

**State of California
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
Office of the State Fire Marshal
GRANT AGREEMENT**

APPLICANT: Central Ventura County Fire Safe Council, Inc.
PROJECT TITLE: Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative
GRANT AGREEMENT: 5GA22230
PROJECT PERFORMANCE PERIOD is from date of latter signature by CAL FIRE Deputy Director or Grantee through March 15, 2029.

Under the terms and conditions of this Grant Agreement, the applicant agrees to complete the project as described in the project description, and the State of California, acting through the Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, agrees to fund the project up the total state grant amount indicated.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The goal of the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative is to engage and empower Ventura County's most vulnerable, high fire risk communities in order to engender lasting security from wildfire. This will be accomplished through the adoption of three cutting-edge interventions in the fields of education, Firewise development, and fuels treatment. This project aims to serve the entirety of Ventura County, but focuses fuel treatment efforts within 392 acres.

Total State Grant not to exceed \$ **2,938,615.40** (or project costs, whichever is less).

**The Special and General Provisions attached are made a part of and incorporated into this Grant Agreement.*

Central Ventura County Fire Safe Council, Inc.

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
AND FIRE PROTECTION**

Applicant

By


Signature of Authorized Representative

By

DocuSigned by:

DD5F1414AC554F2...

Print Name/

Title: Stephen Watson, Executive Director

Title: Daniel Berlant, Deputy Director

Date

10/27/2023

Date

12/27/2023

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDING

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 5GA22230	PO ID	SUPPLIER ID 000022238
FUND 0001	FUND NAME General Fund	
PROJECT ID 22WFFPGRANTS	ACTIVITY ID GRANTS	AMOUNT OF ESTIMATE FUNDING \$ 2,938,615.40
GL UNIT 3540	BUD REF 101	ADJ. INCREASING ENCUMBRANCE \$ 0.00
PROGRAM NUMBER 2465010	ENY 2022	ADJ. DECREASING ENCUMBRANCE \$ 0.00
ACCOUNT 5340580	ALT ACCOUNT 5340580000	UNENCUMBERED BALANCE \$ 2,938,615.40
REPORTING STRUCTURE 35405909	SERVICE LOCATION 91047	

Acknowledged - I hereby certify upon my personal knowledge that budgeted funds are available for this encumbrance.

DocuSigned by:

Certification of CAL FIRE Accounting Officer

1/2/2024

Date

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Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF GRANT AGREEMENT

I. RECITALS

1. This Agreement, is entered into between the State of California, by and through the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), hereinafter referred to as "STATE" and, Central Ventura County Fire Safe Council, Inc. hereinafter referred to as "GRANTEE".
2. The STATE hereby grants to GRANTEE a sum (hereinafter referred to as "GRANT FUNDS") not to exceed Two Million, Nine Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred Fifteen Dollars and Forty Cents (\$2,938,615.40).
3. In addition to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the STATE and GRANTEE agree that the terms and conditions contained in the documents set forth below are hereby incorporated and made part of this agreement.
 - a. California Climate Investments Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Wildfire Prevention Grants Program Procedural Guide 2022-2023
 - b. The submitted Application, Scope of Work, Project Workbook, GHG Emissions Workbook and Exhibits
 - c. ADDENDUM – WILDFIRE PREVENTION GRANT PROJECTS

II. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. Recipients of GRANT FUNDS pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section §4124.5 shall abide by the provisions in this Agreement. This includes the requirement that work shall not commence prior to the execution of this Agreement by both parties. Any work started prior to the execution of this Agreement will not be eligible for funding under the terms of this Agreement.
2. As precedent to the STATE's obligation to provide funding, GRANTEE shall provide to the STATE for review and approval a detailed budget, specifications, and project description. Approval by the STATE of such plans and specifications, or any other approvals provided for in this Agreement, shall be for scope and quality of work, and shall not relieve GRANTEE of the obligation to carry out any other obligations required by this Agreement, in accordance with applicable law or any other standards ordinarily applied to such work or activity.
3. All informational products (e.g., data, studies, findings, management plans, manuals, photos, etc.) relating to California's natural environment produced with the use of GRANT FUNDS shall be available for public use.

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III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Definitions

- a. The term "Agreement" means grant agreement number 5GA22230.
- b. The term "GRANT FUNDS" means the money provided by the STATE to the GRANTEE in this Agreement.
- c. The term "GRANTEE" means an applicant who has a signed Agreement for the award for GRANT FUNDS.
- d. The term "Other Sources of Funds" means all matching fund sources that are required or used to complete the Project beyond the GRANT FUNDS provided by this Agreement.
- e. The term "STATE" means the State of California, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).
- f. The term "Project" means the development or other activity described in the "Project Scope of Work".
- g. The term "Project Budget Detail" as used herein defines the approved budget plan.
- h. The term "Project Scope of Work" as used herein means the individual scope of work describing in detail the approved tasks.

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2. Project Representatives

The project representatives during the term of the agreement will be:

STATE: CAL FIRE	GRANTEE: Central Ventura County Fire Safe Council, Inc.
Section/Unit: VNC - Ventura County	Section/Unit: N/A
Attention: Celine Moomey	Attention: Stephen Watson
Mailing Address: 2471 Latigo Ave. Oxnard, CA 93030	Mailing Address: 5156 McGrath St., Suite 101 Ventura, CA 93003
Phone Number: (805) 388-4591	Phone Number: (805) 746-7365
Email Address: Celine.Moomey@ventura.org	Email Address: info@venturafiresafe.org

Changes to the project representatives during the term of the agreement shall be made in writing. Notice shall be sent to the above representative for all notice provisions of this Agreement.

3. Project Execution

- a. Subject to the availability of grant monies, the STATE hereby grants to the GRANTEE a sum of money (GRANT FUNDS) not to exceed the amount stated on Section I. RECITALS, Paragraph 2 in consideration of and on condition that the sum be expended in carrying out the purposes as set forth in the description of the Project in this Agreement and its attachments and under the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.
- b. GRANTEE shall assume any obligation to furnish any additional funds that may be necessary to complete the Project. Any amendment to the Project as set forth in the Application on file with the STATE must be submitted to the STATE for approval in writing. No amendment is allowed until written approval is given by the STATE.
- c. GRANTEE shall complete the Project in accordance with the time of Project performance set forth in this Agreement, unless an amendment has been approved and signed by the STATE under the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Amendments must be requested in advance and will be considered in the event of circumstances beyond the control of the GRANTEE, but no less than 60 days from the Agreement expiration date. The STATE may waive the minimum timeframe for amendments at their discretion. Approval of amendment is at the STATE's discretion.

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- d. GRANTEE certifies that the Project Scope of Work complies with all local, State, and federal laws and regulations.
- e. GRANTEE shall comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et. seq. Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15000 et. seq.) and all other local, State, and federal environmental laws. A copy of the certified CEQA document must be provided to STATE before any GRANT FUNDS are made available for any Project activity that could directly impact the environment (e.g. cutting, piling or burning bush, masticating, dozer work, etc.). CEQA compliance shall be completed within one (1) year from start date of the Agreement. The start date is considered the latter date of signature by the Grantee Authorized Representative or CAL FIRE Deputy Director. GRANT FUNDS will be made available in advance of CEQA compliance for project activities that do not have the potential to cause a direct environmental impact (e.g. project planning, locating and marking property or project boundaries, contacting and signing up landowners, etc.).
- f. GRANTEE shall permit periodic site visits by representative(s) of the STATE to ensure program compliance and that work is in accordance with the approved Project Scope of Work, including a final inspection upon Project completion.
- g. GRANTEE, and the agents and employees of GRANTEE, in the performance of this Agreement, shall act in an independent capacity and not as officers, employees, or agents, of the STATE. No person who, as an officer, employee, or agent of the STATE participated in the preparation or creation of or determination to award this Grant Agreement shall serve as an agent or employee of GRANTEE including but not limited to those acts prohibited by Government Code Sections 1090, and 87100.

4. Project Costs and Payment Documentation

- a. Payment by the STATE shall be made after receipt of an acceptable invoice and approval by a duly authorized representative of the STATE. GRANTEE shall submit an invoice for payment to the CAL FIRE Project Representative of the STATE. A final invoice shall be submitted no later than 30 days after completion, expiration, or termination of this Agreement.
- b. For services satisfactorily rendered, and upon receipt and approval of invoices for payment, the STATE agrees to compensate GRANTEE for actual expenditures incurred in accordance with the rates and activities

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specified in the Final Project Budget Detail, Application, Scope of Work and Exhibits, and made a part of this Agreement.

- c. Equipment purchased using GRANT FUNDS, wholly or in part, must be used by the GRANTEE for the project for which it was acquired. STATE retains a vested interest in the equipment for the useful life of the equipment, even after completion of the grant. GRANTEE shall provide written disposition of the equipment upon completion of the grant and upon any changes to the disposition of the equipment. Such disposition must be approved in advance by STATE. Equipment purchased using GRANT FUNDS cannot be used as collateral, financed, or sold without prior written approval from the STATE. Grantee must provide reporting on equipment disposition no less frequently than biannually to CAL FIRE or upon CAL FIRE's request after completion of the grant project until notified in writing by the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program that additional reporting is no longer required.
- d. GRANTEE shall submit, in arrears, not more frequently than once a month, and required quarterly, an invoice to the STATE for costs paid by GRANTEE pursuant to this Agreement. In the event no expenses are incurred, GRANTEE shall identify that no costs have been incurred within the respective quarterly progress report in lieu of submitting a zero-balance invoice. Each invoice shall contain the following information: the Agreement number, the dates or time period during which the invoiced costs were incurred, signature of an authorized representative of GRANTEE, expenditures for the current invoice and cumulative expenditures to date by major budget category (e.g., salaries, benefits, supplies, etc.), match funds when applicable, and appropriate supporting documentation consistent with the Project Costs section, as detailed in the California Climate Investments Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Wildfire Prevention Grants Program Procedural Guide 2022-2023.
- e. GRANT FUNDS in this Agreement have a limited period in which they must be expended. All GRANTEE expenditures must occur prior to the end of the Project performance period of this Agreement.
- f. Except as otherwise provided herein, GRANTEE shall expend GRANT FUNDS in the manner described in the Budget approved by the STATE. The dollar amount of an item in a budget category may be increased or decreased by up to ten percent (10%) of the budget item through reallocation of funds from other budget categories, without approval by the STATE; however, GRANTEE shall notify the STATE in writing when any such reallocation is made, and shall identify both the item(s) being increased and those being decreased. Any increase or decrease of an item of more than ten percent (10%) of the budget category must be

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- approved in writing by the STATE before any such increase or decrease is made. A formal approved amendment is required to increase the total amount of GRANT FUNDS.
- g. GRANTEE shall promptly submit any and all records at the time and in the form as the STATE may request.
- h. GRANTEE shall submit each invoice for payment electronically using the grants management system identified by CAL FIRE. Hard copy submissions will not be accepted.
- i. Notwithstanding any of the provisions stated within this Agreement, the STATE may at its discretion make advance payment from the grant awarded to the GRANTEE if GRANTEE is a nonprofit organization, a local agency, a special district, a private forest landowner or a Native American tribe. Advance payment made by the STATE shall be subject to the following provisions.
- GRANTEE shall submit a written request identifying how funds will be used over a six-month period. The written request must be accompanied by an invoice that contains the same level of detail as a regular invoice.
 - GRANTEE shall file an accountability report with STATE four months from the date of receiving the funds and every four months thereafter.
 - Multiple advance payments may be made to a GRANTEE over the life of a project.
 - No single advance payment shall exceed 25% of the total grant amount. For grants funding equipment, the maximum advance request may be increased up to 50% of the total grant amount or cost of equipment purchase, whichever is less. Advance funds and must be spent on eligible costs within six months of the advance payment receipt.
 - GRANTEE may request additional time to spend advance funds but must be approved in writing by the STATE. CAL FIRE will bill for the return of unliquidated advance funds after the approved timeframe.
 - All work under a previous advance payment must be fully liquidated via an invoice and supporting documentation and completed to the STATE's satisfaction before another advance payment will be made.
 - Any advance payment received by a GRANTEE and not used for project eligible costs within the time period approved by STATE shall be returned to the STATE. The amount will be returned to the grant balance.

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- Advance payments must be deposited into an interest-bearing account. Any interest earned on advance payment funds must be accounted for and used toward offsetting the project cost or returned to the STATE.
- j. The GRANTEE shall immediately reimburse or credit, as determined by the STATE, the STATE for any over payment of any invoice, including final invoice, when either party determines an overpayment was made.

5. Budget Contingency Clause

- a. If STATE funding for any fiscal year is reduced or deleted for purposes of the Wildfire Prevention Program California Climate Investments Grant Program, the STATE shall have the option to either cancel this Agreement with no liability occurring to the STATE, or if possible and desirable, offer an Agreement amendment to GRANTEE to reflect the reduced amount available for the Project.

6. Project Administration

- a. GRANTEE must report to the STATE all sources of other funds for the Project. If this provision is deemed to be violated, the STATE will request an audit of GRANTEE and can delay the disbursement of funds until the matter is resolved.
- b. GRANTEE shall promptly submit written Project reports as the STATE may request throughout the term of this Agreement.
- c. GRANTEE shall submit a final accomplishment report, final invoice with associated supporting documentation, and copies of materials developed using GRANT FUNDS, including but not limited to plans, educational materials, etc. within 30 days of Project completion.

7. Financial Records

- a. GRANTEE shall retain all records described in Section 7(c) below for three (3) years after final payment by the STATE. In the case an audit occurs, all such records shall be retained for one (1) year from the date the audit is completed or the three (3) years, whichever date is later.
- b. GRANTEE shall maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records for the Project and make them available to the STATE for review during reasonable times. This includes the right to inspect and make copies of any books, records, or reports of GRANTEE pertaining to this Agreement or matters related thereto.

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- c. GRANTEE shall keep such records as the STATE shall prescribe, including, but not limited to, records which fully disclose (a) the disposition of the proceeds of state funding assistance, (b) the total cost of the Project in connection with such assistance that is given or used, (c) the amount and nature of that portion of the Project cost supplied by other sources, and (d) any other such records as will facilitate an effective audit. All records shall be made available to the STATE, other State of California agency, or other entity as determined by the State of California for auditing purposes at reasonable times.
- d. GRANTEE shall use any generally accepted accounting system.

8. Research

- a. GRANTEE that receives funding, in whole or in part, in the form of a research grant shall provide for free public access to any publication of a peer-reviewed manuscript describing STATE funded knowledge, STATE funded invention, or STATE funded technology shall be subject to the following conditions:
 - i. GRANTEE is responsible for ensuring that any publishing or copyright agreements concerning peer-reviewed manuscripts fully comply with this section
 - ii. GRANTEE shall report to STATE the final disposition of the peer-reviewed manuscript, including, but not limited to, if it was published, date of publication, where it was published, and, when the 12-month time period from official date of publication expires, where the peer-reviewed manuscript will be available for open access.
- b. For a peer-reviewed manuscript that is accepted for publication pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the GRANTEE shall ensure that an electronic version of the peer-reviewed manuscript is available to STATE and on an appropriate publicly accessible repository approved by the state agency, including, but not limited to, the University of California's eScholarship Repository at the California Digital Library, the California State University's ScholarWorks at the Systemwide Digital Library, or PubMed Central, to be made publicly available not later than 12 months after the official date of publication. GRANTEE shall make reasonable efforts to comply with this requirement by ensuring that the peer-reviewed manuscript is accessible on an approved publicly accessible repository, including notifying the state agency that the manuscript is available on a state-agency-approved repository. If the grantee is unable to ensure that his or her manuscript is accessible on an approved, publicly accessible repository, the grantee may comply by providing the manuscript to the state agency not later than 12 months after the official date of publication.

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- c. For publications other than those described in (b), including scientific meeting abstracts, GRANTEE shall comply by providing the manuscript to the STATE not later than 12 months after the official date of publication.
- d. The grant shall not be construed to authorize use of a peer-reviewed manuscript that would constitute an infringement of copyright under the federal copyright law described in Section 101 of Title 17 of the United States Code and following.
- e. Use of GRANT FUNDS for publication costs, including fees charged by a publisher for color and page charges, or fees for digital distribution are allowable costs but must be within the GRANT FUNDS and item 4 of the agreement.
- f. GRANTEE may request a waiver to the publication requirement if GRANTEE has an existing publication requirement that meets or exceeds the requirements of the research provision. Waiver shall include information on GRANTEE's existing requirements. Approval of the waiver is at STATE's discretion.

9. Project Termination

- a. This Agreement may be terminated by the STATE or GRANTEE upon 30-days written notice to the other party.
- b. If either party terminates the Agreement prior to the completion of the Project, GRANTEE shall take all reasonable measures to prevent further costs to the STATE under the Agreement and the STATE shall be responsible for any reasonable and non-cancelable obligations incurred by GRANTEE in the performance of this Agreement prior to the date of the notice to terminate, but only up to the undisbursed balance of funding authorized in this Agreement.
- c. Failure by GRANTEE to comply with the terms of this Agreement may be cause for suspension of all obligations of the STATE hereunder at the discretion of the STATE.
- d. Failure of GRANTEE to comply with the terms of this Agreement shall not be cause for the suspension of all obligations of the STATE hereunder if in the judgment of the STATE such failure was due to no fault of GRANTEE. At the discretion of the STATE, any amount required to settle at minimum cost any irrevocable obligations properly incurred shall be eligible for reimbursement under this Agreement.

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- e. Final payment to GRANTEE may not be made until the STATE determines the Project conforms substantially to this Agreement.

10. Hold Harmless

- a. GRANTEE shall defend, indemnify and hold the STATE, its officers, employees, and agents harmless from and against any and all liability, loss, expense (including reasonable attorney's fees), or claims for injury or damages arising out of the performance of this Agreement but only in proportion to and to the extent such liability, loss, expense, attorney's fees, or claims for injury or damages are caused by or result from the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of GRANTEE, its officers, agents, or employees. The duty of GRANTEE to indemnify and hold harmless includes the duty to defend as set forth in Civil Code Section 2778. This Agreement supersedes GRANTEE's right as a public entity to indemnify (see Government Code Section 895.2) and contribution (see Government Code Section 895.6) as set forth in Government Code Section 895.4.
- b. GRANTEE waives any and all rights to any type of express or implied indemnity or right of contribution from the STATE, its officers, agents, or employees for any liability resulting from, growing out of, or in any way connected with or incident to this Agreement.
- c. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to create in the public or in any member of it rights as a third-party beneficiary under this Agreement.

11. Tort Claims

FEDERAL:

The United States shall be liable, to the extent allowed by the Federal Tort Claims Act 28 United States Code 2671-2680, for claims of personal injuries or property damage resulting from the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any employee of the United States while acting within the scope of his or her employment, arising out of this Agreement.

STATE:

The State of California shall be liable, to the extent allowed by law and subject to California Government Code, Title 1, Division 3.6, providing for the filing of tort claims against the State of California, for personal injuries or property damage resulting from the negligent or wrongful act or omission of State of California employees while acting within the scope of his or her employment, arising out of this Agreement.

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12. Nondiscrimination

The State of California prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. GRANTEE shall not discriminate against any person on any of these bases.

13. Conflict of Interest

GRANTEE or anyone acting on behalf of GRANTEE shall not have any conflicting personal and/or financial interests in carrying out the duties of the Agreement.

14. Incorporation

The grant guidelines and the Project Scope of Work, Project Budget Detail and any subsequent amendments or modifications to the Project Scope of Work and Project Budget Detail approved in writing by the STATE are hereby incorporated by reference into this Agreement as though set forth in full in this Agreement.

15. Severability

If any provision of this Agreement or the Project Scope of Work thereof is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Agreement which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Agreement are severable.

16. Waiver

No term or provision hereof will be considered waived by either party, and no breach excused by either party, unless such waiver or consent is in writing and signed on behalf of the party against whom the waiver is asserted. No consent by either party to, or waiver of, a breach by either party, whether expressed or implied, will constitute consent to, waiver of, or excuse of any other, different, or subsequent breach by either party.

17. Assignment

This Agreement is not assignable by GRANTEE either in whole or in part.

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18. Survival Clause

The obligations of the Parties under Section III General Provisions, Items 4 (c) and (j) of the Project Costs and Payment Documentation and Item 10 Hold Harmless of this Agreement shall survive the termination or expiration of the Agreement.

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ADDENDUM – WILDFIRE PREVENTION GRANT PROJECTS

I. PROGRAM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/RECOGNITION

All Wildfire Prevention Grant projects must clearly display, identify and label themselves as being funded by CAL FIRE. Acknowledgements must contain the CAL FIRE logo as well as the following statement:

“Funding for this project provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s (CAL FIRE) Wildfire Prevention Grants Program.”

A draft of the acknowledgement must be approved by the STATE prior to publication. For stationary projects, acknowledgement may include, but is not limited to, a sign on the project site. For other project types, such as vehicles, equipment, and consumer-based incentives, acknowledgement is encouraged by using a decal, sticker or other signage.

22-WP-VNC 47075626

Application Form :

Profile : info@venturafiresafe.org

Project Information

Project Name/Title : Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative

In which county is the majority of your project located? : Ventura County

**The full Project Tracking Number will be auto-generated within Grants Portal. Please use the format 22-WP-
UUU and replace your 3-character unit identifier from your selected county above. :** 22-WP-VNC

Are there additional counties? : No

In which California State Assembly district(s) is your project located? :

38th - Ventura

42nd - Los Angeles, Ventura

In which California State Senate district(s) is your project located? :

21st - San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura

27th - Los Angeles, Ventura

38th - Orange, San Diego

Project End Date : 2029-03-15

Project Description Summary

Please provide a paragraph summarizing proposed project including the location, habitable structures, acres treated, etc. : The goal of the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative is to engage and empower Ventura County's most vulnerable, high fire risk communities in order to engender lasting security from wildfire. This will be accomplished through the adoption of three cutting-edge interventions in the fields of education, Firewise development, and fuels treatment. The projects supporting each of these interventions include well-established mitigation measures, such as home hardening assessments, educational outreach, and fuels treatment projects, as well as innovative solutions such as developing Firewise communities in Ventura County. This project aims to serve the entirety of Ventura County, but focuses fuel treatment efforts within 392 acres.

Award Request Amount

Total Amount of Award Request : \$2,938,615.40

Indirect Cost Rate

Are you requesting an Indirect Cost Rate in excess of 12%? : No

Organization Information

Organization Type : Non-Profit - 501(c)3

If Non-Profit 501(C)(3), please upload Articles of Incorporation : Articles of Incorporation (2).pdf

Board Resolution or Attesting Document : 22-WP-VNC-47075626-Board Resolution.pdf

Sponsoring Organization : Central Ventura County Fire Safe Council, Inc.

Project Manager Name : Stephen Watson

Project Manager Mailing Address : 5156 McGrath Street

Project Manager Mailing Address Line 2 : Suite 101

City : Ventura

State : US-CA

Zip Code : 93003

Project Manager Phone Number : 8057467365

Project Manager Email : info@venturafiresafe.org

Project Activities

For which primary activity is funding being requested? : Wildfire Prevention Education

Wildfire Prevention Education Events :

Education Events (in-person)

Education Events (Virtual)

Project Treatment Area

Primary Land Ownership Class : Other

If other, please describe : The Fuels Reduction portion of this project on private lands, the Education component will benefit all lands within Ventura County.

Does your project include work on Tribal Lands? : No

Limiting Factors: Check the box if there are any existing forest or land management plans; Conservation Easements; Covenant, Conditions & Restrictions (CC&R's); matters related to zoning; use restrictions, or other factors that can or will limit the fire prevention proposed activity? :

Timber Harvest Plans (THP): For Hazardous Fuels Reduction projects, If there is a timber harvesting document on any portion of the proposed project area for which a "Notice of Completion" has not been filed with CAL FIRE check the box. :

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance: Describe how compliance with CEQA will be achieved in the Scope of Work. Is there an existing CEQA document that addresses this project or

can be used to meet CEQA requirements?

Please indicate the CEQA document type (For planning, education and other projects that are exempt from CEQA, select "Not Applicable") : Will File

Existing Document Identification Number :

Federal Responsibility Area: Does your project include work on Federal Lands that might require a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document, or use a framework similar to Good Neighbor Authority? : No

Community Metrics

Fire Risk Reduction Community List (FRRC)

Is the Sponsoring Organization a local agency? (city, county, or other publicly funded entity serving a city and/or county) : No

Community at Risk: Is the project associated with a community that is listed as a Community at Risk? : Yes

Number of Risk Communities in the project area : 14

Disadvantaged/Low Income Community: Is the project associated with a disadvantaged/low-income community? : Yes

If Yes, select all that applies: :

Both

Project Area Statistics: For all Hazardous Fuels Reduction projects, provide an estimate of the Treatment Influence Zone (TIZ) acres. Include Local Responsibility Area (LRA), Federal Responsibility Area (FRA) and State Responsibility Area (SRA) as applicable for TIZ.

The Treatment Influence Zones (TIZ) are the treatment areas within a project, where on-the-ground activities are accomplished. There can be multiple treatment areas associated with a project. Wildfire Prevention Planning and Wildfire Prevention Public Education projects will NOT have treatment areas.

Local Responsibility Area (LRA) TIZ acres : 260.00

Federal Responsibility Area (FRA) TIZ acres : 0.00

State Responsibility Area (SRA) TIZ acres : 132.00

Total TIZ Acres : 392

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)

What Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) are in the project area? Fire Hazard Severity Zone ratings are available at: <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/wildfire-preparedness/fire-hazard-severity-zones/> (<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/wildfire-preparedness/fire-hazard-severity-zones/>)

preparedness/fire-hazard-severity-zones/). Copy and paste the link or right-click to open in a new tab. Please provide an approximate number of acres or percentage of the project area in each zone.

Number of Acres in the Very High SRA FHSZ : 340,936

Number of Acres in the Very High LRA FHSZ : 56,523

Number of Acres in the High SRA FHSZ : 12,493

Number of Acres in the High LRA FHSZ : 0

Number of Acres in the Moderate SRA FHSZ : 1,908

FHSZ Total Acres : 411860

Document Uploads

Letters of Support : VRFSC Letter of Support.pdf

Letters of Commitment : 22-WP-VNC-47075626-Ltr of Commitment.pdf

In addition to the online project mapping program treatment Geopoint and polygons, include a pdf map(s) of the project with the project application. The maps shall meet the requirements of Appendix G in the Procedural Guide.

PDF Project Map : 22-WP-VNC-47075626-PDF Project Maps.pdf

The below required standard forms can be found in the forms section of the solicitation. To get to the Solicitation Link click back to the solicitation, then click on the three lines next to the application and click the solicitation link.

STD 19 Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement form : 22-WP-VNC-47075626-STD19.pdf

STD 21 A Drug-Free Workplace Certification form : 22-WP-VNC-47075626-STD21.pdf

STD 204 Payee Data Record form : 22-WP-VNC-47075626-STD204.pdf

Miscellaneous Form Upload Field #1 :

Miscellaneous Form Upload Field #2 :

Miscellaneous Form Upload Field #3 :

Project Mapping Program

Project Mapping Program: Create a Geopoint and Polygon(s) via the weblink. copy and paste the link or right-click to open in a new tab:<https://grant-access-calfire-forestry.hub.arcgis.com> (<https://grant-access-calfire-forestry.hub.arcgis.com>) The Online Project Mapping Component is a requirement for a complete application submission.

View Budget Worksheet : <https://portal.ecivis.com/peerBudget/C79D6774-B506-4287-B598-3ABF348644D0>

Average Score : 0.00

Application Goals :

View Application Goals : <https://portal.ecivis.com/#!/peerGoals/6D2918B5-A237-47B8-9FA0-DE3CC34F4D1B>

of Reviews : 1

of Denials : 0

Created by : zengine+35323@srm.ecivis.com

Record ID # : 47075626

Last change : 2023-05-16T18:45:24+0000

Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative

Linked Form Profile :

Linked Form Submissions : 22-WP-VNC 47075626

Scope of Work :

Project Name : Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative

Project Tracking Number : 22-WP-VNC-47075626

Please use the Tracking Number that was automatically assigned by Grants Portal. The format will be 22-WP-UUU-XXXXXXX

Project Description

Please provide a comprehensive project description including the location, habitable structures, acres treated, etc. (please note there are no space limitations) : Central Ventura County Fire Safe Council, Inc. (dba Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council) - Regional Role: Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council (VRFSC) finds itself in a unique and privileged position to serve Ventura County's wildfire preparedness needs. As Ventura's only countywide Fire Safe Council, as well as an appointed County Coordinator by the California Fire Safe Council, VRFSC has the ability to take a holistic and comprehensive approach with respect to wildfire resilience. This includes working with a wide array of regional stakeholders, Fire Safe Councils, Fire Departments, and wildfire mitigation groups throughout Ventura County. VRFSC's collaboration with the Ventura County Fire Department on the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative is a testament to the fact that VRFSC is a trusted entity countywide, with the capacity and influence to tackle the area's most pressing concerns. VRFSC, with the help of regional partners as well as residents, has identified these concerns and condensed them into the three pillars of the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative: education, Firewise development, and fuels treatment. By tackling the specific components of this project, it is VRFSC's intent to elevate the entire wildfire preparedness field in Ventura County. Our key partners in this project are: Ventura County Fire Department: Partner and contractor in Avenue Grazing Project, Park Street Fuels Treatment Project, and Chipper Days, Rincon Consultants and/or partnering contractor: Contractor for CEQA and bio survey for relevant projects, Piru Neighborhood Council: Partner in the Park Street Fuels Treatment Project, Ventura County Resource Conservation District: Lead agency in Ventura County Wildfire Collaborative (VC-WC), partner in Firewise Development Pilot Project and Educational Initiatives, Firewise USA: Consultant for Firewise Development Pilot Project, United Policyholders: Consultant for Firewise Development Pilot Project, Additional regional Fire Safe Councils (FSCs): -Bell Canyon Fire Safe Council - Oak Park Fire Safe Council -Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council -Ventura Park Fire Safe Council Existing outreach and marketing partners: -Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency -Senior Concerns -Conejo Parks and Recreation District -Ventura County Community Foundation -Goebels Adult Center Existing Firewise interested resilience groups, including: -Los Robles Estates HOA -Ondulando Neighbors for Fire Resilience -Saddle Mountain Property Owners Association -Varsity Park HOA -Seneca Gardens HOA -Westlake Ranch POA -Golden Oaks Mobile Home Park -Radcliffe Neighborhood Group -Fairway Oaks HOA -Village Homes POA -Westlake Hills POA -Oak Ranch Estates HOA -Matillija Canyon -Persimmon Hill HOA -Cantrice Court HOA -Hidden Valley HOA -Rolling Oaks POA (Shire) -Westlake Ranch POA -Clearpoint HOA -Santa Rosa Valley MAC -Oak Park FSC -Piru Project goal: The goal of the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative is to engage and empower Ventura County's most vulnerable communities in order to engender lasting security from wildfire. This will be accomplished through the adoption of three cutting-edge, interrelated interventions in the fields of education, Firewise development, and fuels treatment. Project size and location: The Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative is

countywide in scope, with the intention of benefitting all of Ventura County (1,198,720 acres). That said, based on ongoing efforts to target socially vulnerable and high fire risk neighborhoods, regional focuses will include Thousand Oaks (35,200 acres), the Santa Clara River Valley, including Santa Paula, Moorpark, and Fillmore (13,048 acres), and San Buenaventura (14,080 acres). Additionally, included in this project are fuels treatment initiatives for locations in West Ventura and Piru. The coordinates and acreage for each of these projects are approximately as follows: -"The Avenue" grazing project: 270 acres, 34.3164213 N 119.2856786 W -Piru "Park Street" project: 7 acres, 34.4183630 N 118.7928829 W -Fillmore projects: 115 acres, 34.4051060 N 118.9306412 W

Objectives: Objective 1 – Launch a comprehensive education campaign, including updates to the Fire Hazard Reduction Program (FHRP) as well as educational support for fuels and chipper projects in partnership with the Ventura County Fire Department. The problem the objective seeks to address: With the projected updates to the SRA and LRA Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps to be released in 2023, the Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) anticipates having 90,000 parcels within Fire Hazard Severity Zones and are looking to augment resources and capacity necessary to reach residents subject to the effects of wildfire impacts. This educational outreach needs to include updated requirements and information necessary to prepare their properties and communities from the potentially devastating effects of wildfire. Additionally, fuels, chipper, and home hardening projects often operate in programmatic "silos," in which residents remain largely uneducated about the benefits and connection between these respective programs. How this objective will solve this problem: Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council is in a unique position to leverage its capacity as a regional educational resource to support the Ventura County Fire Department. This role has been recognized by VCFD, and is exemplified by VCFD's ask for VRFSC to assist with educating the public with respect to the FHRP updates. A cornerstone of Ventura County's wildfire preparedness is the Ventura County Fire Department's Fire Hazard Reduction Program (FHRP). This program identifies homeowners in the WUI that are the most susceptible to ember intrusion, and targets this demographic with an annual "notice to abate fire hazard." The timing of this program is slated to coincide with the beginning of the traditional fire season in Ventura County; mailings are sent out to homeowners by the end of April and the clearance deadline is June 1st. There are several key changes to FHRP policy outlined in VCFD guideline 420 that are effective January 1, 2023 and replace current VCFD ordinances. These changes include expanding defensible space requirements to include Zone 0 (0-5 feet from the structure) and updating countywide Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps. Each of these changes directly affects VRFSC's home hardening program. Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council's educational arm will partner with Ventura County Fire Department to distribute this updated information. Not only will this allow homeowners to receive chipper day information in tandem with abatement notices, but will also assist in framing abatement from an educational as opposed to an enforcement standpoint. Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council plans to partner with Ventura County Fire Department in the dissemination of these updates in the following way: -updating area residents on the changes to the FHRP through virtual and live workshops, targeted mailings, and hosted events; -coordinating with Ventura County Fire Department to align chipper days with abatement notices and timeline; -providing resources related to abatement and FHRP updates in association with home hardening assessments; -partnering with VCFD to extend home hardening resources to those residents receiving annual abatement notices; -providing educational resources in English and Spanish to include all of Ventura County's residents. Additionally, VRFSC will implement a comprehensive education and outreach campaign to support each fuels treatment project. Due to VRFSC's ongoing home hardening and education and outreach efforts, as well as participation in California Fire Safe Council's County Coordinator program, the organization has maintained an active network of outreach and marketing partners in Ventura County. VRFSC will leverage these connections to promote and support fuels mitigation and chipper projects in three primary capacities. First, VRFSC will preface each fuels treatment project and chipper event with a comprehensive educational outreach effort, provided in English and Spanish. This will include distributing printed materials, digital resources, and working with regional partners to further educate and inform the public about the relevant project. Second, VRFSC will provide on-site education for each fuels treatment project and chipper event. This education will take the form of tabling stationary fuels events, standing by to explain the project to interested residents, and informing participants in chipper days of additional home hardening measures, including the Firewise program. Finally, VRFSC will survey interested residents, following a fuels project or chipper day, to determine overall

satisfaction with the project and answer any remaining questions about the project or wildfire preparedness.

Objective 2 - Firewise Development Pilot Project; seeding the development of Firewise communities in Ventura County

The problem the objective seeks to address: The development of Firewise communities represents a significant gap in Ventura County's overall wildfire preparedness. Ventura County to date only has one Firewise community--Matillija Canyon Properties. Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council and regional stakeholders recognize the development of Firewise communities as an essential need for Ventura County. How this objective will solve this problem: The NFPA-endorsed Firewise designation has long been the standard for wildfire preparedness on the neighborhood level. This designation indicates that not only individual homes, but entire neighborhoods have met certain standards regarding home hardening and community education. Additionally, a primary interest of the communities that Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council serves, particularly financially vulnerable groups, is the ongoing insurance crisis with respect to wildfire. Many residents are either uncovered, lack sufficient coverage, or struggle to afford coverage for their home in a high fire area. The ultimate goal of resiliency organizations such as VRFSC is to find a way to leverage education, home hardening, and fuels maintenance not only to protect these residents from the most catastrophic effects of wildfire, but also to improve residents' insurance coverage. Firewise USA has proven to be the most feasible and effective short-term solution to this crisis. VRFSC has already begun incorporating Firewise USA into organizational programming. Currently, three VRFSC staff members are recognized as Regional Coordinators for Firewise, and VRFSC has made inroads to establish Firewise communities with HOAs and neighborhood groups throughout Ventura County. With the Firewise Development Pilot Project, VRFSC will expand the establishment of Firewise communities through the following methodical and comprehensive approach:

Phase 1: VRFSC will partner with regional Fire Safe Councils and resiliency organizations to build and expand the existing informal database of interested HOAs and neighborhood groups. VRFSC and partners will plan to host workshops and outreach events, in English and Spanish, for these groups. VRFSC will also contact counties that have successfully implemented the Firewise program, and glean lessons learned from this process. VRFSC will collaborate with Ventura County Fire Department to attend and assist in hosting the Firewise regional workshop, tentatively scheduled for late 2023.

Phase 2: VRFSC and partnering organizations will work with contractors to improve back-end website and digital infrastructure to support the growth of Firewise communities. This will include: -a landing page for Firewise, Chipper, and Home Hardening Programs; -a dashboard which will allow homeowners to view wildfire risk based on updated FHSZ maps; -opportunities for residents to participate in virtual training sessions to complete required volunteer hours for the Firewise certification; -tracking capabilities for VRFSC and partnering organizations to monitor volunteer hours; -a visually appealing storytelling and social media landing page to boost Firewise enrollment; -translation capabilities for Spanish-speaking community members.

Phase 3: VRFSC will follow up with all groups that have expressed interest in a Firewise designation or have hosted a Firewise workshop or outreach event. VRFSC will assist these groups with administrative or technical support in applying for a Firewise designation. Where applicable, VRFSC staff members will assist applicant groups in the completion of Firewise requirements.

Phase 4: VRFSC will oversee the completion of Firewise designations for applicant groups. VRFSC will provide tokens of completion to these communities in addition to receiving the Firewise designation--this will include FlameMapper's beacon boxes and additional wildfire preparedness resources. Additionally, based on the experience drawn from the pilot project, VRFSC will develop a Firewise manual that outlines in clear and concise steps how to progress from a Firewise workshop to a Firewise designated community.

Objective 3 - Fuels Mitigation and Chipper Projects, as identified by Ventura County Fire Department

The problem the objective seeks to address: Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council and Ventura County Fire Department have collaborated to identify imperative fuels treatment projects that will contribute dramatically to the overall safety of Ventura County residents. How this objective will solve this problem: VRFSC has worked with Ventura County Fire Department to identify three fuels treatment projects in need of completion in order to protect vulnerable communities in Ventura County. These projects involve working in the low-income areas of Piru and West Ventura. Additionally, VRFSC will expand the existing curbside chipper program to include areas adjacent to fuels treatment sites. For chipper events, VRFSC will employ the ChipperDay program from the app Fire Aside, a state-of-the-art tool that allows the user to optimize curbside chipper routes and communicate with residents. A brief description of fuels treatment projects and required equipment are as follows:

"The Avenue" Grazing Project: The open space proximate to "The Avenue" neighborhood of Ventura City has long been acknowledged as an essential locale to protect from both a wildfire and social vulnerability standpoint. This area is largely SRA in the Very High Fire Severity Zone, LRA in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and was severely impacted by the Thomas Fire due to the aspect of the backing slope with respect to prevailing Santa Ana winds. The area is currently overgrown with light, flashy fuels, made more plentiful by the inordinate amount of rain over the course of the 2022-2023 winter. The zone is directly adjacent to an expansive oil field and has the potential to carry wildfire to the oil field. Lastly, "The Avenue" neighborhood next to this space is a disadvantaged community and has both a school and hospital within range of the open space. This project will treat the open space through prescribed herbivory in partnership with the Ventura County Fire Department, also known as grazing. This treatment plan is the most logical for this area for a number of reasons. Due to the degraded nature of the landscape, any type of heavy equipment would only make the problem worse. Additionally, because of the way goats move through the landscape, the animals have the effect of turning up the soil, thereby making the soil healthier and assisting with carbon sequestration. Furthermore, goats would consume invasive vegetation, improving local pollinators. Ventura County Fire Department will implement this fuels project, including cutting brush and grass for the electrified fence lines that are required to keep the animals within the boundaries of the herbivory prescription, facilitating water supply, and general support for this project. Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council will be the project manager and complete the requisite CEQA by partnering with an external contractor.

Piru "Park Street" Project: The township of Piru is an economically disadvantaged and socially vulnerable community in central Ventura County that has often been overlooked in fuel mitigation efforts. Despite this, Piru is located squarely in the WUI, and is severely threatened by wildfires originating in Los Padres National Forest. Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council, with the help of the Piru Neighborhood Council, has identified a project site that would protect much of the northern swathe of the town, which directly abuts wildland. This project site has also been identified by Team Rubicon, a nonprofit organization that assists with domestic and foreign disaster prevention and relief efforts. However, despite the attention paid to this project site, as of 2023 no work has been performed to treat the hazardous slope. Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council will partner with both Ventura County Fire Department and the Piru Neighborhood Council to treat this identified slope with hand crews and potentially additional contract work. The project consists of modifying the ground and ladder fuels, as well as thinning or trimming trees in the area. This fuels modification project will limit the spread of fire from tree to tree and to other vegetation within the WUI project area, while reducing ember cast potential to the adjacent structures. The homes adjacent to this WUI project were built prior to California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 2, known as the 2007 California Building Code (CBC), and will benefit greatly from the additional buffer zone. As with "The Avenue" Grazing Project, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council will complete the requisite CEQA by partnering with an external contractor.

Fillmore Projects: Fillmore is a low-income municipality located in central Ventura County composed largely of agricultural land and infrastructure. According to the Ventura County Unit Strategic Fire Plan, the Fillmore fuel bed has suffered 14 fires of over 300 acres. In partnership with the Fillmore Fire Department, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council has identified several fuels projects that will substantially lessen the risk of wildland fire to life, structures, and assets in Fillmore. The primary project is addressing the heavy fuels (primarily sumac) in the foothills north of Fillmore. This is an extremely important project for local residents, as the primary wildfire threat in Fillmore is from a wind driven fire coming out of the north-northeast. The fuel reduction methods for this project include hand treating and chipping fuels and/or utilizing a broadcast burn. This project is similar to the above mentioned Park Street project and consists of modifying the ground and ladder fuels as well as thinning and trimming trees in the area. This fuels modification project will limit the spread of fire from tree to tree and to other vegetation within the WUI project area while reducing ember cast potential to the adjacent structures. The homes adjacent to this WUI project were built prior to California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 2, known as the 2007 California Building Code (CBC) and will benefit greatly from the additional buffer zone. The second fuels treatment project in Fillmore involves addressing the two miles of bike path along the Sespe River that is home to heavy fuel loading. This project would remove a 15 foot swath of brush from the river side of the bike path; the targeted fuel type is primarily sage with some mule fat mixed in. This fuel reduction would ensure that the split rail fence dividing the bike path and the brush would not burn during a wildfire and would create a wider fuel break between the brush and nearby homes.

This project would involve cutting and chipping targeted fuel. Supply and Equipment Needs: In order to plan for the sustainability of these fuels reduction projects in perpetuity, VRFSC will purchase a mower, chainsaws, and weed whackers for the Ventura County Fire Department. This equipment will service Ventura County and allow for the fire department to continue to meet the county's fuels mitigation needs. The newly purchased equipment will be maintained and stored by VCFD. All equipment will be maintained by VCFD's mechanics and stored at the central location of Wildland Camp 1. Depending on project location, the equipment can be temporarily stored at a VCFD Fire Stations closer to the project area. The mower will be utilized in tandem with the goats in "The Avenue" grazing project to maneuver into flatter spots where goats are not necessary. The mower will also be the tool of choice for fence lines where applicable, as opposed to hand crews, in order to save time and money. Similar to the chipper, the current mower that the Fire Department has been using thus far is costly in terms of maintenance, as well as being too large and not built for the steeper terrain included in this proposal. Ventura County Fire Department has the infrastructure to maintain and provide upkeep for the proposed mower. Furthermore, the mower will save valuable staff time and money due to the decreased number of crew members required to operate the machine. Ventura County Fire Department also requires chainsaws and weed whackers to execute the proposed fuels projects. Each of these tools will be used to cut the fence lines for the electric fencing for the grazing animals; the chainsaws will be used to cut the brush and the weed whackers used to cut grass and forbes. The chainsaws can also be used on chipper projects if the limbs of trees need to be cut to fit into the chipper. Both the chainsaws and weed whackers will be used on VCFD's other fuels reduction projects as well. VCFD has a cadre of fully qualified Faller 1's, overseeing the falling operations for the fire department.

Section I :

Primary Activity Type : Wildfire Prevention Education

Wildfire Prevention Education

1. Describe the specific message of the education program and how it relates to reducing the risk of wildfire to owners of structures. : The fundamental message of the education program is that it takes cooperation on every level of a community to fully fortify Ventura County against the threat of catastrophic wildfire. It is the fire department and county officials' responsibility to make sure that strategic plans are in place at the regional level. It is local agencies and organizations' responsibility to make sure that their respective audiences are well informed of the available resources to better fortify individual townships. And finally, it is the resident's responsibility to invest time and energy in education and property stewardship. In order for Ventura County to have a fully functioning and robust defense against wildfire, each regional actor, from individual homeowners to county officials, must play their part and communicate with one another around this issue. This is the only way to reduce the risk of wildfire to owners of structures. Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council's education campaign, with this message at its core, will work to strengthen the inter-agency bonds that do exist in Ventura County, and develop additional lines of communication whenever possible. A main priority is the unification of messaging, particularly regarding home hardening. For too long have homeowners been receiving different messages from different regional players in Ventura County. This kind of mixed messaging has been difficult for many homeowners to comprehend. It is the goal of this education program to fully align the messaging of Ventura County Fire Department and regional Fire Safe Councils, providing a single unified message for homeowners in the county. This will lead to reaching many more homeowners in a much more efficient manner than has ever been possible, which will in turn lead to more home hardening work being done and a safer Ventura County.

2. Describe the target audience of the education program and how information will be distributed to this audience. : The target of the proposed education program is similar to the target audience of Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council's current education programs—that is, those in Ventura County that are either most at risk to fire, or are socially vulnerable, and especially those that meet both of these criteria. VRFSC has accrued a great deal of experience as an organization in reaching these demographics since the expansion of the VRFSC's home

hardening program in 2021. VRFSC has an extensive digital outreach platform, including email listserv and social media outlets such as Facebook and Instagram. Additionally, in partnership with Ventura County Fire Department, VRFSC plans to leverage additional digital assets such as County Fire's Nextdoor page and mailing lists. VRFSC staff are bilingual, and all of VRFSC's programs are available in both Spanish and English. A main goal of the educational campaign is to raise awareness of wildfire amongst Ventura County's Spanish-speaking residents and to increase the number of educational resources available in Spanish as well as English. VRFSC has also discovered over the course of the home hardening program that grassroots and in-person educational outreach can be the most effective way to approach many residents in Ventura County. Additionally, many residents are skeptical of information presented by organizations that they are not already in contact with, but are more receptive to VRFSC's messaging if it is presented in partnership with trusted regional groups. With this in mind, VRFSC plans to work with a broad scope of regional partners to distribute educational materials. Many of these organizations have written expressed support for VRFSC's educational program. Additionally, VRFSC will continue to present educational material in a live format, including hosting educational workshops, tabling events, and community gatherings.

3. Will the education program raise the awareness of homeowner responsibilities of living in a fire prone environment? : The goal of the education program proposed in this project is precisely to raise awareness of homeowner responsibility while living in a fire prone environment. This aim is bolstered by the program's inclusion of materials on the FHRP, home hardening, chipping and fuels projects, as well as additional regional resources. Every aspect of the educational program is designed with the ultimate aim of empowering homeowners in mind. Rather than exclusively relying on the Fire Department, the education program will demonstrate how homeowners themselves can contribute meaningfully to their own and their community's safety. A noteworthy feature of this education program is its interconnectedness with additional wildfire prevention measures provided in the rest of the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative. In addition to standing alone as its own discrete campaign, the education program will also be leveraged in support of chipper days, fuels mitigation projects, and home hardening work. The interdisciplinary support provided by this education program will not just inform homeowners of the actions they can take to play their part as wildfire stewards, but also equip them with the tools to do so. This will allow homeowners to simultaneously learn how they can take responsibility for living in a fire prone environment, as well demonstrate their capability in this regard.

4. Identify specific actions being advocated in the education material that is expected to increase the preparedness of residents and structures for wildfire. : The education materials associated with this program will cover all aspects of wildfire preparedness that are directly pertinent to residents and homeowners. This will include instructing residents on how to determine individual and community wildfire risk, and making sure that residents are aware of the resources and organizations in Ventura County that are dedicated to improving community resilience. Many of the education materials are focused exclusively on home hardening, including stipulating structural modifications and landscaping measures that will improve survivability in the event of an ember storm. Wrapped in to this topic is an explanation of the concentric zones of influence with respect to defensible space, and advocating adopting wildfire-safe measures in Zones 1, 2, and 3 in addition to Zone 0. On the neighborhood level, the education material will focus on community preparation, as advocated by NFPA's Firewise program. The material will encourage working with HOAs and neighborhood groups to begin the process of seeking a Firewise certification, and provide a blueprint for following this progression. Additionally, the education material will advocate for hosting chipper events and fuels modification projects where applicable, and will help residents understand the benefits of both of these preventative measures. VRFSC expects that each of these measures will increase the preparedness of residents and structures for wildfire, given that these measures include actionable items for both individual homeowners and communities. VRFSC understands that different educational contexts are appropriate for different communities, and that the most effective way to increase the preparedness of residents for wildfire is to match educational strategy with the needs of the community. Of particular note are

Ventura County's Spanish-speaking and older adult (65+) population. VRFSC plans to accommodate these diverse learning styles with educational programming, and will leverage organizational experience reaching both of these groups to grow our overall impact.

5. Describe the expected outcome of the education in terms of increased or changed public awareness about wildfire. : Ventura County has suffered the effects of catastrophic wildfire throughout its history. On December 4th, 2017, the Thomas Fire ripped through much of western Ventura County, destroying or damaging 1,156 structures and burning 281,893 acres. On November 7th, 2018, the Woolsey Fire burned 96,949 acres in eastern Ventura County and the Santa Monica Mountains, destroying 1,643 structures and killing three residents. While these two fires are the most destructive in recent memory, large wildland fire has long been a part of life in Ventura County. The 1932 Matilija Fire burned more than 220,000 acres, the Wheeler Fire in 1985 burned over 118,000 acres, and the Day Fire in 2006 burned 163,000 acres. And yet, it has been the experience of Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council that the public has misconceptions about wildfire risk in Ventura County. This is due to a number of factors, including the dizzying amount of contradicting online information available on the subject, as well regional focus on other emergencies that have transpired since the catastrophic fire season of 2017. The expected outcome of the education program in terms of increasing and changing the public awareness about wildfire is twofold. First, VRFSC expects the public to fully understand localized and landscape-scale wildfire risk, including how this risk specifically affects their home. Second, VRFSC expects an exponential growth in the amount of "wildfire awareness" throughout the county as a result of this effort. This second expectation is backed by the fact that VRFSC will leverage HOAS, resilience groups, and existing contact networks to multiply messaging many times over VRFSC's current reach. This will in turn greatly improve Ventura County's resilience.

Section II :

Degree of Risk

1. Discuss the location of the project in relation to areas of moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zone as identified by the latest Fire and Resource Assessment Program maps. : The Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative addresses three distinct spheres of influence in Ventura County; a countywide scope, a neighborhood and fuels-project specific scope, and a parcel level scope. Within each of these parameters, the constant is that the locations in Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative which works are some of the most at-risk zones in Southern California. To help protect people and their property from potential catastrophic wildfire, the National Fire Plan directs funding to be provided for projects designed to reduce the fire risks to communities. A fundamental step in achieving this goal was the identification of communities that are at high risk of damage from wildfire. These high risk communities identified fall within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), and were published in the Federal Register in 2001. There are 14 at risk communities in Ventura County: Camarillo Casa Conejo Fillmore Meiners Oaks Mira Monte Moorpark Oak Park Oak View Ojai Piru San Buenaventura (Ventura) Santa Paula Simi Valley Thousand Oaks On a regional level, Ventura County presents an extremely high fire risk. According to the 2022 updated FHSZ maps, Ventura County contains 340,936 acres of Very High FHSZ and 12,493 acres of High FHSZ in State Responsibility Area (SRA) alone; LRA maps have yet to be updated. Most tellingly, the Very High FHSZ accounts for 96% of Ventura County's SRA, and has increased by 20.5% since the last update of the FHSZ maps in 2007. The neighborhoods selected for the Firewise Development Pilot Project, as well as the fuels mitigation projects, have been chosen specifically because of their Very High fire risk, and proximity to lower income communities and vital community infrastructure such as hospitals and schools. The same can be said on the parcel level. According to data sourced from the 2007 FRAP maps by the County of Ventura, over 58,700 structures currently reside in the Very High FHSZ, with an estimated replacement cost of 39.6 billion dollars. Given the exponential increase in both Very High FHSZ, population, and rate of development, these numbers are in actuality far higher as of 2023.

2. Describe the geographic proximity of the project to structures at risk to damage from wildfire in the WUI.

: As of the 2007 County of Ventura estimates, over 176,000 residents are exposed to wildfire based on their residence in Very High FHSZ and/or proximity to Ventura County's WUI. As was previously mentioned, this number is expected to be significantly greater as of 2023. Because of the way population centers are oriented in Ventura County with respect to wildland and prevailing wind patterns, the truth is the vast majority of populated Ventura County is either in the WUI or is threatened by the WUI. As evidenced in the Ventura County Fire Protection District Unit Strategic Fire Plan, there are ten identified fuel beds in Ventura County, three of which burned in their entirety during the 2017 Thomas Fire. In addition to residential structures, assets at risk in Ventura's WUI include oil fields and production facilities, farms, ranches, 911 emergency communication infrastructure, and endemic habitat. The majority of structures the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative seeks to protect are located directly in the WUI. This is especially relevant in East Ventura County, where a combination of arroyos and parks intruding into settled areas position nearly all residents at great risk from wildfire. Furthermore, in many cases during peak fire season the prevailing Santa Ana winds carry fire from the Los Padres National Forest in the north and east directly through the most populated areas of Ventura County. This leads to wildfires that travel extraordinarily fast; at its peak speed, the 2017 Thomas Fire was traveling at a rate of one acre per second. These critical fire conditions at play in Ventura County pose tremendous risk to the structures associated with this project.

Section III :

Community Support

1. Does the project include any matching funds from other funding sources or any in-kind contributions that are expected to extend the impact of the proposed project? : Internally, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council is backed by an active Board of Directors that have made a commitment to the three objectives outlined in this proposal, and have additionally agreed to fundraise both dollars and in-kind support for the project's sustainability. In addition to fundraising efforts, VRFSC's board will continue to provide organizational oversight and strategic assistance to VRFSC over the course of this project. VRFSC will match approximately \$261,155.20 in the form of staff time and benefits. This will come from additional funding sources that complement and support projects specified in this application. VRFSC will seek additional funding to further expand these programs in an effort to have an even bigger and longer lasting impact in Ventura County's wildfire preparation. Additionally, VRFSC plans to garner approximately \$47,021.50 in match from partners, community members, and board members. VRFSC anticipates a certain level of community engagement with the Firewise community development in the form of volunteer hours. There is an annual estimate of 1 hour volunteer time per household involved in Firewise communities at the current standard volunteer rate (\$29.95/hour). Additionally, homeowner involvement in the chipper programs is essential as they will need to prepare yard waste on their curbside to be chipped. VRFSC's board of directors will be pivotal in assisting VRFSC staff with planning and establishing connections with local government and community stakeholders. VRFSC is also supported by a number of regional entities that have expressed affiliation with the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative, and will make in-kind contributions over the course of the project. Some of these organizations include nonprofits such as Ventura County Community Development Corporation, Senior Concerns, and Conejo Parks and Recreation District. Additionally, as members of the Ventura County Wildfire Collaborative, VRFSC expects ongoing assistance from Ventura County Resource Conservation District, the other countywide Fire Safe Councils, and associated consultants. While Ventura County Fire Department is a key partner on this proposal, VRFSC has long standing relationships with other area Fire Departments, including Ventura City Fire, Fillmore Fire, and Santa Barbara County Fire. Due to the regional scope of this project, VRFSC anticipates in-kind support for this project from these Fire Departments as well. Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council currently has several funded projects that will complement and extend the impact of the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative. Before the Burn: A Groundbreaking Approach to Home Hardening is an initiative funded by the California Fire Safe Council that provides for the standardization and dissemination of home hardening protocol to regional actors in Ventura County. This project is

currently funded through 2024, and VRFSC plans to continue this work through additional funding sources well into the future. This project provides a clear overlap with the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative, insofar as Before the Burn is building a home hardening organizational platform on which Firewise and fuels education can be added. Also funded through the California Fire Safe Council is VRFSC's status as a County Coordinator for Ventura County. Again, VRFSC expects ongoing funding to continue this project well into the lifespan of the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative. The work associated with the County Coordinator grant directly coincides with the emphasis on Firewise and community education established in the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative. Additionally, VRFSC currently has two active resident assistance projects that will synthesize with the goals of the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative. Each of these projects, made possible by the support of the Conejo Open Space Conservation Alliance and Ventura County Community Foundation, provides direct assistance for qualified homeowners to complete fire safe retrofits on their home.

2. Describe plans for external communications during the life of the project to keep the effected community informed about the goals, objectives and progress of the project. Activities such as planned press releases, project signage, community meetings, and field tours are encouraged. : Fortunately, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council has extensive experience with external communications in the precise demographics that the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative will address. This is primarily the result of VRFSC's role as the primary home hardening outlet for Ventura County, as well as complementary programs such as VRFSC's retrofit incentive package. For each of these programs, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council has had to engage with vulnerable populations through a combination of print, media, and in-person methods, and through providing bilingual resources. For the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative, VRFSC plans to expand this strategy to an even greater degree. VRFSC plans to open this project with an extensive outreach campaign addressing the project and describing each component of the fire safety strategy outlined in the project. This initial effort will include planned press releases in the VC Star, Thousand Oaks Acorn, and Santa Paula Times; VRFSC has working relationships with each of these publications and has submitted press releases in each to great effect. Additionally, VRFSC will utilize all internal communications outlets to further keep the affected communities informed. This will include newsletter updates, email and social media outreach, and flyer distribution, both through mailing campaigns and partnering groups such as HOAs and community-based groups. The bulk of the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative involves "boots on the ground" wildfire mitigation efforts, including educational events, chipping events, and fuels projects. For each of these outreach events, VRFSC will have a dedicated staff member present to serve as the community liaison and point of contact. VRFSC will host field tours to the community explaining the work being done at each project site. This will afford residents the opportunity to connect people with projects, and serve as a vital tether between programs and community engagement. Where possible, VRFSC Executive Director and Board of Directors will also be present at community meetings and field tours as well.

3. Describe any plans to maintain the project after the grant period has ended. : Each of the specific activities outlined in the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative are fully supported by existing programs at VRFSC, and will continue to be maintained long after the grant period has ended. VRFSC has proven to be the leading resource in Ventura County with respect to wildfire safety education, in partnership with both the Ventura County Wildfire Collaborative and the Ventura County Fire Department. This role has been recognized not just by community members and partner organizations, but funders as well. Since the expansion of VRFSC's home hardening program in 2021, the organization has secured no fewer than five significant grants in support of this project, including funding to assist homeowners in adopting fire safe retrofits, boost mailing campaigns, and conducting complementary chipper events. VRFSC has demonstrated through the acquisition of these grants that the organization possesses the institutional capacity and credibility to back up large scale projects with sustaining funds. VRFSC has every intention of continuing this work with respect to the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative. Furthermore, VRFSC's Board of Directors are committed to supporting the programs outlined in this project, as these programs are in direct alignment with VRFSC's mission. Both VRFSC's Board and Staff

understand that these programs are long term, and plan to fundraise accordingly. The Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative is designed with sustainability in mind, especially with respect to fuels mitigation and chipping work. A repeated frustration in Ventura County is that historically, fuels mitigation work and chipper events have been largely at the discretion of one-off, funded projects. Thanks to the partnership with Ventura County Fire outlined in this grant, as well as the requisite provisions to purchase state-of-the-art fuels equipment, this project sets up Ventura County to have a more reliable means and timeline for this important work. The Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative enables Ventura County Fire Department, in partnership with VRFSC, to be the preeminent fuels and chipping resource in Ventura County. This will allow the work outlined in this project to extend well beyond the lifespan of the grant.

4. Does the proposed project work with other organizations or agencies to address fire hazard reduction at the landscape level? : Yes, these projects are at a scale that will reduce wildland fire behavior and the way a wildland fire moves through the landscape. The aim is to make fires easier to extinguish and demand fewer firefighting resources to tackle the wildland fire problem. Each of the projects outlined will inhibit the spread of fire by reducing the fuel load between larger vegetation such as trees and chaparral. This will be accomplished through eliminating the grasses and forbes that are classified as light flashy fuels. The Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative is a collaborative project that partners with local Fire Departments, Ventura County Fire Department, Fire Safe Councils, HOAs and Community Wildfire Prevention Groups to accomplish these ends.

Section IV :

Project Implementation

1. Discuss the anticipated timeline for the project. Make sure to take seasonal restrictions into account. :

Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council will implement the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative over the span of 4 years. VRFSC believes this timeline is appropriate because it allows for the CEQA documentation process and accounts for variability in Ventura County Fire Department's availability and environmental restrictions such as nesting season. Additionally, the Firewise Development Pilot Project falls neatly into the 4 year timeline, where years 1-2 will be dedicated towards outreach and enlisting interested groups and years 3-4 will be dedicated to actually procuring Firewise certifications. Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council also believes that 4 years is an appropriate timeline for more general community outreach and education. Often communities tend to be more motivated when fire conditions are extreme, and a 4 year project span will encompass a large portion of Ventura County's wildfire season. Specifically, VRFSC anticipates the following year-by-year timeline for the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative: Year 1: VRFSC will identify mailing areas for the education campaign and FHRP updates. VRFSC will work with Ventura County Fire Department to standardize messaging, and will design additional materials such as presentational decks and flyers for in-person event distribution. A preliminary round of educational materials will be distributed to targeted residential areas. With respect to the proposed fuels treatment projects, VRFSC will solicit RFPs for contractor and CEQA work, purchase equipment and supplies, secure landowner agreements, and develop contracts with partnering contractors and consultants. VRFSC will expand the interest list of neighborhood groups interested in the Firewise designation, begin to host Firewise workshops with interested parties, and contact counties that have successfully implemented Firewise programs to glean lessons learned. Additionally, VRFSC will appoint or hire and train a permanent FireWise Coordinator on staff. Year 2: VRFSC will continue to send out the mailings for the education campaign and FHRP updates on a rolling basis. VRFSC will complement fuels and chipper projects with educational outreach. Additionally, VRFSC will continue building partnerships throughout the county to host educational workshops and events. VRFSC will begin rolling out both chipper events and fuels projects, pending CEQA completion. VRFSC will work with partnering consultants to ensure that all CEQA work is completed by the end of Year 2. VRFSC will continue Firewise workshops, and prep infrastructure for interested neighborhood groups to begin the Firewise application process. VRFSC's Firewise Coordinator will compile an extensive database of all interested Firewise parties. Year 3: VRFSC will continue the educational outreach and FHRP program. All fuels projects will have begun, and VRFSC will provide on-site

community educational support for each fuels project. VRFSC will continue sponsoring chipper events throughout the county. Neighborhood groups will have applied for a Firewise designation, and VRFSC will see the application process through for these groups. VRFSC will also determine additional incentives to offer Firewise communities should they pursue this certification through alternative funding sources. Year 4: While work will continue on the three stated objectives of the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative, VRFSC will solicit community feedback on the educational campaign. In addition to completing the stated fuels mitigation and chipping projects, VRFSC will partner with the Ventura County Fire Department to determine additional fuels mitigation projects and areas in need of chipping. VRFSC will look into additional funding sourced for these areas. Based on the completion of the Firewise Development Pilot Project, VRFSC will compile a manual illustrating how interested neighborhood groups can apply for this designation. VRFSC will assist in the upkeep of all existing Firewise communities in Ventura County. VRFSC will submit a detailed summary of the work accomplished in the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative to funders, the VRFSC Board, community members, partnering organizations, and project stakeholders.

2. Verify the expected timeframes to complete the project will fall under the required completion dates depending on the source of the funds awarded. : Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council fully expects project timeframes to accommodate the completion dates required by the source funding. VRFSC is uniquely equipped to meet all project deadlines due to the existing staff capacity and partnership with Ventura County Fire Department on the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative. Furthermore, VRFSC will leverage additional community partnerships to anticipate required completion dates. VRFSC currently has an extensive network of partners in education and outreach; this will allow VRFSC to launch the education program as soon as funds are awarded, leading to an expedited project timeline. Furthermore, the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative is constructed in such a way as to be accommodating with completion dates. There are multiple avenues to work on with this project, even as other avenues require more time to complete. This will lead to an overall more efficient work flow. For example, even as VRFSC would need to wait on CEQA completion to begin fuels projects, chipping projects could be completed as soon as the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative is funded and could continue on a rolling basis. With respect to the Firewise Development Pilot Project, VRFSC would be able to simultaneously reach out to new interested neighborhood groups, while overseeing the completion of Firewise communities already enrolled in the program. The inclusion of trusted consultants and contractors in this project would likewise assist with the completion of project goals on time. VRFSC would handle all appropriate deliverables in-house, but would take advantage of professional services to tackle deliverables that require more targeted expertise.

3. Using bullets, list the milestones that will be used to measure the progress of the project. : Objective 1 – Launch a comprehensive education campaign, including updates to the Fire Hazard Reduction Program (FHRP) as well as educational support for fuels and chipper projects. Milestone 1: VRFSC will partner with Ventura County Fire Department to update educational materials to include FHRP changes. VRFSC will identify mailing areas for the education campaign. VRFSC will develop educational programs to complement chipping and fuels mitigation projects. Milestone 2: VRFSC will vet all educational materials to include resources in both Spanish and English, and will pretest these materials prior to finalization. All educational materials will be screened for cultural sensitivity and appropriateness. Milestone 3: VRFSC will update area residents on the changes to the FHRP through virtual and live workshops, targeted mailings, and hosted events. VRFSC will coordinate with Ventura County Fire Department to align chipper days with abatement notices and timeline. VRFSC will provide resources related to abatement and FHRP updates in association with home hardening assessments and will partner with VCFD to extend home hardening resources to those residents receiving annual abatement notices. Milestone 4: VRFSC will distribute printed materials, digital resources, and work with regional partners to further educate and inform the public about fuels and chipping projects. VRFSC will provide on-site education for each project and chipper event. Milestone 5: VRFSC will develop a mechanism to measure and track the success of the educational campaign through feedback and the use of surveys. VRFSC will collaborate with trusted partners and consultants to interpret results, and will distribute all findings to the organization's network. Objective 2 - Firewise Development Pilot

Project; seeding the development of Firewise communities in Ventura County Milestone 6: VRFSC will partner with regional Fire Safe Councils and resiliency organizations to build and expand the existing database of interested HOAs and neighborhood groups. VRFSC and partners will plan to host workshops and outreach events for these groups. VRFSC will also contact counties that have successfully implemented the Firewise curriculum, and glean lessons learned from this process. Milestone 7: VRFSC and partnering organizations will work with contractors to improve back-end website and digital infrastructure to support the growth of Firewise communities, including landing pages, virtual training resources, and tracking capabilities for VRFSC and partners. Milestone 8: VRFSC will follow up with all groups that have expressed interest in a Firewise designation or have hosted a Firewise workshop or outreach event. VRFSC will assist these groups with administrative or technical support in applying for a Firewise designation. Where applicable, VRFSC staff members will assist applicant groups in the completion of Firewise requirements. Milestone 9: VRFSC will oversee the completion of Firewise designations for applicant groups. VRFSC will provide tokens of completion to these communities in addition to receiving the Firewise designation. Milestone 10: VRFSC will develop a Firewise manual that outlines in clear and concise steps how to progress from a Firewise workshop to a Firewise designated community. Creating Firewise communities in Ventura County is a long term effort, and VRFSC wants to set the stage by tracking challenges, lessons learned, and accomplishments from the very beginning. Objective 3 - Fuels Mitigation and Chipper Projects, as identified by Ventura County Fire Department Milestone 11: VRFSC will solicit RFPs for contractor and CEQA work, purchase equipment and supplies, secure landowner agreements, and develop contracts with partnering contractors and consultants. Milestone 12: VRFSC will identify communities in need of chipping services, partner with Ventura County Fire Department to schedule chipping days for these communities and promote these days through outreach and marketing. Milestone 13: VRFSC will complete the three stated fuels modification projects and will complete chipper events in Ventura County on a rolling basis. Milestone 14: VRFSC will partner with Ventura County Fire Department to identify additional fuels treatment and chipper needs for Ventura County. VRFSC will work to secure additional funding for these projects.

4. Using bullets, list the measurable outcomes (i.e. project deliverables) that will be used to measure the project's success. : Objective 1 – Launch a comprehensive education campaign, including updates to the Fire Hazard Reduction Program (FHRP) as well as educational support for fuels and chipper projects. Outcome 1: VRFSC will identify a minimum of 15,000 residents in partnership with Ventura County Fire Department for mailing updates to the FHRP. A further 30,000 residents will be reached through digital channels and e-distribution. Outcome 2: VRFSC will conduct 20-30 workshops educating the community on updates to the FHRP, home hardening, and chipper and fuels project support throughout the county. These workshops will reach at least 600 county residents. Each workshop will have Spanish language options for attendants, and at least 10 will be conducted solely in Spanish. Outcome 3: VRFSC will leverage partnerships with at least 15 community-based organizations to further distribute educational materials to residents, and will identify an additional 15 organizations for future partnership in this work. All educational materials will have Spanish language options. Objective 2 - Firewise Development Pilot Project; seeding the development of Firewise communities in Ventura County Outcome 4: VRFSC will identify and contact 75-100 HOAs and neighborhood groups throughout Ventura County on behalf of NFPA's Firewise program. Outcome 5: VRFSC will solicit interest from 40-50 of these HOAs and neighborhood groups on behalf of Firewise, and will conduct 20-30 Firewise workshops throughout Ventura County. Outcome 6: VRFSC will assist 20 HOAs and neighborhood groups in the Firewise application process, and will oversee the creation of 10 Firewise communities within Ventura County. Outcome 7: VRFSC will develop a Firewise manual that outlines in clear and concise steps how to progress from a Firewise workshop to a Firewise designated community. VRFSC will share this information with all interested parties in Ventura County. Objective 3 - Fuels Mitigation and Chipper Projects, as identified by Ventura County Fire Department Outcome 8: VRFSC will identify 20-30 communities within Ventura County as candidates for chipping events. Outcome 9: VRFSC will conduct 18 chipping events in these communities over the term of the project. Outcome 10: Through these chipping events, VRFSC will chip a total of 100 acres of flammable material across Ventura County, serving a total of 500 residents. Outcome 11: VRFSC will facilitate 4 major fuels mitigation projects in high-needs areas of Ventura County, in partnership with

Ventura County Fire Department. These projects will treat a combined total of 392 acres of FHSZ in Ventura County. Outcome 12: Ventura County Fire Department and VRFSC will identify a further 10 potential fuels projects throughout Ventura County, complete with maps and environmental restrictions.

5. If applicable, how will the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) be met? :

Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council plans to contract with an environmental consulting agency to meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This will allow CEQA requirements to be professionally handled on an expedited timeline, allowing VRFSC to proceed with the fuels mitigation projects as efficiently as possible. VRFSC has already solicited quotes for the CEQA components of each fuels project from consulting groups; these quotes are reflected in the budget for the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative. This would allow VRFSC and Ventura County Fire Department to begin the CEQA process simultaneously with the start date of the project.

6. List any existing forest or land management plans; Conservation Easements; Covenant, Conditions & Restrictions (CC&R's); matters related to zoning; use restrictions, or other factors that can or will limit the wildfire prevention proposed activity? : The only relevant restriction to the proposed fuels mitigation projects are the wildlife corridors present in Ventura County. However, VRFSC has confirmed that the wildlife corridors do not overlap with any of the proposed projects, and there is a buffer included between each project and the wildlife corridors. For "the Avenue" grazing project, the wildlife corridor extends on the opposite side of Highway 33 from the proposed project. For the Piru "Park Street" project, the wildlife corridor is well to the east of the proposed project site. And for the Fillmore projects, there is a sufficient space between the project site and the wildlife corridor.

Section V :

Administration

1. Describe any previous experience the project proponent has with similar projects. Include a list of recent past projects the proponent has successfully completed if applicable. Project applicant or manager having no previous experience with similar projects should discuss any past experiences that may help show a capacity to successfully complete the project being proposed. This may include partnering with a more experienced organization that can provide project support. : VRFSC has the infrastructure and capacity to successfully implement the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative. Over the last three years, the VRFSC has become a far more responsive and impact-driven organization. VRFSC is led by a strong, diverse and growing board, an active advisory board, and a full-time staff of six. Staff, board members, and active volunteers provide deep experience in both wildfire science and an understanding of the communities they serve. VRFSC has strong policies and procedures in place, a well-coordinated structure between board and staff, fundraising expertise and programs that reflect community driven priorities and board oversight. Importantly, the proposed program is deeply aligned with VRFSC's mission and the recently updated Strategic Plan (2022-2025). During this same time, VRFSC has also helped strengthen partner FSCs and position the VRFSC as a genuinely collaborative partner interested in elevating the entire wildfire field. Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council has significant experience implementing projects of a similar type and scope to the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative. The most recent and noteworthy example is VRFSC's role in the 2021 grant, funded through CalFire, the Ventura County Wildfire Collaborative (VC-WC Project). The VC-WC Project is an expansive undertaking in Ventura County that ties together resilience organizations, Fire Safe Councils, stakeholders, and community members in a comprehensive wildfire preparedness effort. Within this grant, VRFSC is responsible for conducting 400 home hardening assessments countywide, as well as over 30 outreach and train-the-trainer events. Additionally, VRFSC has a crucial role in quarterly Collaborative meetings and regional Town Hall events as a component of this project. The VC-WC Project in many ways establishes the framework for the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative, and has allowed VRFSC to attain the necessary organizational infrastructure and capacity.

Notably, VRFSC is re-applying to continue this important work in 2023 with the Ventura County Resource Conservation District. The VC-WC project is by no means the only similar project to the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative. VRFSC currently has two large projects, totaling \$319,891.00 combined, funded by the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC); Before the Burn: A Groundbreaking Approach to Home Hardening and CFSC's County Coordinator Grant. Each of these projects attempts to standardize and streamline many of the practices developed by Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council amongst partnering Fire Safe Councils and regional organizations. Each of these grants are sourced from federal funds, and VRFSC has a robust team of staff members responsible for tracking expenditures and reporting on grant progress to CFSC. In addition to government grants, VRFSC has experience working with private funders and NGOs. Presently, VRFSC is working on large projects funded through the Conejo Open Space Conservation Alliance (COSCA), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), Southern California Edison (SCE), Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF), and California Fire Foundation. For each of these projects, VRFSC has orchestrated every step of the grant's life cycle from conception to implementation. VRFSC also has significant experience working with local fire departments and partnering contractors to complete the precise kinds of fuels mitigation and chipper work described in the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative. In 2022, VRFSC partnered with Team Rubicon, a nonprofit that matches veterans with disaster prevention and relief projects, to limb a swath of hazardous eucalyptus trees in a creek bed running through Santa Paula. In addition to limbing these trees, Team Rubicon cleared ground vegetation and chipped small trees and shrubs. The project took several days to complete, with VRFSC in charge of logistics and some costs. VRFSC has also conducted numerous chipper events over the years, typically in partnership with Ventura County Fire or Fillmore Fire. VRFSC's most recent chipper grant, supported by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, provides for 12 chipper events to be conducted in the Thousand Oaks region over the span of two years. VRFSC has written into this project the use of a state-of-the art chipper day app through the company FireAside, which will allow for chipper days to be conducted on a drive by as opposed to stationary format. VRFSC expects this to elevate the entire chipper day experience, from both the resident's and contractor's perspective. A list of recent completed projects is as follows: EXAMPLE #1: CHIPPER EVENTS & VARSITY PARK HOA FUELS PROJECT, "One Step Ahead: Planning for & Preventing Wildfire in Ventura County" Project Funder: CAL FIRE (Cal-FSC-18 SMG 112764) for \$176,901.00 from December 2018 to March 2022 Project Description: Chipper Days remove unwanted vegetation to reduce the flammable fuel load in communities that border the Wildland Urban Interface threat zones. The program facilitates the bimonthly vegetation management and fuel reduction events during the weed abatement season (April - June) and into the beginning of the fire season (June - September) for residents living in the Wildland Urban Interface. The goal is to facilitate and increase fuel reduction and weed abatement activities in these communities. The Chipper Days included both drop-off and curbside, many in areas serving lower-income communities, such as Fillmore and Piru, and other neighborhoods primarily serving large percentages of elderly, such as in the HOA in Moorpark. The Varsity Park Patio Homes HOA was established 37 years ago with 271 homes on 42 acres of hillside 'open space' in the wildland-urban interface in Moorpark, CA. There are steep hillsides between and behind homes throughout the development. The hillsides have not been maintained, as they were intended to remain open space/wildland. Hence, they have become densely overgrown with thick acacia along with accumulated dead and dying plant material from the long years of drought. Three fires have entered the hillsides from adjacent areas pushed by strong Santa Ana winds. In 2017, the HOA Board committed to clearing the hillsides of the fire fuel by setting three important goals. First, improved fire prevention by reducing the fuel load on the hillsides. Second, Firewise and waterwise replanting, and lastly, water conservation. To begin the process, the HOA established 5 Zones and prioritized them by frequency of previous fires and density of fire fuel. Partners: Ventura County Fire Department, California Conservation Corps, Oxnard College Regional Fire Academy, Varsity Park HOA, Fillmore Fire Department, Ventura County Parks & Recreation, a collaboration of homeowners, city mayors, city managers, neighborhood associations, community centers and nonprofits. Outcomes: 1. During the two-year program, VRFSC organized 25 Chipper Days, cleared 171 acres working together with 353 homeowners or residents, and solidified partnerships with multiple government and nonprofit agencies. 2. Identified new and strengthened existing partnerships with local governmental and non-governmental entities. 3. The documented success of the program impact led to additional vegetation management programs in

Piru and the Greater Conejo Valley area. 4. For the fuels project, 16.5 acres were cleared encompassing three of the five targeted hillside zones, significantly decreasing the hazardous fuel load. 5. At least 416 in-kind hours and a total of 56 volunteers from the HOA supported the project. 6. The HOA committed to a matching amount of \$39,600.00, however, the monetary output of the HOA for enhanced fire fuel abatement over the 2 1/2 years has actually totaled \$87,727. 7. Independent of the Fire Safe Council, the HOA reduced the fuel load from an additional 11 acres and cleared 200' behind homes over an estimated 41 days, and there is weekly fuel abatement occurring behind homes year-round. 5. As a result of this strong partnership, the HOA Board partnered with VRFSC in their end-of-the-year fundraising campaign to raise unrestricted dollars. 8. A video was developed to illustrate the impact of the program https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ajv8fes100dwknt/AADXgdQdvx_z_P0XdmeTOpV9a?dl=0 and the VRFSC has begun to map the entire HOA area. The purpose is to document the fuel load before the partnership program began and again at the close of the intervention to demonstrate the impact of the program. In summary, the removal of the dense fuel load from the hillsides surrounding the HOA has greatly assisted towards the reduction of future fires in the community and/or limited their magnitude. V ditches were cleared, tree branches were limbed up, and homeowners became engaged, motivated and volunteered to support Firewise safety needs. The HOA board has also committed to continuing working in all five zones, maintaining the partnership with the VRFSC, and continuing to keep HOA members energized and motivated to create and maintain a safe environment.

EXAMPLE #2: PREPARING HOMES TO WITHSTAND EMBER ATTACKS IN THE GREATER CONEJO VALLEY AREA
 Funder: Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency for \$45,808.00 from December 2020 to February 2022
 Project Description: The goal of the program was for residents in the Greater Conejo Valley Area, a high fire severity area, to become more fire resilient, safer and better prepared to withstand the threat of wildfire. The program focused on minimizing the likelihood of embers entering the home. The program was based on the Firewise principles and practices recommended and vetted by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) and includes elements of the "Ready Set Go" program. The program was an outgrowth of the VRFSC's "Be Prepared for Wildfire" workshops that were successfully organized, implemented and evaluated in 2020-2021. There were several complementary activities. The 3-day Home Hardening Train the Trainer workshop vetted CERT and DART volunteers (among others) to conduct Home Ignition Zone Assessments in neighborhoods and HOAs at greatest risk for wildfire. The course included defensible space planning and risk and structural analysis as well as specific recommendations to increase a home and property's potential survivability in a wildfire. The development of a Task Book was a key component of the qualification process for a volunteer to perform HIZ assessments. The Task Book provided an observable, measurable, and standardized means to evaluate and document trainee proficiency. Partners: City of Thousand Oaks, Ventura County Fire Department, Conejo Parks & Recreation, Sure-Fire Training, Inc. Outcomes: 1. Organized and hosted the Home Ignition Zone hybrid training (zoom and in-person) and developed the Task Book for 10 vetted volunteers. All participants successfully completed the course and became qualified to conduct Home Hardening Assessments. 2. Completed 63 Home Hardening Assessments in Thousand Oaks and nearby neighborhoods. 3. Conducted follow-up emails and created a follow-up survey among all residents who received an assessment to understand whether follow-up activities took place. 4. Completed user-friendly Home Hardening Guide describing, step-by-step, how to implement and evaluate a comprehensive community-based Home Hardening program. VRFSC learned a great deal about how to promote the program, how to schedule assessments, how and when to conduct follow-up surveys, and how, in general, to improve the program going forward. 5. Distributed the Home Hardening Guide throughout the region. 6. Provided extensive public outreach and education through webinars and community events reaching 750+ constituents through 40 outreach opportunities which resulted in increased awareness of the program. 7. Conducted 4 free community chipper events - 56 piles were documented, and 8.5 acres were cleared. Long Term Outcomes: 1. VRFSC initiated (and continues to convene) the quarterly Home Hardening - Sharing Best Practices regional meetings to share learnings from and with the field. Over 20 agencies attend from multiple counties (Kern, Santa Barbara, Malibu and Los Angeles). 2. VRFSC's experience from the pilot led to the successful countywide home hardening program funded by Cal-Fire in January 2022. 3. COSCA (Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency) funded the VRFSC to not only continue but expand the Home Hardening program in the Greater Conejo Valley in March 2022.

EXAMPLE #3: REDUCING THE RISK OF WILDFIRE TO SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN

VENTURA COUNTY Funder: Southern California Edison (SCE) for \$15,000.00 from June 2021 to April 2022

Project Description: The goal of the project was to develop a management plan to reduce the risk of wildfire to vulnerable populations (homeless, non-English speakers, agricultural workers, low-income, disabled, etc.) as a part of the Ventura County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and thereby tackle the significant social inequities and wildfire threat. All communities are impacted by wildfire, but adverse social conditions, including poverty, poor vehicle access, and crowded households significantly affect a community's ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss from a wildfire. The team surveyed heads of households in Ventura County to improve and expand their understanding of wildfire impacts on residents and what should be included in future planning documents.

Partner: University of California Santa Barbara, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management

Outcomes: 1. The team received 471 responses from an online survey and conducted two focus groups in predominantly Spanish speaking neighborhoods. 2. Developed new partnerships with non-profit agencies that serve Ventura County's most vulnerable populations, including CAUSE, Senior Concerns, etc. 3. Identified how best to communicate data and information about wildfire to Spanish speakers living in the Wildland Urban Interface. 4. Identified community leaders that may assume a leadership role in developing a new policy for vulnerable communities in the Wildland Urban Interface. 5. Increased understanding of how to reach Ventura County's most vulnerable populations. Some survey results are below: a) Of those surveyed, 35% of people experienced evacuation due to wildfire and 32% reported effects of wildfire to their general well-being. The third most frequent effect was smoke impacts (23%). b) Participants also said there are insufficient Spanish resources on wildfire prevention, evacuation, and response including emergency notifications. Elderly and Indigenous members of their community also have difficulty accessing information because wildfire notifications are inaccessible. This is either due to an overreliance on technology, electronic and social media outlets, or the written materials. c) Participants of both focus groups were particularly concerned about evacuation. In Santa Paula, this concern centered on families' ability to evacuate and stay together once they do so. They expressed that many folks do not have the vehicle capacity to evacuate all their children at once, necessitating multiple trips. d) Many of the survey respondents were particularly concerned about proactive fire mitigation practices undertaken by the government and utility companies, such as electrical infrastructure maintenance (36%) and tree pruning (34%) (Figure 7). Some respondents mentioned considering controlled burning informed by Indigenous practices. 6. Local Community Wildfire Protection Plans are incorporating the recommendations from the VRFSC/UCSB project.

2. Identify who will be responsible for tracking project expenses and maintaining project records in a manner that allows for a full audit trail of any awarded grant funds. : Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council has the capacity to track project expenses and maintain project records in-house, which is a tremendous asset with respect to allowing for a full audit trail. The primary full time staff members responsible for this process are: Stephen Watson, Executive Director; Pepper Dee, Director of Programs; and Sarah Wortman, Finance and Administration Manager. VRFSC has developed a sophisticated Grant Master Workbook to track project expenses in aggregate. This Workbook, which includes a cover sheet for all organizational grants and sub-sheets for each individual grant, allows VRFSC to track at a glance the amount awarded, amount spent, amount spent by category & sub-category, and deliverable completion for each grant. Additionally, the Grant Master Workbook tracks reporting due dates and matching fund contributions. VRFSC also has strategies in place for tracking expenses and staff time on an organizational level. VRFSC currently uses QuickBooks online to reconcile and track revenue/expenses according to generally accepted accounting principles. Furthermore, VRFSC has a large amount of internal controls to ensure correct usage of funds, including but not limited to expense request forms, approved mileage and expense reimbursement forms, timesheets, dual signatures on checks above a threshold, the staff preparing checks cannot sign checks, and much more to make sure that there are internal checks at each step of an expense. Records are kept both digitally, only accessible by administrative staff, and physically filed in a locked cabinet. Additionally, all expenses are reconciled on a monthly basis and presented to the Board Treasurer at monthly Finance Committee meetings in which each expense is then explored and approved. VRFSC understands the weight and importance of proper usage of funds, especially with grant funded projects.

Section VI :

Budget

A detailed project budget should be provided in the online budget included in this solicitation. The space provided here is to allow for a narrative description to further explain the proposed budget.

1. Explain how the grant funds, if awarded, will be spent to support the goals and objectives of the project. If equipment grant funds are requested, explain how the equipment will be utilized and maintained beyond the life of the grant. : Grant funds will be used to cover appropriate staff time to manage and implement the goals and objectives of this project. Additionally, the funds will cover contractual costs pertaining to any work outsources. Some of these costs include the acquisition of necessary environmental reports and/or CEQAs for the fuels projects, labor cost of crews working on the chipper and fuels projects, costs pertaining to the inclusion of other community based organizations to support the goals and objectives, and website development and maintenance for all of the projects detailed in this application. Additionally, the funds will be utilized for logistics related to the projected costs of these projects such as mileage, travel, training, advertising, supplies, postage, and so on. All of these costs are essential for success. In order to plan for the sustainability of these fuels reduction projects in perpetuity, VRFSC will purchase a mower, chainsaws, and weed whackers for the Ventura County Fire Department. This equipment will service Ventura County and allow for the fire department to continue to meet the county's fuels mitigation needs. The newly purchased equipment will be maintained and stored by VCFD. All equipment will be maintained by VCFD's mechanics and stored at the central location of Wildland Camp 1. Depending on project location, the equipment can be temporarily stored at a VCFD Fire Stations closer to the project area. The mower will be utilized in tandem with the goats in "The Avenue" grazing project to maneuver into flatter spots where goats are not necessary. The mower will also be the tool of choice for fence lines where applicable, as opposed to hand crews, in order to save time and money. Similar to the chipper, the current mower that the Fire Department has been using thus far is costly in terms of maintenance, as well as being too large and not built for the steeper terrain included in this proposal. Ventura County Fire Department has the infrastructure to maintain and provide upkeep for the proposed mower. Furthermore, the mower will save valuable staff time and money due to the decreased number of crew members required to operate the machine. Ventura County Fire Department also requires chainsaws and weed whackers to execute the proposed fuels projects. Each of these tools will be used to cut the fence lines for the electric fencing for the grazing animals; the chainsaws will be used to cut the brush and the weed whackers used to cut grass and forbes. The chainsaws can also be used on chipper projects if the limbs of trees need to be cut to fit into the chipper. Both the chainsaws and weed whackers will be used on VCFD's other fuels reduction projects as well. VCFD has a cadre of fully qualified Faller 1's, overseeing the falling operations for the fire department.

2. Are the costs for each proposed activity reasonable for the geographic area where they are to be performed? Identify any costs that are higher than usual and explain any special circumstances within the project that makes these increased costs necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the project. : To our knowledge, the proposed costs are appropriate for the projects being performed in Ventura County. VRFSC has administered chipper events and fuels projects in the past with various partners. In those instances, the actual costs were higher than our proposed costs. The partnership with Ventura County Fire Department allows for these costs to be lower than what may normally be considered from other entities. VRFSC is fortunate to have such a strong partnership with VCFD which allows for this cooperation to exist. There are no costs that VRFSC or VCFD believes to be higher than usual.

3. Is the total project cost appropriate for the size, scope, and anticipated benefit of the project? : VRFSC and VCFD believe that the cost is appropriate for the size, scope, and anticipated benefit of the project. The cost of these projects pales in comparison to the costs in damages and repairs that would result from a wildfire impacting those zones. Furthermore, a large focus of this grant is to engage the community and empower them to make changes necessary to prepare themselves for wildfire. This will create a long lasting impact of homeowner

involvement for countless years after the life of this grant. The benefit is nearly endless when viewed from the lens of changing the community's perception of wildfire preparedness and the part they play in protecting their families, neighbors, and community.

4. Using bullets please list each object category amount that you are requesting and the detail of how that would support meeting the grant objectives. : Total Budget: \$2,938,615.40 Personnel Total – \$1,278,649.32

\$193,196.64 - Executive Director: The Executive Director will be involved for approximately 4368 hours (roughly 10-20 hours per week). Approximately 832 additional hours will be matched by VRFSC. The Executive Director's pay will range from \$38 - \$46 an hour based on adjustments over time. ED will supervise and manage staff working on these projects as well as assist in facilitating conversations with key stakeholders to streamline community engagement, fuels projects, partnerships with the fire department, attend large meetings and events, and pursue additional funding sources and opportunities for project improvement. ED will review financial and programmatic progress and be final approval on expenses and reports. **\$215,644.00 - Director of Programs:** The Director of Programs will be involved for approximately 5200 hours (roughly 20-30 hours per week). Approximately 1040 additional hours will be matched by VRFSC. The Director of Program's pay will range from \$36 - \$43 an hour based on adjustments over time. Involvement on this grant includes overseeing, managing and assisting programmatic staff, developing project implementation plans, track and monitor progress, ensure that all projects are done in a timely and efficient manner, and integrating these programs into all other VRFSC's programs and projects. **\$234,834.60 - Fuels Treatment Coordinator:** The Fuels Treatment Coordinator will be involved for approximately 6006 hours (roughly 20-35 hours per week). Approximately 858 additional hours will be matched by VRFSC. The Fuels Treatment Coordinator's pay will range from \$34 - \$40 an hour based on adjustments over time. Involvement includes facilitating chipper events and coordinating with VCFD on fuels treatment projects, coordinating with local organizations on these projects, gathering necessary approval for work to be done, working closely with consultant(s) to be CEQA compliant, and generally be our "boots on the ground" to get the work done. **\$244,770.24 - Firewise Coordinator:** The Firewise Coordinator will be involved for approximately 6864 hours (roughly 25-35 hours per week). The Firewise Coordinator's pay will range from \$31 - \$37 an hour based on adjustments over time. Involvement on this grant includes identifying and reaching out to interested potential Firewise communities, working with partnering organizations to provide information on Firewise, coordinating with the website contractor to implement website engagement for Firewise, staying up to date on research and findings related to Firewise, hosting workshops, and ultimately working with communities to gain Firewise designation. **\$244,770.24 - Education & Outreach Coordinator:** The Education & Outreach Coordinator will be involved for approximately 6864 hours (roughly 25-35 hours per week). The Fuels Treatment Coordinator's pay will range from \$31 - \$37 an hour based on adjustments over time. Involvement includes all educational components of this project, hosting events and workshops, preparing printed and digital materials to partners and homeowners, tabling events, pursuing additional educational avenues for increased community engagement, attending events to stay up to date with wildfire knowledge, and more. **\$145,433.60 - Finance and Administration Manager:** The Finance and Administration Manager will be involved for approximately 3925 hours (Roughly 15-20 hours per week). Approximately 1040 additional hours will be matched by VRFSC. The Finance & Administration Manager's pay will range from \$32 - \$38 an hour based on adjustments over time. This includes but is not limited to managing the budget, grant reporting, invoicing, bookkeeping, payroll, cash flow analyses, A/R and A/P, creating RFPs and contracts with consultants, grant management, day to day administrative work pertaining to this project, and more. Finance & Admin manager will report to the Executive Director on successes, concerns, and challenges. **Benefits Total – \$342,820.14**

\$51,149.28 – Executive Director Benefits: Cost of benefits for Executive Director related to hourly involvement on this project. Includes payroll taxes, workers comp, paid time off, as well as health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance. **\$56,940.00 – Director of Programs Benefits:** Cost of benefits for Director of Programs related to hourly involvement on this project. Includes payroll taxes, workers comp, paid time off, as well as health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance. **\$62,762.70 – Fuels Treatment Coordinator Benefits:** Cost of benefits for Fuels Treatment Coordinator related to hourly involvement on this project. Includes payroll taxes, workers comp, paid time off, as well as health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance. **\$66,718.08 – Firewise Coordinator**

Benefits: Cost of benefits for Firewise Coordinator related to hourly involvement on this project. Includes payroll taxes, workers comp, paid time off, as well as health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance. \$66,718.08 – Education & Outreach Coordinator Benefits: Cost of benefits for Edu/Outreach coordinator related to hourly involvement on this project. Includes payroll taxes, workers comp, paid time off, as well as health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance. \$38,532 – Finance & Administration Manager Benefits: Cost of benefits for Finance/Admin Manager related to hourly involvement on this project. Includes payroll taxes, workers comp, paid time off, as well as health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance. Contractual Total – \$824,050.00 \$38,000.00 - Community & Partner Engagement: Plan to partner and contract with organizations to support Firewise community development, chipper event participation and marketing, and assisting VRFSC with engaging in each respective organization's community. \$520,300.00 - Fuels Projects: Costs for working crew from Ventura County Fire Department and grazing contractor based on the acreage and costs estimated by VCFD. These estimates are based on all fuels projects in this grant and account for necessary contractors to complement work being done by VCFD. \$126,000.00 - CEQA Compliance & Biological monitoring: These are costs estimated by outside consultants who may be utilized to comply with CEQA for each fuel projects. RFPs will be submitted to various consultants who would then be chosen based on competence, reliability and experience, and appropriate cost. \$90,000.00 - Chipper Events: This is the estimated cost for hosting and facilitating 18 chipper events utilizing VCFD's crew. \$31,750.00 - Mapping: Estimated cost of mapping to be utilized for potential Firewise development via BeaconBox and FlameMapper. Additional mapping may be utilized to prioritize zones for mailers and outreach and monitoring fuels projects. \$18,000.00 - Web Development: Estimated cost of developing web pages for Firewise community engagement, tracking, and monitoring in an interactive manner. Additionally, interactive pages dedicated to education and chipper events are planned as well. Lastly, we anticipate there being periodic maintenance and web hosting fees. Travel Total – \$7,280.00 \$7,280.00 – Mileage: Mileage reimbursement for VRFSC staff based on the standard IRS mileage rate (rounded up to \$0.70 to account for anticipated increase). Supplies Total – \$14,000.00 \$2,000.00 – Office Supplies: Includes pens, paper, binders, notepads, filing supplies, and other miscellaneous office supplies necessary for these projects. \$3,000.00 – Computers, Software, & Accessories: Includes necessary laptops, computers, software, accessories, and other technical tools deemed necessary to complete the project in the most cost-effective manner. \$9,000.00 – Fuels Mitigation Supplies: This includes costs of chainsaws and weed whackers to be used by Ventura County Fire Department. Each of these tools will be used to erect the electric fencing to contain the grazing animals; the chainsaws will be used to cut the brush, limb trees, and the weed whackers used to cut grass and forbes. The chainsaws can also be used on chipper projects if the limbs of trees need to be cut to fit into the chipper. Both the chainsaws and weed whackers will be used on the Fillmore projects, Piru project, and VCFD's other fuels reduction projects as well. VCFD has a cadre of fully qualified Faller 1's, overseeing the falling operations and tool maintenance for the fire department. Equipment Total – \$75,000.00 \$75,000.00 – Remote Control Mower: VRFSC will purchase one remote control mower for Ventura County Fire Department. This will be utilized in tandem with the goats in "The Avenue" grazing project to maneuver into flatter spots where goats are not necessary as well as the additional fuels projects. The mower will also be the tool of choice for fence lines where applicable, as opposed to hand crews, in order to save time and money. Similar to the chipper, the current mower that the Fire Department has been using thus far is costly in terms of maintenance, as well as being too large and not built for the steeper terrain included in this proposal. Ventura County Fire Department has the infrastructure to maintain and provide upkeep for the proposed mower. Other Total – \$90,000.00 \$40,000.00 – Education, Marketing, & Outreach: includes printing, ads, banners, flyers, mailing, newspaper ads, educational & outreach materials, fees for venues to host workshops & events, and other various costs attached to marketing, advertising, and education in order to adequately reach our most at-risk communities. Additionally, this line item covers postage necessary for mailers. \$50,000.00 – Firewise Community Beacon Boxes: These are the costs based on estimates of implementing BeaconBoxes to physically show the designated Firewise communities as well as a resource that fire departments can utilize to provide valuable information in the event of an active wildfire. Estimates based on the goal of a minimum of 10 Firewise designated communities. Indirect – \$307,991.16 \$307,991.16 – Indirect: Indirect costs at approved indirect rate (12%). Match - \$239,006.28 VRFSC will match \$191,984.78 in the form of staff time and benefits. This will come from additional

funding sources that complement and support projects specified in this application. VRFSC will seek additional funding to further expand these programs in an effort to have an even bigger and longer lasting impact in Ventura County's wildfire preparation. Additionally, VRFSC will acquire approximately \$47,021.50 in match from partners, community members, and board members. VRFSC anticipates a certain level of community engagement with the Firewise communities in the form of volunteer hours. There is an annual estimate of 1 hour volunteer time per household involved in the Firewise community at the current standard volunteer rate (\$29.95/hour). Additionally, homeowner involvement in the chipper programs is essential as they will need to prepare yard waste on their curbside to be chipped. VRFSC's board of directors will be pivotal in assisting VRFSC staff with planning and establishing connections with local government and community stakeholders.

5. Does your project include the purchase of capital equipment (more than \$5,000 per item)? : Yes

6. Provide a cost-benefit analysis to justify the purchase of equipment versus leasing : Because Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council will be partnering with Ventura County Fire Department on this project, purchasing equipment makes the most sense from a cost-benefit perspective for a number of reasons. For one, given that VCFD has the infrastructure to store and maintain the equipment, each item can be used in perpetuity for not just this project but continuing fuels and chipper projects. This will allow for the programs outlined in the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative to be sustained beyond the scope of this project. From a financial perspective, this equates to an overall lower cost per usage than if VRFSC were to lease equipment for each individual effort. Additionally, equipment rentals provide a limited selection per tool, and generally offer a lower quality tool for each equipment need. The improved quality that comes with purchasing equipment leads not just to a higher quality project, but also lessens the overall cost of the project because fewer hands are needed to operate more advanced equipment. This is particularly true in the case of the mower. Finally, considering external costs, the equipment that VRFSC would be capable of purchasing are more carbon efficient than their rental equivalents. This is ultimately more financially and environmentally prudent than continuing to rent less efficient equipment, as well as pay for the transport and return of the equipment.

Section VII :

California Climate Investments

The space provided here is to allow for a narrative description to further explain how the project/activity will reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions.

1. How will the project/activity reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions? : All rolling wildfires release excessive carbon emissions, worsening the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) effect. Wildfires release large amounts of carbon dioxide, black carbon, brown carbon, and ozone precursors into the atmosphere. These emissions affect radiation, clouds, and climate on regional and even global scales. Although GHG emissions would occur from equipment and vehicles used to implement the proposed treatments, the purpose of this project is to reduce wildfire risk, which would lower GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration over the long term. Therefore, given that the focus of the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative is to limit the threat and scope of rolling wildfires in Ventura County, the entire effort can be viewed as a reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions. On a specific level, there are multiple provisions that Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council is including as part and parcel of the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative that will ensure that the project is conducted in a climate sensitive manner. As mentioned in the above scope of work, the project will be using mechanized equipment, hand tools, and prescribed herbivory to modify the surrounding vegetation along WUI community buffers. A large quantity of the project's leftover biomass will be consumed by livestock, reducing greater greenhouse gas emissions. The remaining woody biomass will be chipped in place. Based on the location of the closest biomass energy facility, it is not an efficient use of carbon to haul debris to Greenleaf Power for use in bioenergy. The use of prescribed herbivory on this project will reduce the amount of Greenhouse Gases emitted by shifting grasses from a highly flammable fire spreader into a natural fire barrier. This will in turn reduce flame length and fire intensity. Maintaining

flame lengths below four feet in grasslands also allows firefighters to manage fires without the use of heavy equipment, further limiting this project's fossil fuel footprint. The home hardening assessments and chipper days included in the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative will utilize the state-of-the-art fire prevention app, FireAside. Because of the sophistication of this app, homeowners are able to demonstrate through the single-sign-on portal when they have successfully completed a retrofit or modification. This will save large amounts of gas that employees would otherwise have to burn driving to each house for a follow up visit. Similarly, the chipper-specific component of the FireAside app optimizes the route of chipper and truck to lower mileage and reduce carbon emissions. Additionally, where possible, the chipping events included in the Ventura County Education and Fuels Mitigation Initiative will recycle the chipped materials by incorporating the chips safely into the landscape. This will encourage carbon that remained in the chipped biomass to ultimately biodegrade into the soil, resulting in long-term and more resilient carbon storage. Each of these measures represents a substantial improvement over prior efforts from a carbon efficiency perspective.

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Budget Report

Passthrough Agency: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
 Program: FY 2022-2023 Wildfire Prevention Grants
 Stage: Pre-Award

Report Date: 09/26/2023
 Requested By: Stephen Watson
info@venturafiresafe.org

Budget Items

Category	Title	Description	Units	Unit Cost	Extended Cost	Direct Cost	Indirect Cost	GL Account	Cost Share
Salaries & Wages									
	Executive Director	Roughly 10-20 hours per week. Estimated 832 additional hours will be matched by VRFSC. Pay will range from \$38 - \$46 an hour.	4368	\$44.23	\$193,196.64	\$193,196.64	\$23,183.80		\$36,799.36
	Director of Programs	Roughly 20-30 hours per week. Estimated 1040 additional hours will be matched by VRFSC. Pay will range from \$36-43/hr	5200	\$41.47	\$215,644.00	\$215,644.00	\$25,877.28		\$43,128.80
	Fuels Treatment Coordinator	Roughly 20-35 hours per week. Estimated 858 additional hours will be matched by VRFSC. Pay will range from \$34-40/hr	6006	\$39.10	\$234,834.60	\$234,834.60	\$28,180.15		\$33,547.80
	Firewise Coordinator	Roughly 25-35 hours per week. Pay will range from \$31-37/hr	6864	\$35.66	\$244,770.24	\$244,770.24	\$29,372.43		\$0.00
	Education & Outreach Coordinator	Roughly 25-35 hours per week. Pay will range from \$31-37/hr	6864	\$35.66	\$244,770.24	\$244,770.24	\$29,372.43		\$0.00
	Finance & Admin Manager	Roughly 15-20 hours per week. Estimated 1040 additional hours will be matched by VRFSC. Pay will range from \$32-37/hr	3852	\$36.80	\$145,433.60	\$145,433.60	\$17,452.03		\$38,272.00
Salaries & Wages Total			33254	\$232.92	\$1,278,649.32	\$1,278,649.32	\$153,437.92		\$151,747.96
Employee Benefits									
	Executive Director	hourly involvement on this project. Includes payroll taxes, workers comp, paid time off, as well as health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance.	4368	\$11.71	\$51,149.28	\$51,149.28	\$6,137.91		\$8,742.72
	Director of Programs	hourly involvement on this project. Includes payroll taxes, workers comp, paid time off, as well as health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance.	5200	\$10.95	\$56,940.00	\$56,940.00	\$6,832.80		\$11,388.00
	Fuels Treatment Coordinator	hourly involvement on this project. Includes payroll taxes, workers comp, paid time off, as well as health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance.	6006	\$10.45	\$62,762.70	\$62,762.70	\$7,531.52		\$8,866.10
	Firewise Coordinator	hourly involvement on this project. Includes payroll taxes, workers comp, paid time off, as well as health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance.	6864	\$9.72	\$66,718.08	\$66,718.08	\$8,006.17		\$0.00
	Education & Outreach Coordinator	hourly involvement on this project. Includes payroll taxes, workers comp, paid time off, as well as health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance.	6864	\$9.72	\$66,718.08	\$66,718.08	\$8,006.17		\$0.00
	Finance & Administration Manager	hourly involvement on this project. Includes payroll taxes, workers comp, paid time off, as well as health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance.	3852	\$9.75	\$38,532.00	\$38,532.00	\$4,623.84		\$10,140.00
Employee Benefits Total			33254	\$62.30	\$342,820.14	\$342,820.14	\$41,138.42		\$40,236.82

Budget Report

Passthrough Agency: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
 Program: FY 2022-2023 Wildfire Prevention Grants
 Stage: Pre-Award

Report Date: 08/26/2023
 Requested By: Stephen Watson
info@venturafiresafe.org

Budget Items

Category	Title	Description	Units	Unit Cost	Extended Cost	Direct Cost	Indirect Cost	GL Account	Cost Share
Contractual									
	Community & Partner Engagement	Plan to partner and contract with organizations to support FireWise community development, chipper event participation and marketing, and assisting VRFSC with engaging in each respective organization's community.	1	\$38,000.00	\$38,000.00	\$38,000.00	\$4,560.00		\$0.00
	Fuels Projects	Costs for working crew from Ventura County Fire Department and grazing contractor based on the acreage and costs estimated by VCFD. Combined cost of the three fuels projects.	1	\$520,300.00	\$520,300.00	\$520,300.00	\$62,436.00		\$0.00
	CEQA & biological monitoring	Average costs per contract estimated by consultants who may be utilized to assist in CEQA compliance. RFPs will be submitted to various consultants who would then be chosen based on competence, reliability and experience, and appropriate cost.	3	\$42,000.00	\$126,000.00	\$126,000.00	\$15,120.00		\$0.00
	Chipper Events	This is the estimated cost for hosting and facilitating 18 chipper events utilizing VCFD's crew.	18	\$5,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$10,800.00		\$0.00
	Mapping	Estimated cost of mapping to be utilized for potential Firewise development via BeaconBox and FlameMapper. Additional mapping may be utilized to prioritize zones for mailers and outreach and monitoring fuels projects.	1	\$31,750.00	\$31,750.00	\$31,750.00	\$3,810.00		\$0.00
	Web Development & Maintenance	Estimated cost of developing web pages for Firewise community engagement, tracking, and monitoring in an interactive manner.	1	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$2,160.00		\$0.00
Contractual Total			25	\$655,050.00	\$824,050.00	\$824,050.00	\$98,886.00		\$0.00
Travel & Per Diem									
	Mileage	Mileage reimbursement for VRFSC staff based on the standard IRS mileage rate . Units: Miles	11114.51	\$0.655	\$7,280.00	\$7,280.00	\$873.60		\$0.00
Travel & Per Diem Total			11114.51	\$0.655	\$7,280.00	\$7,280.00	\$873.60		\$0.00
Supplies									
	Office Supplies	Includes pens, paper, binders, notepads, filing supplies, and other miscellaneous office supplies necessary for these projects.	1	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$240.00		\$0.00
	Computers, Software, & Accessories	Includes necessary laptops, computers, software, accessories, and other technical tools deemed necessary to complete the project in the most cost-effective manner. Anticipate needing to purchase 2 laptops & accessories.	2	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$360.00		\$0.00

Budget Report

Passthrough Agency: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
 Program: FY 2022-2023 Wildfire Prevention Grants
 Stage: Pre-Award

Report Date: 09/26/2023
 Requested By: Stephen Watson
info@venturafiresafe.org

Budget Items

Category	Title	Description	Units	Unit Cost	Extended Cost	Direct Cost	Indirect Cost	GL Account	Cost Share
	Fuels Mitigation Supplies	This includes costs of chainsaws and weed whackers to be used by Ventura County Fire Department.	1	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$1,080.00		\$0.00
Supplies Total			4	\$12,500.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$1,680.00		\$0.00
Equipment									
	Remote Control Mower	VRFSC will purchase one remote control mower for Ventura County Fire Department.	1	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Equipment Total			1	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Other Costs									
	Education, Marketing & Outreach	includes printing educational & outreach materials, fees for venues to host workshops & events	1	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$4,800.00		\$0.00
	FireWise Community Incentives	These are the costs based on estimates of implementing 10 BeaconBoxes.	10	\$5,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$6,000.00		\$0.00
Other Costs Total			11	\$45,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$10,800.00		\$0.00
Indirect Cost									
	To be used by CAL FIRE staff only	To be used by CAL FIRE staff only	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Indirect Cost Total			0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Other									
Category	Title	Description	Units	Unit Cost	Extended Cost	Direct Cost	Indirect Cost	GL Account	Cost Share
Other									
Match									
	Engagement	\$47,021.50 in match from partners, community members, and board members	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$47,021.50
Other Total			0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$47,021.50
Grant Total			77663.51	\$787,845.88	\$2,631,799.46	\$2,631,799.46	\$306,815.94		\$239,006.28
						Total			
						\$2,938,615.40 (Total of Direct Cost + Indirect Cost)			









