

Memorandum

From: Wade Crowfoot, Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency

Date: September 30, 2019

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Thomas W. Porter, Director
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

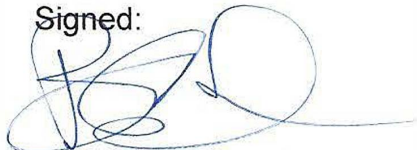
Subject: GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND – Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
EXPENDITURE RECORD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection – Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

This Attestation Memorandum documents that the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) completed the attached Expenditure Record on September 25, 2019, for the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. The Expenditure Record is consistent with the statutory requirements of Government Code Section 16428.9 and with the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments to support expenditures from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

This Attestation Memorandum and Expenditure Record will be submitted to CARB for public posting on the CARB website: www.arb.ca.gov/caclimateinvestments. Questions on this Attestation Memorandum or Expenditure Record may be directed to Helge Eng, CAL FIRE Deputy Director for Resource Management at (916) 653-7772, Helge.Eng@fire.ca.gov.

Attachment

Signed:



Wade Crowfoot, Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency



Thomas W. Porter, Director
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Expenditure Record

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
Urban and Community Forestry Program

Authorizing legislation: Item 3540-001-3228 and 3540-005-3228 of the Budget Act of 2019 (Chapter 23, Statutes of 2019).

Element (1) A description of each expenditure proposed to be made by the administering agency pursuant to the appropriation.

<input type="checkbox"/> Agency that will administer funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
<input type="checkbox"/> Amount of proposed expenditure and appropriation reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The total expenditure for this program is \$20 million.▪ CAL FIRE was appropriated \$ 10 million for the Urban and Community Forestry Program in the Budget Act of 2019 Item 3540-005-3228.▪ CAL FIRE will additionally allocate \$10 million to the Urban and Community Forestry Program from funds allocated for Forest Health in the Budget Act of 2019 Item 3540-001-3228.
<input type="checkbox"/> Estimated amount of expenditures for administering agency administrative costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ State agency administrative costs are estimated to be \$1,500,000.
<input type="checkbox"/> If applicable, identify laws or regulations that govern how funds will be used	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ AB 1532 (Pérez, Chapter 807, Statutes of 2012), Senate Bill (SB) 535 (de León, Chapter 830, Statutes of 2012), SB 1018 (Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, Chapter 39, Statutes of 2012), SB 862 (Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, Chapter 36, Statutes of 2014), and AB 1550 (Gomez, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016) provide the general framework for how the auction proceeds will be administered to further the purposes of AB 32.▪ Public Resources Code 4799.06-4799.12, The California Urban Forestry Act of 1978 (AB 1530, Chapter 720, Statutes of 2017)▪ The Budget Act of 2019, as amended, provides direction on the types of projects that should be funded.
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation of existing Expenditure Record	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The FY 19-20 appropriation will support a continuing program that will fund the same types of projects that have been previously funded under existing Expenditure Records for FY 2014-15, FY 2016-17, and FY 2017-18, and FY 2018-19. The number of funded projects will go up from the previous fiscal

CAL FIRE Expenditure Record for the Urban and Community Forestry Program

	<p>year commensurate with the funding level and will once again include three project types. Some green infrastructure elements may be included in projects. (e.g., stormwater capture facilities, concrete removal, bioswales and green alleys, etc.).</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Project type(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waste Diversion and utilization ▪ Urban Forestry and Urban Greening ▪ Climate adaptation and resiliency ▪ Technical assistance
<input type="checkbox"/> Describe the projects and/or measures that will be eligible for funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement:</i> Urban tree planting and planting of urban vegetation to reduce GHG emissions, tree and plant establishment care and maintenance, and site preparation. In addition to tree planting, a project may also involve urban tree site improvements and improved environmental design elements such as stormwater management improvements. This project type allows the acquisition of small, vacant parcels to be improved for purposes consistent with the California Urban Forestry Act. ▪ <i>Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization:</i> Creation, development, and implementation of projects and programs to better utilize trees and/or other vegetation from urban forests. The trees that are utilized must not have been removed solely for purposes of utilization; there must be another valid management objective behind the removal of the trees. Removed trees must be replaced with trees of similar or improved long-term benefits. Job development or skills training programs for these types of jobs are also eligible for funding. ▪ <i>Urban Forest Management Activities:</i> Improving long-term management of urban forests to reduce GHG emissions and improve urban forest performance over time. Projects may involve the establishment or updating of a jurisdiction-wide tree inventory, urban forest mapping and analysis, and/or long-term management plan. Projects may include policy integration or ordinance development. Projects must include a tree planting component.
<input type="checkbox"/> Intended recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cities ▪ Counties ▪ Districts (including, but are not limited to, school, park, recreation, water, and local taxing districts) ▪ Non-profit organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> Program structure and process for selecting projects for funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Competitive grant solicitation, evaluation and selection of projects per program guidelines.

Element (2) A description of how a proposed expenditure will further the regulatory purposes of Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code, including, but not limited to, the limit established under Part 3 (commencing with Section 38550) and other applicable requirements of law.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> How the expenditure is consistent with the Investment Plan and the Scoping Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assembly Bill 1532 requires that GGRF funds be appropriated in a manner that is consistent with the three-year Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Second Investment Plan. The Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Third Investment Plan: Fiscal Years 2019-20 through 2021-22 acknowledges that California's tree canopy serves an important purpose of removing pollutants from the air and sequestering carbon in woody material while providing multiple significant benefits that increase the State's resilience to the effects of climate change. Multiple benefits include: carbon sequestration, air filtration, community cooling, improved active transportation and recreational conditions, improved storm-water runoff, and water retention. Urban forestry projects achieve GHG benefits by planting trees to sequester carbon and shade buildings, thereby reducing building energy use and making communities more livable. ▪ In the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan – Natural and Working Lands section, a goal is identified to “enhance the resilience of and potential for carbon sequestration on lands through management and restoration, and reduce GHG and black carbon emissions from wildfire and management activities. This enhancement includes expansion and management of green space in urban areas”. |
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Element (3) A description of how a proposed expenditure will contribute to achieving and maintaining greenhouse gas emission reductions pursuant to Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Describe how expenditures will facilitate the achievement of GHG emission reductions in the State | <p><i>For Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement and Urban Forest Management Activities Grant Projects:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trees planted in urban areas directly sequester carbon as they grow. ▪ Urban trees avoid emissions of GHG by direct shading of buildings (reduced energy use). ▪ Applicants will estimate the direct carbon storage by trees as well as avoided emissions from reduced energy use using the most current version of ARB's approved quantification methodology. <p><i>For Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization Grant Projects:</i></p> |
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban trees and other biomass at times must be removed for public safety or forest health purposes. Most of the removed biomass currently ends up in landfills, where it decays (emits GHGs). The purpose of these projects would be to use the wood and other biomass for their highest and best use. By converting urban trees into high quality wood products, the GHG stored is not released in a landfill. It is put to a better use. The GHG reductions result from wood products retaining more carbon than landfilled biomass. Biomass (tree trimmings, landscaping clippings, etc.) can be repurposed for electricity generation or biofuel production. By utilizing biomass for energy, these projects avoid GHG emissions from displaced fossil fuel based energy sources.
<input type="checkbox"/> Explain when GHG emission reductions and/or co-benefits are expected to occur and how they will be maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Urban forest Expansion and Improvement Activities and Urban Forest Management Activities:</i> Reductions are expected to occur starting in year 1 and continue over a period of 40+ years. All tree planting projects will be assessed and inspected by CAL FIRE Urban Foresters to ensure best management practices are followed thus ensuring long-term survival of the trees. <i>Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization:</i> GHG reductions are immediate since emissions from landfilled biomass are avoided. Wood products retain carbon stored long-term (at least 10 years). Bioenergy production also results in immediate and permanent GHG reductions compared to fossil fuel based energy.

Element (4) A description of how the administering agency considered the applicability and feasibility of other non-greenhouse gas reduction objectives of Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code.

<input type="checkbox"/> Expected co-benefits, particularly environmental, economic, public health and safety, and climate resiliency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement</i> projects increase energy conservation, reduce the urban heat island effect (urban temperature reduction), reduce storm-water runoff, extend the life of surface streets, improve local air, soil, and water quality, help to mitigate environmental health burdens, create jobs, improve business income levels, improve property values, and improve public health outcomes. Projects consider and improve urban forest species composition. <i>Urban Forest Management Activities</i> projects improve long-term performance of urban forests by encouraging better long-term management. In addition, these projects plant trees and provide similar co-benefits associated with <i>Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement</i> tree planting projects.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization</i> projects increase utilization of removed trees to avoid the trees ending up in a landfill. This helps to meet state waste diversion goals and, if used for biomass energy, state renewable energy goals. By utilizing best management practices required under this program and improving urban forest management, fewer trees will become hazardous or susceptible to insect, disease, and storm damage, all of which improve public safety. ▪ All funded urban and community forestry projects will result in a net GHG benefit, provide co-benefits, and assist urban areas in adapting to climate change realities.
<input type="checkbox"/> How the project will support other objectives of AB 32 and related statutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximizing environmental, social and economic co-benefits. ▪ Complements State efforts to improve air quality. ▪ Directs public and private investment toward the most disadvantaged communities in California. ▪ Provides an opportunity for small businesses, schools, affordable housing associations, and other community institutions to participate in and benefit from statewide efforts to reduce GHG emissions. ▪ Provides job development and training programs to disadvantaged communities.
<input type="checkbox"/> Percentage of total funding that will be expended for projects that are located in and benefit priority populations ¹ per CARB guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At a minimum, 70% of the appropriation will be expended on projects located within and providing benefits to disadvantaged communities and 10% of the appropriation will be expended on projects located within and providing benefits to low income communities.
<input type="checkbox"/> Describe the benefits to priority populations per CARB guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urban and community forestry projects provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to disadvantaged communities which also tend to be areas with the least urban forest resources. ▪ The proposed urban and community forestry project types expand (plant and maintain) and better manage tree canopy and vegetative cover in disadvantaged communities. They will provide numerous environmental, social, and economic benefits that are described in sections above. ▪ Projects may (competitive consideration) directly benefit priority populations by providing jobs or jobs training.

¹ Priority populations include residents of: (1) census tracts identified as disadvantaged by California Environmental Protection Agency per SB 535; (2) census tracts identified as low-income per AB 1550; or (3) a low-income household per AB 1550. See Section VII.B for more information on the definitions of priority populations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects will directly assist disadvantaged communities in adapting to climate change.
<input type="checkbox"/> Explain strategies the administering agency will use to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAL FIRE does extensive outreach (workshops and webinars) during the grant advertisement period. CAL FIRE evaluates projects for authentic community engagement and how well projects are tailored to the communities being served. To maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities, CAL FIRE will competitively prioritize projects that meet the criteria for providing direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to a disadvantaged community and meaningfully address an important community need established in CARB's Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments (Funding Guidelines). Projects that meet the criteria for benefiting a disadvantaged community are eligible to have their cost share requirement reduced or waived. Upon successful completion, projects that meet the criteria for benefiting a disadvantaged community are eligible to receive up to two maintenance cycles of funding for ongoing tree care and maintenance. Expert technical assistance is provided to grantees throughout their projects.
<input type="checkbox"/> Explain how the administering agency will avoid potential substantial burdens to disadvantaged communities and low-income communities or, if unknown, explain the process for identifying and avoiding potential substantial burdens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects have a maintenance requirement of a minimum of 3 years. This requirement helps ensure that the project will be successful and not result in unhealthy trees. Upon successful completion, projects that meet the criteria for benefiting a disadvantaged community are eligible to receive up to two maintenance cycles of funding for ongoing tree care and maintenance. The program requires applicants to design their projects to avoid displacement of low-income and disadvantaged community residents. The agency will evaluate and consider these efforts in project selection.

Element (5) A description of how the administering agency will document the result achieved from the expenditure to comply with Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 35800) of the Health and Safety Code.

<input type="checkbox"/> How the administering agency will track / report progress to make sure projects are implemented per requirements in statute and CARB guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CAL FIRE will track funding and submit bi-annual status reports. ▪ CAL FIRE will require funding recipients to maintain records and submit status reports. CAL FIRE requires quarterly reporting by grantees in a format prescribed in CARB guidance. In addition, CAL FIRE will conduct periodic reviews of selected projects. If a funding recipient does not perform in accordance with program requirements, the recipient will be subject to the remedies of non-performance, as identified in the program guidelines.
<input type="checkbox"/> Describe the approach that will be used to document GHG emission reductions and/or other benefits before and after project completion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CAL FIRE and project proponents will calculate the net GHG reductions from the programs described here using methods approved by CARB at the link below: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cc-quantification-benefits-and-reporting-materials.
<input type="checkbox"/> Type of information that will be collected to document results, consistent with CARB guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To determine job benefits, CAL FIRE will compile data from funding recipients on jobs provided, both the quality and quantity, consistent with CARB guidance. ▪ CAL FIRE will collect data on project locations, tree planting types and locations, and other data as specified in CARB guidance.
<input type="checkbox"/> How the administering agency will report on program status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CAL FIRE will regularly report on expenditures, status of grant projects, project benefits and co-benefits in reports that follow CARB guidelines and via the CCIRTS database as required by CARB.