



**CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION**



**California Energy Commission
July 10, 2024 Business Meeting
Backup Materials for Karuk 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: 24-0710-14c

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

RESOLUTION: Karuk 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-24-004 with Karuk Tribe for a \$200,000 grant. The Karuk Tribe will focus on restoring traditional food sources to Karuk community gathering areas in Karuk Aboriginal Territory. Karuk staff will gather seed and grow plants in a traditional food nursery at the Tishaniik Tribal Farm, identifying which traditional foods will thrive in the low elevation river climate at the farm, and how those plants can be returned to burned areas and tended to survive into maturity. This project will address the concerns that climate change has brought to traditional food sources by adding a traditional food component to the Tishaniik Tribal Farm; 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-24-004

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: Karuk Tribe
2. Federal ID Number: 94-2576572

D. Title of Project

Title of project: Karuk Traditional Food Restoration

E. Term and Amount

1. Start Date: 8/1/2024
2. End Date: 3/31/2026
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: 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:

KARUK TRIBE. Proposed resolution approving agreement TCA-24-004 with Karuk Tribe for a \$200,000 grant and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Karuk Tribe will focus on restoring traditional food sources to Karuk community gathering areas in Karuk Aboriginal Territory. Karuk staff will gather seed and grow plants in a traditional food nursery at the Tishaniik Tribal Farm, identifying which traditional foods will thrive in the low elevation river climate at the farm, and how those plants can be returned to burned areas and tended to survive into maturity. This project will address the concerns that climate change has brought to traditional food sources by adding a traditional food component to the Tishaniik Tribal Farm. (STEP funding) Contact: Quenby Lum

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.

The proposed project consists of small-scale nursery production of native plants which will be grown from seed and small soil samples collected by hand from select sites throughout Karuk Ancestral Territory. The nursery will be on the existing Tishaniik Tribal Farm, which has been in operation by the Karuk Tribe since 2020. The seed and soil-collecting sites, requiring no to minimal disturbance, will be from properties that are already active restoration sites. All proposed project activities will be on a small fee-title parcel owned by the Karuk Tribe.

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 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 Karuk 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.

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



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
Jenny Stormy Staats	\$ 10,000	\$0
Verna Reece	\$ 3,950	\$0
Kathy McCovey	\$ 3,950	\$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
GF	21/22	701.105	\$ 200,000

TOTAL Amount: \$ 200,000

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: Neva Gibbens
Address: PO Box 1016
City, State, Zip: Happy Camp, CA 96019
Phone:
E-Mail: ngibbens@karuk.us

3. Recipient’s Project Manager

Name: Neva Gibbens
Address: PO Box 1016
City, State, Zip: Happy Camp, CA 96019
Phone:
E-Mail: ngibbens@karuk.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-23-701
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: Quenby Lum



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

Approval Date: 5/20/2024

Cultural Resources Unit Supervisor: Gabriel Roark

Approval Date: 05/21/2024

Integration Unit Supervisor: Kyle Emigh

Approval Date: 5/29/2024

Deputy Director: Dian Vorters

Approval Date: 05/21/2024

EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

Name of Recipient: Karuk Tribe

Project Title: Karuk Traditional Food Restoration

The overall purpose of this project is to bring Karuk Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into the restoration of landscapes and native plant food sources, and to explore how that TEK can be applied to environments that have already been dramatically altered by impacts from climate change, namely catastrophic wildfires. Examples of foods that will potentially be chosen are Indian potatoes, elderberries, Native blackberries, and sugar pines.

Tasks	Activities	Timetable in months	Product(s)/ Deliverable(s)
Task 1. Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Food Sovereignty Conference and network with other Tribes about related activities 	August 2024 – June 2025	N/A
Task 2a. TEK Elder and Cultural Practitioner Interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct interviews of elders and cultural practitioners about the loss of traditional food sources and the potential reasons behind these losses Film interviews for future editing and archiving 	August 2024 – November 2024	Aggregated data summarizing number of interviews and topics covered; submitted with respective quarterly report
Task 2b. TEK Data Synthesis and Implementation Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile data gathered from interviews and synthesize to inform decisions about which foods will be prioritized for nursery production to support restoration of their natural habitats for future stewardship and gathering 	September 2024 – December 2024	Data Brief summarizing research findings and outlining priority-setting approach used to inform nursery planning and production; submitted with respective quarterly report

EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

Tasks	Activities	Timetable in months	Product(s)/ Deliverable(s)
Task 2c. Public Information Sharing and Record Archiving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit interview footage into educational videos to be stored on the Karuk Media Vimeo page; editing will include removal of sensitive information¹ that should not be publicly available Archive more sensitive data in Karuk’s Sipnuuk Library 	September 2024 – December 2024	<p>Edited educational videos; posted to public online location</p> <p>Sensitive information removed from public access, archived under Karuk Tribe IP / data sharing protocols</p>
Task 3a. Gathering of Seeds and Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify locations, timing, and quality parameters for gathering seeds from plants identified during Task 2 Gather seeds Gather soil from seed-gathering sites and fire-affected sites Create log of seeds collected, including dates, locations, and related information 	September 2024 – September 2025	Summary of seed types collected with sensitive information on locations redacted; submitted with respective quarterly report.
Task 3b. Preparing Native Plants Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare space for storing and growing seeds for native food plants at existing Tishaanik Tribal Farm and KDNR offices Create nursery production plan, including seed treatment methods and production timelines 	September 2024 – March 2025	Nursery production plan and photos of nursery set up; submitted with respective quarterly report.
Task 3c. Production of Nursery Plant Stock and Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare experiment set up – labeling soil types and seed stock used for planting Grow out 3-5 plant species, estimated between 20 – 50 specimens per type to desired maturity Record results of plant growth, overall health, and other characteristics 	March 2025 – March 2026	Photos and summary of plants produced and details on germplasm, soils, growing conditions, and production results; submitted with respective quarterly report.

¹ For purposes of this Agreement, “sensitive information” includes, and is not limited to, any confidential information under California law.

EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

Tasks	Activities	Timetable in months	Product(s)/ Deliverable(s)
<p>Task 3d.</p> <p>Nursery Data Evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluate results of nursery production, including answering the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How well did the native plants do in nursery environment (seed germination rates and observed plant health)? ○ Can high elevation plants be grown well at the Tishaanik Farm site? ○ What locations produced viable seed? ○ What soil type(s) produced the highest seed germination rate and the healthiest plants? 	<p>July 2025 – March 2026</p>	<p>Aggregated data summarizing results of nursery experiment, redacting sensitive information where applicable; submitted with respective quarterly report.</p>
<p>Task 4.</p> <p>Future Native Food Plant Restoration Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consult with Tribal staff and Tribal elders and cultural practitioners to identify future sites and plant selections for restoration and to identify planting schemes specific to plant types and locations 	<p>September 2025-March 2026</p>	<p>List of future sites, plant selections, and relevant planting schemes for future restoration activities.</p>
<p>Task 5a.</p> <p>Administrative Tasks: Project Kickoff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Team formation and preliminary planning for project activities 	<p>August 2024</p>	<p>N/A</p>

EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

Tasks	Activities	Timetable in months	Product(s)/ Deliverable(s)
Task 5b. Administrative Tasks: Bi-Monthly Status Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Email a summary every two months to the CAM ● Schedule a follow up call with the CAM to discuss project status updates. 	August 2024- March 2026	Brief email summary to report if project is on track or requires adjustment
Task 5c. Administrative Tasks: Quarterly Invoicing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invoice on a quarterly basis using the template invoice spreadsheet provided 	August 2024- March 2026	Template invoice and supporting documents as required
Task 5d. Administrative Tasks: Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Submit a draft final report. ● Submit final report. 	October 2025 – March 2026	Draft and Final report providing demonstration of project results and outcomes