

Wildfire Resilience Program Request for Proposals



2021 Announcement

Released December 3, 2021

Pre-application due January 14, 2022



Included in this document:

- Program description
- Jurisdiction map

Questions? Email wildfire.resilience@scc.ca.gov

Consultations encouraged.

INTRODUCTION

The Coastal Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience Program supports local partners to develop and implement projects that improve ecological health of natural lands and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. The program will fund grants for (1) on-the-ground activities to restore the health and increase resilience of California forests, grasslands, and natural lands to wildfire; and (2) planning and capacity building to increase wildfire resilience in California for projects from Marin County south to Ventura County. Some projects may be eligible for CEQA funding.

Pre-proposals can be submitted via email to wildfire.resilience@scc.ca.gov. Pre-proposals are due by 5pm on January 14, 2022 for project approval by May 2022. Pre-proposals submitted after this date will continue to be considered on a rolling basis after the first batch of submissions is reviewed. Based on this review, applicants may be invited to submit a full proposal or asked to provide further information on their project.

QUESTIONS / TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience Program will host a **webinar at 1 pm on December 16, 2021** to provide an overview of this funding proposal and answer questions. The registration link for the webinar is https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PTzxSNn8TrC1pV-zU_Z8vA. The recorded webinar will be posted on <https://scc.ca.gov/grants/> afterwards. We also encourage prospective applicants to request a pre-application consultation with Conservancy staff. Requests for pre-application consultations and other application questions can be directed to wildfire.resilience@scc.ca.gov.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Public Agencies
- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status
- Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes

AVAILABLE FUNDING & ELIGIBLE GEOGRAPHIES

There are no maximum or minimum grant amounts for this funding. Conservancy funding from this program comes from three separate sources with different priorities and geographies. The Conservancy has a total of \$10 million for wildfire resilience implementation projects, \$5 million of which is for the nine-county SF Bay Area.

<i>Geography</i>	<i>Eligible Projects</i>	<i>Available Funding</i>
SCC Jurisdiction	On-the-ground projects	\$10 million
Central Coast RFFCP, Counties of: Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	Capacity building	\$7 million



In addition, the Conservancy has about \$7 million from the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) to support capacity building projects from Marin County south to Ventura County, including the East Bay and Salinas Valley.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The purpose of these grants is to restore the health and resilience of California forests, grasslands, and natural lands in a manner that reduces fire risk to communities. The Conservancy will fund a wide range of activities to plan, accelerate, and support implementation of land and vegetation management activities to reduce wildfire risk to communities. Grants will not fund home hardening. Projects must provide a public benefit.

Eligible projects will fall into one of the following two categories:

1) Grants for on-the-ground activities that will reduce the risks of wildland fires. Eligible projects could include:

- Shaded fuel breaks and other vegetation thinning
- Dead and diseased tree removal
- Use of beneficial fire to reduce risk
- Application of Traditional Ecological Knowledge to reduce fire risks
- Prescribed grazing
- Removal of high-fire risk invasive plants and restoration with native plants
- Equipment to support wildfire reduction work
- Chipping
- Other activities identified in fire risk management plans



Image of a community based prescribed burn in Napa County

2) Grants for capacity-building in the RFFCP Region (see map). These grants could support planning, project prioritization, capacity building, and demonstration projects that will accelerate implementation of wildfire resilience projects. Eligible projects could include:

Planning:

- Development of subregional prioritization plans
- Planning and permitting specific projects
- Mapping, modeling, and demonstration of decision-support systems
- Use of remote sensing, LIDAR, geographic information systems, and other technology to identify fire risk reduction priorities

Capacity Building:

- Increase staff or contract expertise to support:
 - Project management
 - Expanding field crews
 - Staff training
 - Permitting and environmental review
 - Grant writing and developing funding strategies
- Work force development including career development training programs
- Regional coordination and convenings

Demonstration Projects:

- Biomass utilization projects: assessment of biomass feedstock, development of green processing facilities or methods (including pilot projects), integration with existing handlers/facilities

- Vegetation treatment projects: analysis of materials and methods for managing vegetation to restore and enhance native plant assemblages. Approaches to reducing fire threat that preserve native vegetation
- Implementation of treatment approaches using a variety of technology and techniques to enhance understanding of fire reduction strategies

PRIORITIES

General Priorities for this Request for Proposals:

- Project addresses high wildfire risk area, such as those identified in the CalFire Fire Hazard Severity Zones ([FHSZ Viewer - HELP ca.gov](#)) or the FRAP Priority Landscape Maps: [Priority Landscapes \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- Project is ready to be implemented
- Project implements the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan (Jan 2021)
- Project provides significant public benefit
- Project benefits disadvantaged or underserved community
- Project leads to longer term resilience or more sustainable benefits

Priorities for On the Ground Projects:

- Project is identified in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan or another wildfire resilience/prevention plan
- Project benefits public or protected lands

Priorities for Capacity Building Projects:

- Project address demonstrated need or regional problem
- Project will support demonstrable increase to wildfire resilience implementation
- Project will leverage resources through coordination across jurisdictions
- Project has long term funding plan, applicant commitment

If applicants have questions about how a project or program may fit within the RFFCP, please reach out to SCC staff to discuss at wildfire.resilience@scc.ca.gov. Consultations are encouraged.

SCC MISSION STATEMENT

The State Coastal Conservancy's vision is of a beautiful, restored, and accessible coast for current and future generations of Californians. We act with others to protect and restore, and increase public access to, California's coast, ocean, coastal watersheds, and the San Francisco Bay Area.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The State Coastal Conservancy ("Conservancy") is a state agency, established in 1976, to work proactively with local communities to implement multi-benefit projects that protect and enhance coastal resources. The Conservancy works along the entire length of California's coast, within the watersheds of rivers and streams that extend inland from the coast, and throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The Conservancy is leading the state's Central Coastal Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program with funding from the Department of Conservation.

The Coastal Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience Program supports local partners to develop and implement projects that improve ecological health of natural lands and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in areas where people live.



SCC Wildfire Resilience Program