



**CALIFORNIA  
ENERGY COMMISSION**



**California Energy Commission  
July 10, 2024 Business Meeting  
Backup Materials for Mono Lake Kutzadika Indian Community Cultural  
Preservation Association**

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: 24-0710-14e**

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

**RESOLUTION: Mono Lake Kutzadika Indian Community Cultural Preservation  
Association**

**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-24-006 with Mono Lake Kutzadika Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association for an \$81,701 grant. This project will document and better understand traditional stewardship practices within pinyon pine forests in or near Lee Vining. Pinyon pine forests are the source of Tuba'a, a large nut that provides an important traditional food for the Tribe. Today with climate change, there are notable changes to pinyon forests, but the changes could be attributed to climate change, past agency management, disruption of traditional stewardship, or some combination of these and other factors. Documenting the changing dynamics of pinyon pine forests will allow for a more focused direction in managing the forests using traditional stewardship and Western science; 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:

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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-24-006

### 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: Mono Lake Kutzadika Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association
2. Federal ID Number: 91-1908363

### D. Title of Project

Title of project: Pinyon Pine Traditional Stewardship Study

### E. Term and Amount

1. Start Date: 8/1/2024
2. End Date: 3/31/2026
3. Amount: \$81,701

### 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:**

MONO LAKE KUTZADIKA INDIAN COMMUNITY CULTURAL PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION. Proposed resolution approving agreement TCA-24-006 with Mono Lake Kutzadika Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association for an \$81,701 grant, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. This project will document and better understand traditional stewardship practices within pinyon pine forests in or near Lee Vining. Pinyon pine forests are the source of Tuba'a, a large nut that provides an important traditional food for the Tribe. Today with climate change, there are notable changes to pinyon forests, but the changes could be attributed to climate change, past agency management, disruption of traditional stewardship, or some combination of these and other factors. Documenting the changing dynamics of pinyon pine forests will allow for a more focused direction in managing the forests using traditional stewardship and Western science. (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?

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: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15304 ; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15306 ;

#### 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 project is located entirely on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM has worked closely with the Mono Lake Kutzadika Tribe (Tribe) to set aside 1,000 acres of public lands managed by the BLM for use in Tribal Stewardship. The BLM has completed the requisite environmental documentation such that this project is an allowable activity within the 1,000 acres.

This project involves fuels reduction and pile burning in pinyon pine forests surrounding Mono Lake in eastern California. Fire will be used in the project simulation of tribal activities. The BLM has already approved the use of fire during the fall and winter and has offered the support of firefighting crews to participate to ensure the fires do not escape and start a wildfire.

The project’s traditional tribal forestry stewardship practices, include, but are not limited to, dead vegetation clearing; burn piles; seeding; monitoring; and removal of some pinyon and juniper trees and shrubs to try to improve the health and resiliency



of remaining trees, and to provide good access for pine nut harvest, and to improve the health of other resources, such as open shrublands and springs, meadows, and other mesic ecosystems.

On April 30, 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management completed a Categorical Exemption (CatEx) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regarding the Mono Lake Kutzadika'a Rancheria Gulch Tribal Stewardship Project on the proposed 1,000 acres. The CatEx evaluates the proposed forest management techniques; sets forth conditions to protect environmental resources; evaluates pile burning as part of the project; and evaluates consistency with various government plans and requirements. The CatEx finds that the project is consistent with government plans and requirements and will have a variety of benefits, including environmental benefits to the forest. The CatEx finds that no further analysis under NEPA is necessary (under 43 CFR 46.215).

The California Energy Commission has reviewed the BLM's CatEx and other project information and used its independent judgment to determine that potential environmental impacts have been sufficiently considered and will not be significant, and no mitigation measures under CEQA are necessary.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Section 15304 provides that projects which consist 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 and agricultural purposes, and which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. An example within this exemption category is subsection 15304(i), which covers fuel management activities within 30 feet of structures to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. Based on the BLM's environmental analysis of the proposed project, the project is also exempt under CEQA.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Section 15306 provides that projects consisting of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource, are exempt from CEQA. This project fits within this 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
No subcontractors to report	\$	\$

**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	\$ 81,701

**TOTAL Amount: \$ 81,701**

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: Dean Tonenna

Address: 296 Mattly Avenue

City, State, Zip: Lee Vining, CA 93541

Phone:

E-Mail: dtonenna@gmail.com

**3. Recipient’s Project Manager**

Name: Dean Tonenna

Address: 296 Mattly Avenue

City, State, Zip: Lee Vining, CA 93541

Phone:

E-Mail: dtonenna@gmail.com

**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”.



<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Item Name</b>	<b>Attached</b>
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

**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:** 05/21/24

## EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

Name of Recipient: Mono Lake Kutzadika Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association

Project Title: Pinyon Pine Traditional Stewardship Study

Tasks	Activities	Timetable in months	Product(s)/ Deliverable(s)
<p><b>Task 1. Order equipment needed for the project. Start discussions with the Fifth Climate Assessment Tribal Author Team. Subsequent meetings with the Author Teams will be determined during the discussion.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Place online orders for the equipment and specialty software and await delivery.</li> <li>2. Become familiar with the equipment for use in the field.</li> <li>3. Begin initial engagement with the Fifth Climate Assessment Tribal Author Team on including the findings of this study in their report.</li> </ol>	<p>August 1-31, 2024</p>	<p>No deliverables for Task 1.</p>
<p><b>Task 2. Collect data in preparation for Indigenous knowledge holder interviews.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Document the pinyon pine forest in preparation for indigenous knowledge holder interviews.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Use a commercial drone to record aerial video and still frame images of the pinyon pine forest.</li> <li>b. Use a high-quality camera to capture aspects of the pinyon pine forest from a ground view.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Combine the imagery to share with indigenous knowledge holders in</li> </ol>	<p>September 1-30, 2024</p>	<p>Information will be packaged into an Esri app such as Story Map or Experience Builder and shared with the Tribe via a link emailed to Tribal points of contact.</p>

**EXHIBIT A**  
**Scope of Work**

	the event where the knowledge holder is unable to visit the pinyon pine forest for an interview.		
<b>Task 3. Submit quarterly invoice for equipment purchases</b>	3. Submit quarterly invoice for equipment purchases.	September 1-30, 2024	No deliverables for Task 3.
<b>Task 4. Conduct interviews with indigenous knowledge holders.</b>  <b>Conduct bimonthly status check with identified CEC points of contact.</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct interviews with a traditional knowledge holders to document traditional stewardship and lifeways within the pinyon pine forest.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Record the interviews using video, audio, or text recording equipment attached to a laptop computer.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Transcribe the interview and edit with editing software as needed.</li> <li>3. Email CEC points of contact to submit progress updates and to schedule a call for a more detailed progress update.</li> </ol>	October 1-31, 2024	<p>The transcribed and edited interview will be provided to the traditional indigenous knowledge holder and to the Tribe via email.</p> <p>Email a project progress update document to the identified CEC point of contact.</p>
<b>Task 5. Conduct remote sensing data collection. Provide quarterly grant reporting to the CEC.</b>  <b>Collaborate with Professor Li from Cal Poly Pomona on data review.</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Document the condition of the pinyon pine forest.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Use a commercial drone to take remotely sensed data of the proposed study area using multispectral</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	August 1 – September 30, 2024	<p>No deliverables for Task 5 relating to the project, as this information will be provided in the final report.</p> <p>A quarterly report and invoicing will be submitted via email to the CEC on the project progress.</p>

## EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

	<p>and LiDAR sensors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Using specialty software, merge the imagery and conduct a vegetation classification to produce a vegetation map showing dominant species and density of pinyon pine trees.</li> <li>c. Use the LiDAR data to create a digital elevation model to create a highly accurate contour map of the study area. This will help identify suitable pinyon nut harvest sites.</li> </ul> <p>2. Submit quarterly reports to the CEC. Schedule virtual meetings as agreed upon based on project needs.</p>		
<p><b>Task 6. Conduct traditional lifeways simulations to measure the effects of traditional activities on fireproofing the forest floor.</b></p>	<p>1. Using insights from the interviews and remotely sensed data, locate suitable areas for a pinyon harvesting camp and</p>	<p>September 1-October 31, 2024</p>	<p>No deliverables for Task 6 relating to the project, as this information will be provided in the final report.</p>

## EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

<p><b>Conduct bimonthly status check with identified CEC points of contact.</b></p>	<p>simulate pinyon harvesting activities using fire as a tool for stewardship and harvesting. The simulation is to determine the temporospatial effects that traditional lifeways have on fireproofing the pinyon pine forest.</p> <p>a. Assuming a good pinyon seed yield, locate areas with a moderate to heavy amount of dead and downed pinyon trees for use as the energy source for traditional lifeways. The area should not be overly steep such that it would be difficult to camp and conduct traditional pinyon pine harvesting practices. Use a western science method of using a measured tape transect to calculate the fuel loading of the selected site prior to the removal of</p>		<p>Email a project progress update document to the identified CEC point of contact.</p>
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**EXHIBIT A**  
**Scope of Work**

	<p>any dead and downed wood. This will provide information that will be correlated with the indigenous knowledge and stewardship data.</p> <p>b. Build three traditional winter houses using available dead and downed logs Measure the volume of the wood used to construct the winter houses, using standard volumetric calculations for trees.</p> <p>2. Gather sufficient firewood to make three fires for one day, that would be needed for an autumn day at 7,000 ft amsl. and calculate the volume of the wood. Make three fires during the day to simulate and validate the traditional lifeways energy needs for one day. Continue this approach to collect and calculate the volume of wood needed for a week. No need to burn the</p>		
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**EXHIBIT A  
Scope of Work**

	<p>wood unless further calibration is needed.</p> <p>3. Email CEC points of contact to submit progress updates and to schedule a call for a more detailed progress update.</p>		
<p><b>Task 7. Conduct traditional pine nut harvesting simulations to measure the effects of these activities on fireproofing the forest floor.</b></p> <p><b>Conduct bimonthly status check with identified CEC points of contact. Submit quarterly grant reporting to the CEC.</b></p>	<p>1. Using insights from the interviews and remotely sensed data, locate suitable areas for a pinyon harvesting camp and simulate pinyon harvesting activities using fire as a tool for stewardship and harvesting. The simulation is to determine the temporospatial effects that traditional lifeways have on fireproofing the pinyon pine forest.</p> <p>a. Gather sufficient firewood to simulate the processing of closed green pine cones where heat from the fire opens up the cones allowing the nuts to be extracted from the cones. Prior to burning, calculate the volume of wood. Continue gathering wood to</p>	<p>November 1-30, 2024</p>	<p>No deliverables for Task 7 relating to the project, as this information will be provided in the final report.</p> <p>Email a project progress update document to the identified CEC point of contact.</p> <p>A quarterly report and invoicing will be submitted via email to the CEC on the project progress.</p>

**EXHIBIT A**  
**Scope of Work**

	<p style="text-align: center;">simulate 10 closed green pinecone processing and calculate the volume of wood gathered.</p>		
<p><b>Task 8. Map the areas where simulations occurred and where extrapolations of the data are made.</b></p>	<p>Once three weeks of simulations are complete using dead and downed wood,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Use a GNSS device to map the area of cleared dead and downed wood to determine the extent of fuelwood collection.</li> <li>b. Use a western science method of using a measured tape transect to calculate the fuel loading within the mapped area to determine the fuel loading once most of the dead and downed wood has been removed under the simulations.</li> </ol> <p>2. Email CEC points of contact to submit progress updates and to schedule a call for a more</p>	<p>November 1-30, 2024</p>	<p>No deliverables for Task 8 as this information will be provided in the final report.</p>

**EXHIBIT A  
Scope of Work**

	detailed progress update.		
<p><b>Task 9. Analyze the data and write a baseline report of current existing conditions.</b></p> <p><b>Collaborate with Professor Li from Cal Poly Pomona on data review.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once the fuel load calculations are made, write a baseline study report of current conditions. This data will serve as baseline data of a fireproofed area. Future revisits to these sites will allow additional fuel load calculations to be done to determine the time it takes for natural processes to return the site to the fuel loading that existed prior to the simulations. This information would inform the Tribe and agency partners on the time-effectiveness of traditional stewardship and lifeways have in fireproofing areas within pinyon pine forests.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Use the remotely sensed data and ground observations to locate similar suitable locations and extrapolate the fuelwood clearing effect and extent on suitable areas based on estimates of the number of</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	December 1-31, 2024	This baseline information will be provided to the Tribe for future studies.

## EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

	<p>Kootzaduka family groups that would be within the pinyon pine forest at the same time. The spacing of family groups would be based on the amount of dead and downed fuelwood that is available. The extrapolations would be done in a geographic information system.</p>		
<p><b>Task 10. Conduct the final analysis and prepare final report visualizations.</b></p> <p><b>Conduct bimonthly status check with identified CEC points of contact.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct the analysis for the data that has been collected.</li> <li>2. Prepare visualizations that will be included in the final report such as charts, graphs, drawings, and maps.</li> <li>3. Email CEC points of contact to submit progress updates and to schedule a call for a more detailed progress update.</li> </ol>	<p>January 1-31, 2025</p>	<p>No deliverables for Task 10 regarding the project as this information will be provided in the final report.</p> <p>Email a project progress update document to the identified CEC point of contact.</p>
<p><b>Task 11. Write a draft of the final report. Submit quarterly grant reporting to the CEC.</b></p> <p><b>Collaborate with Professor Li from Cal Poly Pomona on data review and analysis peer review of reports.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with the Tribe to write the draft final report.</li> <li>2. Submit the draft report to the Fifth Climate Assessment Tribal Author Team for possible inclusion into their report.</li> </ol>	<p>February 1-29, 2025</p>	<p>The final report will be submitted to the Tribe via email. The Tribe will review the document and make edits based on what information is not to be shared. The Tribally approved final document will be sent</p>

**EXHIBIT A**  
**Scope of Work**

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Based on feedback from relevant reviewers, finalize the document.</li> </ol>		via email to the Fifth Climate Assessment Tribal Author Team for inclusion into their report.
<p><b>Task 12. Prepare and submit final administrative reporting to the CEC designated points of contact.</b></p> <p><b>Conduct bimonthly status check with identified CEC points of contact.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare and submit for review final administrative reports to close out the project.</li> <li>2. Based on feedback, make edits to the administrative reports and submit the final documents.</li> <li>3. Email CEC points of contact to submit progress updates and to schedule a call for a more detailed progress update.</li> </ol>	March 1-31, 2025	<p>Final administrative reports will be submitted via email to the identified personnel in charge of the grant closeout.</p> <p>Email a project progress update document to the identified CEC point of contact.</p>
<p><b>Task 13. Continue communication with the Fifth Climate Assessment Tribal Author Team on their report.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review input from the Fifth Climate Assessment Tribal Author Team of the project report that was submitted to them for inclusion into the report.</li> </ol>	April 1-30, 2025	Email a revised final report to the Fifth Climate Assessment Tribal Author Team based upon their feedback.
<p><b>Task 14. Continue communication with the Fifth Climate Assessment Tribal Author Team on their report as needed.</b></p> <p><b>Conduct bimonthly status check with identified CEC points of contact.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue communications with the Fifth Climate Assessment Tribal Author Team and assist as requested.</li> <li>2. Email CEC points of contact to submit progress updates and to schedule a call for a more detailed progress update.</li> </ol>	May 1-31, 2025	<p>Email information to the Fifth Climate Assessment Tribal Author Team as requested.</p> <p>Email a project progress update document to the identified CEC point of contact.</p>