



**CALIFORNIA  
ENERGY COMMISSION**



**California Energy Commission  
February 12, 2025 Business Meeting  
Backup Materials for Yurok Tribe**

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

**[PROPOSED]**

**RESOLUTION NO: 25-212-08j**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE ENERGY RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RESOLUTION: Yurok Tribe**

**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-24-018 with Yurok Tribe for a \$200,000 grant. This agreement will explore using cultural burning as a nature-based solution for climate adaptation and integrate Yurok Traditional Ecological Knowledge with Western scientific methods and create culturally informed land treatment protocols for tribal lands in Del Norte and Humboldt counties. Findings of this project will contribute to enhancing the quality and quantity of traditional foods, reducing catastrophic wildfire fuel, and improving forest health as part of the Tribe's ongoing traditional foods restoration initiative; 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 February 12, 2025.

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Dated:

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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-24-018

### B. Division Information

1. Division Name: Siting, Transmission, Environmental Protection
2. Agreement Manager: Myoung-Ae Jones
3. MS-: N/A
4. Phone Number: 279-226-1091

### C. Recipient's Information

1. Recipient's Legal Name: Yurok Tribe
2. Federal ID Number: 68-0178020

### D. Title of Project

Title of project: Yurok Traditional Food Systems Climate Resiliency

### E. Term and Amount

1. Start Date: 2/14/2025
2. End Date: 10/31/2026
3. Amount: \$200,000

### F. Business Meeting Information

1. Are the ARFVTP agreements \$75K and under delegated to Executive Director? No
2. The Proposed Business Meeting Date: 02-12-25
3. Consent or Discussion? Discussion
4. Business Meeting Presenter Name: Myoung-Ae Jones
5. Time Needed for Business Meeting: 5 minutes
6. The email subscription topic: Climate Change; Tribal

#### **Agenda Item Subject and Description:**

YUROK TRIBE. Proposed resolution approving agreement TCA-24-018 with Yurok Tribe for a \$200,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will explore using cultural burning as a nature-based solution for climate adaptation and integrate Yurok Traditional Ecological Knowledge with Western scientific methods and create culturally informed land treatment protocols for tribal lands in Del Norte and Humboldt counties. Findings of this project will contribute to enhancing the quality and quantity of traditional foods, reducing catastrophic wildfire fuel, and improving forest health as part of the Tribe's ongoing traditional foods restoration initiative. (STEP funding) Contact: Myoung-Ae Jones (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":

**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?

Yes

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: CCR 15304

Cal.Code Regs., title 14, Section 15304 provides that minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes.

The Project activities will be carried out on sites located on tribal lands in Klamath (Del Norte County) and Weitchpec (Humboldt County). The Recipient will first gather data on cultural burning, traditional foods (tanoak acorns, berries, mushrooms), plant and tree health, and on wildfire fuel reduction to create a traditional, culturally informed land treatment protocol. The recipient will conduct targeted cultural burns on candidate parcels, up to 20 acres in size to collect pre-and-post-burn data, pursuant to the protocols. In preparation of the targeted burns, the Recipient will pretreat the ground by clearing out and piling the underbrush. The cultural burn activities will be then carried out in partnership with the Yurok Tribe Environmental Department, Yurok Fire Department, and Cultural Fire Management Council and will not damage any of the old growth trees, nor will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. As this project consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and falls under the exemption 14 C.C.R. § 15304



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

No

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

The Common Sense Exemption under 14 CCR 15061 (b) (3) provides 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.

The entire proposed project consists of information gathering and testing of cultural burning practices on Yurok Tribal land. In order 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 off-reservation impacts of the project. This project is exempt under the "common sense" CEQA exemption because the proposed project will not: construct on or alter any off-reservation land; impact local air quality; use groundwater resources or otherwise impact any off-reservation water resources; build additional transportation infrastructure; increase vehicle miles traveled; increase ambient noise beyond the existing activities; or degrade the visual character or quality of off-reservation views, including those of scenic resources or objects of aesthetic significance.

Because the proposed project does not provide for any physical changes outside of the Yurok Tribe's reservation, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the off-reservation environment. Based on all these factors, the proposed project meets the CEQA "common sense" exemption.

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**



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 Videographer                    | \$ 5,000  | \$0         |
| TBD Cultural Burning Implementation | \$ 50,000 | \$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 or sellers to report  | \$0       | \$0         |

#### 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       |
|--------------------------------------|
| Yurok Tribe Environmental Department |
| Yurok Fire Department                |
| Yurok Fire Management Council        |

#### 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   | 2021                          | 701.105            | \$200,000 |

**TOTAL Amount:** \$200,000

R&D Program Area: 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: Louisa McCovey

Address: P.O. Box 1027

City, State, Zip: Klamath, CA 95548

Phone: 707-482-1350

E-Mail: LoMcCovey@Yuroktribe.nsn.us

**2. Recipient's Project Manager**

Name: Joe Hostler

Address: P.O. Box 1027

City, State, Zip: Klamath, CA 95548

Phone: 707-951-3920

E-Mail: JHostler@Yuroktribe.nsn.us

**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-23-701r2           |
| 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.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

**Agreement Manager:** Myoung-Ae Jones

**Approval Date:** 1/13/2025

**Cultural Resources Unit Supervisor:** Gabriel Roark

**Approval Date:** 01/13/2025

**Office Manager:** Brett Fooks

**Approval Date:** 01/13/25

**Deputy Director:** Dian Vorters

**Approval Date:** 01/13/2025

## EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

**Name of Applicant:** Yurok Tribe

**Proposal Title:** Yurok Traditional Food Systems Climate Resiliency

| Tasks  | Activities   | Timetable in months          | Deliverable(s)  |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Task 1.</b> Phase 1 – Research Design<br>- create restoration treatment protocols             | Gather existing forest restoration and prescribed and cultural burn protocols while evaluating climate change impacts on traditional foods (tanoak acorns, berries, mushrooms) plant and tree data, and catastrophic wildfire fuel reduction to create food forest restoration protocols guided by indigenous knowledge. | March 2025 – February 2026   | A traditional culturally informed land treatment protocol.  |
| <b>Task 2.</b> Project Implementation planning and permitting                                    | Coordinate with the Yurok Tribal Council, Natural Resources Committee, Cultural Committee, and the Office of the Attorney for formalized permission to conduct cultural burns on the identified candidate parcel, ensuring stakeholder involvement.  | March 2025 – February 2026   | Formalized permission (and other permits, if needed) to conduct cultural burning on identified candidate parcel |
| <b>Task 3.</b> Create Data Collection Plan   | Collaborate with Yurok cultural practitioners and researchers who have conducted similar work and create a data collection plan to evaluate traditional foods quality and quantity, forest health, and catastrophic wildfire fuel on the identified land parcel.   | October 2025 – February 2026 | Data Collection Plan for project.   |
| <b>Task 4.</b> Phase 2 – Prescribed Burning and Data Collection/Reporting<br>- Develop Burn Plan | As a collaborative effort, create a burn plan for the identified parcel, updating as needed for each burn season.  | October 2025 – August 2026   | Site Burn Plan  |
| <b>Task 5.</b> Data Collection and Analysis  | Conduct planned cultural burning and collect pre-and-post-burn data. Analyze data to evaluate the impacts of conducting cultural burning and create a shareable version for stakeholders.  | July 2025- February 2026     | Summary report on pre-and-post-burn data and analysis   |

## EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Task 6.</b> Conduct Burns                      | In partnership with the Yurok Fire Department and Cultural Fire Management Council, conduct prescribed/cultural burns in the identified study area as weather permits.  | September 2025 – December 2025   | Prescribed burns conducted.  |
| <b>Task 7.</b> Create a short informational video | Contract with videographer to create a short informative video to showcase lessons learned. Consult with Cultural Committee before publicly sharing to ensure cultural sensitivity.   | August 2025-March 2026   | Informational Video for Public Education   |
| <b>Task 8.</b> Administrative Task                | <p>Coordinate with all project partners to evaluate current status of grant activities to report to the Yurok Tribal Council and California Energy Commission as appropriate.</p> <p>Final Report: Prepare shareable documents regarding project results as deemed appropriate by the Yurok Tribal Council and Cultural Committees to share with other indigenous communities and stakeholders.</p> <p>Quarterly invoices</p> | <p>March 2025-August 2026</p> <p>March 2026-August 2026</p> <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>Monthly Yurok Tribal Council Status Reports in Bimonthly Status Report email to CAM</p> <p>Bimonthly call summaries in email to CAM</p> <p>Draft and Final Report</p> <p>Invoices</p> |