



**California Energy Commission
July 10, 2024 Business Meeting
Backup Materials for Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians**

The following backup materials for the above-referenced agenda item are available in this PDF packet as listed below:

1. Proposed Resolution
2. Grant Request Form
3. Scope of Work
4. CEQA documents (if applicable, attached below).
5. Other relevant documentation or link to other documentation (if applicable, attached below).

[PROPOSED]

RESOLUTION NO: 24-0710-14a

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RESOLUTION: Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

RESOLVED, that the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (CEC) adopts the staff CEQA findings contained in the Agreement or Amendment Request Form (as applicable); and

RESOLVED, that the CEC approves agreement TCA-24-001 with Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians for a \$199,973 grant. The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians will treat approximately 57 acres of Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians' Tribal Trust Land in Geyserville for pre- and post-fire fuel reduction, along with re-vegetation management using native plants and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. The project will document Tribal traditional management practices; forest health issues; the application of fire in modern and historic silviculture practice; and the comparison of traditional tribal practice to western forest management; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Director or their designee shall execute the same on behalf of the CEC.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the CEC does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CEC held on July 10, 2024.

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Dated:

Kristine Banaag
Secretariat



GRANT REQUEST FORM (GRF)

A. New Agreement Number

IMPORTANT: New Agreement # to be completed by Contracts, Grants, and Loans Office.

New Agreement Number: TCA-24-001

B. Division Information

1. Division Name: STEP
2. Agreement Manager: Quenby Lum
3. MS-:40
4. Phone Number: 916-776-0789

C. Recipient's Information

1. Recipient's Legal Name: Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians
2. Federal ID Number: 94-2422476

D. Title of Project

Title of project: Dry Creek Rancheria Forest Health Climate Adaptation Project

E. Term and Amount

1. Start Date: 8/1/2024
2. End Date: 3/31/2026
3. Amount: \$199,973

F. Business Meeting Information

1. Are the ARFVTP agreements \$75K and under delegated to Executive Director? No
2. The Proposed Business Meeting Date: 7/10/2024
3. Consent or Discussion? Discussion
4. Business Meeting Presenter Name: Quenby Lum
5. Time Needed for Business Meeting: 5 minutes.
6. The email subscription topic is: Enter the email subscription topic name.

Agenda Item Subject and Description:

Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians.

Proposed resolution approving agreement TCA-24-001 with Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians for a \$199,973 grant and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians will treat approximately 57 acres of Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians' Tribal Trust Land in Geyserville for pre- and post-fire fuel reduction, along with re-vegetation management using native plants and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. The project will document Tribal traditional management practices; forest health issues; the application of fire in modern and historic silviculture practice; and the comparison of traditional Tribal practice to western forest management. (STEP funding) Contact: Quenby Lum (Staff presentation: 5 minutes)

G. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance

1. Is Agreement considered a "Project" under CEQA?

Yes



If yes, skip to question 2.

If no, complete the following (PRC 21065 and 14 CCR 15378) and explain why Agreement is not considered a "Project":

Agreement will not cause direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment because:

2. If Agreement is considered a "Project" under CEQA answer the following questions.

a) Agreement **IS** exempt?

Yes

Statutory Exemption?

No

If yes, list PRC and/or CCR section number(s) and separate each with a comma. If no, enter "None" and go to the next question.

PRC section number: None

CCR section number: None

Categorical Exemption?

No

If yes, list CCR section number(s) and separate each with a comma. If no, enter "None" and go to the next question.

CCR section number:

Common Sense Exemption? 14 CCR 15061 (b) (3)

Yes

If yes, explain reason why Agreement is exempt under the above section. If no, enter "Not applicable" and go to the next section.

This project is covered by the Common Sense Exemption under 14 CCR 15061 (b) (3) that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

This project consists of forest thinning (i.e. cutting) and erosion control of approximately 57 acres on Dry Creek Rancheria Tribal Trust Lands. Erosion control methods may include water bars, straw waddles, recontouring trails, or revegetation. Project activities do not include burning or any other activity that may have an impact to land off of Dry Creek Rancheria Tribal Trust Lands.

In order for the CEC to comply with CEQA, the CEC must evaluate any impacts to land within the jurisdiction of the State of California, which is therefore limited to potential impacts of the project off of Dry Creek Rancheria Tribal Trust Lands. This project is exempt under the "common sense" CEQA exemption because the proposed project will not:

- construct on or alter any land subject to jurisdiction of the State of California;



- impact local air quality;
- use groundwater resources or otherwise impact any water resources that might be subject to jurisdiction of the State of California;
- build additional transportation infrastructure;
- increase vehicle miles traveled;
- increase ambient noise beyond the existing activities; or
- degrade the visual character or quality of views, including those of scenic resources or objects of aesthetic significance on land subject to the jurisdiction of the State of California.

Because the proposed project does not provide for any physical changes outside of Dry Creek Rancheria Tribal Trust Lands, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment within the jurisdiction of the State of California. Based on all these factors, the proposed project meets the CEQA “common sense” exemption.

The project will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; does not involve any cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place that might be considered significant; does not involve unusual circumstances that might have a significant effect on the environment; will not result in damage to scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway; the project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5; and the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Therefore, none of the exceptions to categorical exemptions listed in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to this project and this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

b) Agreement **IS NOT** exempt.
IMPORTANT: consult with the legal office to determine next steps.

No
If yes, answer yes or no to all that applies. If no, list all as “no” and “None” as “yes”.

Additional Documents	Applies
Initial Study	No
Negative Declaration	No
Mitigated Negative Declaration	No
Environmental Impact Report	No
Statement of Overriding Considerations	No
None	Yes

H. Is this project considered “Infrastructure”?

No

I. Subcontractors



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Grant Request Form
CEC-270 (Revised 01/2024)

List all Subcontractors listed in the Budget (s) (major and minor). Insert additional rows if needed. If no subcontractors to report, enter "No subcontractors to report" and "0" to funds.
Delete any unused rows from the table.

Subcontractor Legal Company Name	CEC Funds	Match Funds
TBD project monitoring	\$ 10,000	\$0
TBD forestry work	\$ 48,800	\$0
TBD erosion control	\$ 36,000	\$0
TBD forestry - invasive species	\$ 31,200	\$0

J. Vendors and Sellers for Equipment and Materials/Miscellaneous

List all Vendors and Sellers listed in Budget(s) for Equipment and Materials/Miscellaneous. Insert additional rows if needed. If no vendors or sellers to report, enter "No vendors or sellers to report" and "0" to funds. **Delete** any unused rows from the table.

Vendor/Seller Legal Company Name	CEC Funds	Match Funds
No vendors to report	\$	\$

K. Key Partners

List all key partner(s). Insert additional rows if needed. If no key partners to report, enter "No key partners to report." **Delete** any unused rows from the table.

Key Partner Legal Company Name
No key partners to report

L. Budget Information

Include all budget information. Insert additional rows if needed. If no budget information to report, enter "N/A" for "Not Applicable" and "0" to Amount. **Delete** any unused rows from the table.

Funding Source	Funding Year of Appropriation	Budget List Number	Amount
General Fund Funding	21/22	701.105	\$ 199,973

TOTAL Amount: \$ 199,973

R&D Program Area: Admin: STEP General

Explanation for "Other" selection Not applicable

Reimbursement Contract #: Not applicable

Federal Agreement #: Not applicable

M. Recipient's Contact Information



1. Recipient's Administrator/Officer

Name: Lacie McWhorter

Address: PO Box 607

City, State, Zip: Geyserville, CA 95441-0607

Phone:

E-Mail: Lacie.mcwhorter@riverrockcasino.co

3. Recipient's Project Manager

Name: Lacie McWhorter

Address: PO Box 607

City, State, Zip: Geyserville, CA 95441-0607

Phone:

E-Mail: Lacie.mcwhorter@riverrockcasino.co

N. Selection Process Used

There are three types of selection process. List the one used for this GRF.

Selection Process	Additional Information
Competitive Solicitation #	GFO-23-701
First Come First Served Solicitation #	Not applicable
Other	Not applicable

O. Attached Items

1. List all items that should be attached to this GRF by entering "Yes" or "No".

Item Number	Item Name	Attached
1	Exhibit A, Scope of Work/Schedule	Yes
2	Exhibit B, Budget Detail	Yes
3	CEC 105, Questionnaire for Identifying Conflicts	Yes
4	Recipient Resolution	No
5	Awardee CEQA Documentation	Yes

Approved By

Individuals who approve this form must enter their full name and approval date in the MS Word version.

Agreement Manager:



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Grant Request Form
CEC-270 (Revised 01/2024)

Approval Date:

Cultural Resources Unit Supervisor:

Approval Date:

Integration Unit Supervisor:

Approval Date:

Deputy Director:

Approval Date:

Exhibit A

Scope of Work and Schedule of Products

Name of Applicant: Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

Project Title: Dry Creek Rancheria Forest Health Climate Adaptation Project

This project's objective is to develop forest management methods for climate resiliency on the 57 acres of Rancheria property, and to document Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) on historical landscapes and through cultural land practices. The components of the project will include: 1) Assessment and documentation of historical conditions and TEK; 2) Implementation of vegetation management, fuels reduction/forest thinning, and native plant restoration; and 3) Analysis of forest health and climate adaptation methods, and development of a Tribal Forest Management Plan and Indigenous Health Indicators (IHI).

Tasks	Activities	Timetable in months	Product(s) / Deliverable(s)
Task 1. Pre-Implementation tasks			
Task 1.1	Hire consultants/ contractors; DCR will hire and manage consultants and contractors for the thinning operation and related reporting and documentation of the project	Aug-24	N/A
Task 1.2	Conduct pre-project monitoring; Before implementation of the thinning operation, the pre-project monitoring will be conducted using a combination of aerial imagery from a drone and monitoring plots. The 1/10 acre monitoring plots will be established throughout the site and will record the vegetation type. Monitoring will be conducted by DCR staff and a consultant.	Aug-24	Vegetation inventory pre-project, Tribal elder interviews, documentation of historical ecology
Task 1.3	Mark treatment areas; Treatment areas will be marked with flagging to delineate areas of different prescriptions and to stay on the Dry Creek Rancheria property. Marking will be completed by a consultant.	Aug-24	Drone imagery, project photos, project maps

Exhibit A
Scope of Work and Schedule of Products

Task 2. Implementation			
Task 2.1	Thinning operations; The selected contractor will implement the thinning prescriptions on the Rancheria property. Thinning will be conducted using hand crews to cut and pile vegetation.	Aug-Oct 24 / Mar-May 25	Project photos
Task 2.2	Erosion control; During the thinning operation, some trails may need to be cut to enable access to site. Erosion control methods will be implemented at the direction of DCR and the consultant. Erosion control methods may include water bars, straw waddles, recontouring trails, or revegetation	Aug-Oct 24 / Mar-May 25	Project photos
Task 3. Post-project Monitoring and Documentation			
Task 3.1	Educational outreach; Development of Tribal outreach and education, to include but not limited to site tours, pamphlets, education signage in project areas	March 25-July 25	Materials, photos, pamphlets, signage
Task 3.2	Conduct post project monitoring; After implementation of the thinning operation, the post-project monitoring will be conducted using a combination of aerial imagery from a drone and monitoring plots. The 1/10 acre pre-project monitoring plots will be revisited throughout the site and will record the vegetation type. Monitoring will be conducted by DCR staff and a consultant. DCR staff and project designated Tribal elder will create Indigenous Health Indicators (IHIs)	May-July 25	Vegetation inventory post-project, post-project drone imagery, IHIs

Exhibit A
Scope of Work and Schedule of Products

Task 3.3	Final report; DCR and consultant will compile a final report summarizing the thinning project and Forest Management Plan. The final report will integrate comments from draft report to CEC staff.	Oct-25	Forest management plan, draft report due August 2025, final report due October 2025
Task 4. Administration <i>(Add additional Tasks and table rows as needed)</i>	Bimonthly status updates Quarterly invoicing	Aug 2024 - October 2025	Summaries, invoices, reports