



Special Meeting

June 26, 2025, 9:15 AM RCDTC Conference Room 206 Walnut St, Red Bluff, CA

MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON WITH A VIRTUAL OR DIAL-IN OPTION

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting via Microsoft Teams](#)

Or call in (audio only) 559-825-3543

Phone Conference ID: 247 747 160#

Agenda Item	Status
I. Introductions – Open Meeting	
II. Consider approval of Directors request to participate remotely and utilize Just Cause or Emergency Circumstance per AB 2449	Discussion/ Action
III. Public Comments & Communications	
IV. SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA	
A. Approval of the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget	Action
B. Approve SPI’s CalVTP Consultant	Action
C. Board Member Recruitment	Discussion
D. Board of Directors Comments	Discussion
V. Adjourn	

II. Action Items

Consider approval of Directors request to participate remotely and utilize Just Cause or Emergency Circumstance per AB 2449

Brief Summary of AB 2449 for Remote Meeting Attendance for Public Boards

1. Member must notify board at earliest opportunity, including at beginning of the meeting. There are two reasons for remote attendance, just cause and emergency circumstances.
 - a. Just cause (board does not act on just cause) for:
 - i. Caregiving
 - ii. Contagious illness
 - iii. Need related to physical or mental disability
 - iv. Travel on official business of legislative body (or another state or local agency)
 - b. Emergency circumstances
 - i. Physical or family medical emergency that prevents member from attending in person.
 1. Must give general description of emergency, approximately 20 words, not necessary to disclose personal medical information.
 2. Board then acts on request.
 3. Request must be made at every missed meeting.
2. If attending remotely must disclose anyone over 18 at the remote location.
3. Must participate through both audio and visual technology.
4. If any member of the board is participating remotely, the public must have a method to participate remotely also (only phone or audio and visual technology is permitted for the public).

AB 2302 (Addis), which takes effect on January 1, 2025, replaces limitations in AB 2449 with an easier-to-apply formulation. It limits the allowed number of remote appearances for members of Brown Act bodies to:

- Two times per year if the body regularly meets once per month or less;

Recommended Action – Approval of directors’ request to participate remotely and utilize Just Cause or Emergency Circumstance per AB 2449

V. Action Items

A. Approval of the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget

The 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget is before the board. As stated in the past, it is a best guess based on the current projects that the district is undertaking. One thing to note is that we are seeing a decrease in funding availability for fire prevention for the time being. I anticipate that the Prop 4 natural resources bond will supplement the CCI funding shortages, but in the meantime, the leadership team will be making some staffing changes in anticipation of a continued decline in CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Program.

Also, there are a few active projects that are not included in this budget, as Amy is out of the office and the Dye Creek Project is on hold until we figure out the path forward to completion. We have a few projects in the pipeline that are not reflected in this budget such as additional Forest Service funding for non-industrial landowners.

Recommended Action – Approve the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget

V. Action Items

B. Approval of the SPI's CalVTP Consultant

The district put out an informal bid for selection of a contractor to draft a CAL FIRE Vegetation Treatment Plan (CalVTP) CEQA compliance document on Sierra Pacific Industry, Inc. lands that are located on Onion Ridge next to the Collins Pines CalVTP that was completed in 2024.

Currently, we are waiting for consultants to submit bids that will close on June 23, 2025. Seronica is out of the office this week on vacation. This action item may be tabled for the next board meeting if we do not receive bids or other issues arise in which the district staff cannot make a recommendation to the board.

Recommended Action – Approve the selected consultant for the SPI CalVTP document creation, if bids are available for approval



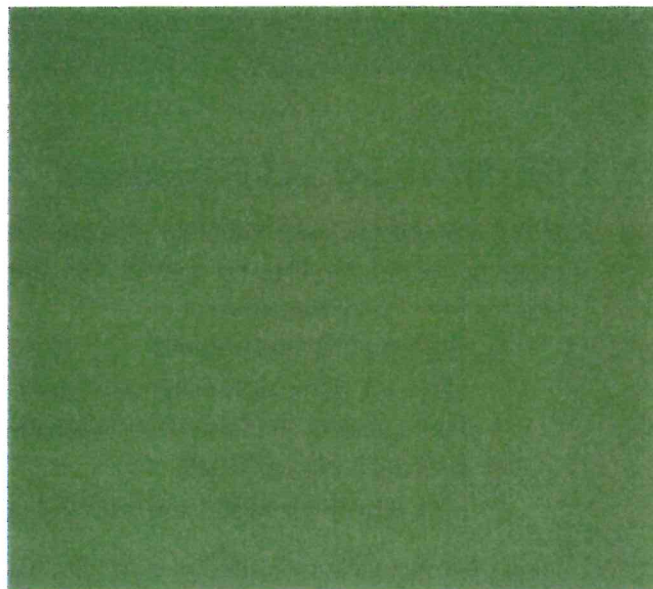
Subcontractor Review and Scoring Matrix - SPI CalVTP

Category	Reviewer	Mason, Bruce & Girard	Ascent	Pedersen Resources Management Consultant
Completeness of Proposal	Seronica	10	9	7
	Jon	9	8	7
	Average	9.5	8.5	7
All Required Licensing and Certification	Seronica	10	10	10
	Jon	10	10	10
	Average	15	15	15
Ability to complete project within timeline	Seronica	24	25	23
	Jon	23	25	25
	Average	35.5	37.5	35.5
Approach	Seronica	20	20	20
	Jon	20	20	20
	Average	30	30	30
Demonstration of CalVTP development	Seronica	20	20	15
	Jon	20	20	18
	Average	20	20	16.5
Cost	Seronica	7.5	1	1
	Jon	7.5	1	1
	Average	7.5	1	1
Local Workforce	Seronica	0	0	5
	Jon	0	0	5
	Average	0	0	5
Final Score		117.5	112	110

Request For Bid for
**Resource Conservation District of
Tehama County**

To accomplish development of a CalVTP

Prepared for



Natural Resource Consultants

Mason, Bruce & Girard, Inc. (MB&G)

701 High Street, Suite 207 Auburn, CA 95603

530-919-0219 | www.masonbruce.com

June 23, 2025

Contact Person & Email:

Robert Galliano, RPF #2879

530-919-0219 | RGallian@masonbruce.com

Qualifications and Experience

MB&G is pleased to submit the following proposal in response to the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County's (RCDTC) request for bids for CalVTP PSA preparation services. Based out of Auburn, California, MB&G's Forest Management Group specializes in:

- ☑ Wildfire mitigation planning
- ☑ CEQA and NEPA environmental analysis
- ☑ Fuel reduction and forest restoration projects
- ☑ Field operations oversight
- ☑ Long-term forest health and resiliency planning

MB&G has five California RPFs on staff who have decades of experience with fuels reduction projects in the State of California. Our RPFs have valid licenses to practice forestry in the State of California. In addition to our RPFs, our California team also includes four assistant foresters and one Biologist. Our team has provided expert services and support to non-profits, the US Forest Service, CAL FIRE, Federal and State agencies, Cities, Counties, Resource Conservation Districts, private industry, small landowners, and utilities. Our RPFs are ready to provide expertise to RCDTC for the duration of this project.

Our team has been instrumental in the completion of many similar stewardship projects on private lands. These projects have ranged widely in scale, from several hundred acres, to nearly 200,000 acres. We have developed an efficient and streamlined workflow that we are ready to plug into this project on behalf of RCDTC.

Experience in Similar Projects

Green Valley Fuelbreak Cal VTP PSA, 2022-present. Through MB&G's on call agreement with the Yolo RCD, we competed a Cal VTP Project Specific Analysis (PSA) for the Cordilla Fire Protection District. The PSA covered fuels treatment work surrounding the community of Green Valley in Solano County. The project is 241 acres and includes mechanical, manual, and prescribed herbivory as primary treatment types. MB&G is currently completed CAL VTP Surveys for phase one and two of this project.

American River Conservancy SOFAR Project. MB&G assisted the American River Conservancy (ARC) in the preparation of a Cal VTP PSA addendum alongside ARC staff. The PSA addendum covered 1943 acres and included mechanical and manual thinning, prescribed burning, prescribed herbivory and herbicide treatment. Cal Fire was the lead agency for the project, and it was approved in April 2025. Operations are currently underway on the project, and MB&G is assisting ARC in the implementation of the project.

Nevada County RCD – Emigrant Gap Cal VTP PSA Addendum. Through our contract with the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, MB&G prepared a Cal VTP PSA addendum covering the newly created Emigrant Gap State Forest and select adjacent private lands. The PSA covered 4,312 acres and included mechanical and manual thinning, prescribed burning, prescribed herbivory and herbicide treatment. The Draft PSA addendum was completed in March 2025 and is currently in review with CAL FIRE. MB&G completed the draft PSA addendum deliverable within a short 3-month funding window.

National Forest Foundation (NFF) Barnes South. MB&G prepared a Cal VTP PSA addendum for the NFF Barnes South project. The PSA covered 400 acres and included mechanical and manual thinning, prescribed burning, prescribed herbivory and herbicide treatment. The Draft PSA addendum is currently in review with CAL FIRE.

Amador Resource Conservation District (RCD), Registered Professional Forester and Field Management, 2022 to March 2025. MB&G provided required surveys associated with the approved CAL VTP, and completed project mapping, treatment prescriptions, and fuel load reduction implementation oversight for Jackson Creek Forest Health Project for Amador RCD. Work is ongoing and includes field layout, map creation, biological surveying, contracting support, and field operations supervision. MB&G has worked with the projects advisory committee to designate and prioritize treatment areas. MB&G is responsible for overseeing implementation operations for this phase of the project.

Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Phase I Implementations, Yuba Watershed and Fire Safe Protection Council (YWPFSC), Yuba County, California, 2022- Present. MB&G provides forestry services on roadside fuel treatments along County, County Service Area, and private roads on 465 acres including required surveys associated with the previously approved CAL VTP. Our team is completing many of the project management tasks including identification of project landowners, acquisition of right of entry agreements, public meetings, layout and environmental surveys, contractor procurement and supervision, and grant reporting.

Timeline

MB&G is available to begin immediately upon contract execution, anticipated in July 2025. Our proposed schedule is below.

Task	Schedule
Reconnaissance level surveys	August 2025
Draft PSA & MMRP	December 2025
Final PSA & NOE/NOD	March 2026
Project implementation readiness	April 2026

The first phase of the project will be to complete reconnaissance level surveys across the project area to identify vegetation conditions and potential habitat for sensitive species. Data gathered in the reconnaissance survey will allow us to accurately describe project activities and conditions and inform the biological resources portion of the PSA addendum. MB&G expects to have the reconnaissance surveys completed by the end of August 2025. The next phase will be completing the draft PSA addendum. The draft will be completed and submitted to the RCD prior to the end of 2025. Once MB&G receives suggested edits to the draft, MB&G can provide the final PSA and notice of determination. It is our expectation that the PSA can be completed and adopted by the RCD in time for the project to be ready for implementation in April 2026. MB&G will supply all necessary labor, equipment, supplies, supervision, and quality control needed to complete the project. Safety is a top priority at MB&G and all work will be performed in a safe and conscientious manner.

References	Amador Resource Conservation District, RPF and Field Management	Emigrant Gap Cal VTP PSA Addendum	American River Conservancy SOFAR Project
	Amador RCD, Amanda Watson, Executive Director, 209-217-1090, amanda@amadorrccd.org	Steve Garcia Nevada Yuba Placer, Unit Forester (530) 277-2306 steven.garcia@fire.ca.gov	Autumn Gronborg Forest Restoration Manager American River Conservancy (706) 982-0743 autumn@arconservancy.org

Approach

MB&G’s approach will provide a complete, CalVTP-compliant Project Specific Analysis (PSA) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Onion Springs project area in full alignment with CEQA requirements, RCDTC

objectives, and the project timeline. Our team is prepared to begin work immediately upon contract execution and to carry the project from initial environmental data gathering through to final CEQA documentation and NOE/NOD support.

Task 1: Data Collection and Reconnaissance Surveys

MB&G RPFs and biologists will conduct a detailed review of available maps, shapefiles, treatment prescriptions, and prior planning documents provided by RCDTC and SPI. We will conduct reconnaissance-level field surveys to assess vegetation types, terrain, access, and habitat suitability for sensitive species.

This phase will identify site-specific constraints and inform development of feasible treatment options that reflect ground conditions. We will also use this phase to determine if additional technical studies or targeted biological surveys are necessary. These surveys will inform the biological assessment portion of the PSA addendum and allow for the identification of appropriate standard project requirements and mitigation measures to be incorporated into the mitigation and monitoring plan.

Task 2: Draft PSA and MMRP Development

MB&G will prepare a full CalVTP PSA addendum and associated mitigation and monitoring plan. This will include tribal consultation and consultation with CDWF and USFWS as necessary. The PSA will be drafted in consultation with the RCD and the Landowner to ensure that implementation of the project is feasible within a reasonable work window. MB&G will also present standard project requirements and mitigation measures in a manner that is easy to understand and will provide the project implementer with a clear picture of what the requirements are and what time of year they apply. MB&G expects to utilize preexisting information found in timber harvest plans submitted by the landowner to inform our assessments and analysis.

Task 3: Agency Review, Response to Comments, and Revisions

MB&G will facilitate a full round of review with RCDTC, CAL FIRE, and relevant resource agencies (e.g., CDFW, USFWS, tribal representatives). We will document all input and provide a written comment-response log. Our team will revise the PSA and MMRP to address all substantive comments and ensure the documents are legally defensible and fully compliant.

Task 4: Final PSA and Filing Support

MB&G will prepare the final PSA and MMRP, incorporating all approved changes. We will assist RCDTC in preparing and filing the Notice of Exemption (NOE) or Notice of Determination (NOD), as applicable. All final deliverables will be submitted in both PDF and Word formats, along with shapefiles, GIS layers, data tables, and any other project files.

Staff to Be Assigned

Rober Galliano, RPF, will be the primary point of contact for RCDTC and the primary author of the PSA, and will be assisted by Biologist Elliot Maldonado, and RPF Allison Erny. Robert Galliano, along with assistant forester Alan Burfiend and Biologist Elliot Maldonado will complete the reconnaissance survey. Appendix A includes resumes for key MB&G staff and proof of RPF licenses. MB&G does not intend to use subcontractors for this project.

Bid Presentation

MANDATORY TASKS	BID
TASK 1: Document Creation (PSA & MMRP)	\$ 1.25 / Acre
TASK 2: Surveys Relating to Preparation of Documents	\$ 4.69 / Acre
Total	\$ 5.94/ Acre * 12,617 acres = \$74,944.98



Robert Galliano, RPF #2879, ISA Certified Arborist #we-13922A, Forester/ Project Manager

Robert is the Lead Forester in MB&G's Auburn, California office. He has 18 years of experience in forestry consulting. During this time, Robert has had broad exposure to a diverse range of projects and is continuously applying this experience to provide in-depth knowledge, informed project solutions and adaptive management to clients. Robert enjoys assisting clients in developing and managing ecologically and economically sound forest restoration projects.

Education

B.S., Forestry, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California

Years of Experience
18 years

Certificates and Memberships

- California Registered Professional Forester (RPF #2879)
- CDF Archaeological Site Recognition Course
- USFS Wildland Firefighter Training
- California Licensed Forester Association (member of board of directors April 2012 to May 2016)

Proficiencies

- Timber Sale Layout and Administration for Private and Federal Land
- Treatment layout and marking
- Timber Inventory Design, Data Collection and Processing
- Contractor oversight and administration
- Forest health and fuels reduction treatment recommendations
- Hazard Tree Assessments and Project Management
- Silviculture Assessments for NEPA Analysis
- Botanical and Biological Scoping
- CAL FIRE Harvest Permit Preparation, THPs, NTMPs, exemptions, and Emergency Notices
- GIS Mapping and Analysis
- CEQA, Notice of Exemptions, Mitigated Negative Declarations, Cal VTP Surveys and Assessments
- Timberland Management

MB&G Project Experience

Hazard Tree Assessment and Project Management. Robert has been the lead RPF for several large hazard tree assessment projects, including work for the Cal Recycle 2020 fires inland branch, El Dorado Department of Public Works Caldor Fire, and PCWA 2021 storm damage assessment. While working for Cal Recycle, Robert was responsible for training, dispatch and quality control for a team of up to 10 arborists covering multiple fires in Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino counties. Robert also provided permitting and forest practice rule compliance assistance for tree operations associated with the project. For the Caldor Fire, Robert developed a tree assessment plan and data, oversaw a team of up to 3 arborists, and developed an Arborist report meeting requirements for FEMA reimbursement. For PCWA, Robert developed a methodology for assessing trees which were made hazardous by 2021 storms, and trees which have a high probability of becoming hazardous with future storms.

USFS/Partner Agency MSA work. Robert has been the primary forester contracted with Placer County for the French Meadows Project since 2016. Robert was initially responsible for drafting a treatment plan for USFS lands, which drain into French Meadows Reservoir with the primary purpose of protecting the watershed from catastrophic wildfire. Following adoption of the plan, Robert assisted with NEPA analysis for the project, and utilizing MB&G field staff completed project layout and marking. Implementation of the project started in 2019 and continues seasonally to the present time. Robert, in conjunction with MB&G assistant foresters, is responsible for oversight of active operations, and assists the County with required Grant Reporting. Robert has also assisted the National Forest Foundation with layout, marking and operations oversight for the Yuba Duce, Elliot Meadows, Robinson Flat, and Gates Campground Meadow Restoration projects in 2018 and 2019.

Timberland Management. Robert was the timberland manager for a 40,000-acre investor-owned property located in Placer County from 2014 to the property sale in 2017. During this

time Robert was responsible for all aspects of timber harvest permitting, timber sale administration, reforestation and plantation management, and budgeting. Robert oversaw post fire salvage and reforestation on approximately 10,000 acres of the property effected by the American and King Fires. Prior to becoming the timberland manager, Robert had worked on the property as a Forester since 2007.

Forest Restoration for Nonprofits and Resource Conservation Districts. Starting in 2009 and continuing to present day, Robert has assisted with forest restoration projects for several RCDs and NGOs including the Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council, Placer RCD, El Dorado RCD, Plumas Fire Safe Council, and Amador RCD. This project work has included assistance with project development, CEQA and NEPA permitting, project layout, environmental surveys, and implementation oversight.

Experience Prior to Employment with MB&G

Self-Employment, Forester, CA. Robert prepared timber harvest plans, planned and administered fuel reduction projects in the Central Sierras, Identified a supervised removal of hazard trees along utility canal corridors.

Timberland Resource Consultants, Forestry Technician, CA. Robert assisted RPF's in the layout and writing of timber harvest plans and non-industrial timber management plans. Conducted timber cruises.

WM Beatty & Associates, Forestry Technician, CA. Seasonal positions for timber cruising and timber marking.

Environmental Resource Solutions, Urban Forestry Technician, CA. Robert worked on the Southern California bark beetle project, which included identifying infest trees that were at risk of hitting power lines, marking trees for removal and collecting cruise data for each tree.

Boise National Forest, Forestry Aid, CA. Conducted stocking surveys, flagged pre-commercial thinning unit boundaries, stand exam plots, planting inspections, and firefighting.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

ROBERT GALLIANO, No. 2879

is a Registered Professional Forester who has qualified for registration under
Article 3 of Chapter 2.5 of Division 1 of the Public Resources
Code of the State of California.
EXPIRATION DATE 6/30/2025


Executive Officer-Foresters Registration



Allison Erny
Registered Professional Forester #3081

Allison is a registered professional forester with nine years of varied experience on public and private land in California. Allison is focused on forest health, promoting the sustainable use of forest products, and creating fire-resilient communities through science-based forest management.

Proficiencies

- Demonstrated experience working within the framework of the CA Forest Practice Rules and other CEQA and NEPA documents.
- Successful implementation of funds, from grant writing to project work.
- Existing contacts and trusting relationships with multiple partners, agencies, tribes, funders, and landowners in Placer County and surrounding areas.
- Budgeting and phased planning for complex, multi-million dollar forest projects.
- Daily use of ArcPro and other ESRI products.

Education

B.S., Forestry and Natural Resources, University of California, Berkeley

Years of Experience
 9 years

Certificates and Memberships

- California Registered Professional Forester, #3081
- CAL FIRE Archaeological Survey Course, 2019
- Member of California Licensed Foresters Association, 2018 – present
- Steering Committee Vice Chair, Forestry and Natural Resources Career Mentorship Program 2024
- Program Manager, Forestry Mentorship Program 2022 - 2023
- Steering Committee Member, Forestry Mentorship Program, 2020 - 2022
- Secretary (2019 and 2020) and Board Member at large, California Women in Timber, 2017 - 2021

MB&G Project Experience

Nyack Fuels Reduction and Infrastructure Protection Project, Phase I, National Forest Foundation. MB&G is providing unit layout and area determination, implementation oversight and planning to NFF for the Nyack Fuels Reduction project. Our RPFs developed a digital inspection form that runs on a smartphone using survey 123 for determining compliance on mechanical thinning units. Field layout data will be collected using Avenza Pro. Following project design and approval by NFF and USFS, MB&G will utilize a field crew of a RPF paired with a forestry technician to complete flagging of unit boundaries and protection areas where appropriate.

Woodpecker Ravine Phase I, Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES), California. MB&G is providing RPF services to Nevada County OES. For the Woodpecker Ravine Phase I project, MB&G's RPFs developed appropriate treatment design, within the environmental constraints presented by the on-the-ground conditions of the project area, and to the specifications communicated by individual landowners. MB&G is acting as Project Manager for on-the-ground treatments that will be implemented by contractors, ensuring that fuel mitigation activities are in alignment with the treatment design and adhere to environmental compliance measures, including implementing any mitigation best-practices that are delineated. The required outcome is to deliver a place-based treatment design and to oversee its implementation in accordance with landowner preference, CEQA requirements, and CAL FIRE (funder) grant-specific specifications for the implementation of Phase 1 (410 acres) of the Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break.

Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley Fire Projection, National Forest Foundation, Tahoe, NF, California, 2024-2025. MB&G provided project layout and timber cruising in fall of 2024 and implementation oversight on 1,245 acres in the Tahoe national forest. Implementation oversight will start in spring 2025 and end in 2027.

Hobart Mills Tributary Forest Health Restoration, Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC), Tahoe, NF 2024. MB&G completed forest health surveys for the TRWC on the Tahoe National Forest. A data review was conducted to determine past NEPA documentation, existing timber cruise data, GIS data, and past condition assessments. A forest health inventory and proposed action report was conducted. MB&G completed a high-level assessment of stand types and general forest health concerns as well as an assessment of existing road infrastructure and access. Stand exam plot data was collected on 100 plots in the treatment area and MB&G

create an Esri field maps application to collect the stand exam data on each plot. A logging plan was also created, mapping existing system roads, any needed temporary non system spur roads, landing locations, watercourse crossings, water drafting sites, and the skid trail pattern. The stand exam data was processed in FVS and modeled treatment alternatives over a 40-year horizon. A silviculture report was also provided.

Baltimore Ravine Shaded Fuel Break, Auburn City Fire Department, Auburn, CA. MB&G is providing the following for the City several essential services. These include conducting a thorough CEQA analysis to assess potential environmental impacts and ensure compliance certification. MB&G also facilitates coordination with various landowners and manages a comprehensive database to streamline communication with private parties, public entities, and utility providers. In collaboration with trusted archaeological specialists, the team oversees the identification, surveying, monitoring, and protection of cultural resources. Additionally, MB&G provides GIS mapping and develops detailed specifications for vegetation and fuel treatments, while also managing contractor procurement processes and offering guidance and supervision during project implementation.

Previous Experience

Forestry Project Manager, Placer Resource Conservation District, Auburn, CA

- Project management for multiple large, multi-stakeholder, grant-funded forest health and reforestation projects across public and private ownerships, including project design, private landowner outreach, permitting, layout, writing/releasing requests for proposals, contracting, implementation/oversight, and reporting.
- Familiarity with biological and cultural surveying, water quality monitoring and BMPs, and permitting related to county-level ordinances, CEQA, NEPA, water quality, and air quality.
- Writes and oversees contracts for fuels reduction, timber harvest, reforestation, and professional archaeological/biological services on private property.
- Project lead for the Emergency Forest Restoration Team for the Mosquito Fire in Placer County.
- Provided technical assistance to private landowners regarding forest health, land management, and cost-share programs.
- Grant writing, both individually and as part of a team, that has brought a collective \$17M in funding to the Placer RCD.
- Regular participation in prescribed fire and pile burning for fuels reduction. Familiarity with state and local laws and policies surrounding the use of fire for natural resource management.
- Management of a statewide mentorship program for college and university forestry students.

District Forester, Sierra Pacific Industries, Tahoe District

- Designed, prepared, and laid out timber harvest plans and exemptions.
- Managed and administered large-scale timber harvest projects requiring knowledge of silviculture, logging system/road design, and CA Forest Practice Rules.
- Communicated regularly with agency representatives (CALFIRE, CDFW, CGS, USFS, Water Quality) and local contractors to reach solutions both in the office and the field.
- Duties included strategic fuel break planning, logging system design, watercourse crossing design, archaeological surveys, wildlife habitat assessment for special status species, and rare plant surveys in a variety of forest types, stretching from Foresthill to Jackson Meadows Reservoir.

Forestry Technician, Foresters Co-op, Grass Valley, CA

- Varied forestry and land management experience throughout the state of California.
- Duties included THP and NTMP writing, CFIP preparation, forest inventory, THP layout, and logging administration.
- Extensive experience with cruise design and implementation for private landowners/entities, USFS (both stand exam and volume cruise), and for carbon assessment (CARB and ACR).
- Supervision of a crew of forestry technicians. Additional supervisory experience with contract crews in removal of hazardous vegetation around PG&E gas line utilities.

Forestry Aide, CAL FIRE, Fort Bragg, CA

- 17 months of seasonal forestry technician work on Jackson Demonstration State Forest.
- THP layout, timber marking, and road layout.
- Participated in two intensive forest-wide inventories, both as a cruiser and a check-cruiser.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

Allison Erny, No. 3081

is a Registered Professional Forester who has qualified for registration under
Article 3 of Chapter 2.5 of Division 1 of the Public Resources
Code of the State of California.
EXPIRATION DATE 6/30/2025

Executive Officer-Foresters Registration



Alan Burfeind

Forestry Technician/Pest Control Advisor 166492

Alan is a PCA/Forestry Technician with over 7 years' experience. He has extensive experience in post fire salvage, vegetation control & reforestation projects. Alan also has previous experience in utility forestry, and arboriculture. Alan specializes in improving and restoring forest health and productivity.

Proficiencies

- Fixed and Variable Plot Timber Cruising
- IPM, Vegetation Control
- Reforestation
- Chainsaw Operation
- Map and Compass use
- Sierra Nevada Plant and Tree Identification

MB&G Project Experience

Hobart Mills Tributary Forest Health Restoration, Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC), Tahoe NF, 2024. MB&G completed forest health surveys for the TRWC on the Tahoe National Forest. A data review was conducted to determine past NEPA documentation, existing timber cruise data, GIS data, and past condition assessments. A forest health inventory and proposed action report was conducted. MB&G completed a high-level assessment of stand types and general forest health concerns as well as an assessment of existing road infrastructure and access. Stand exam plot data was collected on 92 plots in the treatment area. A logging plan was also created, mapping existing system roads, any needed temporary non system spur roads, landing locations, watercourse crossings, road maintenance points, water drafting sites, and yarding breaks. The stand exam data will be processed in FVS and treatment alternatives will be modeled over a 20-year horizon. A silviculture report is currently being prepared to summarize proposed treatments. Alan provided the TRWC with data collection and stand examination through variable plot cruising. The data was used for future planning.

Alpine Meadows and Olympic Valley Fire Projection, National Forest Foundation, Tahoe, NF, California, 2024-2025. MB&G is providing project layout, treatment planning, and a timber harvest feasibility analysis in fall of 2024 and will provide implementation oversight for fuels reduction and forest health treatments on 1,245 acres in the Tahoe National Forest.

Forester, Go Big G-Z Stewardship IRSC, Fremont-Winema National Forest, Chiloquin Ranger District, Region 6 – OR. MB&G is working on this 66,632 acre project that contains both timber treatment and service treatment areas to improve overall stand health and wildfire resilience on the Fremont-Winema National Forest. MB&G is responsible for developing the Project Implementation Plan. This plan includes designating timber treatment and service treatment areas, a detailed logging plan, a road analysis plan, designing fuel breaks, and project mapping. MB&G is also responsible for cultural site GPS and marking, boundary GPS and marking, timber clump marking, developing a timber cruise plan and timber cruising. MB&G will assist with monitoring the implementation of the Project Implementation Plan. Alan worked on timber marking and variable plot cruising for this project.

Previous Experience

July 2024 – Present, MB&G. Alan is current employee with MB&G as a forestry technician and Pest Control Advisor Category E.

July 2022 – June 2024, Sierra Pacific Industries. Designed and implemented large scale post fire reforestation efforts for Dixie and North Complex fires. Created project maps and

Education

B.S., Forest, and Natural Resource, University of California, Berkeley

Years of Experience

7 years

Licenses

- CADPR Pest Control Advisor 166492 (Category E)
- ISA Certified Arborist WE-12718A
- ISA TRAQ Certified
- Cal Fire Archeological Surveyor

managed data collection for various reforestation activities. Assisted in large scale planting efforts in both Dixie and North Complex fires. Provided written Pest Control Recommendations for large scale site preparation herbicide applications. Determined when and if pre-commercial thinning is necessary. Worked with various crews in all aspects of reforestation including planting, spraying, and thinning.

May 2019 – July 2022, MB&G. Worked directly under Registered Professional Foresters assisting with timber harvest layout, flagging, timber marking, and document preparation. Assisted with PG&E Hydro operations, including creating defensible space and shaded fuel breaks around powerhouses, campgrounds, and other PG&E facilities. Supervised and managed tree crews collected and recorded data using different GIS applications including Arc Collector, GIS Pro, and Mobile Map. Recorded and documented weekly safety observations for all contracted workers. Responsible for safety, data collection, project layout, and supervision of work until completion. Worked directly with PG&E Land Consultants, Land Agents, and Generation Supervisors, along with owners and managers of the contracted vegetation management crews. Trained MB&G employees on Mobile Map, PG&E Hydro LOTO training, and field work. Laid out and supervised several different postfire hazard tree removal projects for Camp, North Complex, and Dixie Fires.

May 2017 – April 2019, North Coast Resource Management, Forestry/GIS Technician, Project Manager. Worked directly under Registered Professional Foresters assisting with timber harvest layout, flagging, and marking. Created and updated digital maps for timber harvest plans. Observed and made land use recommendations for PG&E using a combination of ArcMap, Google Earth, and Map Guide. Supervised debris management crews under PG&E's AWRR project. Worked directly with San Francisco and Peninsula Vegetation Management managers. Collected and created data using Arc Collector.

Spring 2017, UC Berkeley College of Natural Resources, GIS Research Assistant Kelly Lab. Geo-referenced, projected, and digitized historical California Vegetation Type Maps in ArcMap. Observed and measured changes in land use, and vegetation types over time. Analyzed data, and generated land use statistics.

Summer 2016, UC Berkeley Center for Forestry, Forest Resource Assistant Blodgett Forest. Assisted with data collection for various research projects across the university's different forest locations. Worked in a team to collect inventory data used for research project and timber harvest. Implemented stand improvement practices unclosing thinning, pruning, weeding, and herbicide application.



Elliot Maldonado

Biologist

Elliot has more than 12 years of experience as a professional consulting biologist and over 15 years studying in the field of wildlife biology / ecology. She has worked on numerous utility, renewable energy, development, and public transportation projects, including emergency road and bridge projects, throughout California. She has acted as a project manager since 2019 on over 30 projects including over 300 Master Service Agreement Tasks. Elliot has spent the last 15+ years conducting protocol-level and special-status species surveys, bat mist netting, small mammal and amphibian trapping including point count and acoustic surveys throughout California. She acts as a lead biologist and receives approval as a qualified handling biologist for most Northern California and Central Valley listed species. Elliot has served as project manager and lead biologist under multiple Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs)/natural community conservation plans (NCCPs) including the Natomas Basin Conservancy, South Sacramento HCP, Kern County Valley Floor HCP, Placer County Conservancy, and Santa Clara Valley HCP, and is a certified biologist under the Yolo and East Contra Costa Counties.

Education

B.S., Natural Resources & Conservation,
Concentration: Wildlife Biology, University of California, Berkeley

Years of Experience

12 years

Certificates

- Conservation and Wildlife Veterinary Medicine; Purdue University, (Enrolled)
- CDFW Plant Voucher Collecting Permit, No. 2081(a)-22-074-V
- Certified/Qualified Biologist: Yolo County HCP/NCCP and East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP
- TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist -Application under review
- 1SCP/10A1A/MOU Application: Western Pond Turtle; Crotch's Bumble Bee; Townsend's Big-Eared Bat, Burrowing Owl

Professional Memberships

- Sierra Wildlife Rescue: Raptor and Bat Rehab Lead, Wildlife Rehabilitator

Proficiencies

- Project management
- Biological resource surveys
- CEQA document preparation
- Water quality and nationwide permit applications
- NEPA documents and guidelines
- Plant species surveys
- Permitting
- Habitat assessments
- Natural resource inventories
- Wetland delineations
- Aquatic resource delineation
- Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Applications

Species Experience

- California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*)
- foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*)
- Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*)
- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)
- California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*)
- western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*)
- giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*)
- blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*; Level 2 Biologist)
- willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)
- western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*)
- golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)
- Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*)
- valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*)

& Keeper, Public Educator

- The Wildlife Society Sacramento-Shasta, North Coast, San Francisco Bay Area, and San Joaquin Valley Chapter

Development Project Experience

Sonoma State University Pond Modernization, CSU, Sonoma County, California. Drafted biological resources assessment. Focus species include California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, northwestern pond turtle, and monarch butterfly. Future additional surveys and permitting tasks. (2024-Ongoing)

Stockton Campus Stanislaus State University Master Plan, CSU, San Joaquin County, California. Conducted baseline biological surveys (i.e. aquatic, plant, wildlife resources), drafted Biological Resources Assessment and Environmental Impact Report in accordance with CEQA. (2024-Ongoing)

California State University, Chico, Master Plan Update, Butte County, California. Served as Project manager for the proposed Master Plan Update for Chico California State University. Produced proposal, planned and coordinated field work, developed and provided WEAP, including the main campus and university farm.

Indian Wells Crossing, Private Developer, Riverside County, California. Drafted Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Mitigation Status Response Memorandum to provide CDFW staff with status of the project, ownership, and implementation of the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600-2015-0033-R6) mitigation.

3805 West Highway 12 Parcel Split Project Delta Engineering, Inc., Calaveras County, California. Conducted baseline biological survey and assisted with wetland delineation. Contributed to associated reports.

Gateway Village Project, Private Developer, Placer County, California. Completed the Placer County Conservation Program (PCCP)/ County Aquatic Resources Program (CARP) Application.

San Joaquin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (SJMSCP) On-Call Biological Services Contract, San Joaquin County, California. As the project manager and lead biologist, worked on over 50 SJMSCP covered projects. Implemented the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Section 10/NCCP) via sensitive species and habitat surveys and reporting. Conducted San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) detection surveys via camera traps, dusting of potential dens, and wildlife sign analysis. Performed habitat assessments including water resource and vegetation community mapping. Direct experience with burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk, giant garter snake, western pond turtle, and nesting birds. Prepared the San Joaquin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan pre-construction and Incidental Take and Minimization Measures ITMMs forms.

Triangle Point Development, MP Elk Grove, LLC, Sacramento County, California. As the project manager and biologist, made an administrative appeal of a verified wetland delineation, obtained approval for off-site Swainson's hawk mitigation, coordinated with local regulatory agencies regarding the stormwater detention basin for potential habitation by special-status species, and obtained the Section 404 Nationwide Permit and Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) for Triangle Point. Work was conducted in compliance with the South Sacramento HCP.

Cessna APN-170, Buzz Oates Construction, Solano County, California. Conducted a wetland delineation and biological survey on ±25 acres of proposed development. Prepared letter report documenting results. Assessed project impacts and recommended mitigation measures.

4286 and 4296 Business Drive, MW Construction, El Dorado County, California. As project manager and lead biologist/botanist, composed contract materials, conducted seasonally timed botanical survey for Pine Hill plants and other special-status species, and produced report.

Superior RV and Boat Storage, Superior Storage Group, Sacramento County, California. As project manager and lead biologist, conducted post-construction surveys, provided Notices of Completion in compliance with the Section 401 WQC, Section 404 Nationwide Permit, and Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) permits, and client coordination.

4370 Business Drive, El Dorado County, California. As project manager, composed contract materials, coordinated survey, composed botanical survey report for Pine Hill plants and other special-status species, and produced report.

APN 109-420-017 on Dividend Drive, El Dorado County, California. As project manager, composed contract materials, coordinated survey, composed botanical survey report for Pine Hill plants and other special-status species, and produced report.

Hyatt House and Place, The HR Group Architects, City of Sacramento, California. As project manager, composed contract materials, coordinated survey, and composed Natomas Basin HCP survey memorandum.

Barandas Park Phase 2, City of Sacramento, California. As project manager and lead biologist, under the South Sacramento HCP guidance, composed contract materials, conducted pre-construction survey for South Sacramento HCP listed species, and composed survey report.

North Natomas Regional Park Aquatics Complex, City of Sacramento, California. Conducted pre-construction surveys for Natomas Basin HCP covered species and prepared survey report.

Cook Riolo Pathway, Placer County, California. As a project manager and lead biologist, conducted water quality monitoring per the project's Section 401 WQC, coordinated with client and agency, and composed compliance reports.

Eubanks and Chancellor Warehouse, City of Vacaville, California. As project manager and lead biologist, conducted water quality monitoring per the project's Section 401 WQC, coordinated with client and agency, and composed compliance reports.

Pock Lane, Buzz Oates Construction, City of Stockton, California. As project manager and lead biologist, coordinated with client, conducted monthly burrowing surveys, and prepared reports prior to construction.

8405 Washington Boulevard Development, City of Roseville, California. As project manager and lead biologist, provided contract materials, coordinated with client, conducted burrowing owl survey, and composed compliance report.

Simplot Lathrop Facility Improvement, City of Lathrop, California. As project manager and lead biologist, produced contract materials, coordinated with client, and conducted a burrowing owl survey.

Zinfandel Residential Development, Amador County, California. As project manager and lead biologist, conducted pre-construction surveys for western burrowing owl and nesting birds.

Submitted Notification of LSAA via the Environmental Permit Information Management System portal. Coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for draft and final LSAA.

Starbucks Retail Center at 7056 Sunrise Boulevard, City of Citrus Heights, California. As project manager and lead biologist, provided contract materials; coordinated with client, contractor, and the City; conducted pre-construction survey; and provided compliance reports.

Mace Ranch Innovation Center/ARC, City of Davis/Yolo County, California. As a Yolo HCP qualified biologist, conducted biological surveys for HCP listed species, including protocol-level burrowing owl surveys, and produced associated reports. Positive identification of multiple burrowing individuals and Swainson's hawk.

Watt and Blackfoot Commercial Development, Antelope, California. Conducted pre-construction surveys for nesting raptors/birds. Prepared pre-construction survey report.

Zephyr Court Development, Buzz Oates Real Estate, San Joaquin County, California. Conducted burrowing owl monitoring/surveys, installed and removed exclusion devices, and prepared weekly monitoring reports in accordance with the project's burrowing owl exclusion plan.

Mace Boulevard and Alhambra Drive Commercial Development, Yolo County, California. As project manager and a Yolo HCP qualified biologist, implemented project avoidance and minimization measures, conducted burrowing owl monitoring/surveys, installed and removed exclusion devices, prepared monitoring reports in accordance with the project's burrowing owl exclusion plan, and coordinated with the City of Davis. Conducted Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training and biological monitoring. Positive identification of multiple burrowing individuals and Swainson's hawk.

Green Valley Convenience Center, El Dorado County, California. As project manager and lead biologist, conducted annual wetland rehabilitation monitoring in accordance with the project's Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) requirements. Monitoring included tree condition assessment, vegetation community evaluation, and annual reporting of survey results.

1690 Bell Avenue, Sacramento County, California. Assisted with dry season branchiopod surveys under Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 799564-4. Conducted pre-construction burrowing owl and nesting bird surveys.

Amador Dispatch Acorns News Development, Jackson Rancheria, Amador County, California. Prepared final monitoring report in accordance with project permits for a development project including a sewer line upgrade.

Municipal Projects

Granite Esparto Mining and Reclamation, Granite Construction, Yolo County, California. Conducted bird use point-count (audial and visual) surveys at on-site mitigation area near Capay open space. Observed more than 34 bird species. State Clearinghouse No. 2009022033.

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Environmental Services On-Call Contract (Operations and Maintenance), Sacramento County, California. As project manager/lead biologist, worked on more than 150 SMUD projects/task orders. Prepared and conducted

WEAP trainings, pre-construction surveys, construction monitoring, and restoration plans for California tiger salamander, giant garter snake, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, burrowing owl, vernal pool avoidance, Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, other nesting birds, and other special-status species and habitat. Worked on multiple pole and line replacement/relocation/removal projects as well as restoration projects throughout the greater Sacramento area, including the Natomas Basin Conservancy and Cosumnes River Preserve. Work conducted under South Sacramento HCP and Natomas Basin HCP. State Clearinghouse No. 2018092030.

Rancho Seco Solar II, SMUD, Herald, California. As a CDFW designated biologist and the project manager, conducted pre-construction surveys and biological monitoring for California tiger salamander, western pond turtle, and other special-status species. Prepared daily and monthly monitoring reports. Conducted WEAP training and training for designated biological monitors. Moved wildlife species to safe off-site locations. Assisted a California tiger salamander permitted handling biologist in the relocation of California tiger salamander found on site. Special-status species observed included California tiger salamander, Swainson's hawk, and nesting birds. State Clearinghouse No. 2017092042; SAA No. 1600-2018-0241-R2; ITP No. 2081-2018-057-02.

Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center Substation, Sacramento County, California. Conducted pre-construction surveys for special-status species, including Swainson's hawk, nesting birds, western pond turtle, and giant garter snake, and several special-status plant species. Conducted monitoring of active nests and provided compliance reports. Special-status species observations included Swainson's hawks and other nesting birds. State Clearinghouse No. 2018082017.

Solano Wind Road Erosion Repair, SMUD, Solano County, California. Conducted WEAP training and construction monitoring. Monitored for burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk, American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), nesting birds, and in-channel work for water resource protection. Special-status species observations included burrowing owl and Swainson's hawk. State Clearinghouse No. 2017058393.

Resource Management Projects

State Water Project – Dams Modification, California Department of Water Resources, San Luis Reservoir, Merced County, California. Proposed project is the retrofitting of the B.F. Sisk Dam within 1,690 acres. Acted as lead biologist for protocol burrowing owl surveys, including multispecies burrow mapping for burrowing owl, San Joaquin kit fox, and American badger. (

Delta Dams Department of Water Resources, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California. Proposed project is a rodent burrow remediation project at the following three reservoirs within the Delta Field Division: Clifton Court Forebay, Dyer, and Patterson. Acted as Qualified biologist to handle California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog for monitoring of infrastructure maintenance. ITP 2081-2021-057-03; SAA EPIMS-ALA-21005-R3; BO 2022-0001958-S7-002

Vegetation Management Plan, South Tahoe Public Utility District, Placer and El Dorado Counties, California. Serving as biologist on a hazardous fuel reductions project proposed around more than 100 water infrastructure facilities in the Lake Tahoe area including North Tahoe PUD, Tahoe City PUD, and South Tahoe PUD. Completed a field reconnaissance survey for potential biological constraints including assisting with wetland delineation and preparation of the biological resources assessment report.

University of Davis Arboretum Waterway Improvements, CSU, Yolo County, California. Performed fish relocation of hundreds of common fish species including Sacramento blackfish (*Orthodon microlepidotus*), as well as western pond turtle per the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. YOL-32039-R2.

Los Padres National Forest Ecological Restoration, DJ&A, Los Padres National Forest, California. Task manager/coordinator for the wildlife survey effort. Performed desktop habitat assessment and coordinated protocol-level surveys for California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*), blunt-nosed leopard lizard, California-red legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, San Emigdio blue butterfly (*Plebejus emigdionis*), two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*), and vernal pool fairy shrimp. USFS is proposing the Ecological Restoration Project within the Los Padres National Forest. The project would involve analyzing potential fuel treatments along roads, off-highway vehicle trails, property lines, areas identified by the Los Padres Strategic Fuelbreak Assessment, and in other general forested areas in need of forest health thinning. The project occurs in Monterey, Mt. Pinos, Santa Lucia, and Santa Barbara Ranger Districts. The Los Padres National Forest Ecological Restoration Project requires analysis under NEPA including an environmental assessment, long-term operation and maintenance plans, and permit applications with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, CDFW, USFWS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and others.

Blue Mountain Minerals Revegetation Services, Tuolumne County, California. Conducted biannual weed and revegetation monitoring for a 4.5-acre restoration test plot program and planting plan. Performed seed viability testing and data entry.

Sherman Island Levee PL 84-99 Repair Areas, Sacramento County, California. Conducted pre-construction surveys and prepared associated reports for giant garter snake, western pond turtle, Swainson's hawk, burrowing owl, and nesting birds (observed). Observed one hybrid tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*)/red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) individual outside of the project area. State Clearinghouse No. 2012092029.

Greenhorn Creek Aggregate Mining Expansion Project, Hansen Brothers, Placer County, California. Conducted a habitat assessment, delineation of environmentally sensitive areas, and visual encounter surveys for foothill yellow-legged frog. Performed biological monitoring and aquatic species rescue including the successful relocation of more than 1,000 foothill yellow-legged frog individuals (froglets and larvae), and other aquatic fish and amphibian species in accordance with CDFW SAA No. 1600-2017-0074-R2 and ITP No. 2081-2017-050-02-A1.



PROPOSAL FOR

Development of a CalVTP PSA/Addendum for the Onion Springs Project



Prepared for:

Resource Conservation District
of Tehama County

Attention:

Seronica Biggs, RPF
District Forester

June 23, 2025



Ascent
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ascent.inc



June 23, 2025

Seronica Biggs, RPF
District Forester
Resource Conservation of Tehama County
PO Box 1232
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Subject: Proposal to Prepare a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum to the CalVTP Program Environmental Impact Report for the Onion Springs Project

Dear Seronica:

Ascent appreciates this opportunity to submit a scope of work to assist the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCDTC) with the preparation of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation for the Onion Springs Project. This important project will reduce hazardous fuels, improve defensible space, and promote ecosystem resilience on industrial private lands owned by Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) in eastern Tehama County.

To maximize responsible use of funding and meet scheduling targets, efficient preparation of CEQA documents is essential. Ascent will prepare a CalVTP Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) and Addendum to the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to provide CEQA compliance for implementation of vegetation treatments on approximately 12,617 acres of the project area. As part of the preparation of the PSA/Addendum, Ascent's subconsultant, WM Beaty and Associates, Inc. (Beaty), will support the project as forestry professionals in the development of the project description. Treatments are needed to break up horizontal and vertical fuel continuity, reduce ladder fuels, and create strategic fuel breaks to protect the area from catastrophic wildfire. As the architect of the CalVTP Program EIR streamlining process, Ascent is uniquely qualified to assist the RCDTC with CEQA compliance for this project.

We look forward to another opportunity to work with RCDTC and appreciate your consideration of our submittal. I am your primary point of contact for this effort. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further information. As a principal and owner of the firm I am authorized to negotiate and execute a contract.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H Blair", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Heather Blair
Principal

e: Heather.Blair@ascent.inc

p: 916.732.3337

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The Ascent logo consists of the word "ASCENT" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, set against a red and orange gradient background that is shaped like a stylized mountain peak or a banner.

Ascent is on the leading edge of helping public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and special districts address California's wildfire crisis with wildfire and forest resilience planning and streamlined California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and approvals of vegetation treatment projects.

We have prepared, or are currently working on, several of the state's most important and innovative contemporary environmental review programs for wildfire risk reduction and vegetation treatment. These programs are designed to increase the pace and scale of wildfire prevention through fuel reduction, fuel break creation, and ecosystem restoration. Our wildfire risk reduction work is motivated by more than professional objectives. We feel firsthand the fear that communities experience because of the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Many of our staff live in at-risk communities. The urgency of reducing wildfire risk is personal for our team.

Through our work, we have developed innovative strategies to increase the pace, scale, and effectiveness of responses to the wildfire crisis. We have prepared environmental impact reports (EIRs) for large-scale forest management programs, including the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Program EIR. As the architects of the CalVTP Program EIR, we are working closely with agencies and organizations throughout California to increase local capacity to implement the CalVTP and develop ready-to-implement projects using the CalVTP Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) checklist. We have supported all aspects of fuel reduction projects, including vegetation management planning, biological and cultural resource surveys, and CEQA and California Forest Practice Act compliance for projects ranging from a few acres to many thousands of acres. As the architects of the CalVTP Program EIR, Ascent uniquely understands how the PSA-streamlining process can be applied to landscape-scale projects to expedite treatment implementation and maintenance over time. For the Program EIR, Ascent developed a collection of CalVTP Standard Project Requirements (SPRs), which is a menu of environmentally protective project requirements for vegetation treatment under the CalVTP to minimize impacts and streamline project development. Ascent regularly provides organizations with training and direct support in the implementation of these SPRs. Along with providing site-specific guidance for CalVTP preparation throughout California, the Ascent team will expertly support project planning, biological and cultural resource analysis, and comprehensive evaluations of environmental impacts of fire and vegetation management, as well as effectively coordinate with resource and regulatory agencies, as needed.

Ascent has completed or is preparing 39 PSAs and PSAs to the CalVTP Program EIR, collectively covering over 550,000 acres throughout California. As part of Ascent's commitment to facilitate the successful implementation of the CalVTP, we seek to maximize the usefulness of the Program EIR for streamlining CEQA compliance of vegetation projects. Our approach to novel project and regulatory compliance issues are often developed as a result of collaboration with clients, regulatory agencies, and our partners, and we share these innovations openly with other agencies to help accelerate implementation.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

As the consultant author of the CalVTP Program EIR, Ascent understands how the PSA-streamlining process can be applied to small and large landscape-scale projects to expedite treatment implementation and maintenance over time. Our experience implementing the CalVTP is unmatched; we have prepared PSAs for a variety of entities throughout California, as shown in the list to the right. Featured projects are listed on the right with descriptions of each project included below; we encourage you to reach out to the reference contacts provided for each.

CalVTP Program EIR, Statewide Training, and Implementation

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION



As the prime consultant for the preparation of the CalVTP Program EIR, Ascent developed the environmental strategy and led the effort to prepare a new Program EIR for the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Statewide in scope, the EIR analyzes the resources within the treatable landscape that will serve as the basis of evaluation for later activities. One of the objectives of the EIR is to streamline later treatment projects consistent with the program, including using "within-the-scope" findings according to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168 to facilitate an increase in the pace and scale of vegetation treatments to reduce wildfire risk while maintaining environmental protection. The Program EIR was designed for use by many state and local agencies. Extensive coordination was conducted with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Air Resources Board, California Coastal Commission, and State Water Resources Control Board to gather input relative

to each agency's jurisdiction and discuss regulatory streamlining options. Ascent also prepared the PSA checklist and procedures for use by project proponents to streamline the CEQA review of later site-specific vegetation treatment projects and serve as a template PSA. The CalVTP Program EIR received the 2021 Outstanding Environmental Resource Document award from the California Association of Environmental Professionals.

Following certification of the CalVTP Program EIR in December 2019, Ascent was retained by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to support its implementation. Under this contract, Ascent designed, prepared the curriculum for, and conducted a CalVTP training program. The training program's primary objective was to educate participants on how to complete a PSA and how to use the CalVTP Program EIR as a source of environmental information and analysis. As part of the training curriculum, Ascent prepared a joint PSA and PSA/addendum for University of California Berkeley's Grouse Ridge Vegetation Treatment Project and prepared a PSA for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve Vegetation Treatment Project. The target training audience included representatives from the dozens of state and local agencies that could use the EIR to streamline CEQA review of vegetation treatment projects.

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection also retained Ascent to support implementation of the CalVTP as part of Governor Newsom's 2021 early action funding package. Under this contract, we are preparing PSAs for multiple project proponents to maximize CEQA streamlining and expedite delivery of wildfire risk

FEATURED PROJECTS

- CalVTP Program EIR, Statewide Training, and Early Action Implementation (PSAs)
- Collins Pine Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum (10,376 acres)
- Crane Mills Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum (47,314 acres)
- McKinleyville Tract Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum (3,043 acres)
- Shingletown Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum (9,828 acres)
- West Mount Shasta Forest Resiliency Project PSA/Addendum (12,966 acres)

reduction projects throughout California. Ascent staff are working with California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) leadership and Board staff to identify example projects among the CNRA departments, commissions, and conservancies. The objective of the program is to prepare PSAs that address a wide variety of geographies, vegetation types, resource and regulatory issues, and agency jurisdictions, and in doing so, create examples for other project proponents in preparing PSAs for projects that have similar characteristics.

REFERENCE:

Kristina Wolf, Senior Environmental Scientist, California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection; 916.215.4947; kristina.wolf@bof.ca.gov

Collins Pine Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum

THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF TEHAMA COUNTY / COLLINS PINE COMPANY



The Collins Pine Vegetation Treatment Project entails vegetation treatments on up to 10,376 acres of land on Collins Pine land in Tehama County, including areas that burned in recent wildfires and areas at high risk of future wildfires. The project uses a variety of CalVTP treatment types (fuel breaks and ecological restoration) and treatment activities (manual treatments, mechanical treatments, prescribed burning, herbicide application). Ascent is preparing this PSA and addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR under the Board's technical assistance program, which assists state and local agencies in preparing their own documents under the CalVTP. Collins Pine received funding allocations approved by the Tehama County Resource Conservation District (RCD) from the CAL FIRE grant awarded to the RCD. The funding allocations supported implementation of proposed vegetation treatments consistent with the CalVTP Program EIR. Ascent worked with a Registered Professional Forester to prepare the project description for use in the PSA, conducted the required analysis for the PSA/addendum, conducted consultation with CDFW and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as required by the CalVTP. In addition, because of the proposed listing for California spotted owl under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), Ascent facilitated consultation with USFWS on the measures proposed for avoiding impacts to the species. The final PSA was approved in September 2023.

REFERENCES:

Jon Barrett, District Manager, Resource Conservation District of Tehama County; 530.727.1293;

jbarrett@tehamacountyrcd.org

Eric O'Kelley, Forest Manager, Collins Pine Company; 530.258.9223; EOKelley@collinsco.com

Crane Mills Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum

THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF TEHAMA COUNTY / CRANE MILLS



The Crane Mills Vegetation Treatment Project consists of vegetation treatments for wildfire risk reduction and forest health improvement on private land owned by Crane Mills in western Tehama County. The project area encompasses 47,314 acres, and CalVTP treatment types are shaded fuel breaks and ecological restoration. Crane Mills designed this project collaboratively with the US Forest Service (USFS) to create continuous, cohesive fuel reduction and ecological restoration outcomes for the private Crane Mills property alongside similar treatments

implemented by USFS in the adjacent Mendocino National Forest. This project is designed to reduce wildfire risk and promote ecological restoration following the August Complex fire, which resulted in extensive tree mortality throughout the majority of the project area. Ascent worked with a Registered Professional Forester to prepare the project description for use in the PSA, conducted the required analysis for the PSA/addendum under the CalVTP, and conducted consultation with CDFW and USFWS as required by Mitigation Measure BIO-2a of the CalVTP. The final PSA was approved in January 2025.

REFERENCE:

Seronica Biggs, District Forester/RPF 3221, Resource Conservation District of Tehama County; 530.727.9983; sbiggs@tehamacountyrcd.org

Frank Barron, Chief Forester, Crane Mills; (530)824-5427; frank.barron@cranemills.com

McKinleyville Tract Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION-HUMBOLDT-DEL NORTE UNIT/HUMBOLDT COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT / MCKINLEYVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



The McKinleyville Tract Vegetation Treatment Project consists of proposed vegetation treatments on private timberland within Green Diamond Resource Company's McKinleyville tract and on lands newly acquired from Green Diamond by the McKinleyville Community Services District. The project is located immediately adjacent to the unincorporated communities of McKinleyville and Fieldbrook. The CalVTP treatment types are WUI fuel reduction and fuel breaks along strategic property lines and a primary access route for emergency vehicles and community members. The CalVTP treatment activities

analyzed in the PSA were mechanical treatment, manual treatment, and herbicide use. Pile burning for site preparation that may be conducted as required by Timber Harvesting Permits was also included in the PSA for Green Diamond lands. Ascent managed the preparation of the PSA in close collaboration with the Humboldt County RCD, McKinleyville Community Services District, and Green Diamond. Ascent worked with a Registered Professional Forester to prepare the project description for use in the PSA that met the requirements of each landowner. The biological resources analysis conducted by Ascent for the PSA included adapting measures from the Green Diamond Forest Habitat Conservation Plan and the Aquatic Habitat Conservation Plan for activities on Green Diamond lands, and creation of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) for each landowner. Ascent also led consultation with CDFW and USFWS in accordance with the requirements of the CalVTP. The final PSA was approved in January 2025.

REFERENCE:

Jill Demers, Executive Director, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District; 707.442.6058 ext. 5; jill@hccrd.org

Jim Hawkins, Green Diamond, RPF #2557, Senior Planning Forester – California Timberlands Division, Green Diamond Resource Company; 707-668-4464 (office), 707-832-3520 (cell); jhawkins@greendiamond.com

Shingletown Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum

WESTERN SHASTA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Shingletown Vegetation Treatment Project consists of vegetation treatments for wildfire risk reduction and forest health improvement across approximately 9,828 acres ranging in elevation from about 2,200 to about 3,600 feet near Shingletown in central Shasta County, California. The CalVTP treatment types are fuel breaks (shaded and non-shaded) and WUI fuel reduction. The proposed CalVTP treatment activities are

mechanical vegetation treatment, manual vegetation treatment, prescribed burning, and targeted herbicide application. This project is located on forestry land owned by RRF Shasta LLC and Lassen Forest V Shasta LLC and managed on behalf of the owners by W. M. Beaty and Associates (WBA) for commercial timber harvest. The project was developed as an independent project from ongoing timber operations, and it does not involve timber harvest; the project was designed to reduce wildfire risk in an area that was covered by existing approved Timber Harvest Plans for separate, parallel timber activities. Ascent prepared the PSA/addendum, including the resource analysis, and led consultation with CDFW and USFWS under the requirements of the CalVTP. The final PSA was approved in January 2025.

REFERENCE:

Andrea Claassen, Project Specialist, Western Shasta Resource Conservation District; 530.365.7332;

aclaassen@westernshastarc.org

West Mount Shasta Forest Resiliency Project PSA/Addendum

SHASTA VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Ascent assisted the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District with preparation of CEQA documentation for the West Mount Shasta Forest Resiliency Project. Shasta Valley RCD proposed to implement vegetation treatments on up to 12,966 acres of land in Siskiyou County in the Upper Sacramento Watershed west of Mount Shasta from Interstate 5 to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest boundary. The proposed treatment types were ecological restoration, wildland-urban interface fuel reduction, and fuel breaks, and the proposed CalVTP treatment activities were prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, manual treatments,

and herbicide application. During preparation of the PSA/addendum, Ascent provided analysis to support revisions to SPRs to facilitate the implementation of prescribed burning while maintaining environmental protections. Ascent also led consultation (as required by Mitigation Measure BIO 2a) with USFWS for northern spotted owl, gray wolf, and Franklin's bumble bee and with CDFW for Cascades frog, northern spotted owl, gray wolf, ringtail, Franklin's bumble bee, western bumble bee, and Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee. This was the first consultation with CDFW for bumble bee species that were recently granted candidacy for listing under CESA, and the first consultation with USFWS for three rare, high-profile species. Franklin's bumble bee in particular is considered potentially extinct, so development of effective protection measures was critical for this species. Northern spotted owl and gray wolf can be found in habitats specifically targeted for vegetation treatment (i.e., dense forests). Northern spotted owl has very specific habitat requirements, including percentage of canopy cover and tree size, that had to be considered, and gray wolves have very large home ranges and can move large distances across the landscape in short periods of time. While challenging, Ascent and Shasta Valley RCD developed effective protection measures and habitat retention requirements for these species that were well received by CDFW and USFWS. The final PSA was approved in December 2022.

REFERENCE:

Dan Blessing, Forester, Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District; dblessing@svrcd.org

02 / APPROACH

PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

The US Forest Service (USFS) awarded RCDTC federal funding to implement wildfire resilience, hazardous fuel reduction, and forest health projects across high-risk regions of California. RCDTC intends to use this federal funding to support fire prevention activities on private lands owned by Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) on up to 12,617 acres in eastern Tehama County. The land is currently managed for industrial timber use. The project is designed to reduce hazardous fuels, improve defensible space, and promote ecosystem resilience with a focus on mechanical vegetation removal. The project will create breaks in horizontal and vertical fuel continuity, reduce ladder fuels, and create strategic fuel breaks. Onion Springs is adjacent to the existing Collins Pine Vegetation Treatment Project, and this project would build on nearby existing treatments to improve the continuity of wildfire prevention efforts in eastern Tehama County.

Ascent will prepare a CalVTP Project-Specific Analysis to provide expedited CEQA compliance for implementation of wildfire resilience treatments such as mechanical fuel reduction, prescribed burning, prescribed herbivory, and manual fuel reduction. If portions of the project area extend outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape, preparation of an Addendum to the Program EIR is also recommended, which can be seamlessly integrated into the PSA (i.e., a PSA/Addendum) for no additional cost. Where applicable, the PSA/Addendum will incorporate information from previously completed CalVTP PSAs that were prepared by Ascent, including the nearby Collins Pine Vegetation Treatment Project, the Crane Mills Vegetation Treatment Project, and the Shingleton Vegetation Treatment Project.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Cost Control and Budgeting Methodology

Direct responsibility for project cost management is assigned to the project manager. The project manager is supported by an internal accounting and job-cost monitoring system, called Deltek Vantagepoint, which is designed to provide detailed information to facilitate job-cost control. The system uses staff budgeting controls and extracts data from time recording, invoicing, and expensing applications. The following management tools and reports are provided regularly to the project manager:

- ▶ Employee person-hour reports (weekly, automatically generated)
- ▶ Job-cost reports (weekly, automatically generated)
- ▶ Billing summaries (monthly, automatically generated)

Labor reports are reviewed by the principal-in-charge and project manager biweekly, or more frequently if dictated by project requirements. Billing invoices are generated monthly or at the completion of delivery orders (depending upon the contract provisions). All invoices are reviewed and approved by the project manager before being forwarded to the client. Budget expectations are communicated to the entire team via an in-house project initiation meeting to clearly communicate team roles and responsibilities, project data and resources, and schedule and budget information.

Ascent has successfully completed numerous complex projects with demanding schedules and budgets that required attentive project management, coordination, and communication.

Commitment to Quality Assurance

Ascent is committed to preparing high-quality work products for our clients. Prior to documents being submitted to RCDTC and SPI, they will go through our rigorous quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) process, carried out by our project manager and overseen by the principal-in-charge, who has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring quality. This process ensures that Ascent documents are technically accurate, complete, clear, and professionally presented; that they follow document-specific specifications; and that the approach, tone, and usefulness of the documents meet the RCDTC's expectations.

Approach to Agency Coordination for CalVTP Projects

Effective resource agency consultation is the foundation of successful biological resources analysis of treatments in areas potentially occupied by wildlife species listed under the ESA or CESA or fully protected by the California Fish and Game Code. Ascent biologists developed the CalVTP avoidance and mitigation process in collaboration with CDFW. We have implemented or are in the process of implementing consultation for 39 PSAs across California. Effective consultation entails maximizing the efficient use of existing information (e.g., database queries, existing resource reports), conducting a targeted reconnaissance survey of the project area, developing project-specific protection measures, and consulting with CDFW and/or USFWS in accordance with the requirements of the CalVTP.

If treatment is expected to occur in areas that are occupied or assumed occupied by special-status species, conducting this consultation before the PSA is completed is ideal because the outcome of the consultation could modify treatment design or required measures in some cases. Ascent biologists developed a streamlined process for holding these consultations by providing substantial evidence that adverse effects to listed species and their habitats will be avoided during vegetation treatment, which typically avoids the need for federal ESA or CESA permitting. Ascent has addressed projects in the region that include species-specific protection measures for California red-legged frog, northwestern pond turtle, northern spotted owl, northern California ringtail, special-status bumble bees, and other special-status species that would be expected to be found in the Onion Springs project area. Our team provides CDFW and USFWS with a project's take avoidance strategies in compliance with state and federal regulations, typically in the form of a memo and sometimes in a follow-up virtual meeting or site visit.

SCOPE OF WORK

TASK 1. Data Collection and Analysis

At project initiation, Ascent will participate in a conference call with representatives from RCDTC, SPI, and our subcontractors to discuss project management, data collection, and analysis. The initial data collection and analysis effort will include the following subcategories:

- ▶ Project mapping
- ▶ Data review and project description
- ▶ Biological resources data analysis
- ▶ Cultural resources data analysis
- ▶ Biological reconnaissance survey

Project Mapping

Our proposed cost assumes that SPI and RCDTC will provide a project boundary to Ascent for use in the PSA/addendum. Ascent will review and identify any data gaps or additional information needed by RCDTC and SPI before incorporating into the PSA/addendum.

Ascent will prepare project area maps to supplement the project description and to inform the analysis of resources provided in the PSA.

Data Review and Project Description

Ascent and subconsultant W. M. Beaty and Associates (WBA) will prepare the Treatment Description (Project Description) section of the Resource Conservation District of the PSA for land owned and managed by SPI. To qualify as a project that is within the scope of the Program EIR, the treatment project must be consistent with the treatment types and treatment activities analyzed in the CalVTP Program EIR. It must also be consistent with the factors (e.g., intensity) identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2). A detailed treatment description provides evidence for this component of the project's within-the-scope determination. We understand that modification of the Program EIR may be required to cover areas outside the treatable landscape or revisions to the Standard Project Requirements, and these will require the preparation of a joint PSA and Addendum to the Program EIR (an Addendum is a simple addition to the PSA to cover lands outside the treatable landscape).

Our proposed cost includes one WBA field visit to the project location for field reconnaissance and data collection. WBA staff will prepare a draft of the Project Description, including maps, in coordination with the RCD and SPI. After an internal review conducted by Ascent, WBA will address edits and comments raised and prepare a final Project Description that will be used to prepare the PSA. The project description will be consistent with the level and types of detail presented in the Collins Pine Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum. This cost assumes one consolidated round of review by SPI and RCDTC.

This cost estimate assumes that WBA will conduct one site visit to prepare the project description. This scope also includes direct costs for travel-related expenses.

This scope assumes that the project description and total acreage of the project area will not substantially be revised after the project description development date, currently anticipated by October 7, 2025. If project description details (i.e., acreage) changes during development of the PSA/Addendum, Ascent could prepare a revised scope.

As early as feasible in the project planning phase, Ascent will compile and submit to CAL FIRE the information required for planned projects in accordance with CalVTP SPR AD-7.

Biological Resource Data Analysis

In preparation for the biological resources reconnaissance survey as required by CalVTP SPR BIO-1, Ascent will conduct a review of biological resource data in the project area. Desktop review and data analysis will identify the areas where surveys of representative habitats will be conducted. This data will later be used to verify the presence of sensitive habitat and to identify potentially sensitive resources for inclusion in the PSA/addendum. Biological resource data analysis also includes hours for survey preparation (e.g., preparing field maps).

The PSA/addendum will refine the CalVTP Program EIR's SPRs and mitigation measures for sensitive biological resources to provide project-specific measures for proposed treatments (e.g., for each special-

status wildlife species with potential to inhabit the project area). The PSA will include project-specific measures to avoid sensitive habitats, special-status species habitats, and the sensitive season for special-status species, where feasible. For example, it may be feasible to avoid effects on special-status nesting birds by conducting some treatments outside of the nesting bird season.

Cultural Resource Investigations

This scope of work assumes that a cultural records search of the California Historical Resources Information System at the Northeast Information Center (NEIC) will be conducted for the entire 12,617-acre treatment area proposed for treatment. NEIC charges a fee for the cultural records search, with a variable cost based on the size of the search. The cultural resources records search will include the treatment area plus a 1/8-mile buffer. If RCDTC or SPI chooses to conduct a smaller search for the priority treatment area only, then the cost may be reduced. Ascent will coordinate with SPI to confirm whether recent (i.e., within the last 5 years) cultural records are available for the project area. Ascent will also query the Sacred Lands File for the project area plus a 1/4-mile buffer and will request a list of geographically affiliated Native American Tribes from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in accordance with CalVTP SPR CUL-2.

RCDTC will contact any geographically affiliated Tribes identified on the contact list provided by NAHC. Ascent will provide template outreach letters, and the project proponent will send letters to Tribes.

Pedestrian surveys for cultural resources are not included in this work plan. They are not necessary for PSA/addendum preparation but will be required prior to treatment implementation in accordance with CalVTP SPR CUL-4.

Because the proposed project is assumed to be within the scope of the Program EIR, Native American consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill [AB] 52) has been completed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection during preparation of the Program EIR, and AB 52 support is not included in this work plan.

Biological Reconnaissance Survey

Ascent will conduct a reconnaissance survey of the project area as required by CalVTP SPR BIO-1. It is assumed the project proponent will arrange access and accompany Ascent biologists during the survey to provide information on proposed treatments.

Two qualified Ascent biologists will participate in a site visit to view the proposed treatment project areas and conduct the reconnaissance-level survey. Representatives of SPI or its project partners are encouraged to accompany the biologists to give input related to the project goals, retention standards, access, and other key details. If access to certain properties is not possible, surveys will occur from roads and pullouts. Reconnaissance-level surveys will be general surveys that include visual and auditory inspection for biological resources to help determine the environmental setting of a project site. The qualified surveyor will (1) identify and document habitat for sensitive natural communities, sensitive habitats (e.g., wetlands), and wildlife nursery sites or habitat; (2) assess the suitability of habitat for special-status plant and animal species; and (3) ground truth/assess the validity of the publicly available landcover and vegetation spatial data for representative habitats. Surveys will occur over the course of one 5-day trip, with the first and last days including travel time. The reconnaissance survey will consist of a field assessment of accessible portions of the 12,617-acre project area. No focused or protocol biological surveys are included in this scope of work or warranted for preparation of the PSA/addendum. This scope includes direct costs for travel-related expenses.

TASK 2. Preparation of the Draft PSA/Addendum and MMRP

Ascent will dedicate sufficient time to coordinate with the project proponent, implementing entity, and PSA preparation team with the objective of timely and efficient preparation of the PSA. Ascent will prepare monthly invoices and progress reports regarding the status of the contract.

The project proponent and implementing entity will provide any available environmental information for consideration in the PSA (e.g., biological survey report, archaeological records search results, archaeological survey report).

Draft PSA/Addendum and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Ascent will begin PSA/addendum development after the project description is finalized. The draft PSA/addendum will be prepared using the PSA checklist template (Appendix PD-3 of Volume II of the Final Program EIR). It is assumed that the level of detail in the PSA/addendum will be similar to the level of detail in the Collins Pine Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum. Accordingly, no emissions modeling or other new technical studies will be conducted, and these are not warranted for preparation of the PSA/addendum. This cost estimate also assumes that Ascent will prepare a draft MMRP to identify the SPRs and mitigation measures applicable to the proposed treatment.

Ascent will provide a draft PSA/addendum for review, and RCDTC and SPI will provide a single set of consolidated and reconciled edits/comments on the draft PSA/addendum.

TASK 3. Agency Review and Revisions

Agency Consultation

In close coordination with the project proponent, Ascent will discuss environmental protection measures and mitigation measures with CDFW and USFWS, in accordance with Mitigation Measure BIO-2a from the CalVTP Program EIR. One virtual meeting is assumed for CDFW coordination, and one virtual meeting is assumed for USFWS coordination. The consultation will include discussion, based on Ascent's experience, of how implementation of the proposed treatments, after implementation of applicable SPRs and mitigation measures, will avoid disturbance, injury, and mortality and maintain habitat function for the species. Consultation for up to nine species is assumed (e.g., potentially foothill yellow-legged frog, California red-legged frog, Cascades frog, California spotted owl, willow flycatcher, western bumble bee, gray wolf, Sierra Nevada red fox-southern Cascades DPS, and ringtail).

TASK 4. Final PSA and Filing

Final PSA/Addendum and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

After the draft PSA/addendum and MMRP have been reviewed by RCDTC and SPI, and agency consultation has been conducted, Ascent will address the edits/comments and prepare a final PSA/addendum and MMRP. Ascent will prepare a final MMRP by completing Attachment A of the PSA checklist template to identify the SPRs and mitigation measures applicable to the proposed treatment. Project-specific implementation guidance and feedback received during agency consultation will be integrated into the final MMRP.

Notice of Determination

Ascent will prepare a notice of determination for review and signature by RCDTC. RCDTC will file the notice of determination with the county clerk and/or State Clearinghouse. RCDTC will pay any filing fees.

Draft and Final CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations

Ascent will prepare the draft and final project-specific CEQA findings and statement of overriding considerations (SOC) by completing Attachment B of the PSA checklist template. One consolidated round or review by SPI and RCDTC is assumed.

The Ascent project director and project manager will also prepare for and participate in a virtual meeting with decision makers of the project proponent agency to consider approval of the project, and adoption of the PSA, MMRP, and findings.

Ascent will submit the completed PSA/addendum and associated geospatial data to CAL FIRE at the time the notice of determination is filed, in accordance with SPR AD-7.

Deliverables

Every deliverable will be submitted in electronic format only (MS Word and/or PDF).

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| ✓ Draft project description | ✓ Draft project-specific CEQA findings and SOC |
| ✓ Final project description | ✓ Final project-specific CEQA findings and SOC |
| ✓ Draft PSA/addendum | ✓ Notice of determination |
| ✓ Agency consultation memos | ✓ Spatial data for the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, compliant with CalVTP SPR AD-7 |
| ✓ Final PSA/addendum | |
| ✓ Draft MMRP | |
| ✓ Final MMRP | |
-

Timeline

With the resources of over 140 professionals to support projects with fast-track schedules, Ascent will provide RCDTC with a consistent, high-quality performance that is on time and on budget. Adhering to a schedule is often critical for our public agency clients for a variety of reasons, including grant funding and policy goals, but also because the schedule is closely tied to budget and cost.

The timeline below shows that we can commence work immediately following an executed contract, with the project completed before the 12-month timeline identified in the RFB.

Milestone/Deliverable	Timing
Contract executed, notice to proceed (NTP) provided	July 7, 2025
W. M. Beaty and Associates Inc. provides draft project description	Within 6 weeks of NTP
Ascent submits the Sacred Lands File Request and request for Native American Contact List to the NAHC	As soon as project area is finalized
Final project description	Within 4 weeks of draft project description submittal October 7, 2025
Biological resources survey	Late summer 2025
Draft PSA/addendum and draft MMRP to project proponent	Mid-November 2025
Project proponent comments on draft PSA/Addendum and draft MMRP	Within 2 weeks of receipt
Agency consultation	Before PSA/addendum and MMRP are finalized December 2025/January 2026
Final Addendum/PSA and MMRP to Project Proponent	Within 2 weeks of agency consultation conclusion February 2026
Draft findings/SOC to project proponent	Within 1 week of submitting Final Addendum/PSA and MMRP
Project proponent comments on draft findings/SOC	Within 1 week of receipt
File notice of determination	Within 5 days of project approval by March 2026

03 / STAFF ASSIGNED

Ascent's project manager, **Grace Mannell**, will be the primary, day-to-day point of contact with RCDTC and will provide schedule, budget, and overall contract management. She brings project management and environmental review for vegetation management, open space, and recreation projects, including managing preparation of the Crane Mills and Shingletown Vegetation Treatment Projects PSA/Addenda. Grace will be advised by **Lily Bostrom**, who was integral to the preparation and implementation of the CalVTP Program EIR and management of the Collins Pine Vegetation Treatment Project. **Curtis E. Alling, AICP**, will serve as principal-in-charge. He specializes in advising agencies on regulatory streamlining approaches to expedite implementation of wildfire and forest resilience projects. Curtis was part of the Ascent management team leading preparation of the CalVTP Program EIR and supported the Crane Mills and Weaverville Vegetation Treatment Projects as principal-in-charge. He will oversee preparation of the PSA, interface with regulatory agencies, provide technical and strategic guidance, and support quality assurance.

Proposed Use of Subconsultants

When supplementing our team with subconsultants, Ascent selects firms with the right skills, capacity, and quality standards to deliver the product needed for a given project. The following firm is a critical part of the Ascent team, and we collaborate with them regularly on wildfire resilience projects for public agencies.



For this project Ascent is partnering with **W. M. Beaty and Associates Inc. (WBA)** to assist with Task 2: Preparation of the Draft PSA/Addendum and MMRP. WBA will work with RCDTC and SPI to prepare the project description consistent with the level and types of detail presented in the Collins Pine Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum.

WBA is located in Redding, Shasta County, and provides a local workforce as part of Ascent's project team. WBA provides forest and fuel management, wildlife management, forest stewardship, and sustainable forestry management and other forestry-related services. WBA has been in business since 1969 and has expert understanding of forest ecosystem dynamics. Ascent previously worked with WBA, in support of the Shingletown Vegetation Treatment PSA/Addendum for the Western Shasta RCD. This project, detailed above, consisted of approximately 9,828 acres of fuel breaks and WUI treatments. WBA provided site-specific prescription guidance in development of the Shingletown project description and has since implemented the PSA on behalf of the landowners. As an implementing entity of an existing PSA, WBA understands the specific needs of a CalVTP project description and can support RCDTC in development of a clear and practical project description for the Onion Springs project.

Our team is listed below with highlights of their qualifications and roles and responsibilities.

Name	Role	Education	Qualifications (Example Projects)
Curtis E. Alling, AICP	Principal	MS, Natural Resources Management; BS, Wildlife Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ California Vegetation Treatment Program: Program EIR and Implementation ✓ Crane Mills Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum ✓ McKinleyville Tract Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum
Lily Bostrom	Project Director	MS, Environmental Science and Management; BS, Marine Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ California Vegetation Treatment Program: Program EIR and Implementation ✓ Collins Pine Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum ✓ Last Chance Road and Skylark Ranch Forest Health Projects, PSA and CVT Standards
Grace Mannell	Project Manager	BS, Environmental Management and Protection (minor in Biology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Crane Mills Vegetation Treatment PSA/Addendum ✓ Shingletown Vegetation Treatment PSA/Addendum ✓ West Mount Shasta Forest Resiliency Project PSA/Addendum ✓ Waddle Ranch Vegetation Treatment PSA/Addendum
Stephanie Rasmussen	Senior Environmental Planner	BS, Environmental Biology and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ California Vegetation Treatment Program: Program EIR and Implementation ✓ New Bullards Bar Forest Health PSA/Addendum ✓ Bear/North Complex Reforestation Forest Health PSA/Addendum

Name	Role	Education	Qualifications (Example Projects)
Alta Cunningham	Senior Cultural Resources Specialist	MA, Historic Preservation; BS, History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ California Vegetation Treatment Program: Program EIR and Implementation ✓ Collins Pine Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum ✓ Crane Mills Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum ✓ McKinleyville Tract Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum
Allison Fuller	Senior Wildlife Biologist	MA, Biological Services; BS, Environmental Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ California Vegetation Treatment Program: Program EIR and Implementation ✓ West Mount Shasta Forest Resiliency Project PSA/Addendum ✓ Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project
Tammie Beyerl	Senior Botanist	MS, Biology (Ecology); BS, Plant Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ California Vegetation Treatment Program: Program EIR and Implementation ✓ Last Chance Road and Skylark Ranch Forest Health Project PSAs ✓ Sonoma Land Trust Preserves Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum
Nick Kryshak	Wildlife Biologist	MSc, Wildlife Ecology; BS, Wildlife Ecology and Genetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Redwood Creek Enhancement Project, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy ✓ South Yuba Rim PSA/Addendum, County of Nevada, Office of Emergency Services
Molly Nagle	Botanist	MS, Environmental Policy and Management; BS, Biology, Ecology, and Evolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Shingletown Vegetation Treatment PSA/Addendum ✓ South Yuba Rim PSA ✓ Grouse Ridge Vegetation Treatment PSA/Addendum

Name	Role	Education	Qualifications (Example Projects)
Jacklyn Bottomley	Environmental Planner	BA, Geography, Environment, and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Crane Mills Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum ✓ Cambria Reserves Restoration and Vegetation Treatment Project PSA and Coastal VTS ✓ Western Klamath Landscape Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project PSA/Addendum, Siskiyou and Humboldt Counties
Madison Gilmartin	Environmental Planner	MS, Environmental Science and Management; BS, Environmental Management and Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Caltrans Vegetation Treatment Service Contract 2, San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara/Santa Cruz ✓ Fuels Management Plan and Forest Inventory for Hearst San Simeon State Park, San Luis Obispo ✓ Forest Management Plan for Black Hill State Park, San Luis Obispo

04 / BID PRESENTATION

The proposed price for the Onion Springs Project is presented in the attached spreadsheet. To promote clarity, the following assumptions explain the basis of the proposed price. The price is estimated based on a good-faith, current understanding of the project's needs. If selected, Ascent is interested in discussing RCDTC's needs and revising the scope of work and price, as warranted, to meet expectations.

TASK	Cost
Task 1: Data Collection and Analysis	\$33,140
Task 2: Preparation of Draft PSA and MMRP	\$44,110
Task 3: Agency Review and Revisions	\$12,390
Task 4: Final PSA and Filing	\$24,420
Subconsultant (including 5% administrative fee)	\$12,734
Other Direct Costs (mileage/travel, field equipment, cultural records search)	\$8,100
TOTAL	\$134,894

ASSUMPTIONS

1. Labor, subconsultant, and other direct costs have been allocated to tasks to determine the total budget. Ascent may reallocate costs and labor resources, as needed, as long as the total contract price is not exceeded.
2. The price is based on the proposed scope of analysis and assumed level of effort as indicated in the cost. If new technical issues, alternatives, field surveys, modeling, or analysis is identified after contract execution, a new scope of work and cost estimate would be warranted.
3. The proposal is a firm fixed price to perform the proposed scope of work. Ascent will provide the services for the price defined herein, invoicing monthly on a percent-complete basis.
4. Materials provided by others are assumed to be complete and adequate for use in the analysis. If supplemental or revised analysis, studies, data, or fieldwork is needed to render such materials adequate, a new scope of work and cost estimate would be warranted.
5. The scope of work is complete upon the acceptance by RCDTC of the final deliverable.

As requested in the RFB, the cost per acre is estimated below for each task, assuming a project area of 12,617 acres. While the biological reconnaissance survey effort will scale generally with the size of the project, other subtasks in this proposal are desktop-level efforts, which do not directly correlate with the acres covered in the project area. Therefore, the cost of preparation of the PSA or PSA/Addendum under the Program EIR is not directly correlated to the acres covered in the PSA. The cost table above should be used as the basis for the contract price rather than quantifying cost based on acre.

Mandatory Tasks	Bids
Task 1: Data Collection and Analysis	\$ 3.59/Acre
Task 2: Preparation of Draft PSA and MMRP	\$ 3.50/Acre
Task 3: Agency Review and Revisions	\$ 0.98/Acre
Task 4: Final PSA and Filing	\$ 1.94/Acre
Other: Expenses	\$ 0.69/Acre
Total cost per acre	\$ 10.69/Acre

05 / TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Ascent has reviewed the sample contract and respectfully requests the opportunity to discuss the following revisions to the Indemnification clause(s). With this edit incorporated, the indemnification clause would be consistent with Ascent's previous contract with RCDTC through the Ishi Wilderness Prescribed Fire Project. The proposed edits to the contract provisions below can be used as the starting point of discussions.

11. INDEMNIFICATION

To the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor agrees to protect, defend, indemnify, and save harmless RCDTC and its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers from and against all claims, demands, and causes of action by Contractor's employees or third parties on account of personal injury or death or on account of property damages ~~arising out of the work to be performed by Contractor hereunder and~~ resulting from the negligent act or omissions of Contractor, Contractor's agents, employees, or Subcontractors. These defense and indemnity obligations shall survive the termination or completion of this agreement and are in addition to, and not limited by, the Insurance obligations in the agreement.

Also, the sample contract references "Exhibit B—Grant Agreement Between CARCD and RCDTC" and states that the Consultant shall conform to and abide by the obligations therein. However, the Agreement was not included in the RFB. Ascent respectfully reserves the right to review these terms as they pertain to the Consultant contract with the RCDTC.

Onion Springs Vegetation Treatment Project PSA/Addendum

28-Jun-25

Task 1: Data Collection and Analysis	Hours	Price	hourly rate:
Mapping	22	\$ 3,440	
Data Review and Project Description	37	\$ 7,285	
Biological Resources Data Analysis	12	\$ 2,195	
Cultural Resources Data Analysis	8	\$ 1,560	
Biological Reconnaissance Survey	121	\$ 18,860	
Subtotal, Task 1	200	\$ 33,140	

Task 2: Preparation of Draft PSA and MMRP	Hours	Price
Draft PSA and MMRP	252	\$ 44,110
Subtotal, Task 2	252	\$ 44,110

Task 3: Agency Review and Revisions	Hours	Price
Agency Consultation	64	\$ 12,390
Subtotal, Task 3	64	\$ 12,390

Task 4: Final PSA and Filing	Hours	Price
Prepare Final PSA and MMRP	113	\$ 20,920
NOD	6	\$ 1,295
Draft and Final CEQA Findings/SOC	12	\$ 2,205
Subtotal, Task 4	131	\$ 24,420

LABOR SUBTOTAL	\$ 114,060
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REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES	Price
Mileage / Parking / Travel	\$ 3,600
Cultural Resources Record Search	\$ 4,000
Field Equipment	\$ 500
Subconsultants	\$ 12,128
W.M. Bealy and Associates, Inc.	\$ 606
5% administrative fee	\$ 606
TOTAL PRICE	\$ 134,894

Project No. 20240089.01

PIC	Project Director	PM	Senior Cultural Resources Specialist	Cultural Resources Specialist	Biologist (wildlife)	Biologist (botany)	Senior Biologist	Senior Botanist	Senior Reviewer	Planners	Graphics	GIS	WP	Admin
\$3,330	\$2,265	\$200	\$200	\$160	\$145	\$155	\$195	\$225	\$235	\$150	\$155	\$140	\$155	\$155
4	4	6			6		2					16		
1	1	2			4							8	2	1
1	1	4		6	52	34	2	2				4		1
6	6	24	0	6	62	58	2	4	0	0	0	28	2	2
8	14	18	2	18	38	40	10	8	10	60	2		22	2
8	14	18	2	18	38	40	10	8	10	60	2	0	22	2
6	10	12	0	0	22	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
6	10	12	0	0	22	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
7	10	20	2	8	12	2	2	2		12		2	32	2
1	1	2								2				
1	1	2								6				
9	12	24	2	8	12	2	2	2	0	20	0	2	34	2
29	42	78	4	32	134	110	14	14	10	80	2	30	60	8
\$ 9,570	\$ 11,130	\$ 15,600	\$ 880	\$ 5,120	\$ 19,430	\$ 17,050	\$ 2,730	\$ 3,150	\$ 2,350	\$ 12,000	\$ 310	\$ 4,200	\$ 9,300	\$ 1,240

ASSUMPTIONS

- Project Area = 12,617 acres
- Bio Reconnaissance
- 5 survey days x 2 biologists
- 4 nights hotel stay and 5 days per diem travel expenses for both biologists
- Each survey day is assumed at a 10 hour day
- USFWS/CDFW consultation
- USFWS consultation and CDFW consultation each by virtual meeting

ONION SPRINGS CalVTP BID PROPOSAL

PEDERSEN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

4695 PLEASANT HILLS DRIVE

ANDERSON, CA. 96007

SISTERJALAPENO@GMAIL

707 497-8855

June 19,2025

Resource Conservation District of Tehama County

Seronica Biggs – District RPF

sbiggs@tehamacountyrcd.org

Dear Selection Evaluation Team for Onion Springs CalVTP,

Please accept the attached bid proposal for the development of the planning documents required for a CalVTP. This bid includes all bid elements as required by your agency's Request For Bid, (RFB).

As an sole proprietor of Pedersen Resource Management Consultant (PRMC), I have 25 years of experience in the environmental compliance profession. I have planned and prepared all of the background documents needed to produce a legally defensible CEQA compliant CalVTP. I am confident that my skills and qualifications align perfectly with the skills and competency that you are seeking.

Thank you for considering my proposal. I look forward to the opportunity to speak with you in greater detail about how my skills and experiences align with the strategic goals of your organization.

Warm regards,

Dawn Pedersen

RPF # 2754

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 653-7772
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



June 19, 2025

To the RCD of Tehama County:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Dawn Pedersen who I have worked with for over 10 years on various capital improvement projects for CAL FIRE.

Dawn is very thorough and knowledgeable on CEQA implementation. In her role as the lead for capital improvement projects, she would analyze potential environmental impacts with detailed analysis and in a timely manner. She made my review of her analysis easy as she was very thorough in her documentation.

She routinely demonstrated her knowledge of the CEQA process and provided valuable input to address environmental concerns early in the process to ensure that the documents were legally defensible and that timelines were met. In cases where there were environmental issues, she was instrumental in carrying out protocols or mitigation measures to deliver the projects in a timely manner.

Her no nonsense approach to delivering thorough analysis pursuant to CEQA is something I miss since she has moved on from CAL FIRE. She has been one of the few Foresters that understand the CEQA process and environmental requirements necessary to deliver a capital improvement project with ease.

I highly recommend her for any environmental work regarding forestry resources or capital improvement projects. Please feel free to contact me directly if you would like additional information regarding Dawn's qualifications.

Sincerely,

Christina Snow

Christina Snow
Senior Environmental Planner
916-216-0553

Monty Smith
604 Antelope Blvd.
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(530) 528-5199

6/20/2025

Re: Pedersen Resource Management Consultant (PRMC)

I am pleased to write this letter of reference regarding Dawn Pedersen and her vast amount of experience in Resource Management. Dawn began working for CAL FIRE in 2001 and prior to CAL FIRE, she worked for the United States Forest Service working in the Resource Management Programs. Dawn has been a Registered Professional Forester for 25 years. For the last 11 years, she has been managing the Resource Management Program in the Tehama Glenn Unit. Dawn's management of the program has been instrumental in implementation, execution, and completion of multiple vegetation management plans, completing all documentation necessary to have a legally defensible CEQA compliant project plan. Her forward thinking and professional experience have provided vegetation treatment to over 60,000 acres located on private property within the wildlands of California.

In her role as the Unit Forester, she has been responsible for a multitude of infrastructure projects that have all been completed and approved to be legally compliant with CEQA. Dawn's professional demeanor has built strong working relationships with several stakeholders, landowners, cooperators, and partner agencies and groups, including representing the Unit at the Tehama-Glenn Fire Safe Council, serving as a core member of the Mendocino Firescape Project, participation on the Battle Creek Working Group, and in 2023 Dawn received the Bills Burrows Conservationist of the Year Award for her outstanding contribution to the Natural Resources of Tehama County. Dawn's professional experience, work ethic, and standards are outstanding and her abilities to accomplish large projects and goals are excellent.

Sincerely,



Monty Smith
Unit Chief
CAL FIRE TGU

Gabriel Schultz

Northern Region Resource Manager

CAL FIRE

gabriel.schultz@fire.ca.gov

(530) 227-9688

June 19, 2025

To the RCD of Tehama County:

I am pleased to provide this letter of reference for Dawn Pedersen, who has had outstanding experience in wildfire resilience, hazardous fuels reduction, and forest health projects. Dawn has been instrumental in advancing critical environmental and public safety goals for Tehama County over her career as the CAL FIRE Unit Forester. This letter reflects over 15 years of working with Dawn on various projects throughout Tehama County.

Dawn has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of the complex ecological, regulatory, and operational aspects required to implement effective wildfire mitigation strategies. Her work has directly contributed to the reduction of hazardous fuels, the improvement of defensible space for at-risk communities, and the promotion of long-term ecosystem resilience.

In alignment with both state and federal wildfire mitigation goals, Dawn has skillfully executed projects designed to break up horizontal and vertical fuel continuity, reduce ladder fuels, and establish strategic fuel breaks. Her ability to plan, coordinate, and deliver these projects effectively has enhanced landscape level resilience and helped protect vital natural and built environments from the increasing threat of catastrophic wildfire.

Of particular note is Dawn's experience working under the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP). She has played a key role in preparing and completing the Project Specific Analysis (PSA) and associated documentation needed to satisfy California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. Her fluency with CEQA processes and environmental compliance has enabled timely and legally defensible project implementation (an essential component in today's regulatory landscape).

Dawn Pedersen's professionalism, technical acumen, and commitment to environmental stewardship make her an invaluable asset to any organization working in wildfire mitigation and land management. I have every confidence in her ability to continue delivering high-quality results that align with California's evolving forest health and climate resilience priorities.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you would like additional information regarding Dawn's qualifications and contributions.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Schultz

Northern Region Resource Manager

CAL FIRE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Schultz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

A. PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

2. Qualifications and Experience

I am a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) licensed in CA since 2001. From 2001 to 2013, I was employed by CAL FIRE in the Forest Practice Compliance and Enforcement program. I routinely reviewed proposed Timber Harvest Plans (THP), conducted contract compliance inspections for approved THP's and identified forest practice rule violation on private timber lands. Often these violations lead to development of case reports and subsequent law enforcement actions. My employment role shifted in 2013 when I was promoted to the Assistant Chief position and Manager of the Resource Management (RM) Program in the Tehama Glenn Unit of CAL FIRE. In this capacity, I planned and executed a multitude of vegetation management plans (VMP) designed to incorporate a variety of treatment strategies to manage wildland fuels on rural properties within Tehama and Glenn Co. I was solely responsible for the planning, development, document preparation and approval for all background documents necessary to demonstrate environmental compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). I developed a CalVTP covering just over 5000 acres of SPI owned timberlands which had established strategically placed fuel breaks in Eastern Tehama Co. In my capacity as program manager for the RM program, I also managed a robust grants program. During this time – I reviewed, approved and inspected more than 14 CAL FIRE grant funded projects which treated thousands of acres utilizing a variety of vegetation treatment methods. I am well versed with what it takes to plan, prepare and create California environmental compliant documents necessary to implement and execute vegetation treatment projects within our private, state and federal lands within the State of California. My employment with CAL FIRE has given me the opportunity to be trained in the CalVTP document development. It is very similar to at VMP of which I have written many. The process is the same with the addition of the notification to the Board of Forestry and the development of the PSA and the monitoring plan MMRP.

I met with many obstacles with each project we began. Having a solid checklist of the items necessary to be completed as well as understanding and maintaining accurate agency contacts is a necessity with any project of this nature. My experience and knowledge of the proper agency representatives within the state agencies that we will engage with during the planning and execution of this project ensures project deliverables will be attained.

I have extensive experience working with federal agencies and am versed in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. I had a variety of opportunities to review and inspect wildfire prevention grant projects located within federal jurisdiction during my tenure with CALFIRE.

My RPF license # is 2754 and I am currently certified through the CAL FIRE Archaeologist program administered by the California Licensed Foresters Association.

3. Timeline

Upon contract award – anticipated July to August 2025

1. Meet with RCD of Tehama Co. project manager and define project treatment area. Identify project area limitations and ensure treatments areas are within established treatable landscapes based on the CalVTP environmental impact report (EIR). With this information develop a checklist of what further planning will be necessary to obtain agency approvals needed for the PSA and MMRP. It is my understanding that there is an approved CalVTP permitting treatments on adjacent properties. Coupled with the fact that this CalVTP will cover treatments on Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) owned properties, all available background information will be shared for the creation of this CalVTP. Given this information, this CalVTP will incorporate this information and build upon existing information to develop the Onion Springs CalVTP.

August to September 2025

2. SPI requires a property wide information center request every 5 years. It is assumed that this information will be shared about known historical and prehistoric data from the State Historic Preservation Center and Northeast Center of the California Historical Information System (NEIC) and all available data and maps sufficient to identify any historic and or prehistoric sites located on this ownership.
3. Provide a draft map and project description to the Board of Forestry for posting to website.

October to November 2025

4. Prepare and submit scoping letters to Native American Tribes as identified on CAL FIREs contact list and all State agencies with responsible agency review obligations pursuant to CEQA, i.e. California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Central Valley Regional Water Control Board, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Tehama County Air Pollution Control District.

December 2025 to February 2026

5. Update the existing California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) report identifying rare or endangered wildlife and plant species that may have the potential to be present in the areas planned for mechanical treatments.
6. Update Eco Region List, Soil Report and Green House Gas Analysis Report.
7. Receive, review and respond to NA and State Agency input.

8. Prepare draft PSA to submit to RCD of Tehama Co.

March to May 2026

9. Review, revise planning documents dependent upon input received from RCD of Tehama Co.

10. Strategize with RCD for staff to complete any outstanding surveys and incorporate this into existing surveys needed for analysis and incorporation into PSA and MMRP.

11. Submit final package to BOF.

June to July 2026

12. Based upon review adjust and complete revisions.

August 2026

13. Deliver the final project package to RCD of Tehama Co.

4. References – see attached exhibits 1-3

5. Approach

The timeline provided in this RFB clearly demonstrates my ability to provide the deliverables as described in the scope of work. My qualifications & experience are evidence to my abilities to provide a high quality environmentally sound product. I have 25 years of experience navigating the California Environmental Quality Act and with that in mind the obligation Californians expect from land managers. My approach to this project will be no different than my approach to the previous vegetation treatment projects that I have planned, developed and produced during my tenure with CAL FIRE as their resource management program manager. It is assumed that all survey work necessary for the analysis and completion of the PSA and MMRP has been completed. Any additional survey work needed will be the responsibility of either SPI staff or RCD staff. I will assist with the development of strategies and identify what if any gaps in survey work exists.

5A. EQUIPMENT

2014 Dodge Ram 4X4 vehicle –contractor owned.

HP 12th generation, 64 Giga bites RAM, 1.2 terra bite storage Laptop computer – contractor owned. Mouse and Key board.

iPhone 16 PRO.

6. Staff to be Assigned

See response included in item 5.

7. Bid Presentation - Onion Springs CalVTP

This bid was developed utilizing a project treatment area spanning 12,000 acres.

B. COST PROPOSAL FORMAT

MANDATORY TASKS	BIDS
TASK 1: Document Creation (PSA & MMRP)	\$7.50/acre
TASK 2: Develop Strategies for Surveys and Provide Oversight for any Additional Surveys Needed for Preparation of Documents	\$5.00/acre
TOTAL	\$12.50/acre = \$150,000.00