Questions Regarding the Auburn Shaded Fuelbreak

August 25, 2020

Answers from the RCD are in **bold font** below each question.

1. Can contractors use their own equipment (i.e. excavator) to feed the chipper?
   
   **No. Due to the constraints of the environmental document associated with the project area, the RCD tracked chippers are the only tracked equipment approved for use within the project area.**

2. Can contractors use a masticator, or is hand thinning the only option?
   
   **No mastication is permitted due to the stipulations of the environmental documents associated with the project.**

3. What is the diameter limitation for the RCD’s chipper?
   
   **All of RCD’s chippers have a 12” diameter limit.**

4. How many tracked chippers will be available for use on this job? Contractors expressed concern about having only one chipper available.
   
   **The RCD owns two tracked chippers and five tow-behind chippers. At least one RCD tracked chipper will be available for this project at all times, and RCD tow-behind chippers can be made available as needed in those areas where pickup access is feasible. If necessary to complete work in a timely/efficient manner, RCD will consider amending contract to include use of contractor’s chipper.**

5. Will the RCD have a supervisor available for the tracked chipper, and will the RCD provide all fire suppression materials that pertain to the tracked chipper?
   
   **Yes, the RCD employs a chipper supervisor who is responsible for operation and maintenance of the tracked chipper. RCD will be responsible for fire suppression materials relating to the tracked chipper, but contractors will still be responsible for fire suppression materials for their own crews.**

6. What is the plan for the areas that are too steep to support the tracked chipper? How far will crews be required to drag cut material?
   
   **The goal is to chip as much cut material as possible (excluding invasive French broom). It will be up to the discretion of the RCD chipper supervisor to determine where it is safe and feasible to operate the tracked chipper. Many trails and roads intersect the project area, and crews may be required to drag brush downhill to these trails/roads for chipping. Dragging of brush downhill may be as far as 200 feet. The dragging of brush uphill will be avoided as much as possible, except in stream zones where it is required (refer to pages 9 and 10 of the RFP). In those areas where access does not allow for use of the tracked chipper, cut material will be piled for burning at a later date.**
7. How many acres may be piled rather than accessed with the chipper?

Around 25 acres are currently mapped as “Pile Cut Material” in the maps included in the RFP. This number may change as the project advances and conditions are re-assessed. Please see the response to question 6 above regarding where the tracked chipper will be utilized.

8. What is tracked chipper horsepower? Does the chipper have a winch?

Both tracked chippers (Bandit 200TK) are 74 HP with winches. Tow-behind chippers (Bandit 150XP) are 145 HP and do not have winches.

9. Will crews be required to cover piles in plastic? Will crews be required to clear fire line around piles?

Crews will not be required to cover piles in plastic or clear fire line around piles.

10. How should contract crews deal with hazard trees?

Page 8 of the RFP states: “Dead trees (snags) shall generally be removed. Snags that are 18 inches DBH or larger and not more than 30 feet in height which are not capable of reaching a road, trail, or structure shall be retained IF the snag is at least 100 feet from another snag that meets the same criteria.” Contractor should have the ability to remove hazard trees as described above. If the hazard tree is too large to feed into the chipper, the downed tree should be limbed to ensure that no limbs protrude farther than 18 inches from the ground (see “chipping” parameters on page 9 of the RFP).

11. Will pruning of residual brush species be required?

No. Residual brush should be spaced adequately (refer to page 8 of the RFP) but pruning of brush species is not required.

12. Road access with a pickup truck is not an option for much of the project area. Can contractor use a quad or side by side on trails to shuttle gas and water to the crews?

Yes. RCD also has relationships with some of the private landowners west of the project boundary. In some cases, it may be possible to access the project area from private property.

13. Is this a prevailing wage job?

No.

14. What are the RCD requirements for fire suppression on-site?

Refer to the RCD fire policy on pages 63 through 68 of the RFP for information on required fire suppression materials.

15. The RFP says all brush and understory fuels above 12 inches in height shall be removed. Much of the project is covered in tall grass. Will crews be required to weed-eat acres of tall grass?

Per BOR request, weed whacking will only be required within 150 feet of private residences within green/yellow areas in Unit C. This amounts to about 14 acres of weed
whacking. Note that invasive broom species are considered to be brush, not grasses, and contractors will be required to remove all broom.

16. How soon is the mandated start of work after the contract award? When must work be completed?


17. Will trails be closed to hikers and mountain bikers during project work?

Trails will be closed as needed per the discretion of the Project Manager to ensure public safety. Otherwise, signage will be used to indicate to the public that work is taking place. CA State Parks can provide signage, but supplemental signs from contractor indicating “Tree Work” will be appreciated.

18. Can contractors bid partially per hour and partially per acre?

No. The project will be bid on a per acre basis. Please provide a per acre cost based on the scope of work, even if contractor believes per acre cost will cause the cost of the project to exceed the maximum amount quoted on page 2 of the RFP.