

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

September 17, 2026

WILDFIRE RESILIENCY PROJECTS

Project Numbers: 26-050-01, 26-040-01, 26-052-01

Project Managers: Vanessa Aczon, Lilly Allen, and Sara Haugen

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse a total up to \$4,200,000 to the Round Valley Indian Tribes, Sonoma Land Trust, and Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department to carry out implementation projects that will improve forest health and wildfire resiliency in Mendocino, Sonoma and Santa Clara Counties; and to adopt findings under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

LOCATION: Mendocino, Sonoma and Santa Clara Counties

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Site Photographs](#)

Exhibit 3: [CEQA Documentation](#)

Exhibit 4: [Project Letters](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution and findings.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of a total amount not to exceed four million two hundred thousand dollars (\$4,200,000) to a tribe, a nonprofit, and a public agency to carry out three implementation projects in (collectively, the “projects”) that will improve forest health and wildfire resiliency in Mendocino, Sonoma and Santa Clara Counties. The grant recipients and projects are as follows:

- 1. Round Valley Indian Tribes:** One million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) to purchase equipment necessary to support a robust fuels reduction program, to implement 140-906 acres of strategic fuels reduction, to engage the Bureau of Indian Affairs to resolve barriers to using prescribed and cultural fire, and to engage the community, while increasing tribal capacity and workforce development, including training, for the Round Valley Indian Tribes in Mendocino County.

2. **Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department:** One million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) to install grazing infrastructure, including approximately 30,000 linear feet of new wire fences, six gates to establish three large pastures, and water infrastructure for livestock, across approximately 386 acres of rangeland at Santa Teresa County Park in Santa Clara County.
3. **Sonoma Land Trust:** One million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) to implement wildfire risk reduction, forest resilience, and restoration through vegetation management and prescribed burns on 336 – 376 acres on public parklands in Sonoma County.

Round Valley Indian Tribes, Santa Clara County Parks Department and Sonoma Land Trust are each a “grantee.” Prior to commencement of each project, the grantee for the specific project shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding, and the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 as the source of that funding.
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.

Findings:

Based on the accompanying staff recommendation and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The proposed projects are consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
3. The Sonoma Land Trust is a nonprofit organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
4. For the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department project, the Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the Negative Declaration for the Santa Teresa Grazing Management Plan adopted by the County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department on September 10, 2013, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3. The Conservancy finds that Santa Teresa Grazing Management Plan as designed avoids or reduces the potentially significant environmental effects, and that there is no substantial evidence based on the record as a whole that the project will have a significant effect on the environment

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

PROJECT SUMMARY

Staff recommends the Conservancy authorize a total up to \$4,200,000 to the Round Valley Indian Tribes, Sonoma Land Trust, and Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department to carry out implementation projects that will improve forest health and wildfire resiliency in Mendocino, Sonoma and Santa Clara Counties (collectively referred to as the “projects”). The projects are part of the Conservancy’s wildfire resilience program and will develop and implement vegetation management activities to increase wildfire resilience of California’s forests, grasslands, and natural lands and reduce fire risk to communities. The proposed authorization will be funded with the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (the “2024 Climate Bond” or “Proposition 4”).

ROUND VALLEY INDIAN TRIBES

\$1,200,000

Good Fire and Land Management Project

26-050-01

The Round Valley Indian Tribes (RVIT) project consists of purchasing equipment necessary to support a robust fuels reduction program, implementing 140-906 acres of strategic fuels reduction, including thinning and piling, fuel breaks, pile burning or cultural burning on the RVIT Reservation, engaging with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to resolve barriers to using prescribed and cultural fire, and community outreach to implement the project. The project will contribute to RVIT’s network of strategic fuel breaks and fuels reduction projects. Many of these projects were designed with future broadcast burning as a mechanism to maintain and enhance their long-term benefits. In the event of a wildfire, the fuel breaks and fuels reduction areas will facilitate fire containment strategies to reduce wildfire intensity and protect the community and natural resources. RVIT’s forest management principles include maintaining large trees across the landscape, which are fire and climate resilient. Part of this project will be located on 140 acres of land that RVIT owns in fee title and the other part of this project will be located on 722 acres of land that is held in trust for RVIT by the federal government. There are barriers to the portion of the project related to implementing strategic fuels reduction by prescribed and cultural fire use on the 722 acres of land in held in trust for RVIT due to the bureaucratic difficulty of obtaining approvals from the BIA. In order to implement a cultural or prescribed burn on land held in trust, the BIA must approve a burn plan. If those barriers are resolved, prescribed and cultural fire use can be completed on that portion of the project at a low cost. If those barriers can’t be resolved, there may not be cultural or prescribed burn fuel reduction on the lands held in trust only land held in fee title; however, implementing the strategic fuels reduction on the 140 acres owned by RVIT in fee title and engaging the BIA and community is still a worthwhile State investment. If burning cannot be done on trust land, some land will be treated through manual mechanical forest health treatments.

This project includes a sizable equipment purchase for RVIT. The purchase of this equipment is a sustainable investment that allows for wildfire resilience work to extend beyond the grant terms, and expand the use of current equipment. Equipment to be purchased includes a wood chipper and associated personal protective equipment (PPE), a heavy-duty truck to haul heavy equipment used for fuels reduction, a grapple rake for the Tribes’ skid steer, a rotating grapple saw attachment for the Tribes’ mini-excavator, two pickup trucks for transporting the crew, a

diesel transfer tank, and welding equipment and associated PPE for in-house equipment repairs.

The project includes training for tribal members in fuels reduction and wildfire resilience that will increase capacity and enable employment opportunities in that field. The project will support eight living-wage jobs for the RVIT forestry and fuels crew. Tribal unemployment is at least 22% on the reservation due to limited career and job opportunities, as well as generational poverty. The project supports the Tribe's goal of a healthy, diverse economy, including natural resource-based jobs.

Site Description: The project is located on the Round Valley Indian Reservation near Covelo, California in the headwaters of the Eel River watershed. RVIT's land base includes approximately 30,000 acres of tribal trust, allotments, and fee title tribal ownership. Part of this project will be located on 140 acres of land that RVIT owns in fee title and the other part of this project will be located on 722 acres of land that is held in trust for RVIT by the Federal government. The terrain ranges from flat valley bottoms to steep canyon-side slopes and ridges with a diverse mosaic of oak woodlands, grassland, and conifer forests. The RVIT Natural Resources Department manages the land for the benefit of the Tribe and for commercial timber production, hunting, firewood, fire resilience, fisheries, and wildlife habitat.

RVIT is facing the loss of one of their most precious assets – a fire-adapted landscape. The risk of a large catastrophic wildfire in the Round Valley area has increased due to federal policies that banned the Tribes' traditional practice of managing the landscape with regular, low-intensity fires that encouraged a mosaic pattern of fire-adapted vegetation across the landscape. These policies, coupled with fire suppression, have allowed vegetation to become more dense and more susceptible to high-intensity fire than would have occurred under native management. There is no portion of the Round Valley Indian Reservation that is not potentially at risk from catastrophic fire due to the accumulation of fire-prone vegetation.

Grant Applicant Qualifications: RVIT has successfully implemented 1,600 acres of grant-funded forest restoration over the past decade. The Tribe typically completes between 100 and 200 acres of treatments per year. Projects have ranged from 5 acres to 188 acres and include oak woodland restoration, timber stand improvement, hazardous fuels reduction, snag mitigation, mastication, lop and scatter, hand piling, and machine piling. The Murphy Ridge Shaded Fuel Break was a similar large project completed by RVIT in 2025, which was a 3-mile-long cross-boundary fuel break that coordinated grant funding from three different agencies.

Consistency with Conservancy's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan:

Consistent with **Goal 1.2 Return Power to Tribes**, the proposed project was developed by and will be implemented by RVIT and will implement cultural forest health projects they have identified as a priority.

Consistent with **Goal 1.4 Workforce Development**, the proposed project will create eight jobs for RVIT members.

Consistent with **Goal 4.2 Wildfire Resilience Projects**, the proposed project will implement cultural burning and forest health practices such as cultural burning, shaded fuel breaks and

thinning on 140-906 acres of tribal land, lowering the risk of catastrophic wildfire across the remote community of Covelo.

CEQA: On March 1, 2025, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation declaring that California is in a state of emergency due to forest conditions, and identifying several actions to address wildfire risk across California. To expedite critical fuels reduction projects, the Proclamation suspends, subject to approval of the Secretaries of the California Environmental Protection Agency and California Natural Resources Agency, certain California statutory and regulatory requirements, including CEQA. The portion of the project that is located on the 140 acres owned by RVIT in fee title have been granted an emergency suspension from these state statutes and regulations, including CEQA, pursuant to the Proclamation. Suspension approval documents are included as Exhibit 3.

The portion of the project that is on 722 acres of land in held in trust for RVIT by the federal government is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4799.05 (d)(1), which exempts prescribed and cultural fire, thinning, and fuels work on federal lands where compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) is already completed. That 722 acres are covered by numerous documents prepared in compliance with NEPA, described below:

- Round Valley Indian Tribes (RVIT) prepared and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) adopted an environmental assessment (EA) for the 2017 Hill Allotments Timber Sale in August 2017 with a Finding of No Significant Impact. 199 acres of this project were analyzed in that NEPA document.
- RVIT prepared and the BIA adopted an environmental assessment (EA) for the Jackass Timber Sale in February 2020 with a Finding of No Significant Impact. 178 acres of this project were analyzed in that NEPA document.
- RVIT prepared and the BIA adopted a NEPA categorical exclusion for the Murphy Ridge Fuel Break in August 2023. 131 acres of this project were analyzed in that NEPA document.
- RVIT prepared and the BIA adopted a NEPA categorical exclusion for the Round Valley Indians Tribes Corner Stand Improvement in September 2020. 9 acres of this project were analyzed in that NEPA document.
- RVIT prepared and the BIA adopted a NEPA categorical exclusion for the Round Valley Haskins Flat Timber Stand Improvement in January 2021. 19.2 acres of this project were analyzed in that NEPA document.
- RVIT prepared and the BIA adopted a NEPA categorical exclusion for the Dump 1 Timberstand Improvement in July 2020. 14.1 acres of this project were analyzed in that NEPA document.
- RVIT prepared and the BIA adopted a NEPA categorical exclusion for the Dump 2 Timberstand Improvement in July 2020. 5.5 acres of this project were analyzed in that NEPA document.

- RVIT prepared and the BIA adopted a NEPA categorical exclusion for the Murphy Ridge Woodland Improvement in July 2020. 25.5 acres of this project were analyzed in that NEPA document.
- RVIT prepared and the BIA adopted a NEPA categorical exclusion for the Round Valley Indians Tribes Pole Stand Improvement on March 2021. 21.5 acres of this project were analyzed in that NEPA document.
- RVIT prepared and the BIA adopted a NEPA categorical exclusion for the Round Valley Reservation Westside Thinning in January 2022. 51.2 acres of this project were analyzed in that NEPA document.
- RVIT prepared and the BIA adopted a NEPA categorical exclusion for the Round Valley Short Creek Woodland Improvement in July 2020. 26.7 acres of this project were analyzed in that NEPA document.
- RVIT prepared and the BIA adopted a NEPA categorical exclusion for the Round Valley Bend WATS Precommercial Tree Thinning in October 2021. 20.3 acres of this project were analyzed in that NEPA document.
- RVIT prepared and the BIA adopted a NEPA categorical exclusion for the Round Valley Ranch WATS Timber Stand Improvement in October 2021. 21.5 acres of this project were analyzed in that NEPA document.

Upon approval of the project, Conservancy staff will file a Notice of Exemption.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

\$1,500,000

Santa Clara County Parks Fuel Reduction Initiatives

26-040-01

The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department (SCCPRD) project consists of installing grazing infrastructure on 386 acres of rangeland at Santa Teresa County Park (STCP) in San Jose, Santa Clara County. This project will enable SCCPRD to reintroduce prescribed grazing at STCP, aimed at managing fuel loads and mitigating fire hazards to protect serpentine and other sensitive habitats. Key project activities include removing dilapidated fencing, installing approximately 30,000 linear feet of new wire fences and six gates to establish three large pastures, and designing and constructing water infrastructure for livestock. With the reintroduction of prescribed grazing at a CALFIRE designated “high” Fire Hazard Severity Zone, this project will reduce wildfire risks, enhance carbon sequestration capacity, increase native vegetation and biodiversity, improve the overall health of the rangeland ecosystem, and enhance potential habitat for special status species.

Site Description: The project site is located in STCP in Santa Clara County, approximately 10 miles south of downtown San Jose. STCP encompasses 1,668 acres along the southern portion of the Santa Teresa Ridge. Located at the intersection of the Almaden Valley and Santa Clara Valley, the area is renowned for its rich historical and archaeological significance. The area is a mix of open grassland, oak savanna, and chaparral, offering spectacular views from over 17 miles of unpaved trails for equestrian, hiking, and bicycling. The southern boundary is adjacent to agricultural lands and residential areas. This diverse landscape features extensive serpentine

soils that support a variety of flora and fauna, including special status species like the Santa Clara Valley dudleya, Bay checkerspot butterfly, and Loma Prieta hoita, among many others.

Grant Applicant Qualifications: The SCCPRD manages 28 regional parks encompassing over 52,000 acres of land, which is one of the largest regional park systems in California. The SCCPRD's staff have extensive experience administering grants of up to five million dollars from agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. It has previously completed a similar grazing infrastructure installation initiative at another location in STCP, funded by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. With a proven track record of managing lands and projects, the SCCPRD is well positioned to successfully implement this critical wildfire resilience project.

Consistency with Conservancy's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan:

Consistent with **Goal 4.2 Wildfire Resilience Projects**, the proposed project will install grazing infrastructure that will allow for the reintroduction of prescribed grazing to the site within STCP. The project will reduce fuel loads and fire hazards to protect serpentine and other sensitive species habitats, lowering the risk of catastrophic wildfire across the 386 acres of land that is in an almost entirely urban landscape.

CEQA: On September 10, 2013, the County of Santa Clara adopted the Negative Declaration based on the Initial Study: Grazing Management Plan, Santa Teresa County Park (GMP) and approved the GMP. The proposed project is a component of the GMP analyzed in the Initial Study. Conservancy staff concurs that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project will have a significant effect on the environment.

The GMP outlines a site-specific, phased strategy to reintroduce managed cattle grazing within STCP. The purpose of this approach is to improve the management of annual grassland, oak woodland, and serpentine grassland habitats, with an emphasis on enhancing serpentine-based plant species that provide potential habitat for the federally threatened Bay checkerspot butterfly, among other species. The GMP specifically identified implementation of livestock infrastructure, such as fencing, access gates, and watering infrastructure. The GMP evaluated nine environmental factors that could potentially be affected by the proposed project and determined that no significant impacts would occur. All activities carried out under this proposed project fall within the scope of the adopted Negative Declaration.

Upon approval of the project, Conservancy staff will file a Notice of Determination.

SONOMA LAND TRUST

\$1,500,000

Sonoma Valley Wildlands Collaborative Fire Resiliency

26-052-01

The Sonoma Land Trust project consists of implementing wildfire risk reduction, forest resilience, and restoration through vegetation management and prescribed burns on 336 – 376 acres on public parklands in Sonoma County. This project builds upon successful treatments of more than 1,100 acres of understory thinning and more than 400-acres of prescribed fire over

the past 5 years. Sonoma Land Trust will carry out the project in collaboration with Sonoma County Regional Parks (Regional Parks) and California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks).

The project area is split into two management areas: West and East of Arnold Drive. The West side includes Jack London State Historic Park and former Sonoma County Development Center (SDC), now unclassified State Parks land. The East is between Arnold and Highway 12, containing Sonoma Valley Regional Park and also includes former SDC, now unclassified State Parks land. Both sides have a long history of fire exclusion while the east side was almost entirely burned in the 2017 Nuns Fire. Project activities are focused on: reducing woody materials, prescribed fire, mowing, chipping, cutting limbs and understory brush, forest thinning, and other forest health activities.

The project includes wildfire risk reduction, forest resilience, and restoration through vegetation management and prescribed burns on both the West and East project areas. Forest resilience and wildfire risk reduction activities in all management areas may consist of cutting and piling or chipping dead and down woody material smaller than 8 inches in diameter, cutting and placing larger logs in contact with the ground to aid in decomposition, evenly scattering chipped material to a depth under six inches, pruning lower limbs to a minimum of six feet off the ground, removing dead material up to the live portion of the branch, removing encroaching Douglas-fir under eight inches in diameter within oak woodland or grassland areas, thinning crown spacing of small conifers to approximately ten feet spacing in timber areas, cutting and piling understory brush species including coyote brush and French broom in grassland areas, limbing and clearing all drivable roads and trails for vehicle access, mowing grass a minimum of six feet along all grassland boundaries, brushing back vegetation a minimum of 10-20 feet along all timber boundaries, limbing up ladder fuels up to six feet from the ground, where feasible removing or scattering heavier fuel jack pots within 20 feet of the perimeter, scattering cut material either inside or outside the project, and removing fuels from any wooden features such as trail signposts and bridges along the perimeter or inside the units.

Beyond traditional forest health practices like understory thinning and broadcast burning listed above, this project will also implement restoration on the East side of the project using a fuels-to-flows method at Sonoma Valley Regional Park, near burn units, which are perimeters that are ideal for creating a fire boundary. This restoration portion of the project will enhance and expand seasonal wetlands and tributaries to Sonoma Creek within the Sonoma Valley Regional Park by utilizing slash from fuels reduction projects to treat incised channels and headcuts, thus retaining more water longer in seasonal wetlands. Project work for this component will primarily be conducted along the accessible Valley of the Moon trail, restoring wetland, intermittent creek and riparian areas. Woody material from vegetation management within the property and at nearby parks will be utilized to install instream check dam structures, which consist of piling small logs and sticks to create a pool for water to flow through.

The restoration portion of the project also includes introducing a diversity of plants, that will be propagated through fire (such as soil heating and fuels consumption) of prescribed burning, leaving some denser areas but opening up other areas. These measures will reduce risks to life

and property within the wildland urban interface while increasing ecosystem resilience to wildfire and climate change.

This project will be beneficial on many levels: thinning, pile burning and future broadcast burning treatments will diminish the likelihood of tree mortality during future wildfire (or drought) by reducing surface and ladder fuels, and result in improved tree health due to greater availability of water, light, and nutrients. At the stand level, both understory and overstory vegetation will benefit from increased light and water availability due to fewer stems per acre and more mineral soil. Fuel reduction and thinning will reduce the intensity of future wildfires, thereby protecting and stabilizing carbon contained in these forests.

The partnership-based approach to this project leverages state and local resources to support a long-term strategy to increase forest health and support ecosystem adaptation to climate change on a landscape scale.

Site Description: This project will cover portions of the 202-acre Sonoma Valley Regional Park, owned and managed by Regional Parks, and the 750-acre wildland portion of the former Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) in Glen Ellen, which was recently transferred to State Parks ownership and management. The project area is a diverse mix of oak woodland, grasslands, vernal pools, wetlands, and ephemeral creeks. Much of the area burned in the 2017 Sonoma Valley wildfires and has been identified as an area of strategic importance in CAL FIRE's Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit 2026 Fire Plan.

The proposed project is centered on the wildland portions of the former SDC, and includes adjacent protected lands, including Jack London State Historic Park. Together, the project area connects Highway 12 and the summit of Sonoma Mountain, and the west and east sides of Arnold Drive. The history of fire exclusion has hammered the health of oak regeneration, nutrient cycling and grasslands.

Grant Applicant Qualifications:

Sonoma Land Trust is a non-profit organization that works closely with private landowners, public agencies, non-profits, and foundations to protect the scenic, natural, agricultural and open landscapes of Sonoma County for the benefit of the community and future generations. It is a frequent recipient of private, local, state, and federal grants, and has received numerous grants from the Conservancy in the past. It has the experienced staff and organizational structure necessary to complete the work and manage the grant. It has previously acted as fiscal administrator and co-recipient for over \$3 million in grant funding to the Sonoma Valley Wildlands Collaborative, from sources including CAL FIRE, California State Parks' Office of Grants and Local Assistance, and California Office of Emergency Services.

Consistency with Conservancy's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan:

Consistent with **Goal 4.2 Wildfire Resilience Projects**, the proposed project will implement 336 – 376 acres of fuel reduction, prescribed fire and restoration, lowering the risk of catastrophic wildfire in Sonoma County, CA.

CEQA: The proposed project is categorically exempt under 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), which exempts projects that involve minor

alterations in the condition of vegetation without the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. This project is consistent with this exemption because it involves the maintenance of native plant growth. The project is also exempt under Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), which exempts maintenance or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. This project is consistent with this exemption because it involves the maintenance and minor alteration of existing landscaping, native growth.

Upon approval of the project, Conservancy staff will file a Notice of Exemption.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

The proposed projects are consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria, last updated on September 23, 2021, in the following respects:

Selection Criteria

1. Extent to which the project helps the Conservancy accomplish the objectives in the Strategic Plan.

See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Strategic Plan" section below.

2. Project is a good investment of state resources.

The projects are feasible, have reasonable budgets, and address a demonstrated need for wildfire resilience. The projects implement many statewide wildfire and forest resiliency goals. The proposed projects are also consistent with several state plans, and specifically with the following:

- **California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan** (Governor's Forest Management Task Force, January 2021), which calls for activities such as fuels reduction, forest thinning, vegetation management, prescribed fire, shaded fuel breaks, defensible space, and enhancement of fire-prone habitats to reduce fire risk.
- **California's Strategic Plan for Expanding the Use of Beneficial Fire** (Governor's Forest Management Task Force, March 2022), which builds on the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and lays out goals and actions to increase beneficial fire including prescribed fire and cultural burning.
- The **California Forest Carbon Plan** (California Natural Resources Agency, 2018), which calls for restoration of the natural fire regime and forest composition through a multitude of approaches including thinning, prescribed burns, invasive vegetation management, and shaded fuel breaks.
- The **Community Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Report** (CAL FIRE, 2019), which urges state and local agencies to implement the goals of the Forest Carbon Plan and provides recommendations to agencies to increase the scale and pace of management and mitigation actions to improve forest health and resiliency.

In addition, the Round Valley Indian Tribes project will take place within Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities.

3. **Project includes a serious effort to engage tribes. Examples of tribal engagement include good faith, documented efforts to work with tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated to the project area.**

One project, the Good Fire and Land Management Project, is led by the Round Valley Indian Tribes and will implement their land management plan and directly support their goals.

4. **Project benefits will be sustainable or resilient over the project lifespan.**

The projects will help increase fire resiliency in the context of anticipated climate change. Fire resilience is a critical issue due to increased average temperatures, reduced marine fog and longer and more severe droughts. California is facing unprecedented fire risk due to climate change, a growing populace and an increasing number of people living in high fire risk areas, including areas adjacent to wildlands. The 2025 Los Angeles wildfires were two of the most destructive wildfires in recent California history. These wildfires follow several years of destructive and deadly catastrophic wildfires in California.

5. **Project delivers multiple benefits and significant positive impact.**

The projects were selected because they are multi-benefit projects that will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire impacts to communities. Added benefits of these projects include: long term grazing infrastructure to increase working lands, increasing power to tribes, and supporting workforce development.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	\$4,200,000
Sonoma Land Trust operating funding	\$70,000
State Parks, Wildfire Resilience Program funding (Sonoma Land Trust)	\$665,000
Sonoma County Regional Parks (Sonoma Land Trust)	\$100,000
Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department	\$1,420,000
Project Total	\$ 6,455,000

The anticipated source of funding is a fiscal year 24/25 appropriation to the Conservancy from the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 ("2024 Climate Bond" or "Proposition 4"), codified at Public Resource Code Sections 90000-95015. These funds are available as described in Section 91520(k) of the Public Resource Code for "watershed improvement, wildfire resilience, chaparral and forest restoration, and workforce development that addresses needs related to this subdivision and is designed to create career pathways for individuals from disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, or vulnerable populations." The Round Valley Indian Tribes project will create eight tribal jobs, 5-15 training opportunities, and further skills development. The SCCPRD project will reintroduce prescribed grazing at STCP, aimed at managing fuel loads and mitigating fire hazards to protect serpentine and other sensitive habitats. The Sonoma Land Trust project will implement wildfire risk reduction and forest resilience activities through

vegetation management and prescribed burns on 336 – 376 acres in in three public parklands near Sonoma County.

Unless specifically identified as “Required Match,” the other sources of funding and in-kind contributions described above are estimates. The Conservancy does not typically require matching funds or in-kind services, nor does it require documentation of expenditures from other funders or of in-kind services. Typical grant conditions require grantees to provide any funds needed to complete a project.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION

The recommended projects will be undertaken pursuant to Section 31113 of Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, which authorizes the Conservancy to address the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on resources within the Conservancy’s jurisdiction (Section 31113(a)).

Pursuant to Section 31113(b), the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to nonprofit organizations and public agencies to undertake projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address extreme weather events, sea level rise, flooding, and other coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Pursuant to Section 31113(c), the Conservancy must prioritize grants for projects that maximize public benefits and have one of several purposes, including reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and preserving natural lands.

Consistent with these sections, the proposed projects will maximize benefits to the public and restore the health and resilience of California forests, grasslands, and/or natural lands and reduce fire risk to communities. The projects will help California’s natural lands be more resilient to catastrophic wildfires, which may ultimately reduce greenhouse gas emissions released from increased wildfires due to climate change.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S [2023-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN](#):

All three proposed projects assist the Conservancy in meeting its Strategic Plan goals and objectives. See the “Project Summary” section, above, for how each proposed project meets the relevant goal(s) and objective(s).

Consistent with **Goal 1.2, Return Power to Tribes**, the RVIT project will directly benefit tribal communities.

Consistent with **Goal 1.4, Workforce Development**, the RVIT project includes workforce development.

Consistent with **Goal 4.2, Wildfire Resilience**, all three projects will implement wildfire resilience projects.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

See the “Project Summary” section, above, for a discussion of CEQA compliance for each project. Upon authorization of the recommended grants, Conservancy staff will file a Notice of Exemption or Notice of Determination, as applicable, for each of the three projects.