



State of California

National
Disaster
Resilience
Competition

Phase II
October 27, 2015

Exhibit G:
Factor 5 - Long-Term
Commitment
[ExhibitGLongTermCommitment.pdf](#)



EXHIBIT G: REGIONAL COORDINATION AND LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO RESILIENCE

Update on Phase I Commitments

Phase 1 included commitments to continue work on Rim Fire recovery, to continue fuel break development, and to develop a Forest Carbon Plan. Updates on several commitments are included below. Others remain in progress.

1. **Ongoing USFS work:** The USFS is continuing a program of reforestation, erosion control, rehabilitation, and timber salvage in the area of the Rim Fire. The Forest has established long-term working relationships with Columbia College and the California Conservation Corp to assist with project implementation and monitoring. Through a Large Landscape Scale effort, the Forest is moving forward with analyzing the watershed areas adjacent to the Rim Fire for the potential to take action to reduce the probability of wildland fires.
2. **CAL FIRE** is implementing a fire prevention and fuel reduction project in the target area. The project consists of fuel breaks that are intended to slow the advance of an approaching wildfire and allow firefighters to control the fire before it impacts nearby residential communities. The project consists of cutting, piling, and burning or chipping vegetation that is encroaching and re-growing in the Rim Fire Contingency Line. Initial work will take 24 months, with 5 years for maintenance.
3. **Forest Climate Action Plan** The Forest Climate Action Team's Forest Carbon Plan will outline concrete strategies to meet greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets, as identified in the California Air Resources Board 2016 Scoping Plan Update, and increase carbon storage in California forests. An internal draft Forest Carbon Plan is under review, with



public release and meetings scheduled for early 2016. A completed draft will follow the release of the Scoping Plan update in the latter half of 2016.

Baseline and Goal Metrics

The baseline and goal for CAL FIRE's work remains the same as in Phase 1, which are to develop fuel breaks that are:

1. Substantially free of piled vegetation,
2. Understory vegetation up to six feet removed, and
3. Achieves widely spaced trees at least 24 feet apart.

Actions Taken since NOFA Publication

Many actions underway at the local and state level will support CWRP implementation – several that have begun since Phase 1.

Executive Action

Executive Order B-30-15: Governor Brown issued Executive Order (EO) B-30-15 on April 29, 2015. EO B-30-15 established a 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target and a multi-part resilience program. This program includes direction for state agencies to incorporate climate change into all state planning investment, to prioritize the use of natural and green infrastructure, and to use full life cycle cost accounting in infrastructure planning decisions. OPR is leading a Technical Advisory Group to assist in the implementation of the Executive Order.

Legislative Actions

The following pieces of legislation were signed into law:

- **Senate Bill 246** (signed 10/8/15) creates the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program within the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. The Program would serve



as a clearinghouse for information on local and regional climate adaptation and resilience and serve as a liaison between local and regional programs and State agencies.

- **Senate Bill 350** (signed 10/7/15) increases procurement of electricity from renewable resources from 33 to 50 percent.
- **Senate Bill 379** (signed 10/8/15) requires local governments to address climate change in the Safety Element of their General Plan.
- **Assembly Bill 1482** (signed 10/8/15) requires the CA Natural Resources Agency to update the *Safeguarding California* Plan every three years, and directs the Strategic Growth Council to ensure that funding programs are consistent with *Safeguarding California*.

Raising Enforceable Standards

General Plan Guidelines Update: The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research updated the *General Plan Guidelines (GPG)*. The new GPG includes resources, data, tools, and model policies to help cities and counties update their general plans and address climate change goals and adaptation. A public review draft of the GPG was released on October 12, 2015.

Plan Updates and Alignment

Tuolumne County Water Management Plan: In 2013, the Board of Supervisors voted to resurrect the County water agency “to ensure adequate water suppliers to meet the diverse needs of a healthy and economically viable community,” and in November of 2014, engaged professional facilitation to move the initiative forward. The goal is to discuss the hydrologic changes currently being experienced in the county and to consider potential future changes and their impacts.

Tuolumne County General Plan Update: Tuolumne County is currently in the process of updating its General Plan. The Final EIR will be available in December 2015, with public



meetings occurring in December 2015/January 2016. Updated to the General Plan include the following:

- **Economic Development:** commitment to align County resources with agencies providing job training and business development for the Central Sierra Nevada region
- **Natural Resource:** support biomass energy facilities, manage invasive plants and vegetation removal for fuel reduction, and balance conservation with fire hazard reduction.
- **Water Resource:** Align goals with climate adaptation strategies at the state level, support water harvesting and storage, develop policies and programs to adapt to extreme climate effects such as drought and flooding.

Safeguarding California – Implementation Action Plans: A 2014 supplement to California’s 2009 Climate Adaptation Strategy implemented through the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and one of the main pillars of California’s climate change strategy.

Implementation Action Plans have been developed for each sector and were release for public comment in October 2015.

Assembly Bill (AB) 32 Scoping Plan: The California Air Resources Board (CARB) launched a process to develop a plan update for meeting the State’s 2030 GHG emission reduction goals. This process will include developing a GHG emission reduction framework for natural and working lands. A kick-off workshop was held on October 1, 2015.

Forest Carbon Plan: As noted above, an internal review draft of the Forest Carbon plan is under review. A final draft will follow the release of the Scoping Plan update in late 2016.

Lessons Learned

An unprecedented level of collaboration and coordination went into the preparation of this proposal. The process provided important lessons in developing a place-based resilience program



that integrates across sectors and levels of governments in a manner that will be replicable for other communities. Many of these were reinforced through ongoing engagement with Weed, California in their [recovery from the Boles Fire](#). There have been several important outcomes:

- The concept of comprehensive or landscape-scale forest health management, rather than several disparate management actions, now permeates discussions and funding considerations within CAL FIRE, CalEPA, the California Natural Resources Agency, and the California Air Resources Board.
- Partnerships are developing to institutionalize community engagement and long-term resilience into long-term disaster recovery.
- The need to incentivize or encourage local communities to develop visions for resilience before the disaster.
- Tuolumne County is considering how to integrate resilience into existing plans and documents.

The NDRC process and work in Weed have also provided some practical lessons, including:

- Use of a record keeping system for tracking, matching and reporting on funding received in partnership with local philanthropy.
- Importance of community-driven, but state supported recovery planning efforts with extensive community engagement, including a central location for public information.

Actions to Be Taken within One Year of Award Announcements

Proposition 1 Awards

Approved by voters in November 2014, Proposition 1 funds supporting the development of a sustainable water systems and include the following programs:



Integrated Regional Water Management funds support planning and implementation efforts within hydraulic regions identified in the 2013 California Water Plan. Tuolumne County is located within the Mountain Counties hydraulic region and is eligible to apply for \$13 million in [Integrated Regional Water Management funds](#). The first round of award is expected to be made in late 2015 or early 2016.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is administering a [Watershed Restoration & Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program](#). \$24 million is available for the Watershed Restoration Grant Program. Funds will be used to protect lands within watersheds, habitat restoration, conservation and enhancement. Awards will be made in December 2015.

The **Sierra Nevada Conservancy** will distribute [\\$25 million in Proposition 1 funds](#). Projects will include fuel treatment to reduce wildfire risk, protect watershed health, forest health, protect life and property, and reduce greenhouse gasses. Applications were submitted September 1st, 2015 and awards will be authorized in either December 2015 or March 2016.

Financing Actions that Increase Resilience

Working with local and regional business incubators in Tuolumne County, the CWRP will strive to expand financing opportunities for local small business and start-ups, with workforce development opportunities included. The long-term goal is that financing for these actions will be pursued through eventual revenue generation of the biomass facility. In addition, the State is collaborating with [Blue Forest Conservation](#) to develop a mechanism to attract private capital for forest and watershed work, based upon the pay for success model.

