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Questions Regarding the Placer County Coordinated Fuel Break Phase III

September 20, 2022

The Request for Proposals (RFP) is linked [HERE](#). Answers from the Placer County Resource Conservation District (RCD) are in **bold** font below each question.

IMPORTANT: If submitting a proposal, please include a sentence to acknowledge that you have read this list of responses.

1. Clarification re: treatment types and acreage.

The project is meant to cover herbicide application, hand work, chipping, piling, hazard tree removal, and potentially mastication within the entirety of the 326-acre project area shown on the project map (page 12 of RFP). Work will occur as needed and as directed by RCD. 45 acres of hand work are proposed in previously untreated areas as shown on the project map. Some areas within the 45 acres of proposed hand work to widen the fuel break (shown on project map – page 12 of RFP) may be better suited to mastication than hand work. RCD estimates that roughly half of the 45-acre area is appropriate for mastication. Contractor may provide a per acre mastication price in the cost proposal, if desired. This is not required – all work can be done by hand if desired.

2. Clarification re: cost proposal table on page 13.

Cost proposal form for the tracked chipper item should be a per-hour rate, not per-acre.

3. Clarification re: overall project scope.

RCD is hoping to work with a contractor who is flexible and can be available as needed for initial fuels reduction (including hand cutting/mastication, pruning, and chipping/piling), hazard tree removal, and herbicide application. Herbicide will be subject to seasonal restrictions to ensure efficacy, but other treatments can shift to fit into contractor's schedule throughout the contract period. See item 4 below for proposed schedule.

4. What is the proposed schedule for this work?

RCD would first like to spray sprouting native species within the treated footprint (fall 2022). Next phase is hand treatment of the 45-acre area shown on the RFP map (RFP page 12) – ideally, this hand work will be completed within 6 months of contract award. RCD will work with contractor to determine priority areas within these 45 acres. It is possible that not all 45 acres will be treated in order to leave funding for 1-2 more herbicide applications throughout the lifetime of the grant (ends March 31, 2026).



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5. Does the project require prevailing wage rates?

As of 9/20/22, no. However, RCD anticipates that pending AB 1717 may necessitate prevailing wage for fuels reduction within the lifetime of the grant. If that is the case, rates can be re-negotiated later to ensure compliance with the law.

6. Can the contractor provide a percent increase in rates for each project year?

Yes, but this is not required. Rates can be re-negotiated as needed to account for inflation as agreed upon between the RCD and Contractor.

7. If contractor's proposal includes a subcontractor, do we need to provide the subcontractor's licensing and insurance documents in the proposal as well?

Yes.

8. Will contractors be expected to haul any material offsite?

No.

9. For hazard trees that are felled, do the logs need to be cut to a certain length?

No, unless otherwise requested by the landowner.

10. Is the RCD hoping to use post-emergent or pre-emergent herbicide, or both?

Post-emergent only.

11. Is there a required QAL level?

No.

12. Are there any applicable herbicide restrictions?

Generally, the RCD has used non-restricted chemicals for fuel break maintenance. However, we defer to the expertise of the PCA employed to prescribe chemical. Contractor is responsible for appropriate reporting of chemical use to Placer County.



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13. Will RCD require lopping of sprayed material after it has died?

Yes, it's likely that some lopping will need to occur to reduce dead ladder fuels after spraying.

14. Are there timing restrictions on herbicide application?

Again, RCD defers to the expertise of the PCA to advise on appropriate application periods for herbicide depending on target species.

15. Does Placer County require a notice of intent prior to herbicide application?

Placer RCD has been in touch with the Placer County Agriculture Department regarding this and other fuels reduction projects that occur on private land. They have not required a Notice of Intent prior to herbicide application. In the past, RCD has secured letters from each landowner allowing the contractor to report herbicide application to the County under the contractor's own operator ID number. The landowners involved in this project have already given written consent for use of herbicide in the project area.

16. Does the RCD have a PCA on staff to prescribe herbicide?

No. Contractor is responsible for working with a PCA to obtain a recommendation. Each application will require a written recommendation from a licensed PCA.

17. Does RCD require backpack application, or can herbicide be applied from tanks?

Generally, RCD prefers backpack application of herbicide as it offers better precision and poses less risk to residual trees. RCD is willing to consider application from a tank with wand attachments with assurance that equal or better precision of application is possible.

18. Are there any watercourses of concern within the treatment area?

See attached project map, which includes watercourses by classification. Refer to RFP scope of work for watercourse protections (page 10).

19. Are there archaeological sites within the project area?

Yes. Refer to page 9 of the RFP for restrictions on equipment use within archaeological resource protection zones. Zones will be flagged and reviewed with contractor prior to project work.



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20. Can contractors cut new access roads/trails for equipment?

No, this is not permissible under the current CEQA document covering project work. There are numerous existing roads and trails within the project area.

21. How do neighboring homeowners feel about the project?

The project has received support from neighbors with no major complaints. RCD limited weekend work in certain areas for the benefit of the neighbors.

22. What are requirements for on-site fire suppression?

Refer to the RCD fire policy, attached to RFP as Exhibit E. Cost of fire suppression equipment should be built into hourly rates.

23. Is there water access on site?

RCD prefers if contractors obtain water offsite. Landowners have occasionally allowed use of spigot, but contractor shouldn't rely on this. Drafting from natural watercourses is not permitted.

24. Will there be project supervision from RCD on site?

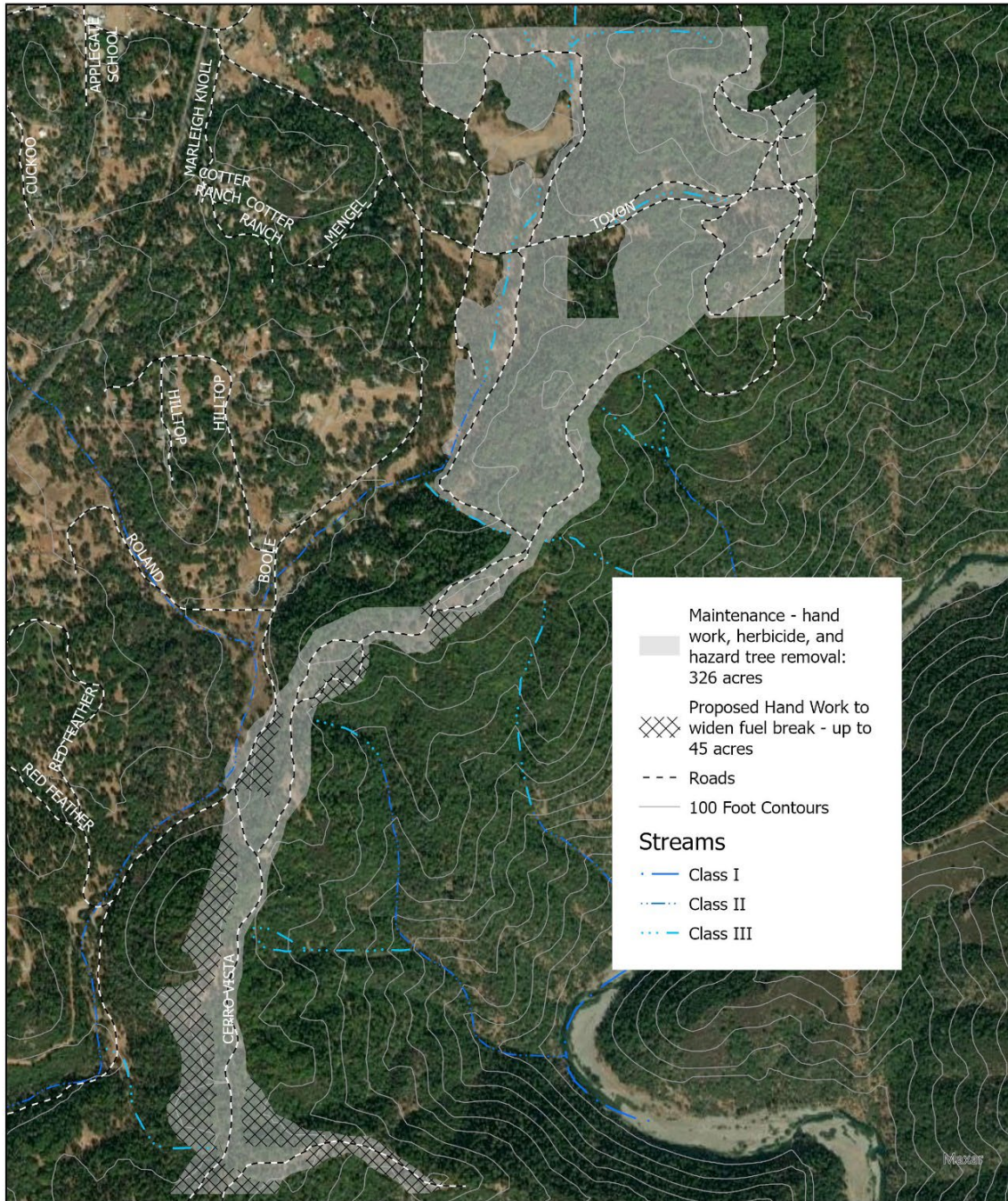
Yes. RCD forestry staff are frequently onsite during project implementation and are available to answer questions that arise. Generally, the forestry staff works closely with the contractor at the start of work to ensure they are comfortable with the scope and prescription. Once this is established, staff checks in at the project area several times per week, or as requested by contractor if questions arise.

See following page for updated project map.



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Placer Co. Coordinated Fuel Break T13N R9E Sections 9, 10, and 16 MDBM Greenwood USGS 7.5' Quad



0 0.13 0.25 0.5 Miles

