2018 FOREST HEALTH WATERSHED COORDINATOR PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

Please prepare all materials using an easy-to-read font. When complete, please submit a digital version via email to the Department of Conservation wcp@conservation.ca.gov.

ALL GRANT APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Please indicate with a mark that these items are included in your application.

	Checklist for Watershed Coordinator Program Grant Application
~	1. Cover Sheet
/	2. Executive Summary
>	3. Application Questions
\	4. Work Plan
>	5. Budget
>	6. Map(s)
>	7. Authorizing Resolution Governing Body
>	8. Collaboration and Support Letters
~	9. Proof of Applicant Capacity
~	10. Payee Data Record (STD 204)

1. Application Cover Sheet for Watershed Coordinator Program grants

Project Title	Butte Creek, Big Chico Creek, Middle Feather River and Tributaries			
Location (County and/or City)	Parts of Butte, Tehama, Yuba, and Plumas Counties, California			
District Number(s)	Senate: 4			
District Number(s):	Assembly: 1 and 3			
Watershed Coordinator Zone	Sierra Nevada/Cascade			
Target Watershed(s) (HUC 10 and/or HUC 8)	Sycamore/Mud/Rock Creeks (HUC-10=1802015706); Big Chico Creek (HUC-10=1802015705) Butte Creek (HUC-8 = 18020158); Feather River middle reaches, with tributaries (HUC-8= parts of 18020121, 18020123, 18020159); see map			
Grant Request Amount	\$ 217,564			
Watershed Coordinator Costs	\$ 213,540			
Administrative Costs	\$ 4,024			
Applicant Information				
Applicant Name	Butte County Resource Conservation District			
Organization Type	Special district			
Department/Office	n/a			
Federal Employer ID Number	33-1054051			
Mailing Address	150 Chuck Yeager Way, Ste. A			
Mailing Address	Oroville, CA 95965			
Contact Person	Wolfy Rougle			
Title	Conservation Project Coordinator			
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2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2018, the watersheds of Butte Creek and the Feather River experienced the most destructive fire in California history. The Camp Fire took 86 lives and made 10% of Butte County's population homeless in a day. In climate terms, it was the equivalent of adding 777,600 cars to California's roads for a year. And it primed a once-forested landscape to switch to permanent chaparral. Thus, if "Camp Fire recovery" means "return to business as usual," then the region's next megafire is just a decade away. The only acceptable recovery is a brand-new approach to watershed health: a climate-resilient approach that protects and expands forests in an age of longer droughts, warmer wetter storms, and shorter fire returns. The purpose of this proposal is, in part, to make Camp Fire recovery a statewide model of climate-resilient watershed management.

The new model of watershed management will require greatly improved coordination between diverse watershed stakeholders: local, state and federal agencies; private landowners, community groups and non-profits; and science and industry. It will demand a widely accepted, well-researched watershed improvement plan that incorporates the needs of all stakeholders, invests in resource conservation education at the local watershed level, plans on a changing climate, supports adaptive management based on robust monitoring, and spells out ambitious regional projects -- plus the means for funding them.

The Butte County Resource Conservation District can achieve this work because it is already adapted to coordinating activities across private, local, state and federal lands. Nimble and neutral, RCDs function as force multipliers who boost other groups' capacity and bridge conservation gaps. The BCRCD watershed coordinator's work will replant lost forests, prevent type conversion, and build and track carbon accumulation across the landscape, including by re-introducing prescribed fire on a watershed scale. The coordinator will work closely with the Butte County Fire Safe Council, Lassen and Plumas National Forests, CSU and UC Ag and Natural Resource advisors, neighboring coordinators, and dozens of local groups.

The watershed coordinator's project area connects the northern Sierras and southern Cascades, including Big Chico Creek, Butte Creek, and middle Feather River forested watersheds. As hydrologically and socially appropriate, it includes parts of Butte, Tehama, Yuba, and Plumas counties. In the 914,917-acre project area are 4969 stream-miles, many threatened by toxic ash flow from 18,000 burned structures; plus the last viable spring run of Sacramento Valley Chinook salmon; an estimated 2 million dead or dying trees; hundreds of miles of dirt roads at high risk of erosion; displaced and traumatized communities struggling to envision the next forest; and a vast landscape vulnerable to switching from a net carbon sink to a carbon source.

The project area is an ideal size because it is large enough for a coordinator to be necessary, yet small enough for a coordinator to be effective. The Sierra Institute (2019) suggests that watershed coordination cannot be effectively advanced at geographic scales much larger than the one proposed. Instead, relatively compact project areas *with robust cross-boundary collaboration* are most effective. Therefore, this proposal builds in regular collaboration with coordinators to the north (Sierra Institute/South Lassen Watersheds Group) and the southeast (Yuba Working Group/SYRCL/Camptonville Partnership).

Demonstrated need (20 Points).

1. Current Watershed Conditions/Potential Benefit to the Watershed.

a.) How the watershed encompasses forest lands with characteristics and indicators prioritized by the Forest Carbon Plan.

The watershed project area spans 914,917 acres in the southern Cascades and northern Sierras. All of the project area is vulnerable to climatically driven stressors. One such stressor is longer droughts, which can kill trees, increase seedling mortality, and drive type conversion to brushlands. Another stressor is warmer, wetter, infrequent but intense storms that can drive debris flows and dump sediment into watersheds.

Due to decades of fire exclusion, the majority of the project area is at risk of catastrophic megafire resulting in massive carbon loss. In these extremely overgrown forests, historic springs have dried up, and the "mosaic" pattern responsible for so much of California's biodiversity has been replaced by monotonous seas of brush. Many of these forestlands have been subdivided and are at risk of being subdivided still smaller due to the region's housing crisis, posing a double threat to the forest. Development takes some of the trees, but the fire exclusion development brings eventually takes all the trees. The solutions to these lands' problems are not just silvicultural. They are also social, political, and educational.

The project area contains several extremely important habitat values at risk, most notably the Sacramento Valley's last viable spring run of Chinook salmon and several dozen spotted owl PACs and HRCAs. On the bright side, about 120,000 acres of the project area experienced a mild to moderate burn during the recent Camp Fire, which served as a "pre-treatment" creating outstanding opportunities for maintaining forest health with prescribed fire. However, about 15,000 acres experienced an extremely severe burn, causing near total tree mortality and requiring landscape-scale reforestation.

In summary, BCRCD estimates about 20% of the project area is in good health, especially at higher elevations where white fir and sugar pine forests support healthy timber harvests and give birth to streams that flow through Butte Creek and the Feather River into the Sacramento River, ultimately contributing to irrigating 750,000 acres and providing drinking water for 25 million people.

About 60% of the project area needs immediate, active intervention such as thinning and burning. These overstocked forests, mostly at middle elevations, exhibit a dense hardwood-conifer mix with aggressive shrub encroachment. Vulnerable to megafire and type conversion, they include most of the privately owned nonindustrial lands in the project area.

The remaining 20% of the project area is in crisis and presents restoration challenges as severe as anywhere in the world. One such crisis zone is the toxic-ash-covered devastated portion of Paradise Ridge, once thickly forested, where caravans of bulldozers will soon begin scraping the top 6" off the Ridge and moving it to landfills. Another crisis zone is the sterilized wasteland of the Concow Creek Basin. This subwatershed was deep forest in 1999, a burned forest in 2008, shrubland by 2018, and today is a white dunefield visible on satellite images. It is not covered in standing dead trees. The trees were vaporized. Reforesting these lands will be an intense challenge, but the watershed coordinator will have technical support from UC, experienced local foresters, researchers at the CSU, Chico Ecological Reserve, and a

host of Fire Safe Councils and CDF staff. Meeting this challenge is not just a local problem. It is a task of statewide importance.

b.) Describe the watershed's current condition and cite any formal studies, reports, or research papers that support the description. Models suggest climate change will increase precipitation overall in the project area (Ishida and Kavvas 2017) but in a pattern of fewer, warmer, more intense winter storms separated by longer summer droughts (Huang et al 2018). This new climate is perfect for creating brush-choked forests which fuel catastrophic megafire, devastate carbon stocks, destroy soils' ability to resist erosion, and render communities uninhabitable.

Paradoxically, the most cost-effective way to prevent high-intensity fire is with low-intensity fire. Before settlement, 6-16% of the extent of non-desert California experienced fires in any given year (Stephens et al 2007). Because the fires were patchy and low-intensity, they did not destroy all the vegetation in their path, but rather kept springs running (Roche et al 2018), stimulated biodiversity (Ponisio et al 2016), and maintained the "open, parklike" forests Californians came to think of as the "classic" Sierran landscape (Anderson 2005)1.

Catasptrophic megafires are not normal. They are anthropogenic events caused by fire exclusion. After a megafire, large-scale reforestation is often necessary. Yet in a changing climate, traditional models of reforestation are no longer effective (North et al. 2019). Novel reforestation protocols need to be developed through partnerships between universities, private timber companies, NGOs and local, state and federal government. The new methods must set young trees up for early drought resilience and short fire re-entry.

Firefighters and other experts estimate Butte County has a two- or three-year window to implement large-scale prescribed fire across the Camp Fire footprint to avoid wholesale type conversion to chaparral (Gus Boston, Battalion Chief for Vegetation Management, personal communication, 1/31/19; Kate Wilkin, Ph.D, personal communication, 2/1/19).

- ¹ Anderson, K. 2005. *Tending the wild: Native American knowledge and the management of California's natural resources*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Huang, X., Hall, A. D., & Berg, N. 2018. Anthropogenic warming impacts on today's Sierra Nevada snowpack and flood risk. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 45, 6215–6222.

doi:10.1029/2018GL077432

- Ishida K., and Kavvas M. L. 2017. Climate change analysis on historical watershed-scale precipitation by means of long-term dynamical downscaling, *Hydrol. Process.*, 31, 35–50. doi: 10.1002/hyp.10932.
- North, Malcolm, et al. 2019. Tamm review: Reforestation for resilience in dry western U.S. forests. Forest Ecology and Management 432 (2019) 209–224. doi: 10.1016/j.foreco.2018.09.007
- Ponisio, L. C., Wilkin, K., M'Gonigle, L. K., Kulhanek, K., Cook, L., Thorp, R., Griswold, T. and Kremen, C. 2016. Pyrodiversity begets plant–pollinator community diversity. Glob Change Biol, 22: 1794-1808. doi:10.1111/gcb.13236
- Stephens, Scott L., Robert E. Martin, Nicholas E. Clinton (2007) Prehistoric fire area and emissions from California's forests, woodlands, shrublands, and grasslands, *Forest Ecology and Management*, 251:3, 205-216, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2007.06.005.

This estimate is based on previous experience. Ten years ago, fuels had already built up enough to drive the project area's first megafires: the 2008 Humboldt-Butte Lightning Complex fires. Considered unbelievably severe at the time, they "hit the reset button" of the forest. Communities had a short window of opportunity to re-invent their watershed management model, e.g. by investing in regular, low-intensity burning practices and innovative reforestation protocols. That window was missed. It took just ten years for enough dense shrubland to grow up to fuel the most destructive fire in California history, the November 2018 Camp Fire which took 86 lives.

The "reset button" has been hit again.

In 2019-21, the region has another opportunity to invest in regular low-intensity burning and climate-resilient reforestation. If we miss this window, we will endure the next Camp Fire in 2029.

Reversing type conversion after megafires will be difficult and expensive. It will require reliance on the best available science as well as some that is not yet available. But it is a task of extreme importance, not just for the sake of local communities, but for the sake of California's air quality, water quality, quality of life, and GHG goals.

c.) How the watershed coordinator would benefit the watershed. The watershed coordinator will benefit the watershed by facilitating and improving coordination and assistance between diverse watershed stakeholders to create a well-researched and well-accepted watershed management plan; by designing and funding landscape-scale restoration projects including climate-resilient replanting and erosion control projects; by supporting educational programs in rural communities that teach the importance of fire as a forest management tool; and by helping to collaboratively plan and implement an increased pace and scale of prescribed burning.

How the watershed-related goals in BCRCD's long-range plan connect to the goals of the Forest Carbon Plan, and how a watershed coordinator would help BCRCD achieve them

The mission of the Butte County RCD is "to protect, enhance, and support Butte County natural resources and agriculture by working with willing land owners and citizens through education, land management, and on-the-ground projects." Like the Forest Carbon Plan, this mission emphasizes not passive protection, but active nurturing of natural resources to make them more valuable over time. To achieve this in forests, BCRCD's long-range goal is to collaboratively develop a new forest management paradigm where public *and private* forests are regularly tended and prescription-burned to allow them to build carbon. This goal is shared by the Forest Carbon Plan because regular low-intensity burning is the only cost-effective way to prevent megafires' extremely high releases of carbon.

Importantly, BCRCD's mission is one of coordination, collaboration, education, persuasion and service – precisely the skill set of a watershed coordinator. Regional collaboration is best facilitated by an organization widely perceived as neutral and adaptable, such as BCRCD.

In the wake of the Camp Fire, BCRCD is revising its strategic plan to better meet the needs of a changing landscape and a changing climate. A key theme emerging is the need for climate-resilient reforestation. Forests need to be replanted in a way that will allow them to keep sequestering carbon and providing multiple benefits, not in the climate of 2019, and certainly not in the conditions of 1819, but in the climate of 2119. In other words, we should not think of restoring *back* to a healthy past, but of "prestoring" *forward* to a healthy future.

Specific problems and issues on public and/or private land within the watershed, and how a watershed coordinator would help to address these problems

- Large parts of the watershed, especially in Concow Basin, are completely deforested and also subject to climate-change-driven stressors. – The watershed coordinator will design and fund landscape-scale restoration projects, using best available science to support climate resilience and early fire re-entry.
- Most of the rest of the project area has standing forest but is vulnerable to climatic stressors, megafire-driven type conversion, loss of biodiversity, and decreased water yield. – The watershed coordinator will design and fund landscape-scale watershed restoration projects that emphasize climate resiliency. To further improve forest health, the coordinator will also assist in the formation of prescribed burn associations so community-based prescribed burning can take root as a permanent tradition of stewardship.
- Current research (e.g., North et al 2019) suggests the Forest Practice Rules are outdated and require foresters to replant trees more densely than is optimal for drought- and fire-resilience. –
 The watershed coordinator will support and advocate for revisions to the Forest Practice Rules for a changing climate
- Erosion in the Camp Fire footprint threatens to choke streams, turn natural-surface roads into
 massive sedimentation sources, and harm wildlife. The watershed coordinator will assess,
 inventory and find funding for erosion control problems on roads and hillsides across the region.
- How the destroyed town of Paradise is rebuilt will have huge consequences for the management
 of the surrounding forest. The watershed coordinator will help local advocates make the case for
 planning and land use decisions that are consistent with wide-scale prescribed fire, the only costeffective forest health treatment for Paradise Ridge and the surrounding Butte Creek watershed.
- 10% of the project area's residents became homeless on November 8, 2018. Because of the
 resulting housing crisis, much of the low-elevation forestlands are now at risk of development. –
 Recognizing that forests' problems are social as well as silvicultural, the watershed coordinator will
 help local groups advocate for smarter and denser development, as appropriate. In rural forested
 areas, the coordinator will help meet the crtitical need for educational programs that teach rural
 residents what healthy forests look like and why it is important that they burn.
- The region suffers a severe lack of capacity in forestry and prescribed fire expertise because of a training bottleneck. --The watershed coordinator will advocate for State acceptance of more practical, realistic, and effective training requirements, including relatively informal trainings, including for volunteer fire departments. Providing access to realistic fire training for nonprofessionals is a form of regulatory relief rural communities desperately need.
- Before healthy low-intensity fires can return, fuels must usually be removed from overgrown forests, but this is extremely uneconomical due to a lack of markets for small-diameter biomass. – The watershed coordinator will work to promote biomass energy plants and small-diameter wood products in the project area and across neighboring regions.

Direct benefits a watershed coordinator would provide to the watershed, and how they will be measured and evaluated

The direct benefits the watershed coordinator will provide to the watershed will be measured in:

- treeless acres replanted, especially in ways that plan for future climate and fire resilience;
- overstocked acres treated (with burning or thinning);
- percent of the watershed where type conversion has been avoided (or reversed!);
- number of private landowners active in a prescribed burn association and acres they collectively steward;
- miles of stream protected from sedimentation; and
- miles of road or trail repaired (or, as appropriate, decommissioned).

Existing watershed coordination efforts currently in place and how the watershed coordinator will fill gaps in coordination

Little landscape-scale coordination is in place in this rural, low-capacity region. Projects tend to be limited in scope, proceeding one fuel break at a time, seldom crossing ownership boundaries. While the need for a regional (or, sometimes, "countywide") forest management plan is widely discussed, no one has had capacity to write a plan covering more than one watershed, or even to regularly update a plan on one watershed.

However, this is beginning to change. In 2019, Butte County Fire Safe Council and the Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP) will receive funding to develop a web-based data portal and decision support tool. Their work will supply a wide range of watershed data for fuels reduction project planning and update the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Butte County, which makes up a large part of the project area. Because this CAL FIRE-funded project must focus on community safety, an important but limited goal, the watershed coordinator will build on the BCFSC/SRWP efforts and leverage them to write a plan that also includes other objectives, such as biodiversity, carbon storage, water quality, erosion prevention, climate-resilient reforestation, public access for recreational and spiritual renewal, and economic development (including, of course, in parts of the project area that aren't in Butte County). The watershed coordinator will work closely with not just the Fire Safe Council, SRWP, and CAL FIRE, but also the Forest Service, local tribes, neighboring watershed coordinators, local landowners, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, DWR, and UC and CSU experts, among others, to ensure the watershed plan includes the input of all stakeholders, aligns with neighboring plans, and is based on the best available science.

BCRCD is the best organization to fill these gaps because it has a long history of working not just with other agencies but also with private forest owners. 26% percent of the forestland in California – and 53% of the forestland in the project area – is managed by nonindustrial small private owners. (The Camp Fire was driven mostly by unhealthy forest conditions on privately owned nonindustrial timber lands.) BCRCD understands the need to lower private landowners' financial and legal barriers to conservation. BCRCD has a history of doing this by connecting landowners with federal and state resources for better forest management, but it is time to achieve this mission in other ways, such as by forming new administrative structures for private conservation (e.g., prescribed burn associations) and by advocating for regulatory relief to aid landowners in doing the right thing.

Consistency with the recommendations of the Forest Carbon Plan (25 Points).

- II. List of Goals for Butte County Watershed Coordinator.
 - Goal 1. Fund large-scale collaborative forest health/watershed recovery projects in the region, based on a well-researched, well-accepted watershed plan focused on improving forest health and carbon storage.
 - Goal 2. Avoid the cycle of megafires in favor of significantly increasing the pace and scale of prescribed fire.
 - Goal 3. Improve water quality and reduce erosion in the project area, including by reforesting severely burned riparian areas and reducing sedimentation from roads.
- a. How each goal relates to the Forest Carbon Plan's recommendations or actions.

 Goal 1: Fund Large-Scale Collaborative Forest Health Projects Based On A Watershed Plan relates to Forest Carbon Plan Recommendation B because it means working "collaboratively at the large landscape or watershed scale ... to define critical biophysical and often social units for analysis and projects, and establish priorities for the areas most in need of treatment." It also means the watershed coordinator will "identify and cultivate traditional and new sources of public funding" (Recommendation C) to support and implement forest and watershed improvements at the regional level.

Goal 2: *Improve Forest Resilience Through Prescribed Fire* relates to Forest Carbon Plan Actions A-1 and A-7 because it will significantly increase the pace and scale of forest restoration and fuels reduction, including prescribed fire, on nonfederal lands. It also fulfills Recommendations D-1 through D-4 because it recognizes the need to increase the use of prescribed and managed fire for restoration, to streamline permitting and planning for certain restoration activities (e.g. prescribed fire), to reduce small landowners' barriers to fire-adapted land management, and to balance competing needs like air quality and prescribed fire.

Goal 3: *Improve Water Quality By Addressing Soil Erosion* aligns with Forest Carbon Plan Action B-3 because it includes "increasing forest resilience through ... road improvements to reduce sedimentation." It also supports Action E-4 by disseminating tools to help land managers assess current forest conditions (in terms of sediment contribution) and understand what desired future conditions would look like. Because 45% of forests' carbon is held in their soils², soil erosion is carbon erosion. When soil stays on hillsides, forests are able to deepen their carbon stocks over time.

² Birdsey, R., and G. Lewis. 2002. Carbon in U.S. forests and wood products, 1987–1997: state by state estimates. GTR–NE–310. Washington, DC: USDA, Forest Service.

b, c, d. Tasks & subtasks that will be implemented to support each goal, and how they relate to and support the goals. Includes performance measure(s) for each goal.

Goal: Fund Large-Scale Collaborative Forest Health Projects Based On A Watershed Plan

Task 1. Leveraging work that is already being done through Fire Safe Councils and other planning bodies, **develop a comprehensive Forested Watershed Management Plan** that sets appropriate and climate-resilient goals for forest management in each part of each watershed in the project area. **Performance measure:** Acres of forest that are part of a Watershed Management Plan

Sub-task 1-A: Through attendance at Fire Safe Council/CWPP meetings, Butte County Forest Advisory Committee meetings, Feather River Ranger District Collaborative meetings, and other planning processes, pull together the watershed planning in various parts of the project area into a single, cohesive plan, and finish a draft plan no later than the end of 2019. **Rationale:** Decisionmakers have been talking about the need for a "regional" or "countywide" Forest Management Plan for years, but this requires a level of facilitation and coordination no one group can supply. With dedicated watershed coordinator funding, a regional watershed improvement plan would be attainable and would facilitate funding for large-scale project implementation.

Sub-task 1-B: Even after a draft plan is in place, continually refine it by using best available science. This includes meeting with experts at UCANR, CSU, Chico Ecological Reserves, CNPS & CDFW, as well as assisting Sacramento Valley Watershed Program/34 North to continue developing their watershed GIS portal and to add the ability to track and plan forest carbon. **Rationale:** Because of climate change, the problems in the project area are not only severe but unprecedented. Making good decisions requires attention to the best available science, especially when it comes to reforesting extremely devastated lands, optimizing carbon storage, and preventing type conversion. Furthermore, adaptive management is impossible without monitoring ongoing research, yet few groups in the project area have the capacity to read and interpret peer-reviewed forest science journals. The watershed coordinator will fill this gap.

Sub-task 1-C: Collaborate with other coordinators outside of the project area. This includes meeting bimonthly with the watershed coordinator from Sierra Institute/South Lassen Watersheds Group and collaborating on projects as they are identified. It also includes sharing information with the SYRCL/Yuba Working Group/Camptonville Community Partnership coalition (e.g. regarding the Dobbins biomass-to-energy facility), as well as the Feather River Stewardship Coalition. It also includes reaching out to downstream irrigators and groundwater districts to build support (and possible funding) for projects in the project area. **Rationale:** Coordinating watershed plans over the maximum possible geographic scope lays the framework for future large-regional-scale collaboration on projects and funding.

Task 2. Based on the watershed goals, work with land managers and communities to **develop and fund a project inventory of watershed improvements**, including both forest health projects (e.g., climate-resilient reforestation projects) and social or political solutions to improve communities' ability to

steward their forests (e.g. regulatory relief for volunteer fire departments; markets for small-diameter wood). **Performance measure:** Acres of forest that are part of a proposed project with an identified champion(s) and identified potential funding source(s); number of grants submitted for projects in alignment with the Forest Carbon Plan and the Watershed Plan; dollars brought into the project area for forest health, education or biomass projects; acres funded for forest health treatments.

Sub-task 2-A: Working with all the collaborators from above, identify projects that could be implemented in more than one subwatershed, achieving economies of scale; rank projects with higher priority given to projects with larger scale and/or more co-benefits. *Rationale: Experienced local land managers and organizations know their subwatersheds best. Connecting these often isolated local knowledge centers to each other is a key role of a watershed coordinator. The Forest Carbon Plan states "landscape- or watershed-level collaboration is the most promising approach to greatly increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration treatments." By bridging and uniting small projects, the coordinator will fulfill the Forest Carbon Plan's recommendation C that projects be implemented at the regional level. Also, the coordinator will fulfill Recommendation B by working collaboratively to establish priorities for the areas most in need of treatment. Finally, he or she will uphold the Forest Carbon Plan's key finding that forests must be managed for multiple benefits.*

Subtask 2-B: Build relationships with grantors and stay current on new programs that could benefit the watersheds. *Rationale:* The Coordinator will implement Recommendation C of the Forest Carbon's Plan to "identify and cultivate traditional and new sources of public funding, and public-private partnerships".

Subtask 2-C: Collaborate with local groups, land managers, and neighboring watersheds to pursue funding sources. *Rationale: Grant writing is a major drain on small (and even large) organizations' capacity. By spending his or her time assisting local organizations with grant writing, the coordinator will continue to fulfill Recommendation C of the Forest Carbon Plan to identify and cultivate traditional and new sources of funding so watershed improvements can be implemented at the regional level.*

Goal: Improve Forest Resilience Through Prescribed Fire

Task 3. Reduce barriers to prescribed fire on private forestlands by creating a local prescribed burn association(s) that provides education, technical assistance, advocacy for regulatory relief, and financial resources. **Performance measure:** Acres enrolled in a prescribed burn association; number of landowners active in a PBA; annual *prescribed fire capacity* (acres that can be burned each year) held within the PBA

Subtask 3-A: Work with CAL FIRE VMP program, NRCS, ranching groups, local tribes, and local Fire Safe Councils to recruit landowners who are especially interested in burning or who already burn. **Rationale:** A key finding of the Forest Carbon Plan is "use of prescribed and managed fire are far below levels needed to restore forest health, prevent extreme fires, and meet the state's long-term climate goals." Prescribed fire is by far the most cost-effective forest thinning treatment and has multiple ecological and cultural co-benefits. To date, prescribed fire is largely confined to public lands, yet 26% of the forestland in California – and 53% of the forestland in the BCRCD project area – is managed by private non-industrial

owners. Fire safe councils in the project area fund mechanical treatments but seldom prescribed fire. This is a large gap the watershed coordinator can fill.

Firefighters and other experts estimate Butte County has a two- or three-year window to implement prescribed fire to prevent type conversion on private lands burned by the Camp Fire. The watershed coordinator will help fulfill Action A-1 of the Forest Carbon Plan which calls for doubling the rate of prescribed fire by 2020. It is crucial to identify local landowner-leaders who can act as the "nucleus" for a prescribed burn association.

Sub-task 3-B: Create a Prescribed Burn Association, with BCRCD as the administrative sponsor, and create member lands database. Work with Plumas Corporation/Plumas Fire Safe Council and Feather River RCD to learn from their efforts to form a Prescribed Burn Association. Also, learn from and interview Humboldt PBA members. *Rationale:* Since the 1960s, Cal Fire has dominated prescribed fire, but it is becoming clear they cannot keep up with the need for prescribed fire. All hands are needed to help solve California's fire problem, including contractors, volunteer fire departments, private residents, neighborhood collaborations, and more. The coordinator will increase the pace and scale of prescribed fire by reducing barriers for small landowners. The applicant, BCRCD, is well positioned to track and manage landowners on the needed scale because it has GIS capacity and experience managing landowner databases. Also, the coordinator will support reintroduction of prescribed burning on a regional scale by supporting neighboring PBAs.

Sub-task 3-C: Secure a burn trailer, stock it with burn gear, and hold demonstration/ training burns on willing private landowners' land. *Rationale:* Fulfills the Forest Carbon Plan's directive to increase the pace and scale of prescribed fire by reducing financial barriers for small landowners, in this case by boosting education and outreach to landowners.

Sub-task 3-D: Support the efforts of the Konkow Maidu Cultural Preservation Association & Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council to sustain an elementary school program about Konkow Maidu land management practices using prescribed fire. Also, work with disaster recovery groups to spread the message that prescribed fire is key to preventing the next Camp Fire. *Rationale: Promoting community understanding of fire lowers barriers to its adoption.*

Sub-task 3-E: As necessary, work with local and state decision-makers to advocate for policies that make it possible for private landowners to burn. This could include new policies around liability, air quality, and regulatory relief for volunteer fire departments. *Rationale: Fulfills Recommendation D-4 of the Forest Carbon Plan to "identify approaches to balance potentially competing objectives, such as prescribed fire, air quality, and human health protection."*

Sub-task 3-F: Secure lasting funding for prescribed burn association(s) and transition the work of the Watershed Coordinator into the PBA administrative structure when the Watershed Coordinator funding ends. *Rationale:* Aligns with Recommendation C of the Forest Carbon Plan to "identify and cultivate traditional and new sources of funding... to support [watershed health] actions... and to implement them at the regional level." The need for prescribed fire never goes away, and neither should the PBA. Rather, it should be institutionalized so Butte County citizens can burn as people around the world always have: on their own land, regularly, as communities. Furthermore, this sub-task will sustain the work of the Watershed Coordinator beyond the life of this grant, maximizing the Department of Conservation's return on investment.

Goal: Improve Water Quality By Addressing Soil Erosion

Task 4. Inventory the project area's roads and creeks, particularly those severely affected by the Camp Fire, and fund corrective measures for them. **Performance measure:** Percent of Camp Fire footprint that has been asssessed for erosion hazard; miles of roads and trails assessed as no problem, watchlist, or critical status. Miles of road or stream restored; miles or acres monitored.

Sub-task 4-A: Meet with Butte County Public Works, USFS, NRCS, and local groups to assess as many miles of road and trail in the project area as possible. *Rationale:* Roads and trails are important infrastructure for allowing watershed improvement projects to proceed, but they are also the biggest source of sedimentation and soil loss. By facilitating and coordinating local monitoring efforts, the watershed coordinator will promote adaptive management processes.

Sub-task 4-B: As needed to support local agencies, create and maintain GIS database of problem roads and trails and links to potential funding sources. *Rationale*: The applicant, BCRCD, already maintains a county trails database and manages a grant to assess and improve 63 miles of natural-surface roads in forested portions of Butte County. By further increasing the local capacity to care for roads and trails, the watershed coordinator will facilitate forest management and restoration.

Sub-task 4-C: Work with local landowners, including USFS, to identify and fund opportunities for revegetation of creeks, gullies, and hillsides, as well as repair of damaged roads, trails, and culverts, ideally by combining small projects into large, potentially multi-ownership restoration projects that make a meaningful difference, and secure funding for these projects. Make sure to set aside some funding out of each project for monitoring. **Rationale:** By bridging gaps between ownerships, the watershed coordinator will improve forest management and restoration and lower barriers for small landowners. Furthermore, he or she will support the key finding of the Forest Carbon Plan that incentives should be provided to land managers to support adequate treatment implementation. By monitoring, recording, and sharing restoration results, the watershed coordinator will reduce barriers to land management for small landowners.

Collaboration (25 Points).

III. Describe any existing partnerships that will be leveraged to meet the goals identified above. Identify all partners and describe their contribution to the proposal, including cash or in-kind match, and the history of the partnership.

Butte County RCD works with many local partners who have stated their support for the project. **To read letters of support and commitment, please see section 8, "Collaboration and Support Letters."** Some of the most important commitments are summarized below.

1.) **Kate Wilkin**, **the UC Fire and Forests advisor** for Yuba, Sutter, Nevada and Butte counties, has pledged to help the coordinator by contributing \$4,000 worth of prescribed fire gear. Also, the Coordinator will be able to leverage \$7,500 worth of prescribed fire meetings and

- demonstrations Wilkin will hold (with BCRCD collaboration) in the project area. Kate Wilkin has also pledged to help the coordinator write at least another \$15,000 in grants for a prescribed fire trailer.
- 2.) BCRCD has partnered with **Butte County Fire Safe Council** many times to provide GIS support, pursue funding together, coordinate projects, and align strategies. As the Fire Safe Council embarks on a 2019 Butte-County-wide forest planning process to protect public safety, the BCRCD watershed coordinator will support, complement, and leverage this process to write a more comprehensive watershed plan that addresses additional objectives (besides public safety) and additional watershed lands (besides in Butte County). To support this collaboration, the Fire Safe Council has committed \$1,080 in staff time.
- 3.) Local Fire Safe Councils such as the **Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council** are leaders in bringing together people who want to manage their lands more sustainably and safely. To raise awareness and interest in prescribed fire associations as well as to contribute to the watershed improvement plan and to plan large-scale restoration plantings in the devastated Concow Basin, Yankee Hill FSC has pledged \$1,258 in staff or volunteer time.
- 4.) The CSU, Chico Ecological Reserves (ER) are local leaders in prescribed burning. BCRCD already works with the ER on several projects, including assisting with environmental review for research burns whose objective is to type-convert chaparral back into black oak woodland. The Ecological Reserves Manager has urged BCRCD to have the future watershed coordinator work directly with ER Program Manager and Research Manager to develop prescribed burn educational events, as well as to export valuable research developed in the ERs to adjacent watersheds.
- 5.) BCRCD already partners with the two National Forests in the project area. On the Lassen NF's Almanor Ranger District, BCRCD spearheaded the formation of the Colby Collaborative, a coalition of land managers, local government representatives, and diverse trail users who collaborate to improve access, meadow health, and economic development in and around Colby Meadows near the headwaters of Butte Creek. On the Plumas NF's Feather River Ranger District, BCRCD has been present at Feather River Ranger District Collaborative (FRRDC) meetings since their inception in 2017. BCRCD manages a \$362,000 sustainable OHV trails improvement project in the Plumas NF, including producing CEQA and NEPA documents for the project. During the next two years, BCRCD expects to collaborate with Plumas NF on large-scale climate-resilient reforestation projects that span federal and private lands. BCRCD also expects to expand local ranger districts' capacity by acting as a bridge to neighboring coordination efforts like Camptonville Community Partnership (biomass-to-energy project) and the Sierra Institute (upper Feather River watershed coordination).
- 6.) In addition to the above, letters of support have also been written from the Butte County Board of Supervisors, Friends of Butte Creek, Butte Environmental Council, Sierra Pacific Industries, Pacific Watershed Associates, the Thermalito Water District, NRCS, USF&WS (two letters), One Tree Planted, Point Blue Conservation Science, The Stream Team, the Sierra Institute, and the Konkow-Maidu Cultural Preservation Association, among others.

IV. Describe any existing or planned collaborations with other organizations operating in the watershed. What efforts are currently under way to encourage cooperation between organizations? Butte County RCD currently collaborates

- with Friends of Butte Creek to prevent toxic Camp Fire ash from entering creeks and smothering threatened young Chinook salmon;
- with NRCS to aid local landowners to develop Forest Management Plans (FMPs), prevent erosion, and protect forests from type conversion;
- with Treetop Permaculture/Camp Fire Restoration Project, a Yankee Hill-based community organization, to distribute free erosion control materials to landowners, educate them on proper use, and generate a project inventory for larger erosion control issues;
- with Butte County Public Works, Pacific Watershed Associates, Deer Creek GIS, North Star Engineering, and the State Water Resources Control Board to generate project inventories of post-Camp Fire erosion control projects;
- with Plumas National Forest and Lassen National Forest on project management and environmental review for sustainable trails networks and sediment reduction;
- with CSU, Chico Ecological Reserves on environmental review for forest health projects as well as on forest health education for local communities;
- with local CAL FIRE to discuss ways to increase pace and scale of CEQA to achieve landscapescale forest thinning and burning projects
- with Butte County Fire Safe Council on a wide variety of projects including GIS and planning forest health education for landowners;
- with the City of Chico to secure funding for forest health and sediment reduction projects in 3,670-acre Bidwell Park, part of which is in the Big Chico Creek part of the project area

BCRCD plans in the future to collaborate with: The Stream Team, Feather River RCD (draft MOU in preparation stages), Butte Environmental Council, Tehama County RCD, and SYRCL/Yuba Working Group/Camptonville Community Partnership. All these organizations have been involved in discussing the scope of this grant.

To encourage additional cooperation between organizations, Butte County RCD strives to be present at, and link, all the collaborative opportunities around the project area, such as the Feather River Ranger District Collaborative, the Colby Collaborative which it cofounded in the headwaters of Butte Creek, the Butte County Fire Safe Council monthly meetings, the Butte County Forest Advisory Committee, the Camp Fire Watershed Emergency Response Team, and the Camp Fire Timber and Biomass Committee.

Consistency with additional planning efforts (15 Points).

- V. Describe how the proposal will complement other planning efforts in the watershed. How does the proposal support published watershed goals identified by the State or other entities?
- 1.) The coordinator will support numerous watershed goals and objectives of the **Upper Feather River IRWM Plan (2016)**. For example, the IRWM calls for "effectively addressing climate change adaptation and/or mitigation in water resources management." The coordinator will do this by making sure projects account for climate resilience, sustaining water yield and quality through challenging times ahead. For instance, innovative reforestation protocols, updates to the Forest Practice Rules, and erosion control projects that take into account warmer wetter storms all help prepare the Feather River watershed to thrive in a changing climate. Another core goal of the IRWM plan is to "establish and maintain effective communication among water and resource stakeholders in the Region." The coordinator will do this every day, including by meeting bimonthly with the watershed coordinator from the uppermost Feather River (Sierra Institute/South Lassen Watersheds Group), and collaborating on regional projects as they are identified.
- 2.) The coordinator will support watershed goals of California's climate adapation strategy, the Safeguarding California Plan (2018 Update) produced by the California Natural Resources Agency. Supported goals include goal F-1 ("Restore fire as a core ecological process, complemented by fuels reduction, working forests, and thinning to enhance forest health, resilience, and long-term carbon stability") and goal F-2 ("Increase reforestation efforts on wildfire and pest-impacted areas and protect forested lands from conversion to non-forest uses").
- 3.) The watershed coordinator will support watershed goals of the Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) (1988), such as goal 9a ("Inventory streams, streamside areas, and other wetlands in deteriorating condition and restore on a priority basis"), goal 10a ("include[e] water yield modification as an objective in the design and manipulation of commercial and non-commercial vegetation and reduce sediment yields from watersheds in deteriorating condition") and goal 18a ("use prescribed fire, fuel utilization, and other fuel management as needed to reduce wildfire hazard").
- 4.) The watershed coordinator will support watershed goals of the Lassen National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) (1993), which states that "Even-aged timber management will create more acres of fire-susceptible conifer plantations" (3-8), implying that climate-resilient reforestation methods could promote fire resilience if they help plantations better mimic natural mosaic landscapes.
- 5.) The coordinator will complement the **Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) (2015)** by helping to seek funding for forest health projects it recommends, as well as by making sure these projects are consistent with the interests of biodiversity, clean water, and diverse watershed stakehholders. In 2019, Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC) and Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP) will receive funding for a web-based data portal and decision support tool to plan fuels reduction projects under the CWPP. While BCFSC focuses on public safety projects near Butte County communities, the coordinator will complement BCFSC efforts by seeking funding for projects with other objectives (e.g. carbon storage, erosion control) or locations. The coordinator will leverage the BCFSC's planning work into large-scale forest health and watershed restoration projects that would not otherwise be funded.

6.) In the wake of the Camp Fire which destroyed Paradise, CA, a large-scale effort to re-plan and re-envision "the next Paradise" is just beginning. To ensure the next city is compatible with a healthy surrounding forest that can be maintained through traditional low-intensity burning, the watershed coordinator will be present at relevant meetings (e.g. Planning Commission, Paradise Parks District, Paradise Irrigation District) as they reconvene. The coordinator will advocate for redevelopment that is consistent with watershed goals like forest health, protecting water quality, and allowing the reintroduction of prescribed fire. In doing so, the coordinator will complement the **Butte County General Plan 2030** (2012) goals such as Goal HS-12 ("Protect people and property from wildland fire") and Goal COS-6 ("Engage in cooperative planning to protect biological resources"). (Notably, this work also supports the Safeguarding California Plan's goal F-6 ("Foster fire-adapted communities through local planning and fire preparedness").)

Through his or her watershed improvement work around Butte County and beyond, the coordinator will also support other goals in the Butte County General Plan, such as Goal W-6 ("Improve streambank stability and protect riparian resources"), Goal HS-8 ("Reduce risks from erosion"), Goal COS-5 ("Minimize air pollutant emissions" e.g. by avoiding catastophic wildfire), and Goal COS-A6.2 ("Facilitate the protection and preservation of the historical and ecological foundation of Butte Creek Canyon, including the survival of salmon, steelhead and other sensitive plants and animals such as the East Tehama Deer Herd").

- 7.) By facilitating and improving communication among diverse watershed stakeholders including in and around Plumas County, the watershed coordinator will complement the **Plumas Vision 2020 (2002)** report which seeks "to promote a future for Plumas County citizens in which land use decisions balance social, economic, and natural resource health."
- 8.) The watershed coordinator will support the goals of the **Plumas General Plan Update (2013)**, including to "preserve and protect Plumas County's natural beauty," "protect natural habitats," and "meet and sustain the basic needs of clean and available water [and...] clean air" (p.8). The Plan Update also asserts that "Plumas County's extensive forests will play a role in combating climate change by sequestering carbon" (p. 15). The coordinator will support this goal by helping to plan and fund regional-scale projects that enhance the ability of Plumas County and neighboring forests to sequester carbon.

Co-benefits (10 Points)

VI. Provide a qualitative description of the co-benefits anticipated to result from successful completion of the proposed tasks, as well as any quantitative information to support your claims (e.g., support biodiversity, promote a clean water supply, support local economies, provide recreational and educational opportunities, protect spiritual and cultural resources.)

Education: The coordinator's work will include education and advocacy at the community and regional scales, resulting in improved forest literacy for third-graders, voting adults, decision-makers, and landowners. This education will focus on the role of prescribed fire in maintaining healthy forests, both prehistorically and today. It will train modern eyes to re-consider what a healthy Sierran forest looks like: in most cases, patchy and sunny, not monotypis and dense. **Cultural resources:** Regional reintroduction of prescribed burning is expected to result in increased availability of living cultural resources like basketry and medicinal plants, which will benefit Native communities and others. **Biodiversity:** Low-intensity fires

can result in the rediscovery of rare plants thought extirpated (Halbur 2019; Bartosh and Peterson 2019)³. When these plants re-appear, they have a cascading positive effect on the pollinators, fungi, and invertebrates that depend on them. **Water yield:** Regular prescribed fire promotes increased water yield, meaning more water for fish as well as the 750,000 acres of agricultural land and 25 million humans who depend in whole or in part on waters flowing out of the project area. Healthier forests are more welcoming to seekers of **recreation and spiritual renewal**, resulting in **economic benefits** to nearby communities. Additionally, large-scale watershed restoration projects will create jobs. Finally, forest health improvements generally reduce the risk of megafires, improving **public safety** and **saving public money** over the long term because it is less expensive to care for forests than to endure megafires.

Long-term success (5 Points).

VII. Describe any methods or plans to sustain the watershed coordinator position and build upon the accomplishments of the work plan beyond the life of the grant. Include an explanation of how the organization will attempt to maintain funding for the watershed coordinator position after the grant term.

BCRCD is committed to sustaining the watershed coordinator's successes. During the life of the grant, BCRCD will actively solicit future funding through grants and contracts to sustain the watershed coordinator positions. Among the coordinator's core responsibilities will be to create a Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) in Butte County which will provide administrative and technical support to landowners who want to reintroduce fire on their lands. The coordinator will secure a grant to fund the operations of the PBA for at least two years after the end of the Watershed Coordinator grant term. The work of the watershed coordinator can then transition into the office of the PBA. After that, because the Butte district of NRCS is extremely interested in promoting prescribed fire on private lands, the PBA may also be partially funded out of BCRCD's ongoing conservation assistance agreements with NRCS. Landowner contributions and agreements are another income source for PBAs, as are grants from wildlife organizations that recognize the habitat value of prescribed fire, such as California Deer Association.

³ Halbur, Michelle. 2019. "Emerging from the ashes: How fire-shaped communities are responding to the 2017 Tubbs Fire in Sonoma County, California." Presentation, 2019 Northern California Botanists Symposium, Jan. 14 2019. Bartosh, Heath, and Brian Peterson. "Five years of post-fire research in North and Central Coast Range chaparral: Lessons learned and future goals." Presentation, 2019 Northern California Botanists Symposium, Jan. 14 2019.

WORK PLAN

TASK 1 : Develop a comprehensive Forested Watersheds Management Plan	Timeline:	Total Requested Grant Funds	
Subtask A: Attend BCFSC, CWPP, BCFAC, USFS Collaborative, and other meetings monthly, and write plan	A: March 2019-Dec 2019, 30 hrs/month		
Subtask B: Consult with UCANR, CSU, Chico, and other experts, to refine plan and incorporate best science	B: Entire project term		
Subtask C: Consult bimonthly with Sierra Institute watershed coordinator to east, as needed with Camptonville Community Partnership/Yuba Working Group coordinator to south, and as needed with other cross-boundary collaborators Performance Measures: Acres of forest that are part of a Watershed Management Plan Milestone: Plan written by Dec 31, 2019	C: Entire project term, 4 hrs/month	\$ 38,480	
TASK 2: Develop and fund large-scale forest health and carbon storage projects			
Subtask A: Work with partners to develop forest health projects inventory (including wood products markets) and to combine small projects into larger, regional projects where appropriate; work with partners to rank projects based on scale and co-benefits. Subtask B: Build relationships with grantors Subtask C: Pursue & secure funding for large-scale collaborative watershed restoration projects Performance Measures: Acres of forest that are part of a proposed project with an identified champion(s) and identified potential funding source(s); number of grants submitted for projects in alignments with the Forest Carbon Plan and the Watershed Plan; dollars brought into the project area for forest health projects; acres funded for forest health treatments	A: March 2019-Dec 2019, 20 hrs/month B: Entire project term C: May 2019-March 2021, 40 hrs/month	\$ 87,620	

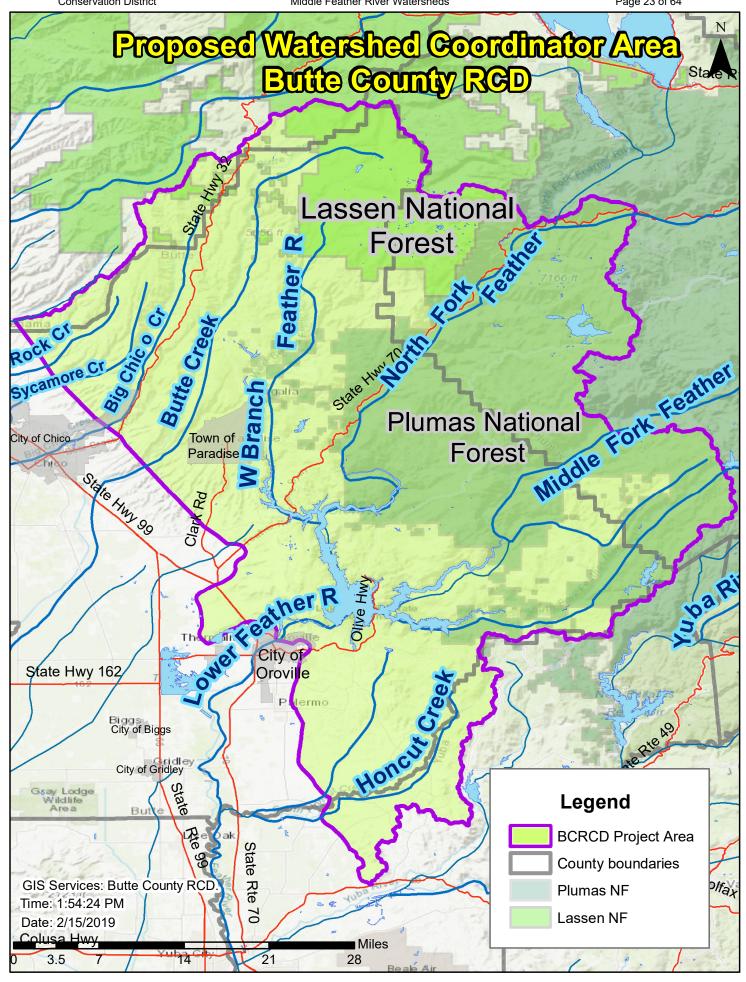
TASK 3: Improve Forest Resilience Through Prescribed Fire		
Subtask A: Work with partners to identify local landowners willing to burn; create database Subtask B: Create Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) with RCD as admin. sponsor; work with & learn from Plumas FSC/Plumas Corp, Feather River RCD, and Humboldt PBA Subtask C: Get burn trailer and stock it with gear; hold demonstrations/trainings on willing landowners' land Subtask D: Education (for kids & adults) about importance of prescribed fire – historically and present-day Subtask E: Advocate for regulatory relief for landowners, groups, and VFDs Subtask F: Secure funding that lasts at least 2 years beyond end of DOC grant term Performance Measures: Acres enrolled in a prescribed burn association database; number of landowners active in a PBA; acres of private land burned by summer 2021. Milestone: Formation of a PBA (target date: Nov.2019); fully-stocked burn trailer available to landowners (target: March 2020)	A: Entire project term B: March -Nov 2019 C: Dec 2019-March 2020 D: Entire project term E: 2020-2021 F: 2020-2021	\$ 52,000
TASK 4: Find Opportunities To Address Soil Erosion		
Subtask A: Meet with Public Works, USFS to assess miles of roads, trails, and creeks, esp. in fire footprints where erosion and debris flows are a concern Subtask B: Build GIS database of erosion projects as needed Subtask C: Work with land managers to identify road and creekside restoration projects, combine them into larger projects, and fund them, including funds for some monitoring Performance Measures: Percent of Camp Fire (and other fires') footprint that has been assessed for erosion hazard; miles of roads and trails assessed as no problem, watchlist, or critical status; miles of road or stream restored; miles or acres monitored (monitoring may take place after grant term ends).	A: March-Nov 2019 B: Entire project term C: Entire project term	\$ 29,900
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ 208,000

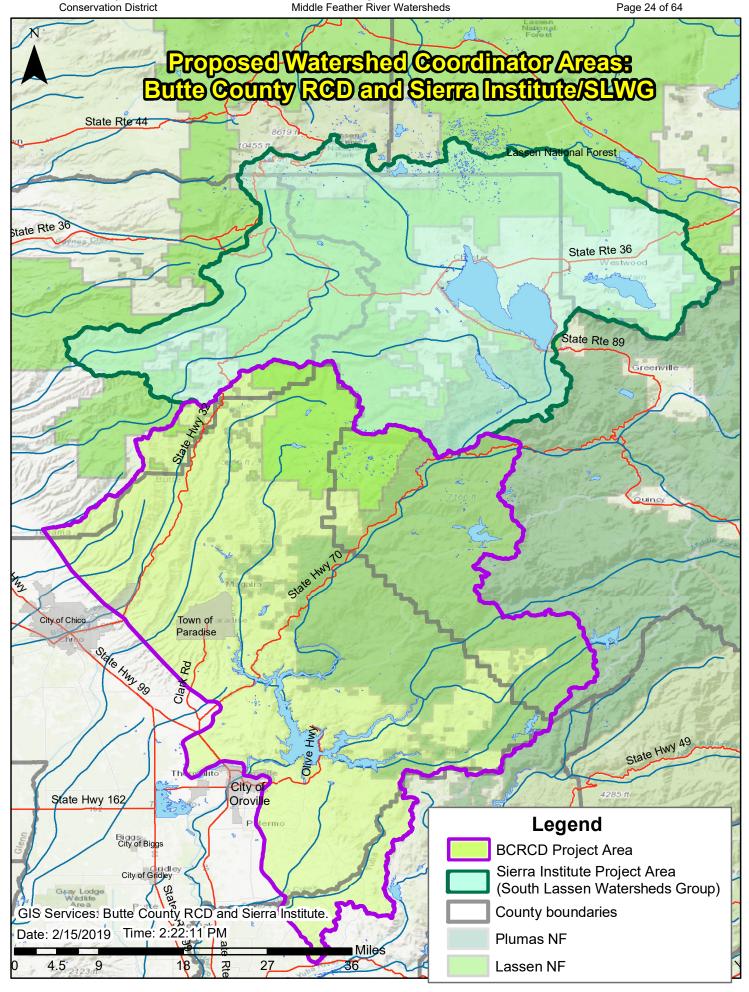
5. Budget

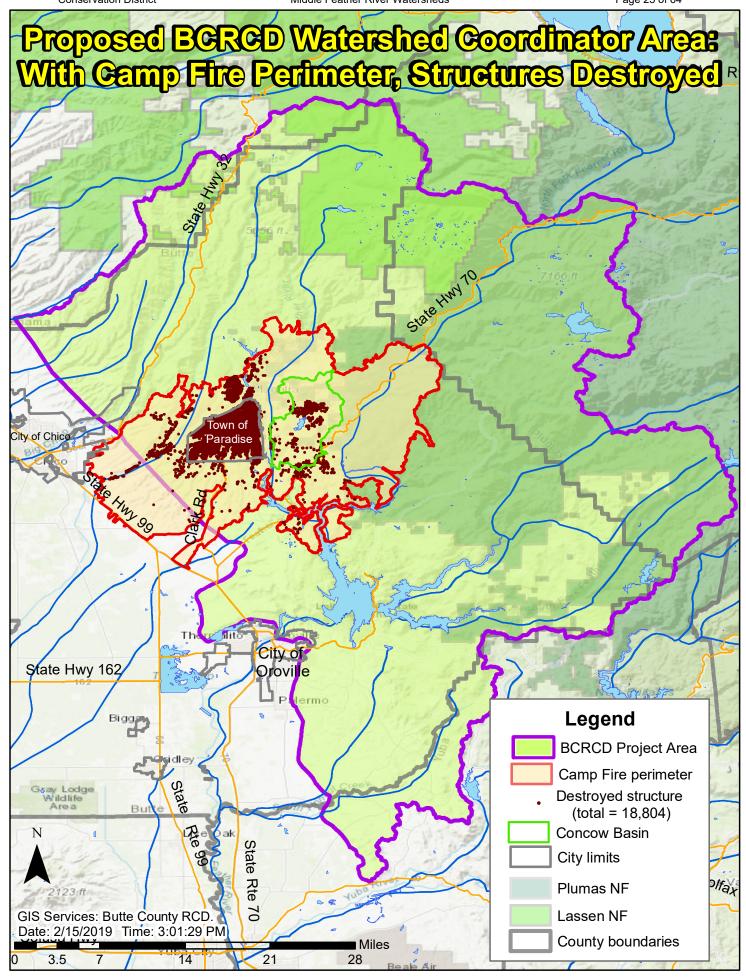
Budget applicants must provide a budget broken down by cost type and by task. All costs must be eligible. Applicants may use the Excel template provided. If awarded funding, this Budget will be incorporated into the Grant Agreement.

PERSONNEL	Hourly Rate/ Unit Cost	Number of hours/units	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Total Requested Grant Funds
Watershed Coordinator A	\$52.00	4000	740	1685	1000	575	\$ 208,000
Watershed Coordinator B							
		Subtotal	\$38,480	\$87,620	\$52,000	\$29,900	\$ 208,000
TRAVEL COSTS							
Travel: Within watershed	\$ 0.58/mile	Est. 340 miles/month	x 24 months	=			\$ 4,733
Travel: To required meetings (expected: 3 2-day meetings requiring overnight stay, and 2 1-day meetings)	Round trips Chico - Sacramento: \$0.58 x 180 miles x 5 trips = \$522	Lodging: 3 nights at standard rate of \$95 = \$285					\$ 807
		Subtotal	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 5,540
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS (max. 20% of grant)							
Office space	\$ 0						
Insurance, marketing and outreach, office supplies, continuing education, and utilities	Annual overhead: \$16,097	25% of overhead costs: \$4,024.50					\$4,024
		Subtotal	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$217,564
		TOTAL	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$217,564









Resolution of Support

- Whereas, the mission of the Butte County Resource Conservation District is "to protect, enhance, and support Butte County natural resources and agriculture by working with willing land owners and citizens through education, land management, and on-the-ground projects";
- Whereas, Butte County RCD staff and Board have extensive experience with stewardship of the forested watersheds in and around Butte County;
- Whereas, a full-time watershed coordinator would be greatly beneficial to the forested watersheds and communities of Butte County because such a position has been shown to return seven dollars in grant funds for every dollar spent on it; and
- Whereas, such a watershed coordinator position would greatly assist with Camp Fire land restoration efforts, and would help the communities of Butte County navigate their urgent task of planning and re-creating a resilient, healthy forest that resists conversion to shrublands and repeated megafires, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Directors of the Butte County Resource Conservation District (BCRCD):

- 1.) do authorize staff to submit a grant application to the Forest Health Watershed Coordinator Grant Program;
- 2.) do further authorize the District, if said application is successful, to enter into a grant agreement with the Department of Conservation for the project;
- 3.) accept the terms of the template Grant Agreement;
- 4.) certify that no conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest exists for any member of the District's Board of Directors as relates to the project; and
- 5.) authorize their Chairman, David Lee, to execute tasks such as signing documents related to the application, grant agreement, and acquisition, if the District's proposal is awarded funding.

Signed, this 17th day of January, 2019:

Dave Lee, Chairman

Colleen Hatfield, Vice-Chair

159 Lawrence Street Quincy, CA 9597 Þage 27 of 64 530-283-2050

TDD: 530-534-7984 Fax: 530-283-7746

File Code:

1580: 1560

Date:

February 8, 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
Watershed Coordinator Program Manager

Dear Department of Conservation

Please accept this letter of support and commitment for the Butte County Resource Conservation District (BCRCD)'s proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. The Feather River Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest administers over 300,000 acres of public lands, much of which is in need of treatments to increase wildfire and climate resilience. These lands include some 32,000 acres impacted by the recent Camp Fire, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history.

The Forest Service along with other landowners will be involved in years of Camp Fire reforestation efforts. Also needed is work to repair roads, control erosion, and protect water resources that drain into Lake Oroville, source of drinking water for some 60 million Californians. Cooperatively with neighboring landowners fuels reduction efforts are ongoing to modify wildfire behavior. Additional funding and cooperation will be essential to achieve the necessary pace and scale of treatments on the landscape. As we undertake these activities, we know that the health and fire resilience of public and private lands are inextricably linked.

The State of California has made several hundred million dollars available through grant programs to reduce wildfire threats to communities and watersheds. The Plumas National Forest supports efforts to seek funding to hire a full-time coordinator to help plan, align, and fund watershed restoration and community wildfire reduction projects on both public and private lands. A full-time coordinator working to plan, secure, and administer grant funding in Butte County will be critical to achieving the pace and scale necessary for forest recovery and long-term forest persistence.

The Plumas National Forest works with BCRCD on planning and implementation grants and find BCRCD to be competent at grant writing, developing environmental documents, and project implementation. We are confident BCRCD will hire and support a dynamic person who can be an effective coordinator. Thank you for considering this important proposal.

Sincerely,

BARBARA DRAKE

Acting Forest Supervisor



Friends of Butte Creek P.O. Box 3305 Chico, CA 95927

Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection Watershed Coordinator Program Manager 801 K Street, MS 18-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

February 4, 2019

Dear Department of Conservation,

We write today in strong support and commitment for the Butte County RCD's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. As the protectors and advocates for Butte Creek and its run of spring-run Chinook salmon – the Sacramento Valley's last – we know the work of watershed coordination is of the highest importance.

The Friends of Butte Creek (FBC) formed in 1999 to advocate for stronger environmental review, protection and enhancements to the Butte Creek watershed. Through education, advocacy, and monitoring, FBC fulfills its mission to "work to protect, restore and enhance the natural habitats of wildlife in the Butte Creek Watershed."

Three months ago, Butte Creek experienced an unprecedented disaster. In a single day, the Camp Fire burned thousands of the watershed's homes, businesses, vehicles and mobile home parks to the ground. Tons of toxic ash and sediment were poised to run into Butte Creek with the first heavy rains, which were due within days. The disaster came at a critical time for the young salmon, who were just emerging from their eggs in the gravel beds of the creek.

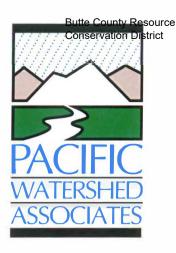
With the help of USF&WS and BCRCD, Friends of Butte Creek was able to mobilize scores of volunteers to place hundreds of absorbent straw wattles around the most toxic sites. In the following weeks, BCRCD contributed over 40 GIS staff hours to building a geodatabase of landowner entry permissions for Friends of Butte Creek volunteers to use. BCRCD also helped Butte Creek residents by stocking its website with science-based land restoration guides, by helping FBC check on flood-damaged roads and plugged culverts, and by submitting grant applications to fund sediment reduction on natural-surface roads in Butte Creek Canyon. In just under three months, FBC and BCRCD together have collected 1,073 acres' worth of landowner permissions across 91 parcels. We have emplaced over 20,000 linear feet of straw wattles.

Having a watershed coordinator in the region again is critical, and BCRCD would do an excellent job of hosting and supporting that role. FBC looks forward to working with the Watershed Coordinator to identify, fund, and implement projects to improve forest health and protect the last viable spring run of Chinook salmon in the Sacramento Valley.

Sincerely,

Allen Harthorn Executive Director Friends of Butte Creek

Ole Harthan



PACIFIC WATERSHED ASSOCIATES INC.

PO Box 4433 • Arcata, CA 95518-4433 Ph 707-839-5130 • Fax 707-839-8168 www.pacificwatershed.com

February 5, 2019

Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection Watershed Coordinator Program Manager 801 K Street, MS 18-01 Sacraoiento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Support for Butte County RCD Watershed Coordinator Proposal

Dear Department of Conservation,

Pacific Watershed Associates (PW A) has been a solid contributor to watershed and aquatic protection efforts throughout the state for 30 years, and has a long and valued history of cooperative watershed and aquatic restoration with California State's Natural Resource Agencies and the many Resource Conservation Districts throughout the north state assisting landowners with water quality protection efforts and salmonid recovery efforts.

PW A strongly supports the Butte County RCD's proposal for grant funding to establish a watershed coordinator position which will facilitate restoration and conservation in the upland watersheds of Butte County. We have worked with Butte County RCD since 2016 on multiple projects to reduce sediment delivery from Butte County forestland roads. Our collaboration efforts have included grant writing, road related future sediment source assessments, GIS planning, and implementation of erosion control and erosion prevention treatments that target maintaining and/or improving water quality for all beneficial users. As part of our continuing successful collaboration, we have submitted and are submitting several additional proposals for grant funding to conduct road related sediment source assessments and implement prioritized erosion control treatments to reduce sediment pollution to streams within Butte County watersheds.

After the recent Camp Fire in 2018, sediment production from burned lands and sediment delivery to the stream network has spiked over a significant portion of the watersheds, and erosion control and road related storm-proofing are of paramount concern over the next 5 years. A full-time watershed coordinator would help the Butte County RCD develop and implement timely projects with both the state Natural Resource Agencies, the Butte County Public Works Department, as well as private landowners and NGO's to minimize future impacts to the high value, aquatic and wetland habitats present within the county, while also helping to mend Butte County's infrastructure so economic development and forest management projects can proceed. We at PW A have every confidence that Butte

Page 2

Letter of Support for Butte County RCD Watershed Coordinator Proposal

County RCD will recruit and support a talented natural resource professional for the watershed coordinator position, and give the coordinator the necessary tools to be effective.

Sincerely,

PACIFIC WATERSHED ASSOCIATES INC.

Colin Hughes, Associate Professional Geologist

colinh@pacificwatershed.com

Danny Hagans, Principal Earth Scientist

dannyh@pacificwatershed.com

Feather River Ranger District Collaborative 875 Mitchell Avenue Oroville, CA 95966

California Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection Watershed Coordinator Program Manager 801 K Street, MS 18-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

February 12, 2019

RE: Letter of Support for Butte County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Proposal

Dear Department of Conservation,

Please accept this letter of support and commitment for the Butte County Resource Conservation District (BCRCD)'s proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. The Feather River Ranger District Collaborative is a diverse stakeholder group

committed to providing healthy and resilient forest ecosystems through active management. The objectives of the collaborative are to improve forest resilience to insects, disease, and wildfire and to reduce the potential for these threats to adversely affect values at-risk; including human infrastructure, forest products, water quality and quantity, and sensitive wildlife habitat, as well as providing a diversity of high quality recreation opportunities on the forest. The Collaborative provides a venue and opportunity for interested citizens and stakeholders to be involved in the active and adaptive management of public lands under the jurisdiction of the Feather River Ranger District. The District is comprised of lands within Butte, Plumas, Sierra, and Yuba Counties.

The Feather River Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest administers over 300,000 acres of public lands, much of which is in need of treatments to increase wildfire and climate resilience. These lands include some 32,000 acres of National Forest System lands impacted by the recent Camp Fire, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history. The Forest Service along with other landowners will be involved in years of Camp Fire reforestation efforts as well as work to repair roads, control erosion, and protect water resources all of which ultimately drain into Lake Oroville, source of drinking water for some 60 million Californians. Cooperatively with neighboring counties thinning, prescribed fire, and other fuels reduction efforts are ongoing to modify wildfire behavior, but additional funding and cooperation will be essential to achieve the necessary pace and scale of treatments on the landscape. As we undertake these activities, we know that the health and fire resilience of public lands is inextricably tied to the health and fire resilience of private lands.

The State of California has made several hundred million dollars available through grant programs to reduce wildfire threats to communities and watersheds. The FRRD Collaborative supports the BCRCD's efforts to seek funding to hire a full-time coordinator to help plan, align, and fund watershed restoration and community wildfire threat reduction projects on both public and private lands. Having a full-time coordinator working to plan, secure, and administer grant

funding in Butte County will be critical to achieving the pace and scale necessary for forest recovery and long-term forest persistence.

The FRRD Collaborative, looks forward to meeting with the Watershed Coordinator regularly to explore opportunities to collaboratively develop community-focused large landscape-scale forest restoration projects.

The Plumas National Forest, Butte County Fire Safe Council, and Butte County Department of Public Works work with BCRCD on planning and implementation grants and find BCRCD to be competent at grant writing, developing NEPA/CEQA documentation, and project implementation. We are confident BCRCD will hire and support a dynamic person who can be an effective coordinator. Thank you for considering this important proposal.

Please find attached the sign in roster from the meeting where the collaborative voted to provide this letter of support.

FEATHER RIVER RANGER DISTRICT COLLABORATIVE

FEBRUARY 12, 2018 SIGN IN

#	Name	Organization	eMail	Phone #
1	LOREN GILL	BERRY CREAK F.S.	LORENGILL428 GMAIL	com 990-5494
2	Ben Solvestey	SEL		
3	Jamie Ervin	SFL	jamit (sierra forest	8140-504-858
4	Carettay & and			
5.	Wolfy Rougle /	BCRCD	wolfgebered.org	530 721-0164
6	Tim Keesey	BCRCD	HMQ, bered or	530 260-0934
7	Dantaverner	NRCS	daniel taverner	
8	Mance Se Deri	FAC, PRIR	invshipped soc	
9	KEVIN Wright	PBH	9106d, net	1
10	11	11 AGATE	ORCA@ix.ne	tcom. com
11.	TER FAULKNER			(a) ix. netcom.cov.
12	Richt Faul Kner	PBH	rfaulknea i	xinet com, com
13	Peligis Moak	FAC Butte	Dinoak@butterex	als net
14	CLAYS DAVIS		clayrdavisefs fed.us	530 632 8940
15	JoeWillianson	J. W. Bomford		
16	Theid Walker	BCRCD		
17	Joe Hoffman	Forest Service		
18	Eric Murphy		eimur phuests for	1.45 532-8922
19	Adam Letch Ja	ES	A Letebyrc @F	
20	Lawrence Janeway	FRRD botan	ljanewo, Ofsfe	1.05
21	Thron MILLIBL	- USF25 1	PRONT MILLY	NO FS-FAUS
22	Alax Parker	USFS	, , ,	
23	Lisa-Marie Lefever	q		
24	David Brillers	D .		
25		1 t		2
26	Brandon Stephens	1.		
27	Jamie moore	ti		
28	Meria Cisaros	A CO		
29	SUANNA ACCUSO			
30	Oswaldo Angulo	1,		
31	Michelle Allean	317		
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33	Eddie Remirez			
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Forest Service

Butte Creek, Big Chico Creek, & Lassemi Mationath Francet Watersheds Almanor Ranger District

P.O. Box 767

Page 34 of 64

900 East Highway 36 Chester, CA 96020 530 258-2141

TDD: 530 258-2141 Fax: 530 258-5194

File Code:

2510

Date:

February 11, 2019

Department of Conservation Watershed Coordinator Program Manager Division of Land Resource Protection 801 K Street, MS 14-15 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Department of Conservation:

Please accept this letter of support for the Butte County RCD's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. The Lassen National Forest is one of the three largest land managers in the project area and is committed to continually improving forest health across our public lands, including through thinning, prescribed fire, and habitat improvement projects. Even as we undertake these projects, however, we know that the health of public lands cannot be separated from what happens on private lands. Having a full-time coordinator to help communities plan, align, and seek funding for watershed restoration projects on both public and private lands will be critical to restoring forest health.

Lassen National Forest's Almanor Ranger District has experience working with BCRCD through working together to develop an OHMVR planning grant expected to be submitted this spring. To prepare the groundwork for this grant, BCRCD helped bring together motorized and non-motorized trail users, local government officials, Forest Service staff, and grantors to plan a collaborative application that will benefit multiple stakeholders. Based on this experience, I expect BCRCD will hire and support a highly effective watershed coordinator. Thank you for considering this important proposal.

Sincerely,

RUSSELL NICKERSON

District Ranger

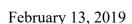




IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Pacific Southwest Region Red Bluff Fish and Wildlife Service 10950 Tyler Road Red Bluff, CA 96080 (530) 527-3043



Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection Watershed Coordinator Program Manager 801 K Street, MS 18-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Department of Conservation,

This is a letter of support for the Butte County RCD's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. In my role as anadromous fish biologist and habitat restoration coordinator, I have worked with RCD staff to protect Butte Creek and its run of spring-run Chinook salmon immediately after the Camp Fire. BCRCD assisted with salmon protection efforts by donating GIS staff hours and by evaluating critical sites in the canyon with me. Going forward, BCRCD is also working to reduce sediment from naturalsurface roads, usually the biggest source of sedimentation in a watershed.

Many critical needs remain in the watershed, which experienced the incineration of thousands of homes and is about to endure a massive soil disturbance from burned and hazardous tree removal, structural debris removal and contaminated soil removal effort. Having a watershed coordinator in the region again would be extremely beneficial to provide expertise and guidance on erosion control, and BCRCD would be a good choice for supporting that role. I look forward to working with the Watershed Coordinator to make sure future forest health, prescribed fire, and carbon storage projects are consistent with protecting Butte Creek's spring run Chinook salmon.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 530-527-3043 x 261 or james earley@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

James "Jim" Earley

James Carley

Fish Biologist / Habitat Restoration Coordinator

Central Valley Project Improvement Act

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Administration Center 25 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 200 - OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95965 Telephone: (530) 552-3300 BILL CONNELLY First District

DEBRA LUCERO Second District

TAMI RITTER
Third District

STEVE LAMBERT Fourth District

> DOUG TEETER Fifth District

February 12, 2019

Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
Watershed Coordinator Program Manager

RE: Letter of Support for Butte County Resource Conservation District Grant Proposal

Dear Department of Conservation:

The Butte County Board of Supervisors strongly supports the Butte County Resource Conservation District's (BCRCD) grant proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. The County has been devastated by the Camp Fire, the most destructive fire in California history, which destroyed thousands of homes, ravaged both public and private forested lands and left behind an inventory of forest health projects that will take years to work through. Having a full-time coordinator to plan and seek funding for these watershed restoration projects will be critical to recovery.

The grant application submitted by the BCRCD was presented at a publicly held Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting on January 28, 2019. After review and consideration, and recognizing the value of a Watershed Coordinator dedicated to identify and obtain funding for forest management to benefit Butte County watersheds, the FAC approved a recommendation for Board support of the grant. The FAC was established by the Butte County Board of Supervisors to facilitate public involvement in the County's efforts to ensure the protection, enhancement, utilization and management of natural resources on public lands, as outlined in General Plan 2030. The Committee serves to gather information from interested parties, to present pertinent recommendations to the Board of Supervisors through the Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee, and to aid Coordination efforts. The FAC is comprised of 5 public members representing Agriculture/Timber Management, Motorized Recreation, Non-Motorized Recreation, Environmental/Watershed Management, and Economic/Tourism.

A Watershed Coordinator position that covers an entire county's forestlands is appropriate, because the project area is large enough for a coordinator to be necessary and

small enough for a coordinator to be effective. Importantly, the coordinator will have time and funding to collaborate on watershed planning with neighboring watershed groups, such as those upstream in Plumas County. If the BCRCD's proposal is funded, the Board anticipates working with the Watershed Coordinator to identify, fund, and implement watershed projects to improve forest health and carbon storage across the County.

Butte County RCD is a good choice to host the coordinator because it has experience working with, seeking funding for, and managing funding on behalf of private landowners as well as local, state, and federal entities. The County has worked with BCRCD on several large grants and contracts and has found BCRCD to be competent at grant writing as well as dependably completing projects as designed and approved. Thank you for considering this important grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Steve Lambert, Chair

Butte County Board of Supervisors

CC: Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee

Butte County Forest Advisory Committee Butte County Resource Conservation District Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC) 5916 Black Olive Dr Paradise, CA 95969

Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection Watershed Coordinator Program Manager 801 K Street, MS 18-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for Butte County RCD Proposal



January 25, 2019

Dear Department of Conservation,

We write today in strong support and commitment for the Butte County RCD's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. Although our communities in several watersheds have been devastated by the Camp Fire, we remain hopeful that our region's decades of strong collaboration and landscape-level planning will serve us well to rebuild our forests as healthy, prosperous landscapes.

Butte County Fire Safe Council has 20 years' experience planning and implementing projects, managing grants, organizing community members, coordinating volunteers and helping our communities visualize the healthy forests in our future. BCFSC has collaborated frequently with Butte County RCD in the past, including on Camp Fire recovery efforts, applying for funding for a co-written forest management handbook, and applying for funding for a collaborative forest health magazine and multimedia educational program, just in the last 6 months.

Since 2014, BCFSC has engaged in landscape-level watershed planning through the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) working group, which brings together multiple stakeholders over time, including the RCD. The ultimate goal of the landscape-level planning process is a countywide forest management plan, detailing how to manage fuels across the landscape and what to do with the many hundreds of thousands of standing dead trees. This "countywide forest management plan" plan is exactly the *forested watersheds plan* Butte County RCD's proposal will deliver.

Having laid much of the groundwork for this collaborative plan, BCFSC more than welcomes the extra capacity the Watershed Coordinator will bring to the region to help finalize the plan. BCFSC excels at setting fuels management prescriptions that are consistent with forest health. However, the Watershed Coordinator is critical because he or she will be able to write a plan that coordinates fuels management prescriptions with other objectives that aren't a major focus of the CWPP, such as carbon storage, water quality, biodiversity, and economic development. Furthermore, he or she will be able to spend time in small communities educating people firsthand about Butte County's new forest management paradigm. And, he or she will have funding to regularly collaborate with partners upstream in Plumas County, effectively doubling the geographic reach of the planning process.

The Camp Fire changed life forever for tens of thousands of people, but it was not the last fire. Next year, life will change for other people in other parts of California, and megafires will keep burning until we learn how to manage our forests sustainably. The new forest management paradigm has to start in communities and on private ownerships. We believe safe, resilient forestlands are possible and we are determined to make Butte County the model for sustainable forest management. Having this Watershed Coordinator in the county will be key to making Butte County's recovery a model other California counties can learn from.

If the proposal is funded, we are committed to collaborating with Butte County RCD to plan, coordinate and implement watershed projects, especially around:

- Landscape-level planning that incorporates long-term forest health objectives including prescribed fire
- Consultation to rank projects and pursue funding for fire recovery, erosion control, reforestation and forest health improvement
- Sharing volunteer and educational opportunities through BCFSC's social media and other forms of outreach

BCFSC commits in-kind match of \$1,080 to this program in the amount of 45 hours volunteer/staff time, valued at \$24/hour.

Sincerely

Calli-Jane DeAnda Executive Director

Butte County Fire Safe Council



To educate the community, to increase the awareness of fire risks, to reduce wildfire fuel loading, conserve natural resources, participate in fire recovery efforts, and to prepare for other disasters.

Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council P.O. Box 4242 Yankee Hill, CA 95965

Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection Watershed Coordinator Program Manager 801 K Street, MS 18-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for Butte County RCD Proposal

January 20, 2019

Dear Department of Conservation,

We write today in strong support and commitment for the Butte County RCD's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County, including Concow Creek and the middle Feather River. Although our communities have been devastated by the Camp Fire, we remain hopeful that our region's decades of strong collaboration and landscape-level planning will serve us well to rebuild our forests as healthy, prosperous landscapes.

Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council (YHFSC) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation serving the Concow and Yankee Hill commities; organizing volunteers, conducting on-the-ground projects, and has been involved in post fire recovery work with 2001 Poe and 2008 Camp Fire I. Butte County solicited YHFSC to assist post fire recovery work for the 2017 Wall, Ponderosa, La Porte, and Cherokee Fires; We continue the efforts for 2018 Camp Fire II, for us.

In 2019, we are focused on fuel reduction projects along the West Branch of the Feather River, around Concow Lake and where Concow Creek and Cirby Creek flow and interface with lake. It would be helpful collaborating with a local watershed coordinator to help us heal and replant our forests, invest in long-term solutions for healthy forested watersheds, and build regional capacity for forest planning and maintenance.

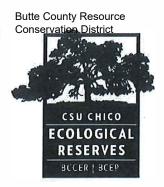
If the proposal is funded, we are committed to collaborating with Butte County RCD to plan, coordinate and implement watershed projects, especially around:

- Creating a watershed plan for the completely devastated Concow Creek
- Contributing to landscape-level planning that incorporates long-term forest health objectives including prescribed
- Consultation to rank projects and pursue funding for fire recovery, erosion control, reforestation and forest health improvement
- Sharing volunteer and educational opportunities through YHFSC's social media and other forms of outreach

YHFSC commits in-kind match to this program in the amount of 50 hours volunteer/staff time, valued at \$1,258.72

Sincerely.

rende A. Rightmer Brenda Rightmyer Managing Director 530-370-5302



CSU, Chico Ecological Reserves 25 Main St., Suite 203 Chico, CA 95928-5388

Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
Watershed Coordinator Program Manager
801 K Street, MS 18-01
Sacramento, CA 95814
RE: Letter of Support for Butte County RCD Proposal

January 30, 2019

Dear Department of Conservation,

Please accept this letter of strong support and commitment for the Butte County RCD's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. The region desperately needs watershed coordination to bring the region's forests back into health and ensure they continue to sequester carbon and clean our water for generations to come. After the fragmentation and trauma our communities experienced in the Camp Fire, the local need for science-based forest health strategies is even greater.

The CSU, Chico Ecological Reserves (ER) system acts as a living laboratory and research station where hundreds of students learn about forest health each year. The 3,950-acre Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER) protects 4.5 miles of the Big Chico Creek corridor for education, research, and public enjoyment. A core goal of the Reserves is to serve as a showcase for the restoration of prescribed fire. BCCER serves as a training ground, public educational site, and research hotspot for the reintroduction of regular, low-intensity fire to promote public safety and a huge range of eco-cultural co-benefits. Expanding prescribed fire across the region, especially on private lands, is critical to restoring our watersheds to health.

The RCD's proposal completely aligns with, supports and enhances the BCCER's mission. If it is awarded, the Watershed Coordinator will work directly with ER project managers and the Research Manager to incorporate the best science into the Watershed Plan as well as to design and promote community-based Prescribed Burn Associations.

CSU, Chico Ecological Reserves has collaborated with Butte County RCD on CAL FIRE education grant applications and found them to be a good partner. RCD staff are currently under subcontract to perform CEQA studies and documentation on a prescribed burn project on the BCCER. I know Butte County RCD will select and support the right person for the job of Watershed Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Eli Goodsell

Ecological Reserves Director



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex 752 County Road 99W, Willows, California 95988 (530) 934-2801

February 5, 2019

Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection Watershed Coordinator Program Manager 801 K Street, MS 18-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Butte County Resource Conservation District Watershed Coordinator Grant Application

To whom it may concern,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex, is a long-time supporter of watershed restoration in Butte County and the work conducted by the Butte County Resource Conservation District (RCD). This is a letter of support for the Butte County RCD's proposal for a Department of Conservation Grant to fund a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County.

Since 1987, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (Partners Program) has been a successful, results-oriented wildlife habitat restoration program supporting private landowners' efforts to improve wildlife habitats. In my role as Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Coordinator for the Sacramento River watershed, I have worked across the region's mountain meadows, oak woodlands, chaparral, stream and riparian habitats, and timberlands, helping private landowners improve wildlife habitats on their lands. Reducing barriers to conservation on private lands is critical for meeting state and federal conservation goals for the USFWS through the Partners Program. County RCD's are a valuable partner to the Partners Program work and accomplishing the Program's conservation goals by connecting private landowners with needed support in meeting those conservation goals.

County RCD's play a vital role in our communities, and with past DOC Watershed Coordinator positions in the area (e.g. Shasta County) have been very effective at organizing our local communities by watershed on a regular and ongoing basis. In addition to a variety of support and assistance tools they provided landowners in these watersheds, they also organized forums for landowner assistance programs, such as the Partners Program, to present and discuss resources available to landowners. These forums have been very effective for community dialogue, education, watershed activity coordination, and sharing of ideas.

The Butte County RCD has already established themselves as significant leaders in our community, representing and assisting local landowners, and never more importantly than recently through their key activities in the recovery process of the Butte County "Camp Fire". With the intense watershed needs after the Camp Fire, the Butte Creek and Feather River watersheds will not recover their function as wildlife habitat and long-term carbon sinks without the enthusiastic participation of private landowners.

Having a watershed coordinator in the region again would be extremely helpful, and Butte County RCD would be a good choice for hosting that role. I look forward to working with the watershed coordinator to help him or her reduce barriers to conservation for private land managers in the Butte County project area.

Sincerely,

Sheli Wingo

Partners for Wildlife Program Coordinator

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Forestry, Fire, and Natural Resource Advisor Butte, Nevada, Sutter, and Yuba Counties University of California Cooperative Extension 142A Garden Highway Yuba City, CA 95991-5512

Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
Watershed Coordinator Program Manager
801 K Street, MS 18-01
Sacramento, CA 95814
RE: Letter of Support for Butte County RCD Proposal

February 6, 2019

Dear Department of Conservation,

This is a letter of strong support and commitment for the Butte County Resources Conservation District's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County.

My work as the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Forestry and Fire Advisor takes me across Butte, Yuba, Sutter, and Nevada counties, working to help communities to become fire adapted. Decades of fire suppression, logging, and mining have created unhealthy forests and the catastrophic megafires we see today, including the tragic Camp Fire in Butte County four months ago. Historical fires left behind a healthy mosaic of forest, shrublands and meadows, but modern megafires often leave behind vast monotypic landscapes of chaparral which perpetuate the megafire cycle. My work focuses making forests resilient to fire and climate-change type disturbances. In the Sierra-Cascades, there are no healthy forests without healthy fire. To this end, I and my colleagues won a \$50,000 CAL FIRE grant (17-FP-NEU-0095) to provide prescribed fire workshops for private lands throughout my region in 2019-2021.

Since the 1960s, Cal Fire has dominated prescribed fire and they have demonstrated that they cannot keep up with the need for prescribed fire. All hands are needed to help solve California's fire problem, including contractors, volunteer fire departments, private residents, neighborhood collaborations, and more. The watershed coordinator is critical to my mission of increasing the pace and scale of forest treatments, including but not restricted to prescribed fire. The watershed coordinator will extend the UCCE's social network into Butte County, connecting UCCE with landowners willing to host workshops on their lands, carrying UCCE's messages to audiences that would not otherwise receive them, and provide support for prescribed fire on private lands.

If the proposal is funded, I will work with the watershed coordinator to plan and hold two prescribed fire workshops for private lands in Butte County, leveraging \$7,500 in grant-funded travel, printing, stipends and organizational costs. To help participants use prescribed fire, I will work with the watershed coordinator to write \$15,000 in grants to purchase a prescribed fire trailer that participants can rent for a nominal fee. We will stock the prescribed fire trailer with

\$4,000 of hand tools, weather kits, and Proper Protective Equipment (PPE) from my Cal Fire grant and from an additional \$15,000 grants that we will write.

I look forward to working with the Watershed Coordinator and helping Butte County become fire adapted by using prescribed fire.

Sincerely,

Kate Wilkin, PhD

Forestry, Fire, and Natural Resource Advisor Sutter, Yuba, Butte, and Nevada Counties University of California Cooperative Extension

e Wilkin



United States Department of Agriculture

Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection Watershed Coordinator Program Manager 801 K Street, MS 18-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

February 11, 2019

RE: Letter of Support for Butte County RCD Proposal

Dear Department of Conservation,

Please support the Butte County RCD's watershed coordinator proposal.

As District Conservationist for the NRCS in Butte County, I have seen firsthand the devastation brought to Butte County by the recent Camp Fire. In zones of high fire severity, soil appears "melted," seedbanks are sterilized, and salmon are at risk of suffocation by runoff. The human cost of the Camp Fire, of course, is unprecedented.

Yet in some parts of my district, the Camp Fire was not severe. It burned mild, returning nutrients to the soil, leaving large trees alive, and preparing the way for millions of seeds to burst into life. This year's disaster for farmers and ranchers will in time result in more nutritious forage next year. And homes and schools still stand, ready for residents to return.

The rest of the project area will burn someday soon. Without good watershed planning, that future fire is likely to be as catastrophic as the Camp Fire. With good planning, it could be a benign event that even benefits biodiversity and agriculture. Prescribed fire is a resource conservation tool Californian ranchers and foresters should be able to use more. On my district, I am committed to helping make that happen.

NRCS will contribute to achievement of the deliverables spelled out in the application by continuing to provide office space and other resources here in our Oroville service center for the 24-month expected life of the project. This office space includes electricity, office supplies, GIS and other specialized software subscriptions, plus large-format printer/scanner access. This overhead is valued at a total of about \$2000/month, and because the RCD is expected to spend an average of 25% of its work time on the proposed project, the total value of this match would be $$2000 \times 24 \times 25\% = $12,000$ over the life of the project.

NRCS has contracted with BCRCD to provide conservation planning and engineering assistance for many years. I have always found the RCD, its board, and its staff to be reliable, insightful, and deeply committed to conservation. I know the Butte County Resource Conservation District has the capacity and skills to support the watershed coordinator position.

Sincerely,

Dan Taverner

District Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service OROVILLE SERVICE CENTER 150 CHUCK YEAGER WAY OROVILLE, CA 95965-9215

Phone: (530) 534 - 0112 Fax: (844) 206 - 7014

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Sierra Pacific Industries

2849 Northgate Dr • Chico, California 95973 • (530) 345-0025

Sierra Pacific Industries 2849 Northgate Drive Chico, CA 95973 February 11, 2019

Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
Watershed Coordinator Program Manager
801 K Street, MS 18-01
Sacramento, CA 95814
RE: Letter of Support for Butte County RCD Proposal.

Dear Department of Conservation,

Please accept this letter of support for the Butte County RCD's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is one of the largest private land owners and timber managers in the project area. SPI takes pride in not just providing economic development in the communities where we operate, but also contributing to environmental improvement and public safety. It is SPI's philosophy that healthy, productive forests yield immense environmental, social and economic benefits, and mitigate the impacts of climate change by absorbing and storing carbon in trees, soil and biomass. Our system of shaded fuel breaks is credited with slowing or stopping the Camp Fire in several places, saving lives and homes.

SPI lands don't exist in a vacuum. Our ownership is mixed with public and private lands in many watersheds. Fire, insects, disease and invasive plants affect all landowners.

If Butte County has a full-time coordinator to help communities plan, align, and seek funding for forest health projects on both public and private lands, all landowners would benefit, including SPI.

It is especially encouraging to know that the Butte County coordinator would regularly consult and coordinate with a coordinator based in Plumas County as well as one based in Yuba County. Regional collaboration is key to long-term forest health. Please support BCRCD's important proposal

Sincerely.,

Steve Roberts
Stirling District Manager

Sierra Pacific Industries

January 25, 2019

Butte Environmental Council 313 Walnut Street, Suite 140 Chico, CA 95928



313 Walnut Street, Suite 140 Chico, CA 95928 (530) 891-6424 www.becnet.org

Activities and Events

Environmental Advocacy Environmental Education Groundwater Protection Endangered Species Faire Bidwell Park Cleanups Chico Area Creek Cleanups Community Gardens Chico Bicycle Music Festival

Board of Directors Sharon Wallace , President

Scott Grist, Vice President Rebecca Holden, Treasurer Heidi Blanchard, Secretary Lorilei Angle Mark Gailey Paige Gimbal Jane Martin Katie Beeson Bryce Goldstein

Danielle Baxter

Jared Geiser

Staff Natalie Carter Executive Director Craig Wilcox Business Manager Angel Gomez

Program Manager

Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection Watershed Coordinator Program Manager 801 K Street, MS 18-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Department Of Conservation,

On Behalf of Butte Environmental Council (BEC), I am writing today in support of the Butte County RCD's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. Having a full-time watershed coordinator in the county would benefit all the watersheds of the region.

Since 1975, BEC has been Butte County's leading environmental nonprofit. BEC is responsible for local environmental education programs that touch thousands of people each year, as well as annual creek and park cleanups that engage hundreds of volunteers. BEC also has a strong history of environmental advocacy, challenging irresponsible development, promoting sustainable policies, and championing conservation efforts.

BEC's Watershed Program seeks to protect and enhance the ecological integrity and economic vitality of watersheds throughout Butte County, with specific emphasis on watersheds not served by other programs or organizations. In partnership with interested citizens, government agencies, landowners, and private enterprise, BEC works to foster watershed education, sustainable land management, and promote watersheds as an ecological planning unit that can positively guide local land-use planning.

If the RCD's proposal is funded, BEC looks forward to working with the Watershed Coordinator to identify, fund, and implement watershed projects to improve forest health and carbon storage across the county. A position that encompasses all of the County's forestlands is needed, because the Watershed Coordinator will be able to understand and work holistically to address the issues in the County during their term, while also having the resources to coordinate watershed planning with neighboring watershed groups, such as upstream in Plumas County. Thank you for considering this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Natalie Carter Executive Director

Butte Environmental Council

Konkow Maidu Cultural Preservation Association

4250 Ishi Trail, Yankee Hill, CA 95965-9751

Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection Watershed Coordinator Program Manager 801 K Street, MS 18-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

February 12, 2019

Dear Department of Conservation,

The Konkow Maidu Cultural Preservation Association is a 501c3 nonprofit organization with the mission to preserve and promote the cultural resources and traditions of the Konkow Maidu people, the indigenous population that inhabited the foothill lands now known as Butte County.

Effective resource management in prehistoric times enabled the culture to thrive and survive through the ages. Evidence of a well-established, pre-white-contact, indigenous people is replete throughout Butte County. Traditionally, fire was used as a land management tool to enhance hunting and gathering habitats for greater and easier harvests, which ensured their survival. Their management scope was landscapewide. They did not claim ownership of the land as we do today; but rather, a mutual benefit - "what's good for the land is good for me." After the first rains, small scale burns were set to control the underbrush that fuels wildfire. That was then.

Today, the urban sprawl of Chico and Oroville has increased the population living in the forested foothills of Butte County. Landscape-wide management practices are hindered by the patchwork of different property owners with differing interests. The stress of years-long drought has made our forests more fragile and prone to disease and wildfire. As the drought persists, the tinder-dry landscape is ready to explode and has several times in recent years within these watersheds.

The scope of the Camp Fire has brought into sharp focus the need for coordinated, cooperative, landscape-wide action from all of the stakeholders involved; federal, state, county, local agencies and organizations, as well as private landowners. All too often, a lack of information due to insufficient communication has led to misunderstandings and resentment when originally there was no ill intent.

Our effort to acquire and preserve a pre-historic village site has been a collaboration between Soper Wheeler, a private timber company, a municipal water district and our nonprofit organization. Together with the support of other interested parties, including; The Yankee Hill Historical Society, the Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council, the Butte County Fire Safe Council, CSU Chico, Archaeology Department, and The Archaeological Conservancy, we now have the Sierra Nevada Conservancy showing interest in our project. Open lines of communication are maintained to everyone's benefit.

This essential, grassroots organizing and coalition building can be a model for success of any widespread recovery plan. We support the Butte County RCD's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County.

Sincerely.

Kate Hedges, Secretary



Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
Watershed Coordinator Program Manager
801 K Street, MS 18-01
Sacramento, CA 95814

One Tree Planted 145 Pine Haven Shores Rd Suite 1000D Shelburne, VT 05482

February 7, 2019

Dear Department of Conservation,

We write today in strong support and commitment for the Butte County RCD's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. One Tree Planted is a 501(c)3 charity devoted to global reforestation. After the 2012-2016 drought and the record-setting fires of 2017-8, we know a record 129 million trees need to be restored in California. When the Camp Fire hit Butte County, we knew helping Butte County forests recover would be a top priority for us.

We reached out to Butte County RCD. We offered to staff and supply a work day replanting at least hundreds of trees, if RCD could coordinate the on-the-ground details. The RCD quickly developed a short list of private landowners whose lands were devastated by the Camp Fire, based on contacts RCD staff had formed through their emergency response activities, through NRCS contracts, and at community meetings. The RCD reached out to landowners, screened them, and identified a willing landowner with good access for volunteer vehicles, plus almost 50 acres of land easily accessible for planting.

Therefore, on March 9th, we will hold a pilot reforestation work day in partnership with Butte County RCD. The value of the volunteer labor, administrative in-kind time, supplies, tools, and trees we will provide on this work day is estimated at \$10 000. To continue to support Camp Fire survivors in the future, we have ordered 150,000 climate-appropriate tree seedlings to plant in 2020. We intend to continue to partner with BCRCD for site selection, landowner education, and coordination. This will be easier if BCRCD's Watershed Coordinator proposal is approved. The value of the tree seedlings we can donate for watershed reforestation efforts would be up to \$1 00 000.

Based on BCRCD's skills, connections and mission, we feel they would do a great job of supporting a watershed coordinator. We look forward to continuing to work with BCRCD and its regional partners to help Butte County watersheds recover from the devastation of the Camp Fire.

Sincerely.

Stephanie Rochemont

Project Manager One Tree Planted



3820 Cypress Drive #11, Petaluma, CA 94954 T 707.781.2555 | **F** 707.765.1685

February 4, 2019

Point Blue Conservation Science 3820 Cypress Dr., #11 Petaluma, CA 94954

Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
Watershed Coordinator Program Manager
801 K Street, MS 18-01
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Department of Conservation,

This is a letter of support for the Butte County RCD's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. Point Blue and the Butte County RCD share the same goals: to lower the barriers to conservation by helping private and public land managers alike access technical assistance, good science, and funding. Point Blue and the Butte County RCD share office space in Oroville and often share information and mutual aid. The proposed watershed coordinator would support Point Blue's mission and we look forward to helping the watershed coordinator succeed.

Founded in 1965 as Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Point Blue is a global leader in conservation science and finding climate-smart solutions to protect biodiversity and human communities. We not only do the science, we bring the science to public and private wildlife and habitat managers, educate school children, mentor budding ecologists, and train seasoned conservation practitioners (including RCD staff) to help them utilize the best available conservation solutions. We understand that our success is tightly linked to the success of our partners—whether they are public agencies, private citizens, corporations, other NGOs, or academic institutions. Fostering collaborations, building trust-based relationships, and investing in key partnerships are the mindset we bring to our work.

Having a watershed coordinator in the region again would be very helpful, and BCRCD would do an excellent job of hosting and supporting that role. We look forward to working with the Watershed Coordinator to identify, fund, and implement projects to improve climate resilience in and around Butte County.

Sincerely,

B. Owens
Bre Owens

Coordinator, Rangeland Watershed Initiative Point Blue Conservation Science

Carrie Wendt

Carrie Wendt RWI Partner Biologist, Butte and Tehama Point Blue Conservation Science



CA Urban Streams Alliance – The Stream Team 1282 Filbert Avenue Chico, CA 95926

Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
Watershed Coordinator Program Manager

February 7, 2019

RE: Letter of Support for Butte County RCD Proposal

Dear Department of Conservation,

This is a letter of support for Butte County RCD's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. Having a full-time watershed coordinator in the county would benefit all the watersheds of the region.

The CA Urban Streams Alliance-The Stream Team (The Stream Team) continues to take a leadership role in strengthening locally-led conservation partnerships and effective pooling of available technical and financial resources to achieve greater outcomes associated with natural resource management efforts. For twenty years now, The Stream Team has provided consistent and effective stewardship training and facilitation to promote informed public participation in developing resource management plans and prioritization and implementation of watershed protection projects to protect water quality in the Big Chico Creek watershed and other important tributaries to the Sacramento River including Butte Creek and the Feather River. Most recently, we partnered with the City of Chico in the development of a Storm Water Resource Management Plan that prioritized implementation projects throughout Butte County watersheds to reduce impacts from stormwater runoff.

The Stream Team is excited to support a regional watershed planning process characterized by more public input and more coordination between watershed groups to develop projects and implementation plans. Existing watershed needs include identifying and prioritizing erosion control projects (especially on natural-surface roads – Ponderosa Way), which are a main source of sedimentation in the forested portion of our watersheds and areas impacted by recent wildfires.

If the RCD's proposal is funded, The Stream Team looks forward to working with the Watershed Coordinator and other partner groups to identify, fund, and implement watershed projects to improve forest health and carbon storage in our home watersheds and across the region. Thank you for considering this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Timmarie Hamill Executive Director

February 11, 2019

Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection Watershed Coordinator Program Manager 801 K Street, MS 14-15 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Support for the Butte County RCD's Forest Health Watershed Coordinator Grant Program Application

Dear Watershed Coordinator Program Manager,

The Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP) strongly supports the Butte County RCD's proposal for a watershed coordinator for the forested watersheds of Butte County. Before the Camp Fire, overstocked, unhealthy forests at risk of cyclical mega fire already presented intense watershed management challenges here. The Camp Fire exacerbated existing forest management issues and presents new ones including elevated erosion concerns, debris flows, threat of toxic ash flowing into creeks, and the loss of local capacity as approximately 10% of the County's residents have lost their homes resulting in an affordable housing crisis.

The SRWP works with watershed partners and communities to cooperatively address resource issues by helping to build capacity, wherever and however it is needed most. The majority of Butte County is rural and lacks the information, technical expertise, and other resources needed to effectively address local management concerns and issues. With limited resources and millions of acres of forests in need of active management, stakeholders are actively seeking opportunities to work together to accomplish their goals. A watershed coordinator provides a basis for continual management and serves as a point of contact for local communities, nonprofits, agencies, landowners, and academic interests so that we can leverage funding and resources instead of compete for them.

The Camp Fire presents both challenges and opportunities and it is critical that our efforts are coordinated and complimentary. Creating a shared understanding of conditions, objectives and management efforts is critical for improving the health of our forested watersheds. In 2015, the SRWP partnered with the State Water Resources Control Board and 34 North to develop a web-based portal customized for the Sacramento River Watershed (SRW). The SRW Portal has aggregated more than 500 datasets, developed sub-region data channels and workspaces, and serves an information hub and decision support tool for watershed management efforts.

In 2017, SRWP signed an MOU with the Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC) and 34 North to work together to improve the health and safety of Butte County's forested watersheds through the development and implementation of a collaborative watershed-scale planning, restoration, and management effort. In 2018, SRWP was awarded Cal Fire CCI funds to work with Cal Fire, the BCFSC and members of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) workgroup to develop a forest health planning and implementation framework for Butte County stakeholders that includes comprehensive data aggregation, analysis, and visualization to inform decision making. This project will support and advance the capability of the Watershed Coordinator by providing data, information, and tools to build capacity, secure and leverage funding, and develop a strategic planning process to fund and implement programs, projects and plans throughout Butte County.

The Butte County RCD is a good place to house this position as they are uniquely structured and wellpositioned to provide direction and support. SRWP has developed a relationship with the Butte County RCD and is committed to working with the Watershed Coordinator to expand local capacity and identify and secure support for forest health recovery, planning and restoration efforts. The responsibilities of the Watershed Coordinator align with the Butte County RCD's mission to protect, enhance, and support Butte County natural resources and agriculture by working with willing landowners and citizens through education, land management, and on-the-ground projects.

Healthy forests provide numerous benefits including clean air and water, habitat for endangered and other species, recreational opportunities, renewable energy, wood products, and more. The health and management of our forested watersheds are critically important for downstream conditions including water quality and supply. Forest restoration and management should be implemented comprehensively at the watershed-scale to be effective and yield multiple watershed benefits. I hope that you will fund this position as the work of a watershed coordinator in Butte County's forested watersheds is more critical than ever.

Sincerely,

Holly R. Jorgensen, Executive Director Sacramento River Watershed Program



A Public Agency

410 Grand Avenue Oroville, California 95965 (530) 533-0740 FAX (530) 533-9243

DIRECTORS

Brad Taggart Division 1

Trevor Hatley Division 2

Susan Latulippe Division 3

> Brian Pulley Division 4

Ernest L. Reynolds Division 5

Jayme Boucher Manager/Secretary

John Jeffrey Carter Legal Counsel January 15, 2019

Department of Conservation (DOC)
Division of Land Resource Protection
Watershed Coordinator Program Manager

Re: Letter of Support for Butte County RCD Proposal, Butte and Concow Creeks

Dear DOC,

The Thermalito Water and Sewer District is a special district formed in 1922 to deliver high-quality drinking water from Concow Reservoir to our customers, who now number approximately 2960 connections, in and around Oroville, CA. As the holders of exclusive water rights to Concow Reservoir's 8200 acre-feet of water, and the owners of 462 acres in the watershed, TWSD has a keen interest in any land mangement activity in the Concow Creek basin. Because of the need for ongoing forest health projects in the watershed, we strongly support the Butte County RCD's application to fund a watershed coordinator position serving Concow Creek.

The Camp Fire reserved much of its fury for the Concow Creek watershed. Besides the tragic human toll of at least 6 deaths and most of the built community of Concow, the Camp Fire incinerated whole forests and severely burned soils in the watershed, significantly increasing erosion risks for Concow Creek tributaries. That means increased sedimentation for Concow Reservoir and less water storage for TWSD customers. Keeping soil in place on hillsides is just one of many winwin projects TWSD and its partners could pursue in the watershed if this position were funded.

TWSD's mission statement commits it to managing District resources in an environmentally sound manner and at the lowest practical cost. If Butte County RCD's proposal is funded, we are committed to working with the Watershed Coordinator to identify and rank local watershed projects that are win-wins for the District, its customers, and the forest.

Please help us continue to steward our watershed for our over 9,000 customers by accepting Butte County RCD's proposal.

Sincerely,

Jayme A. Boucher General Manager



February 12, 2019

Watershed Coordinator Program Manager Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection 801 K Street, MS 18-01 Sacramento, CA 95814

To Whom It May Concern:

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute) hereby supports the Butte County Resource Conservation District's proposal for a regional watershed coordinator. The Sierra Institute has also submitted a watershed coordinator grant application for adjacent watersheds. We see each other as cooperators rather than competitors, and know we will both accomplish more by sharing information and collaborating on regional projects.

The Sierra Institute's promotes healthy and sustainable forests and watersheds by investing in the well-being of rural communities and strengthening their participation in natural resource decision-making. The Sierra Institute has been engaged in these efforts locally for the past 20 years via the Lake Almanor Watershed Group (LAWG) and more recently the South Lassen Watersheds Group (SLWG), which grew out of LAWG's strategic conversations in 2017. Both groups improve forest and watershed health with efforts ranging from water quality monitoring to advancing large-scale, multi-jurisdictional projects mitigating the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The Sierra Institute will coordinate both groups to continue to advance regional outcomes.

The BCRCD's project area dovetails well with Sierra Institute's. Our two groups consulted early on to make sure our boundaries fit with each other, and to verify they made sense ecologically, hydrologically, and socially. A division of the Feather River watershed into an upper and lower zone, with strong collaboration between the two, recognizes that unique conditions and needs of these regions. This approach will enhance each group's effectiveness and yield greater results.

The Sierra Institute's experience and research demonstrate that regional collaboration produces meaningful outcomes. Should both proposals receive funding, Sierra Institute is committed to collaborating with BCRCD to achieve shared watershed goals.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Kusel, Ph.D.

Executive Director

9. PROOF OF APPLICANT CAPACITY

Applicants should provide a short narrative description of their capacity to successfully implement the grant, should the project be funded. This description should address:

- How the applicant's board and/or management structure will contribute to the effective execution of project tasks
- Any professional staff within the applicant's employ who are qualified to develop and successfully implement the tasks outlined in the proposal. The response should include a description of the skills and experience of such staff or, if the applicant does not possess such expertise, how the applicant will acquire this expertise.
- Any financial resources at the applicant's disposal to support the implementation of the grant.
- Any additional resources the applicant can draw on to ensure his/her success. Resources include, but are not limited to volunteers, physical capital, and existing partnerships.

Applicant capacity The Butte County Resource Conservation District is well positioned to support a highly effective watershed coordinator. Staff of 4 includes a GIS/field botany specialist, a forester (RPF certification expected in spring 2019) who is also a CEQA/NEPA specialist, an erosion control and trail design specialist, and an engineering technician. In addition, BCRCD maintains relationships with other local experts who can assist with specialties as needed (e.g. forest carnivore biologist, archaeologist). To further build regional capacity BCRCD can draw on, BCRCD is developing a partnership with the CSU-Chico Ecological Reserves to build and train a team of student "CEQA Apprentices" who can be deployed around the region (under BCRCD supervision and coordination). The purpose of this CEQA team collaboration is to overcome the environmental review capacity bottleneck which is often the most critical barrier to forest health project implementation.

BCRCD's active board of 5 knowledgeable local conservation experts volunteers a combined monthly average of 30 hours of management time. The RCD has a lean, self-organized team model, with no full-time district manager needed. Every staff member participates in writing grants, developing relationships, creating detailed and useful plans and reports, budgeting, and project management.

Because the RCD hopes to grow and attract new talent, the watershed coordinator grant application has been written as a new full-time hire. However, if no suitable candidate is identified, BCRCD staff have ample skills and capacity to take on the work of watershed coordination. In this scenario, it is likely that one staff member would be selected as core watershed coordinator to perform 75-80% of the work, and a secondary staff member would take on a role of subject matter expert as a supporting coordinator (e.g., erosion control specialist).

Partnerships To maximize the coordinator's effectiveness, BCRCD will be able to draw on numerous existing partnerships. These include strong relationships with Plumas National Forest, Butte County Fire Safe Council, Butte County Public Works, the CSU-Chico Ecological Reserves, NRCS, Friends of Butte Creek, Point Blue, and USF&WS (Anadromous Fisheries program). **For further evidence of applicant capacity, please see the letters of support and commitment from these partners**.

In addition to these core partnerships, BCRCD also expects to strengthen existing relationships with Butte Environmental Council, Sacramento River Watershed Program, Feather River RCD, the Stream Team, the Town of Paradise, Paradise Recreation and Park District, DWR, CAL FIRE, Lassen National Forest, CDFW, Mooretown Rancheria, various local fire safe councils, UC-Agriculture and Natural Resources, USF&WS (Partners for Wildlife program) and other groups. Many of these groups have also written letters of support.

Financial resources at the applicant's disposal BCRCD does not have a large endowment, but as its annual budget shows (below), through careful management the organization has been able to slowly but steadily build up reserves. Part of these reserves can be available to support the watershed coordinator's work if needed (e.g. by hiring supporting subject matter experts to assist the coordinator).

Additional resources at the applicant's disposal Thanks to its decades-long partnership with NRCS, BCRCD enjoys free office space in the USDA Service Center in Oroville, CA. Because BCRCD has no costs for electricity, phone lines, IT assistance, or printing, and has very low computer infrastructure costs, BCRCD is able to keep administrative costs low. See letter of commitment from NRCS, above.

Further evidence of applicant capacity In addition to the above narrative, applicants must provide at least two of the following documents as evidence of their capacity to manage the grant, if the project is awarded funding:

- A copy of the current annual organizational budget (please see below)
- A copy of the organization's recent financial statements (please see below)
- Letters of support from previous clients, partners, or grantors that reference the organization's experience (please see above). Specifically, see letters from Plumas National Forest, Friends of Butte Creek, Pacific Watershed Associates, Feather River Ranger District Collaborative, Lassen National Forest-Almanor Ranger District, USF&WS (James Earley/CVPIA program), and the Butte County Board of Supervisors.
- Evidence of previous experience successfully implementing grants similar in size and scope within the last three (3) years. (See below.)

BCRCD TEAM

Thad Walker, Conservation Projects Coordinator, is a specialist in naturalsurface roads and trails assessment. He has 3 years' experience assessing and remedying hydroconnected routes, including leading trainings in appropriate routebuilding and erosion control techniques.

Tim Keesey, Conservation Projects Coordinator, is a forestry and CEQA/NEPA specialist with many years' experience in California forests. He was previously the district manager of the Honey Lake RCD and serves on the board of the Lassen County Land Trust. In fall 2019, he will take the Registered Professional Forester exam.

Wolfy Rougle, Conservation Projects Coordinator, is a GIS and botany specialist focusing on how landscape-level planning can support biodiversity. She is a master's candidate in Public Administration at CSU, Chico, studying the formation of prescribed burn associations across California and how they can reduce barriers for landowners. She is certified as a Certified Associate in Project Management by PMI.

Jay Thomas, Engineering Technician, holds a B.S. in natural systems engineering from the University of Kentucky. He specializes in hydrologic engineering such as wetlands construction and monitoring streamflow-groundwater interactions.

BCRCD GRANT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

2016-2018. Butte County Trails Plan. Contract amount: \$20,000. Under contract with Butte County Administration, convened a collaborative planning process, including a detailed web-based survey (n=700) and an ad hoc committee of diverse motorized and non-motorized trail users, land managers and local government, to study and improve trail access in Butte County. Developed an action plan for trails improvements 2018-2023.

2017-Feb. 2019. Department of Conservation-Financial Assistance Program. Grant amount: \$46,206. As spelled out in the scope of work, BCRCD used DOC funds to develop a fee-for-service program which led to master environmental services agreements with City of Chico and (under development) CAL FIRE; invest in staff training in GIS, hydrologic engineering, and CEQA; organize the Colby Collaborative for forest planning around the headwaters of Butte Creek; invest in key field equipment for forest assessment; and ultimately secure \$78,000 in contracts for forest health and planning projects, with another contract of up to \$200,000 under negotiation. In addition, the collaboration funded by the grant led to BCRCD contributing to 6 additional collaborative grants, collectively worth over a million dollars, written, submitted and currently under review.

2017- 2020. North County Roads Inventory. Project amount: \$375,000. In partnership with Butte County Public Works and Pacific Watershed Associates, manage

\$275,000 in SWRCB grant funds plus \$100,000 County matching funds to assess 63 miles of natural-surface forest roads and repair a section of Powellton Rd. that had received a SWRCB notice of violation.

2018-2020. Granite Basin OHV Improvement. Project amount: \$362,000. In partnership with Plumas National Forest- Feather River Ranger District and Butte County Public Works, BCRCD planned, designed, performed environmental review for, is producing CEQA/NEPA documentation for, and finally (based on the results of environmental review process) will build or rehabilitate about 15 miles of single-track OHV trail identified as providing key regional connectivity.

2017-2020. NRCS Conservation and Engineering Agreements. Project amount: \$185,000. Under contract with NRCS, BCRCD recruits, hires, trains and supports staff who assist federal employees with all aspects of conservation planning and engineering as needed. RCD employees work side-by-sie with their federal counterparts, sharing the same secure servers, data, and office.

Butte County Resource Conservation District Annual Budget FY 2018-2019

PROPERTY NAME DATE PREPARED	Butte County R Last updated 2						
INCOME	TOTAL	JULY - SEPT 2018	OCT - DEC 2018	JAN - MAR 2019	APR - JUNE 20		
RENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
INTEREST	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
DONATIONS	\$525.00	\$0.00	\$525.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
AID FROM STATE GOV	\$142,595.21	\$28,751.70	\$44,175.77	\$34,667.74	\$35,000.00		
AID FROM FED GOV	\$33.086.75	\$3,478.00	\$8,208,75	\$10.400.00	\$11,000.00		
AID FROM LOC GOV	\$6,325.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,325.00	\$0.00		
FEE FOR SERVICE	\$178,678.54	\$44,279.61	\$21,398.93	\$55,000.00	\$58,000.00		
SALES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
MISC INCOME	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
GROSS INCOME	\$361,210.50	\$76,509.31	\$74,308.45	\$106,392.74	\$104,000.00		
EXPENSES	TOTAL	JULY - SEPT 2018	OCT - DEC 2018	DEC 2018	JUNE 2019		
SALARIES & EMP BEN	\$133,147.79	\$22,041.77	\$37,665.28	\$33,440.74	\$40,000.00		
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$1,060.00	\$160.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00		
EQUIP SUPPLIES	\$2,090.00	\$970.00	\$220.00	\$600.00	\$300.00		
PROJ SUP (N/a)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
INDEPENDENT CONTR.	\$164,000.00	ψ0.00	ψο.σσ	φο.σσ	ψ0.00		
PWA	\$125,750.00	\$0.00	\$9,500.00	\$66,250.00	\$50,000.00		
Andrew/TrailWorks	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
McCombs Archaeology	\$16,000.00	\$2.860.00	\$13.140.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
TCK Ecological	\$16,550.00	\$2,860.00 \$14,250.00	\$2,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00 \$0.00		
Dan Lipp, Wildlife Biolgst	\$10,550.00	\$0.00	\$2,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00 \$0.00		
Other?	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
INSURANCE	\$0.00 \$2,000.00	\$0.00 \$1,500.00	\$0.00 \$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00 \$500.00		
PRINTING & REPRODUCTION	\$375.00	\$7,500.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$150.00		
MARKETING	\$325.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$150.00	\$150.00 \$150.00		
RECRUITMNT & HIRING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
CONTINUING EDUCATION INTERNET & UTILITIES	\$3,839.00 \$2,028.84	\$0.00	\$1,839.00	\$800.00	\$1,200.00		
Streamline	\$300.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00		
Garmin	\$529.44	\$150.00	\$126.48	\$126.48	\$126.48		
Digital Path	\$1,199,40	\$299.85	\$299.85	\$299.85	\$299.85		
Google	\$116.96	\$20.49	\$25.49	\$35.49	\$35.49		
ArcGIS	ψ110.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$325.00		
Misc Software		\$0.00	\$475.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
TRAVEL & LODGING	\$730.00	ψο.σσ	ψ+10.00	Ψ0.00	ψ0.00		
Mileage charged to DOC grant Mileage charged to Granite	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$80.00	\$0.00		
Basin	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650.00	\$0.00		
Other mileage?	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Other mileage?	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
EVENT EXPENSE	\$320.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$200.00	\$100.00		
DUES & SUBSCRPTNS	\$1,125.00	6200.00	¢0.00	£0.00	© 0.00		
CARCD	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Special Districts Assoc.	\$475.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$475.00	\$0.00		
Other? PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$350.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00		
	\$2,375.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$625.00	\$1,000.00		
MISC EXPENSE Rabobank fee	\$560.00 \$60.00	\$500.00 \$15.00	\$0.00 \$15.00	\$0.00 \$15.00	\$0.00 \$15.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$313,975.63 ======	\$48,202.11 ======	\$67,786.10 ======	\$104,282.56 ======	\$94,561.82		
NET INCOME	\$47,234.87	\$28,307.20	\$6,522.35	\$2,110.18	\$9,438.18		
	LY-SEPT 2018	OCT-DEC 2018	JAN-MAR 2019	APR-JUNE 2019			
. BALANCE	\$28,525	\$56,832	\$63,355	\$65,465			
INCOME	\$28,307	\$6,522	\$2,110	\$9,438			
H AVAIL.	\$56,832	\$63,355	\$65,465	\$74,903			
EVDENCE ====	**************************************	======================================	\$0	\$0			
. EXPENSE			**				
GRAM DEVEL.	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0			
N PAYMENT	\$0 .\$0	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0			
	360	Φ <i>U</i>	ΨŪ	ΨΟ	\$0 \$0		
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ <i>0</i>			
OME DIST.	\$0 \$56,832	\$0 \$63,355	\$0 \$65,465	\$0 \$74,903			

Butte County Resource Conservation District

BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2018

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Cash- Butte County Treasury	0.00
Old Rabobank acct	0.00
Petty Cash	250.00
Rabo Bank (4716) - Checking	26,458.96
Wells Fargo - Checking	0.00
Wells Fargo - Savings	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$26,708.96
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	9,127.88
Total Accounts Receivable	\$9,127.88
Other Current Assets	
Accrued Interest Receivable	0.00
Due From DFG Funds	163.85
Due From Other Funds	0.00
Fair Value Adjusment	0.00
Grant Retension Receivable	0.00
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$163.85
Total Current Assets	\$36,000.69
Fixed Assets	
Fixed Asset	
Accumulated Depreciation	-13,190.94
Furniture and Equipment	13,684.28
Total Fixed Asset	493.34
Total Fixed Assets	\$493.34
TOTAL ASSETS	\$36,494.03
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	0.00
Total Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Credit Cards	
US Bank - CAL Card	12,666.63
Total Credit Cards	\$12,666.63
Other Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable - Other	0.00

Butte County Resource	Butte Creek, Big Chico Creek, &	
Conservation District	Middle Feather River Watersheds	Page 63 of 64 TOTAL
Total Current Liabilities		\$12,666.63
Total Liabilities		\$12,666.63
Equity		
Fund Balance/Retained Earnings		18,374.48
Investment in Fixed Asset		0.00
Opening Balance Equity		0.00
Net Income		5,452.92
Total Equity		\$23,827.40
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		\$36,494.03

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

PAYEE DATA RECORD

(Required when receiving payment from the State of California in lieu of IRS W-9 or W-7)

STD 204 (Rev. 5/2018)

1	INSTRUCTIONS: Type or print the information. Complete all information on this form. Sign, date, and return to the state agency (department/office) address shown in Box 6. Prompt return of this fully completed form will prevent delays when processing payments.											
-	Information provided in this form will be used by California state agencies to prepare Information Returns (Form1099). See next page for more information and Privacy Statement. NOTE: Governmental entities, i.e. federal, state, and local (including school districts), are not required to submit this form.											
	NOTE: Governmental entities, i.e. fed	erai, state	e, and local (inc	uaing	schoo	astri	icis), an	e not re	quirea i	o subitiit ti	iis ioiiii.	
2	BUSINESS NAME (As shown on your income tax return) Butte County Resource Conservation District SOLE PROPRIETOR, SINGLE MEMBER LLC, INDIVIDUAL (Name as shown on SSN or ITIN) Last, First, MI E-MAIL ADDRESS											
	•						bcr	rcd@car	cd.org			
	MAILING ADDRESS BUSINESS A											
	150 Chuck Yeager Way, Ste. A			15	0 Chuc	k Yea	ger Way	y, Ste. A				
·	CITY Oroville	STATE CA	ZIP CODE 95965	CI1 Or	r y oville					STATE CA	ZIP CODE 95965	
3	ENTER FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENT	IFICATIO	N NUMBER (FEI	I): 3	3 3	- 1	0	5 4	0	5 1	NOTE: Payment will not	
_	PARTNERSHIP	C	ORPORATION:								be processed	
PAYEE ENTITY	ESTATE OR TRUST		MEDICAL (e	-			erapy, chi	ropractic,	etc.)		without an accompanying	
TYPE	· ·		LEGAL (e.g.,		-	es)					taxpayer identification	
OU TOU			EXEMPT (no ALL OTHER		,						number.	
CHECK ONE BOX			<u> </u>	-		- 					1.	
ONLY	ENTER SSN OR ITIN:											
	SOLE PROPRIETOR, INDIVIDUAL, OR SINGLE MEMBER LLC (Disregarded Entity) SINGLE MEMBER LLC (Disregarded Entity) SINGLE MEMBER LLC (Disregarded Entity) Social Security Number (ISIN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) are required by authority of California Revenue and Tax Code sections 18646 and 18681)											
_	X CALIFORNIA RESIDENT - Qualifie	d to do bu	siness in Californi	a or n	naintains	a peri	manent p	place of I	ousiness	In Californi	a.	
- 4	CALIFORNIA NON RESIDENT (see next page for more information) - Payments to nonresidents for services may be subject											
PAYEE	to state income tax withholding.											
RESIDENCY STATUS												
							41-1					
E	I hereby certify under penalty of p Should my residency status chan	erjury tn ae. I will	at the informational promption of the pr	แon p v the	state a	agenc	tnis ao :y belov	cumen N.	is true	and corr	eci.	
5	AUTHORIZED PAYEE REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME (Type or Print)				TITLE			TE	TELEPHONE (include area code)			
	David Lee SIGNATURE			Ch	Chairman, Board of Directors (530) 521 - 4707				707			
				DA	DATE E-MAIL A			AIL ADD	ADDRESS			
	Duil E. Lec			2/	2/15/19 ssadave@comcast.n					t		
	Please return completed form to:											
6	DEPARTMENT/OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS			UN	UNIT/SECTION							
				TE	TELEPHONE (include area code) FAX				-			
	СІТҮ	STATE	ZIP CODE	E-I	WAIL AI	DDRES	SS					
		L	1									