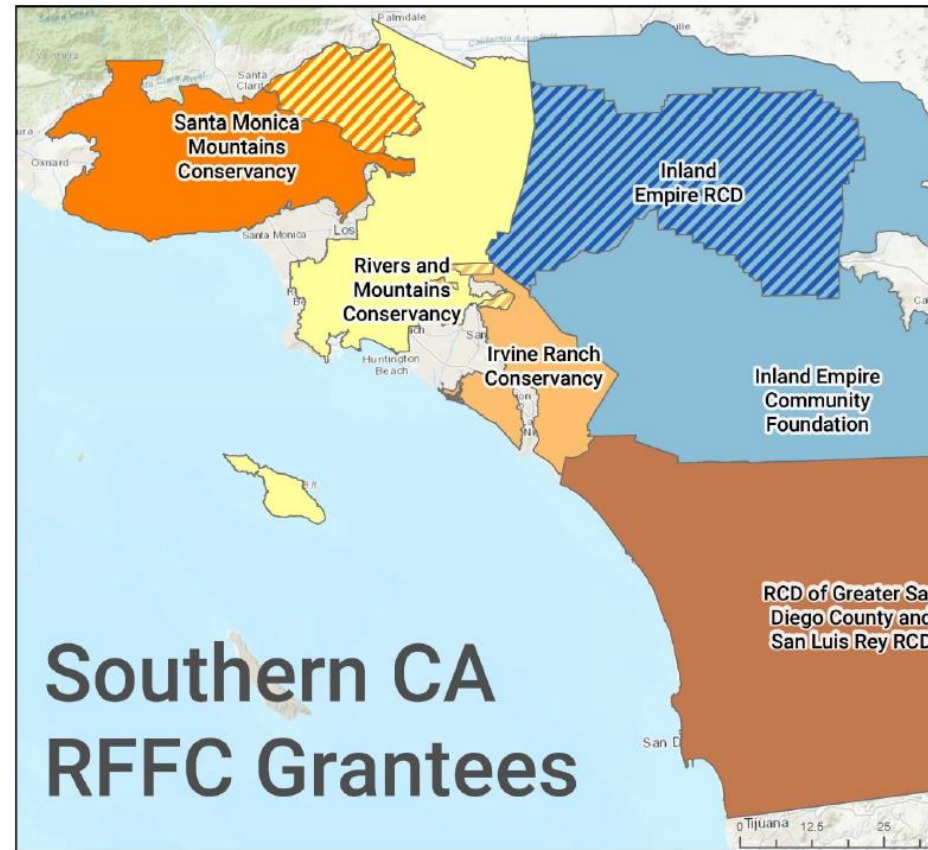
AGENDA

(9:00 AM) Welcome & Opening Remarks	Wade Crowfoot, CNRA Chris Feutrier, USFS
(9:30 AM) Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025 Progress & Action Plan• Regional Frameworks	Patrick Wright, Task Force Director
(9:45 AM) Regional Progress in Planning & Priority Setting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southern California• Sierra Nevada• Northern California• Central Coast	Moderator: Angie Lottes, CA State Parks Jeff Heys, USFS Ann Baldrige, RCD of SD Sara Campe, SNC Paul Ringgold, Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition Karen Gaffney, NCRP Alison Blodorn, Inner Coast Collaborative Kostoula Vallianos, SCC Timothy Federal, San Mateo RCD
(11:00 AM) Break	
(11:15 AM) Agency Preparations for Regional Funding	<u>Moderator:</u> Nick Goulette, Watershed Center Lisa Lien-Mager, CNRA Shanna Atherton, DOC Alan Talhelm, CAL FIRE Angie Avery, SNC Evyann Borgnis Sloane, SCC Rebecca Fris, WCB
(12:30 PM) Closing Remarks	Task Force Co-chairs

Models for Regional Collaboration - SoCal

Regional Collaboration

- Southern California Wildfire Resilience Partnership (SCWRP)
 - Building on relationships
 - Elevating local voices
 - MOU for shared leadership
 - Supporting implementation of regional plans



Four Cornerstones

Across the Southern California Zone, four central cornerstones provide a framework to help reduce wildfire risk. Explore each cornerstone below.



Ignition Reduction

Did you know, most wildfires in Southern California are started by people? Escaped campfires, improper towing, or parking on dry grass along roadways can all spark a wildfire. The good news is, we can all work to prevent wildfires before they start by reducing ignitions in the first place.

Prevention



Strategic Fuelbreak Networks

Fuelbreaks are areas without woody plants along ridgelines, roads, or powerlines. As wildfire moves into or out of communities, strategic fuelbreak networks give firefighters a safe place to stop or slow the spread of wildfire.

Fuels Treatment Success



Montane Forest Conservation

Many of Southern California's treasured recreation areas are within sky islands – patches of forest found on mountaintops and higher elevations. Yet these forests are under threat from wildfires, droughts, pollution, and invasive species. Maintaining the health of our montane forests can reduce wildfire risk and benefit both humans and wildlife.

Montane Forests



Community Planning & Preparedness

Are you prepared for wildfire? Wildfires put homes, lives, and infrastructure at risk. Reducing your wildfire risk ahead of time is important. Hardening your home, creating defensible space around structures, and having an evacuation plan can help keep your family and community safe.

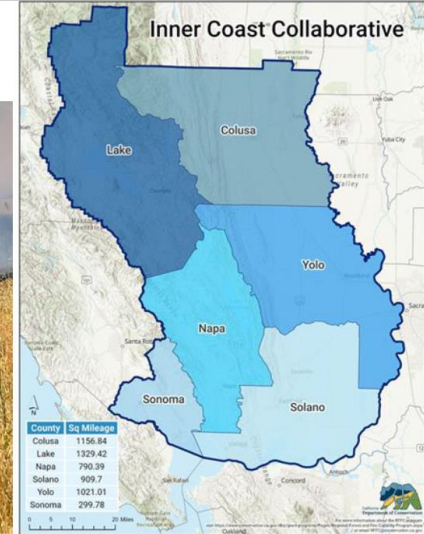
Get Prepared

Collaborative Approach & Partnership Structure

- Represented & governed by **Lead Partners** in each county
- Codified by an **MOA**, utilizes consensus-based decision making
- Committed to:
 - Equity, inclusivity, & transparency
 - A multi-benefit approach to forest health & wildfire resilience

Approach to Regional Priority Plan Development

- Builds on existing plans & local knowledge
- Centers multi-benefit lens for project identification & prioritization
- Centers equity, inclusivity, transparency
- Ensures adaptability, utility over time



Mission

Enhance the Quality of Life in North Coast Communities & Ecosystems

Multiple Integrated Objectives

- Wildfire & Climate Resilience
- Water Quality & Supply
- Biodiversity & Ecosystem Function
- Community Health & Safety

Governance

Tribal & County Co-Leadership

Page 44 of 74

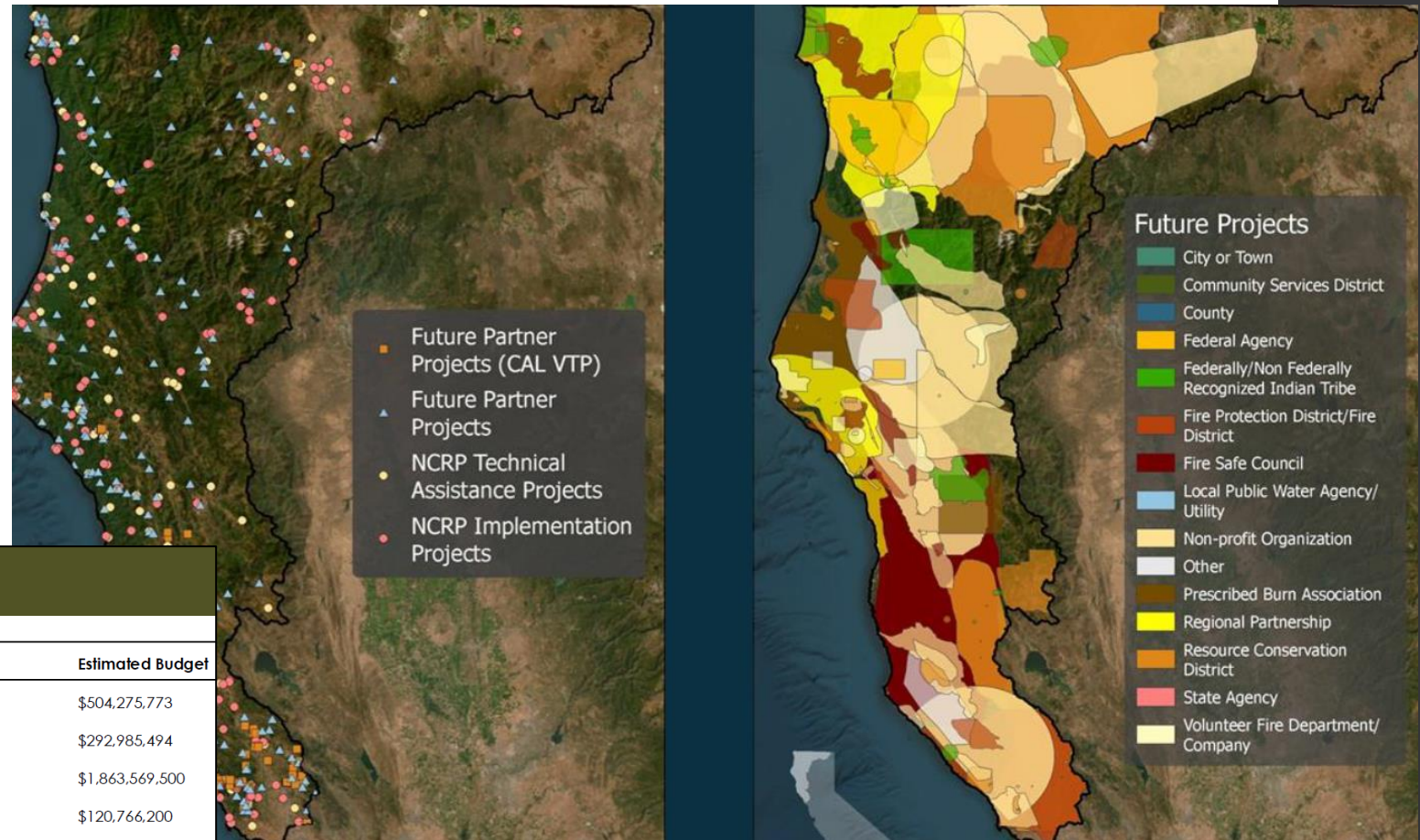


Northern CA

Northern CA continued

Multi-Objective Project Pipeline

Project Type (Number Projects)	Estimated Budget
Wildfire Resilience & Forest Health: Fuel Management (136)	\$504,275,773
Biodiversity & Ecosystem (101)	\$292,985,494
Wildfire Resilience: Community Health & Safety (66)	\$1,863,569,500
Prescribed or Cultural Fire (64)	\$120,766,200
Wildfire Resilience: Fire Response Capacity (55)	\$122,706,455
Water Quality & Supply (35)	\$67,990,000
Recreation & Public Access (26)	\$48,560,000
Organizational Capacity Development (22)	\$12,835,000
Forest Health: Biomass (15)	\$35,021,000
Forest Health: Reforestation (8)	\$5,723,000
Other (6)	\$41,200,000
Climate Change Adaptation (5)	\$27,500,000
Forest Pest Management & Invasive Species (3)	\$15,230,000
Total Project Count & Budget: (542 Projects)	\$3,158,362,422



Organizing for Landscape Scale Resilience

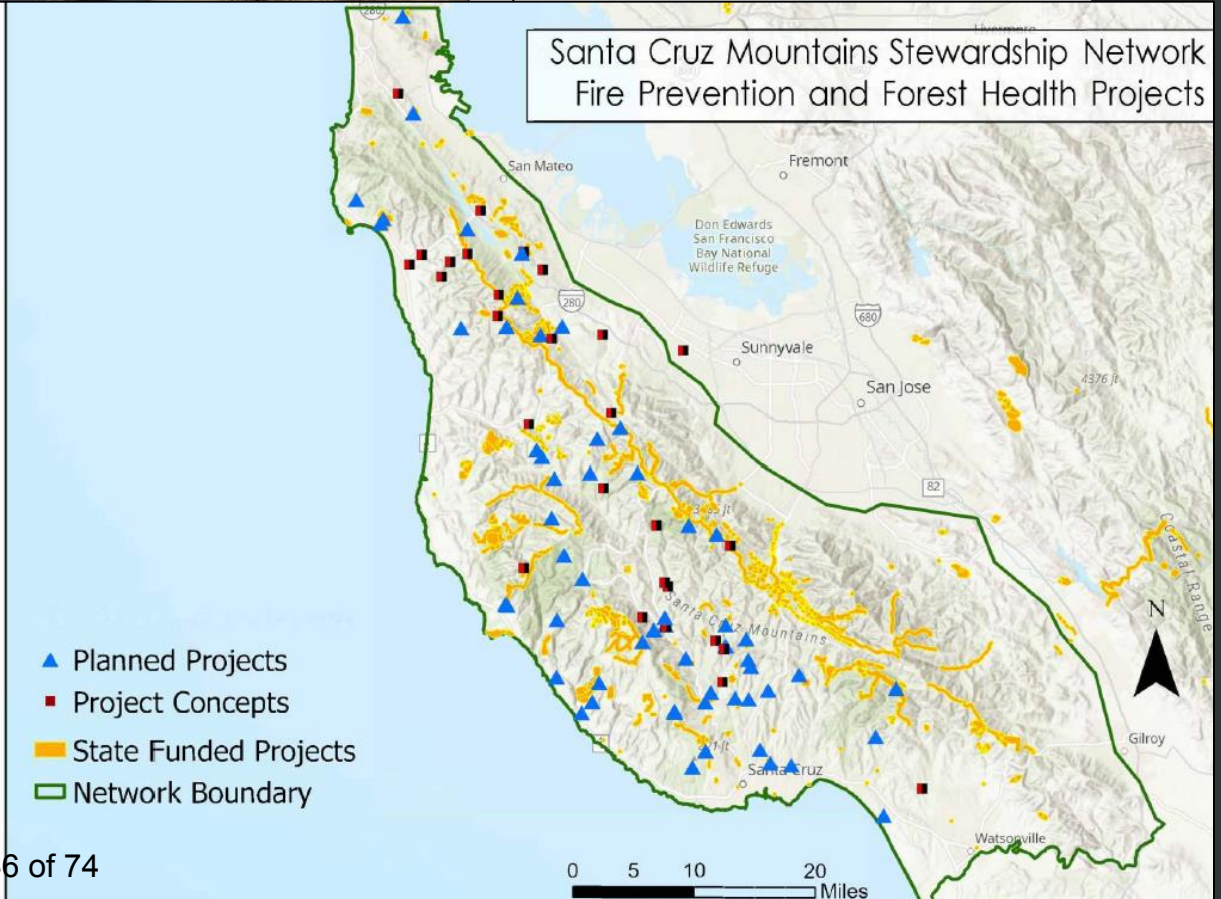
- Engage high-functioning stakeholder group
- Develop prioritization framework
- Solicit projects
- Convene technical advisors
- Identify synergies
- Identify gaps
- Iterate



Central Coast

Since 2019

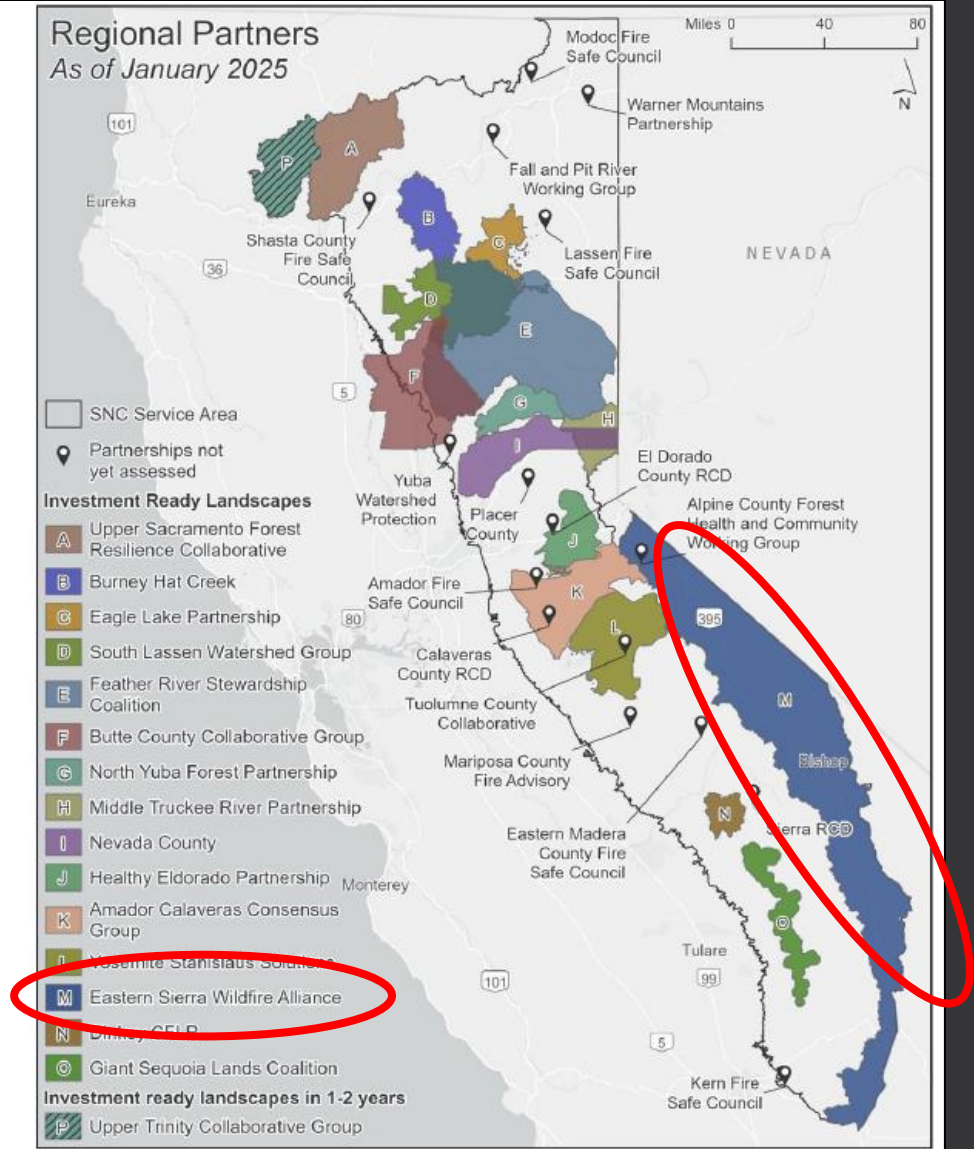
- 100,000+ acres
- \$60M+ grant funds
- Innovation hub
 - First Public Works Plans
 - First completed CalVTP project
 - Fine-scale veg mapping
 - Change detection tools



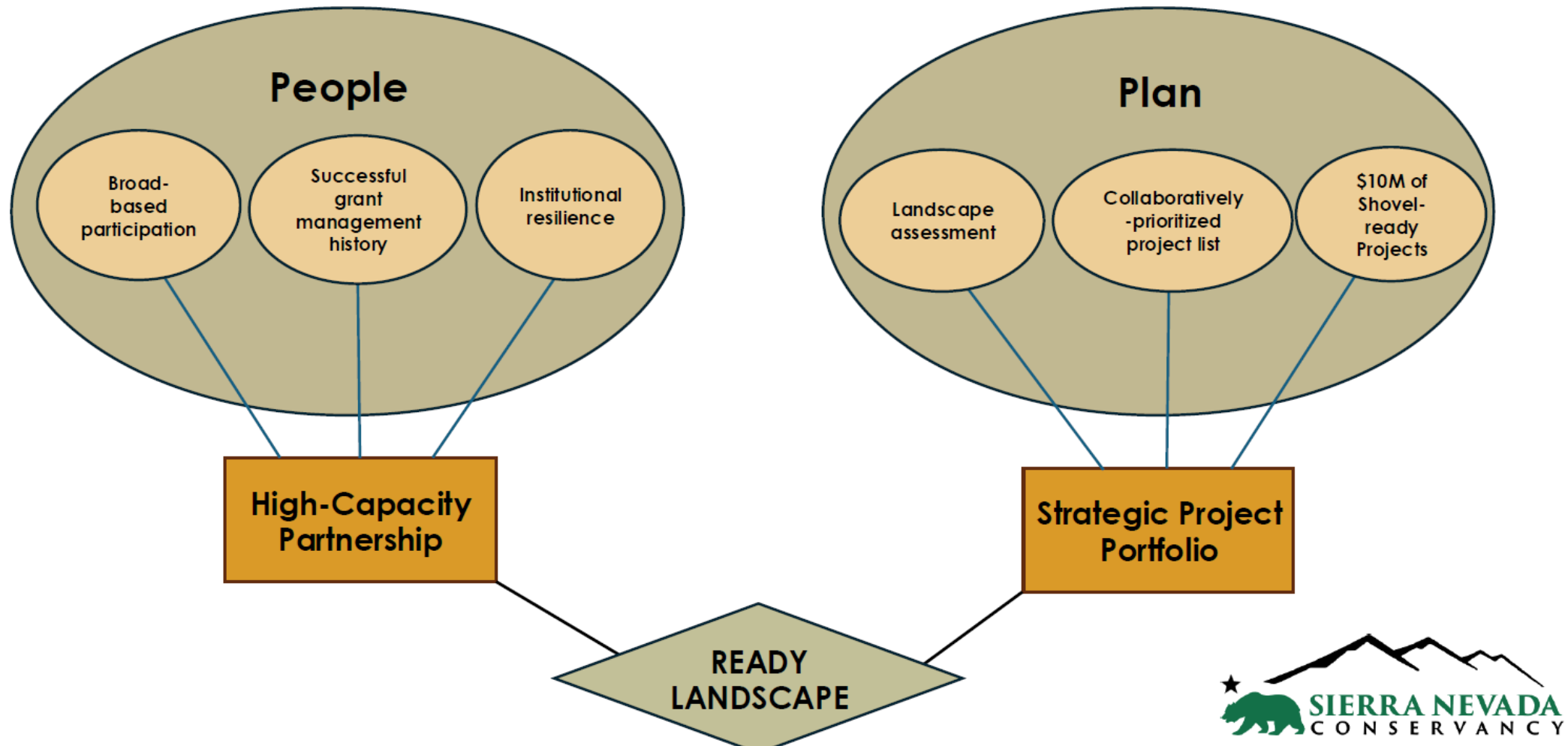
Scale: SNC's Landscape Grant Program 2025

- Climate Bond: \$40M in Regional Projects anticipated*
- Goals:
 - Inspire coordinated/joint investment across funders
 - Build on RFFC Program Investments & SNC's Landscape Grant Pilot

*Pending SNC Governing Board Approval



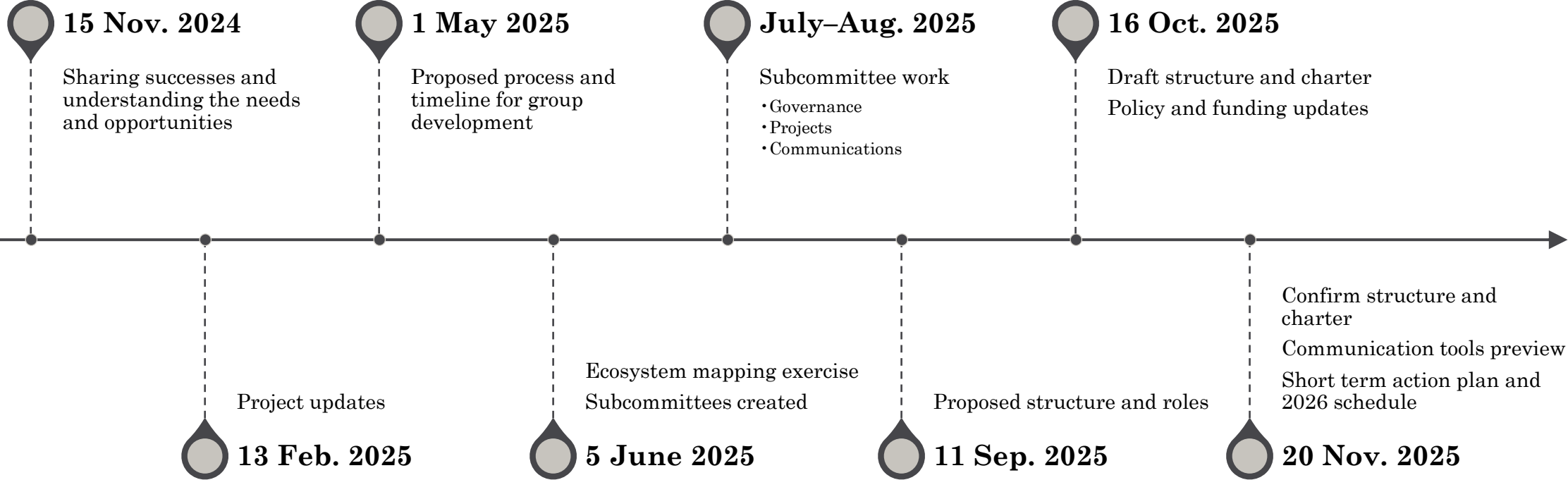
What is Ready?



How are we organizing?



Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance Development



Eastside Riparian Resilience Working Group

Intention:

To prepare a shovel-ready, multi-site riparian fuels reduction project near high-risk communities in Inyo and Mono Counties, leveraging the temporary suspension of state environmental regulations to accelerate wildfire risk reduction and enhance ecological resilience.

Submit Suspension Request

Total Projects Approved

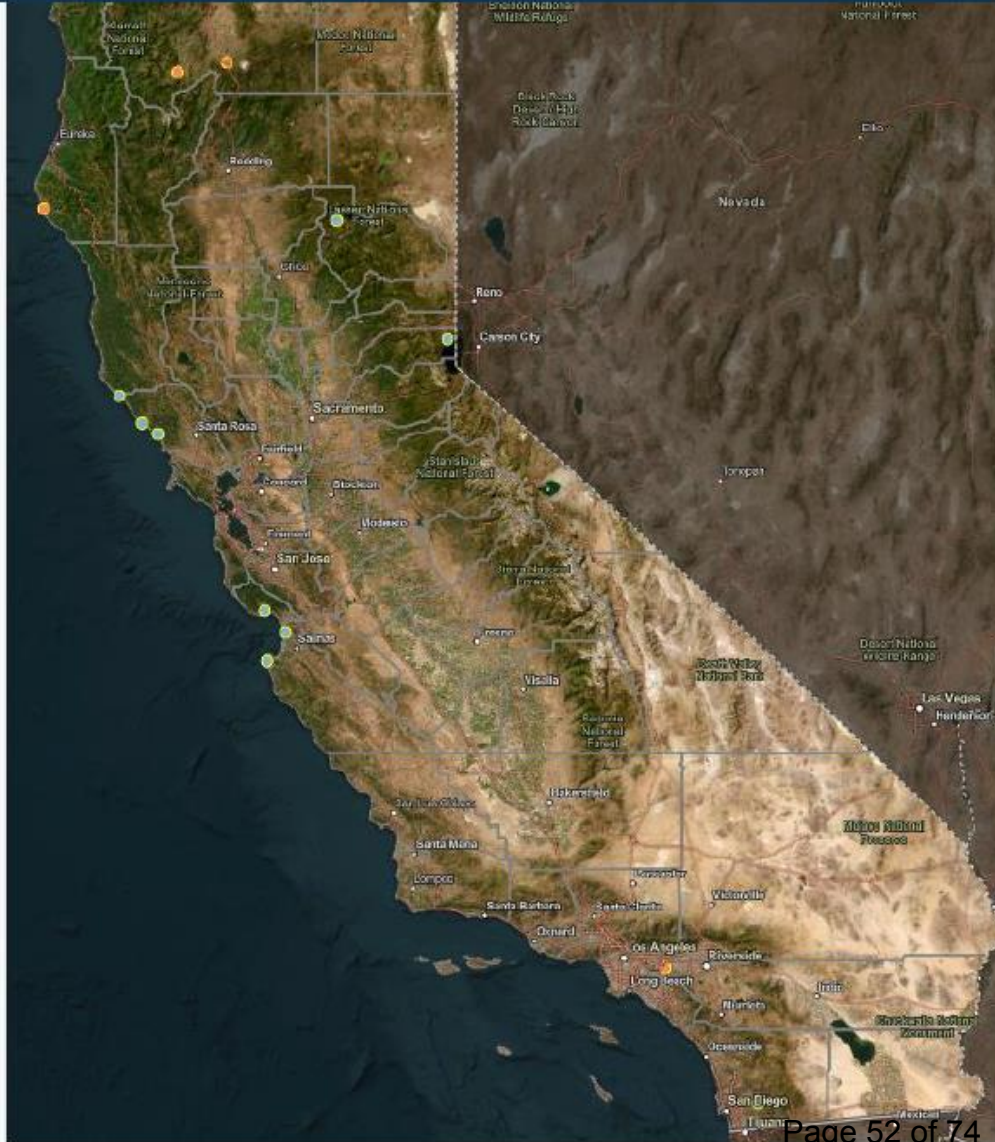
14

Projects Underway

4

Projects Completed

0



Fast-Tracking Critical Fuels Reduction Projects



Fast-Tracking Wildfire Projects

Removing Barriers to Get Critical Work Done

What does the Governor's state of emergency proclamation do:

- Streamline state regulations (like CEQA) to speed up fuels reduction work
- Allow local organizations to lead projects with quicker approval processes
- Prioritize urgent wildfire prevention activities, including:
 - Removing hazardous or overgrown vegetation and trees
 - Creating and maintaining fuel breaks
 - Clearing roadsides for safer evacuation and fire response
 - Using prescribed fire and cultural burning practices

Project Eligibility Requirements:

- ☐ Have a primary goal of wildfire risk reduction—such as fuel breaks, roadside clearance, defensible space, or cultural/prescribed fire
- ☐ Submit the request in 2025
- ☐ Be conducted or supervised by qualified professionals, such as Registered Professional Foresters or certified burn bosses
- ☐ Follow Best Management Practices outlined in the Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan (EPP)

Who is the core planning team?

LADWP

CDFW

Lahontan
Waterboard

Whitebark
Institute

CALFIRE

County
Coordinators

Mammoth Lakes
Fire Protection
District

Site-specific
consultants

Why Riparians?

Primary carrier of
fire




Historically haven't
received fuel
reduction Tx due to
regulatory and
permitting hurdles



The Project Goal:

The goal of this project is to create and maintain strategic fuel breaks in the riparian corridors adjacent to at-risk communities throughout Inyo and Mono Counties. Treatments may include manual, mechanical, and prescribed fire treatments. Areas with existing disturbance, adjacent to access roads, and/or otherwise less dense vegetation have been targeted for treatment to the extent practicable. Treatments have been designed to retain or improve riparian function consistent with the EPP.

A satellite map of a mountainous region, likely in the Sierra Nevada. The map shows rugged terrain with various shades of brown, tan, and green. Several yellow pins are placed on the map, each with a corresponding label in a white box. The labels are: Mammoth Creek, SNARL, Crowley Lake, Tom's Place/Sunny Slopes, 40 Acres, Rovana/Pine Creek, and West Bishop (various sites). The map also shows some roads and small clusters of buildings.

Mammoth
Creek

SNARL

Crowley Lake

Tom's Place/Sunny Slopes

40 Acres

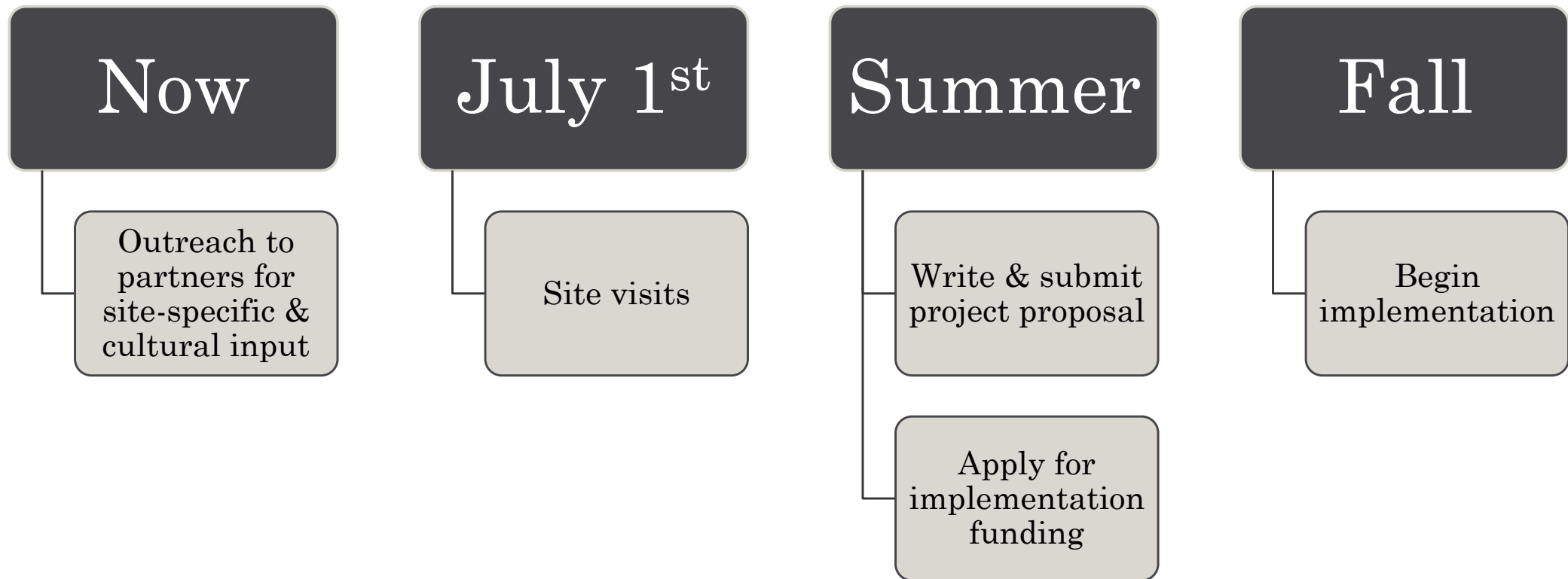
Rovana/Pine Creek

West Bishop (various sites)



- Lone Pine
- Oak Creek/Fort Independence
- Birch Creek/Three Creeks
- Big Pine
- West Bishop
- Rovana/Pine Creek
- 40 Acres
- Tom's Place/Sunny Slopes
- Crowley Lake
- SNARL
- Mammoth Creek
- Potentially others

Next Steps & Timeline





Future Regional Projects: Prop 4

“\$170,000,000 shall be available to implement regional projects, including, but not limited to, landscape-scale projects developed by forest collaboratives...”

- Proposed: $\frac{3}{4}$ CAL FIRE, $\frac{1}{4}$ Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- CAL FIRE FY25/26: ~\$50M

CAL FIRE
Prevention Grant

Fall 2025

Priorities:

- Applicant has Regional Priority Plan or equivalent that includes:
 - Defined partnership, delineated landscape
 - Implementable strategy & organizational capacity to implement
- Help build regional capacity, including by incorporating RFFC funding and meeting RFFC objectives.
- Leverage other state, federal, private/philanthropic investments.
- Achieve multiple CA Climate Bond objectives.

SNC Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant

Open Now

Act Now & Think Big



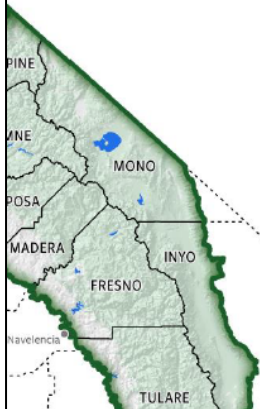
Act Now = Pace: Provide funding to shovel ready projects.



Think Big = Scale: Support collaborative, multi-jurisdictional, strategic investments at the landscape/watershed scale.

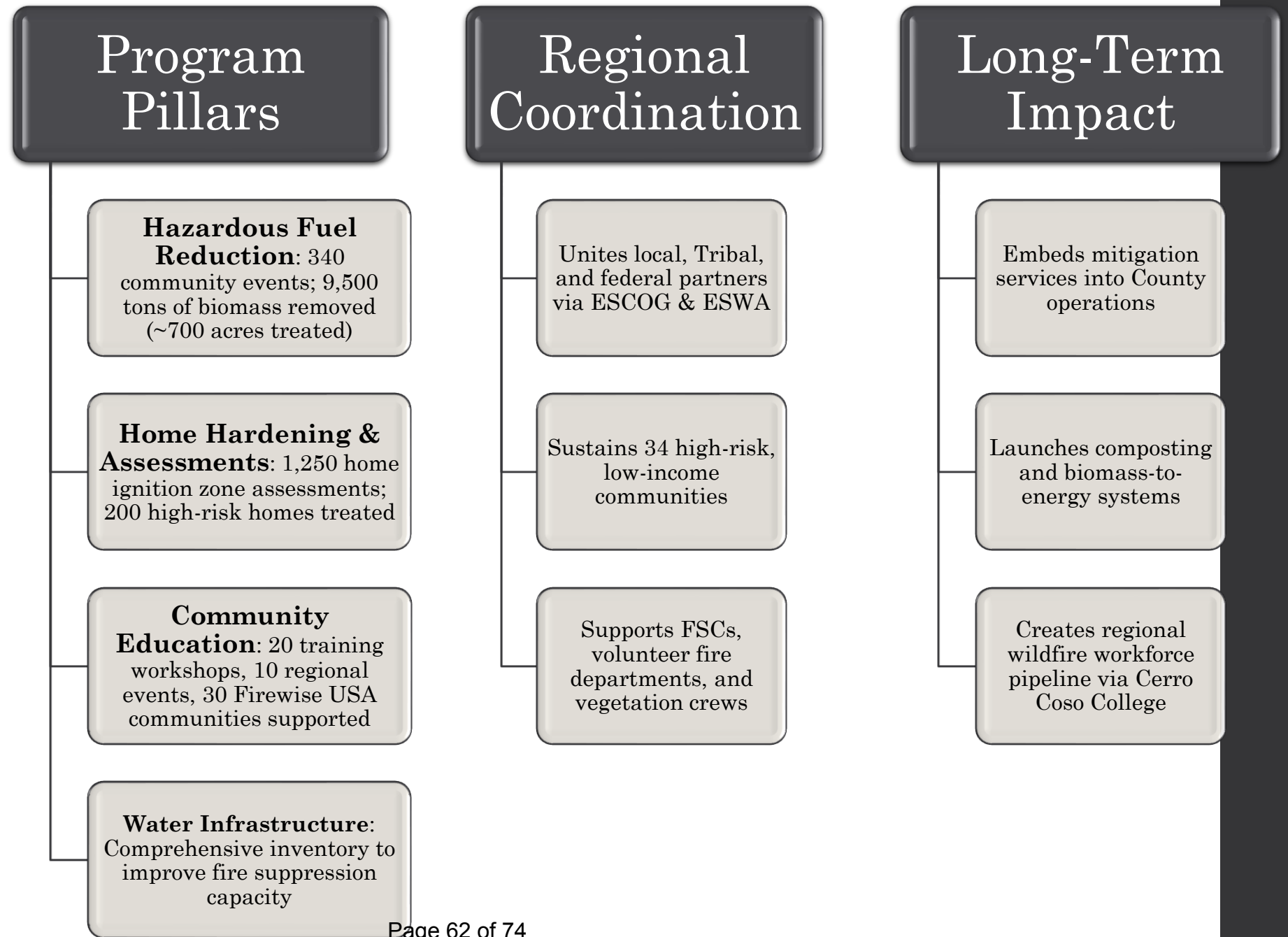
Pace: SNC's Wildfire & Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program

- Protecting people & communities
- Shovel-ready projects:
 - Environmental compliance complete or approved for EPP
- Work to be complete w/ 2 years (Jan 2030 latest)
- Climate Bond: \$10M available

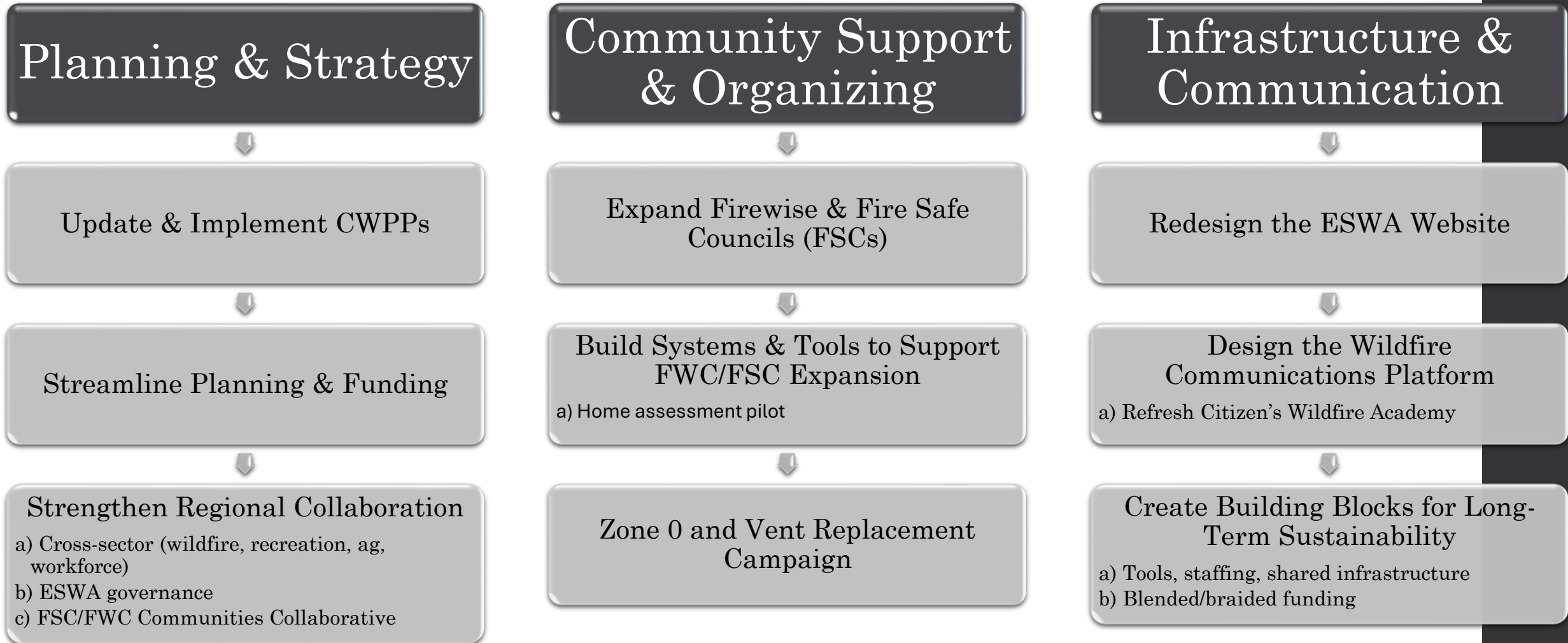


Eastern Sierra Communities Wildfire Defense Program

*pending grant
announcement Fall 25*



CAL FIRE County Coordinator FY 25-26 Goals



SCE/Whitebark Institute Community Directed Grants 2025

Organization	Award Amount	Project Title							
Fire Response Infrastructure & Equipment									
Lee Vining FPD (portable tank)	\$5,000.00	Lee Vining Fire Wildland Support							
Mono City FPD (CrewBoss pants)	\$5,000.00	Wildland firefighting PPE purchase							
Wheeler Crest FPD (SCBAs)	\$3,900.00	Wheeler Crest Fire Protection District : Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - SCBA Cylinders							
Aspendell South Fork FD (PPE)	\$3,900.00	Purchase of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for Volunteer Firefighters							
Long Valley FPD (deployable pack)	\$2,200.00	WUI Deployable Hose Pack Kit							
Bridgeport FPD (nozzles)	\$2,200.00	Bridgeport Fire Protection District Nozzle Replacement							
	\$22,200.00								
Wildfire Mitigation & Vegetation Management									
Big Pine Community Association (fuels)	\$3,600.00	Big Pine Community Association Wildfire Fuels Reduction Project							
40 Acres FSC (fuels)	\$3,600.00	40 Acre Riparian Management							
Valley Outdoors (fuels)	\$3,600.00	Starlite Fuels Reduction 2025							
Mustang Mesa CSD (junipers/dumpsters)	\$3,600.00	Junk the Junipers and/or Clean Up Zone 0-5							
	\$14,400.00								
Defensible Space & Home Hardening									
Mono City Firewise-Mono Basin FSC (dumpsters)	\$4,500.00	Building Wildfire Resilience in Mono City: Home Hardening and Green-Waste Removal							
Aspen Springs Firewise (dumpsters)	\$3,600.00	Defensible Space Clearing- Aspen Springs 2025							
Mammoth Lakes FPD (tarps)	\$4,500.00	Fire-Resistant Tarp Program: Protecting Homes & Reducing Wildfire Risk in Mammoth Lakes							
Aspendell South Fork Firewise (firewood)	\$1,700.00	Firewood Re-Storage and Vegetation Removal for Hardening and Defensible Space							
Sunny Slopes Firewise (dumpster)	\$3,600.00	Sunny Slopes Wildfire Mitigation Project 2025							
Twin Lakes POA (fuels/homes)	\$2,750.00	Chipping days 2025							
Wheeler Crest FSC (dumpster)	\$2,750.00	Swall Meadows Green Waste Dumpster Rental							
	\$23,400.00								
	\$60,000.00								

The Impact of Community Directed Grants



Bridgeport Fire Department

309 Main St, Bridgeport, CA, 93517 * Phone (760) 932-7353

Chief Nick Way

Asst. Chief John Pelichowski

05/18/2025

Dear Whitebark Institute,

In the fall of 2024, the Bridgeport Fire Department was honored to receive a grant administered by the Whitebark Institute. Thanks to your generous support, we were able to acquire a Polaris Ranger equipped with both firefighting and medical rescue gear.

That support recently proved invaluable. Our department was dispatched to assist an elderly man suffering from a stroke. His residence was located approximately a mile down a dirt road that had become impassable for our rescue squad and ambulance due to a recent snowstorm. Anticipating the difficult conditions, we deployed the Polaris Ranger.

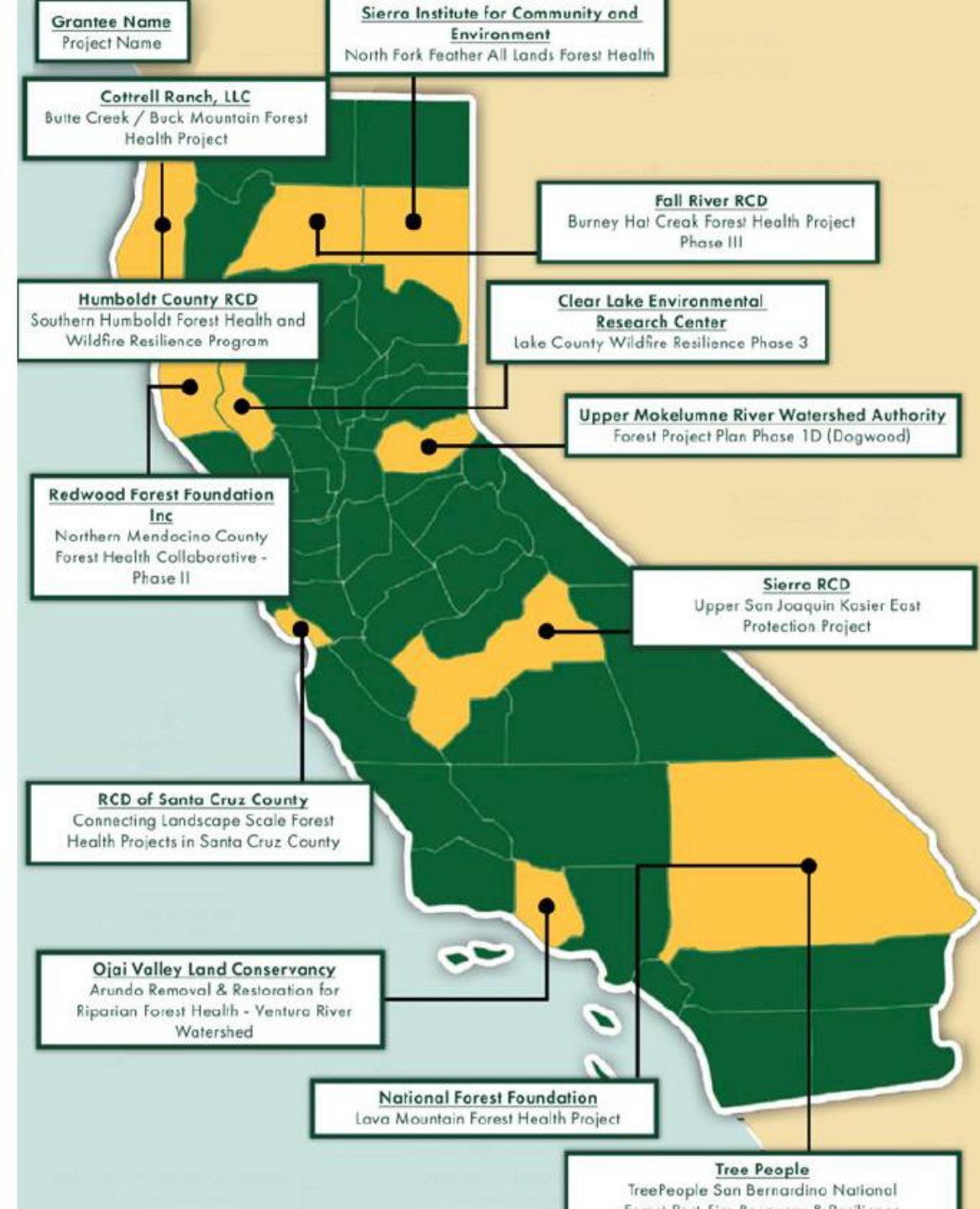
Because of this specialized vehicle, we were able to transport paramedics and essential medical equipment directly to the patient's location. Without it, our crew would have had to traverse over a mile through deep snow on foot and carry the patient back to the roadway — a process that could have taken over an hour. Instead, we were able to reach the patient and provide life-saving care within minutes.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Polaris Ranger played a critical role in saving a life that day. It exemplifies how essential the right equipment is in emergency situations, particularly in rural and difficult-to-access areas like ours.

On behalf of the entire Bridgeport Fire Department, I extend our deepest gratitude to the Whitebark Institute. Your generous grant directly contributed to a life being saved. The impact of your support goes far beyond equipment — it strengthens our ability to serve, protect, and save lives in our community. Thank you for making a difference.

With sincere appreciation,

Nick Way
Chief
Bridgeport Fire Department
309 Main St
Bridgeport, CA 93517
Page 65 of 74
bptfire@gmail.com



GGRF/California Climate Investments

- CAL FIRE Forest Health \$72M
- 13 Large-Scale Projects

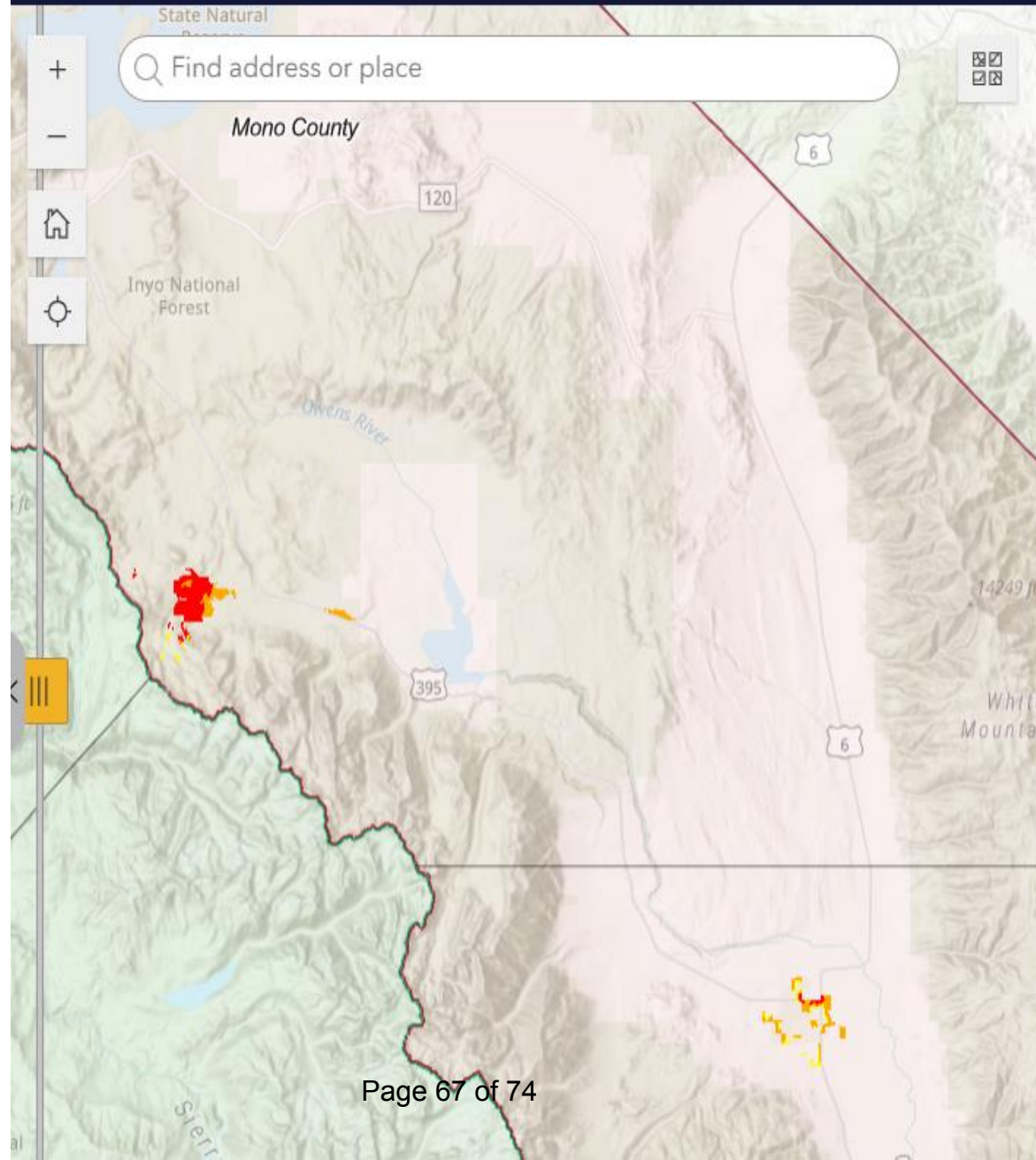




Hazard Zone Maps

CALFIRE Fire Resource Assessment Program (FRAP)

If anything, the maps are likely to understate the extent of the danger. That's because the hazard maps are meant to predict the likelihood of wildfire, said Berlant, not "conflagrations."



2025 Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Area, as Recommended by the State Fire Marshal

Fire Hazard Severity Zone

- Very High
- High
- Moderate

2007-2011 Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Area, as Recommended by the State Fire Marshal

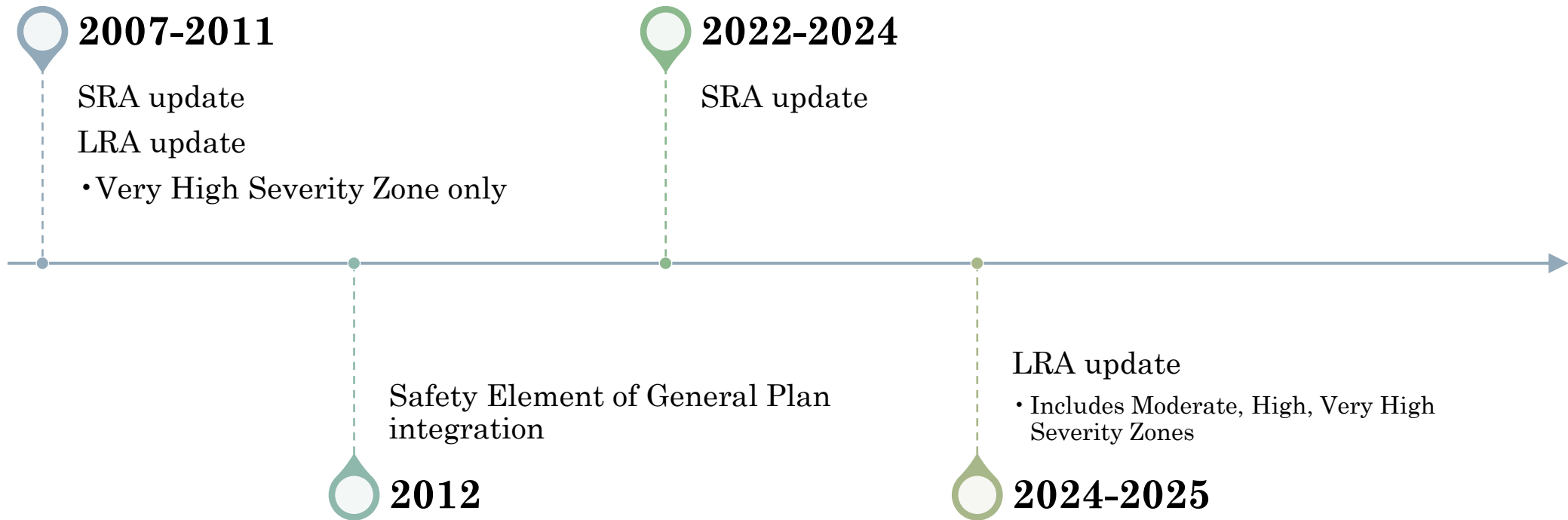
- Very High

FHSZ Rollout Phases

Rollout Phase

- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Phase 4

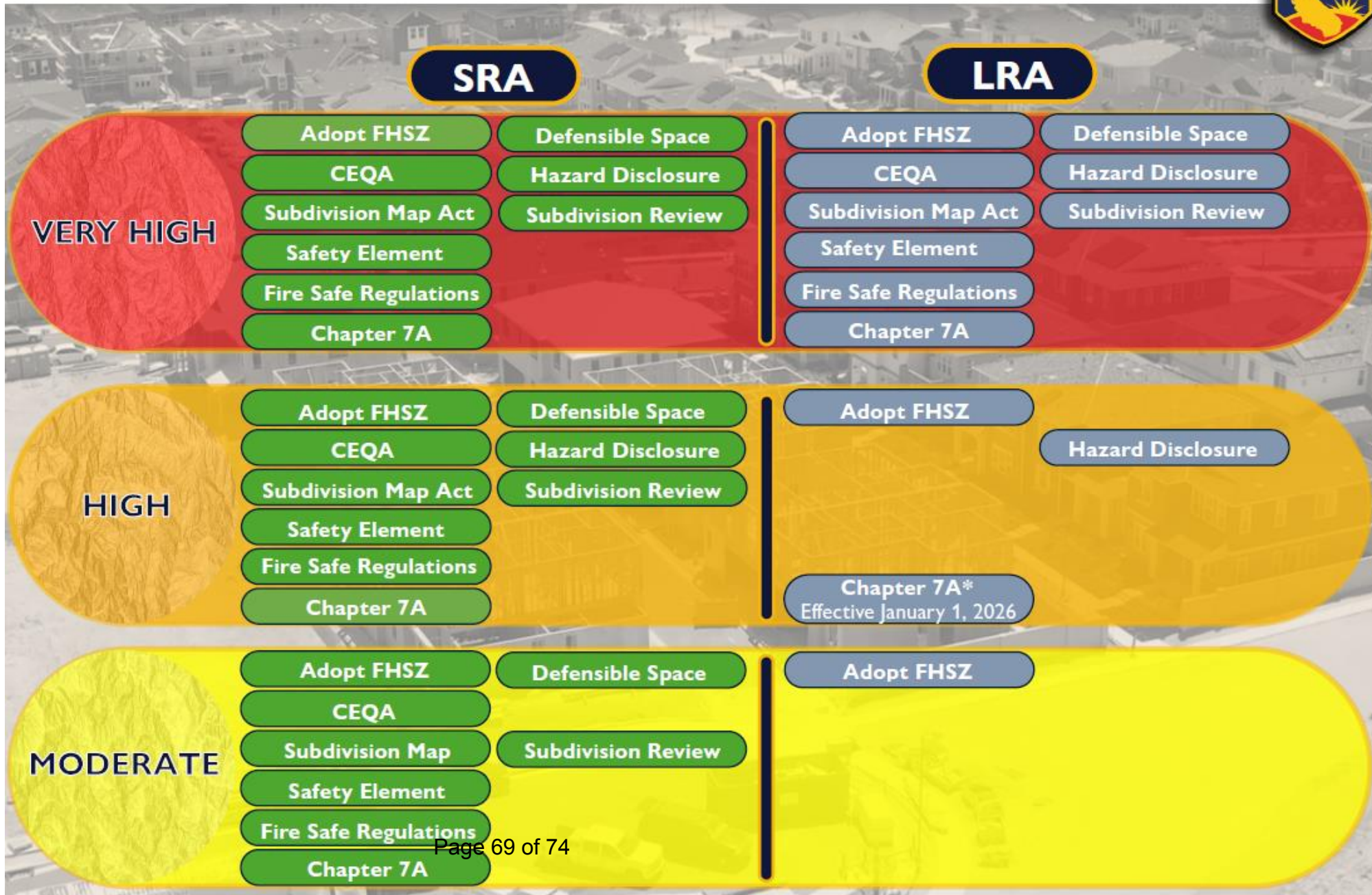
Latest Updates



Examples of State Minimum Requirements



“The reason we map these areas is to tie these really important wildfire mitigations to them, helping us to ensure that as we build out new communities we’re building to the level of hazard that exists, giving them an increased chance of surviving a wildfire,” said State Fire Marshal Daniel Berlant.





CAL FIRE hazard maps do not affect insurance rates or availability

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara issued a [fact sheet](#) explaining that CAL FIRE hazard maps do not affect insurance rates or availability. A [Spanish-language fact sheet](#) is also available.

For many years, insurance companies have been using wildfire risk models for determining where they will write and renew policies, and how much premium to charge a policyholder -- not the Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps. CAL FIRE's maps are required by law and their purpose is to drive local planning decisions, not insurance decisions.

Commissioner's POV: "Let me be clear: The CAL FIRE hazard maps are not used for insurance rates or underwriting decisions. But they will empower communities with more accurate information about the very real hazards we face. The reality is we all need to do more to protect our homes and communities from wildfires. When communities know and understand their risks, they can plan and prepare."

Background: The Department of Insurance is implementing a Sustainable Insurance Strategy aimed at supporting safer communities. Based on feedback gathered from thousands of town halls and meetings with homeowners, businesses, and individual consumers, Commissioner Lara implemented an aggressive approach to modernize insurance regulations to address insurance accessibility challenges for consumers.

Commissioner Lara's new [Safer from Wildfires regulation](#) clarifies what actions you should take to reduce wildfire risks and receive an insurance discount.

Insurance companies use computerized wildfire catastrophe models to determine which homes to write based on the risk of loss. Building on the Safer from Wildfires initiative — the nation's first wildfire safety discount program — the strategy requires catastrophe models to account for mitigation efforts by homeowners, businesses, and communities, something not possible even a few months ago under outdated regulations.

Learn More: The Department of Insurance fact sheet is posted at [CAL FIRE's Fire Hazard Severity Zone web page](#) where you can learn more about enhancing your property's fire safety and view current versions of maps.

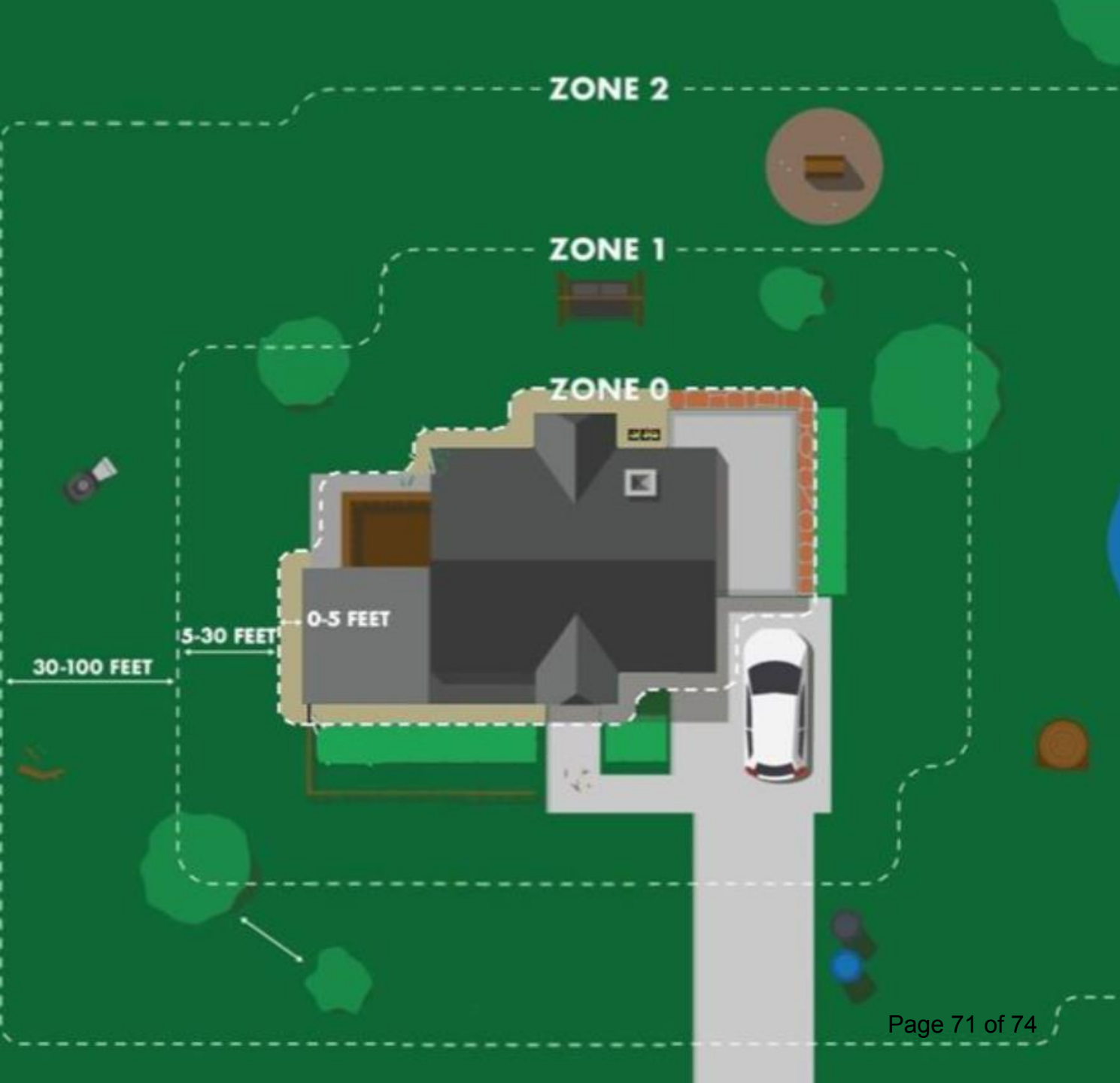


How is this going to impact my insurance?



Zone Zero

- EO N-18-24 requires BOF to complete rulemaking by Dec. 31, 2025
- Upcoming BOF meeting, June 16, 2025
- Previous workshops
 - March 4, April 7, May 12





CALIFORNIA'S TOP PRIORITIES TO INCREASE WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

- **Improve** home and community wildfire resilience
- **Streamline** regulatory processes
- **Expand** landscape-scale resilience programs
- **Scale-up** beneficial fire
- **Increase** post-fire restoration programs
- **Create** forest sector jobs and a sustainable wood products market
- **Build** a science-based framework for measuring progress



GOVERNOR
GAVIN NEWSOM

25 Key Deliverables

Mar 24, 2025

California doubles down to protect communities from wildfire with 25 key deliverables for 2025





Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) Joint Powers Authority Agenda

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority
From: Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Staff
Subject: Executive Director Report
Meeting date: June 25, 2025
Prepared on: June 17, 2025
Attachments: None

Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program:

Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator:

- Staff participated in the Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance meeting with other regional partners.
- Staff participated in the Wildfire Resiliency and Financing Action Team (WRAFT) biomass planning subcommittee meeting.

Towns-to-Trails:

- Staff and Consultants finalized Towns-to-Trails document and storymap, now published on the ESCOG website.
- Staff is closing out the grant June 30, 2025.

California Jobs First Initiative:

- Staff negotiated three awarded contracts with the Sierra Business Council.
- Staff is preparing RFP/RFQs for contractors to implement Sierra Jobs First awards in collaboration with the Inyo County PMO office.
- Staff has been working with the Business Resource Center to develop program to implement the Sierra Jobs First Catalyst Award, including development of a public agency procurement fair to assist local businesses with applying for local agency contracts.
- Staff has been coordinating with regional Sierra Jobs First project awardees regarding project development and collaboration.
- Staff has participated in the working groups for Natural and Working Lands, Tourism and Sustainable Recreation and Sustainable Agriculture.
- Staff attended the Sierra Jobs First Governing Council meeting in Sonora, CA

ESCOG Administration:

- Staff is enrolled in the California State Association of Counties Leadership Training Course, courtesy of Inyo County. The course is conducted one or two days monthly through October.
- Staff met with Regional Managers to discuss ESCOG direction and programs of work, including aligning future programs around the strategic plans of each jurisdiction and ongoing coordination with regional management.
- Staff provided a semi-annual update on ESCOG activities to Inyo County.
- Staff has been participating the Regional Housing Needs Assessment planning process.
- Staff continues to host a regional economic development roundtable for information sharing and collaboration, including Inyo County, Mono County, the City of Bishop, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Alpine County, the Bishop Paiute Tribe, the Sierra Business Council, the Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center, and RCRC.
- Staff attending the Mono County Recreation Partner meet and Greet held in Mammoth Lakes.
- Staff is coordinating with the Inyo County PMO office to integrate ESCOG projects into Quickbase project management software.
- Ongoing grant administration and reporting for the CDFW Proposition 1 grant, Sierra Nevada Conservancy Vibrant Tourism grant, and California Jobs First Initiative.
- Staff has been holding meetings with recreation stakeholder groups to identify partnership opportunities, including the Bishop Area Climbers Coalition and the Bishop Area Bike Organization.