

# Sierra Nevada Conservancy WIP Capacity Program Subgrant Three-Month Progress Report

**Grantee Name:** Eastern California Water Association

**Project title:** WIP Capacity Program Subgrant – East Geography

**SNC Grant Agreement Number:** 940-RFFCP

**Submittal Date:** October 30, 2020    **Reporting Period:** August 1 – October 31, 2020

**Report Preparer:** Holly Alpert    **Phone #:** 760-709-2212

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*Progress Reports are a required deliverable of your grant and must be completed whether or not work has occurred on your project in the last three months. Not submitting a complete progress report by the deadline defined in your grant agreement will result in any subsequent requests for payment being delayed or denied. Progress Reports should reflect implementation activities for the project over the last three months. Upon completion of the project, a Progress Report that covers the last three months of the project must accompany the Final Report.*

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## **Progress Report Summary**

Please provide a summary narrative of work completed during this reporting period in the following categories. This report should include work completed by any organization for which you are a fiscal agent or subgrantor under your SNC Subgrant.

1. Capacity Building
  - a. Capacity building need assessment

We submitted our capacity assessment on April 30, 2020.

- b. Capacity building program design

We continue to hone the planning and design of the individual capacity building program elements, but in this quarter, we started focusing more heavily on implementation and delivery.

- c. Capacity building program delivery

We made significant strides in several elements of our capacity building program during the reporting period:

**Website:** Marlon Charneau has taken the lead in designing a website for the entire east subregion. He worked with stakeholders to find an agreeable name (Eastern Sierra Wildfire Alliance). As a team, we have discussed and planned for the overall layout and organization of the website. Marlon has developed draft webpages and is putting on the final touches. We are about to pull the trigger on linking the domain

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name and publishing the site. We will then work with individual stakeholders – especially fire safe councils – to offer to host pages for them on the website.

**List of contractors:** We have been soliciting information from our stakeholders not only on what contractors have worked in the region but what the quality of their work has been as well.

**Grants database:** Marlon has been collecting information about grant opportunities as we receive them and enters them into a spreadsheet. This database will be housed on the website once it is published.

**Centralized staffing:** At one of the SNC meetings early in the quarter, we learned from California Fire Safe Council about the pending funding for county-level fire coordinators. We contacted CAFSC/Elizabeth Lamar immediately thereafter to learn more, and she briefed us on the program. Rick Kattelman then brought this idea to some of the board members of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) in the hopes of convincing them to consider housing the Inyo and Mono county positions there. In August, he was invited to brief the full ESCOG on this concept and received a very favorable response from the board. There was also some support for potentially including Alpine County. We have since learned that the timeline for the start of these positions has been slowed down, but we will continue working with both CAFSC and ESCOG.

**CHIPS and CCC Programs:** Marlon has been researching the possibility of developing a CHIPS and/or CCC program in the eastern Sierra. So far, he has compiled information about the two programs and developed preliminary outreach strategies to engage local tribes and CCC representatives. He has also consulted with his Sierra Corps counterpart Thurman Roberts to learn more about the CHIPS model and advocate for the expansion of a CHIPS crew to the eastern Sierra.

**Working from the home outwards:** This concept includes home hardening and defensible space. Rick and Marlon have been collecting and developing educational material for the website. Eventually we hope to offer one or more seminars to educate stakeholders about the importance of home hardening and defensible space. We also plan to explore ways to help individuals implement practical measures on and around their home. We hope to promote these concepts to the local business community so that local contractors will specialize in home-hardening retrofits, landscapers will advertise their defensible space skills, and building supply stores will stock appropriate materials.

## **2. Collaboration and Partnership Development**

### **a. Stakeholder and partner outreach**

- Outreach to ESCOG and some of its board members as described above

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- Outreach to stakeholders about grant opportunities that might fit their needs
  - Outreach to the full stakeholder group to begin planning the next meeting
  - Outreach to a subgroup of stakeholders to provide input on the website name
  - Following the first stakeholder meeting, we did outreach around Alpine County's interactions with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and talked with one of HTNF's foresters as well as the Carson District Ranger to learn more about the history of their outreach in Alpine County.
- b. Development of agreements (MOUs, MSA, GNAs, other agreements or foundational documents.)

During the reporting period, we worked with ESCOG and Plumas Corporation to draft a resolution for the establishment of an ESCOG sustainable recreation and forest management (later changed to ecosystem management) program. We contributed to the drafting of the proposal and then attended the ESCOG meeting at which they discussed and adopted the resolution. We continued working with ESCOG members on small wording modifications to more accurately represent Eastern Sierra realities.

- c. Meetings with partners/collaborative members

The following meetings occurred during the reporting period:

- Several discussions with Janet Hatfield of Plumas Corporation about ESCCRP and her first stakeholder meeting
- A call with Great Basin Institute to begin exploring possible project planning activities that they can assist with
- ESCOG meetings in August and October
- A call with Elizabeth Lamar of CAFSC to discuss the county fire coordinator positions
- A call with Plumas Corp. and Blue Forest Conservation to understand their financing schemes

- d. Collaborative activities

Our collaboration with Plumas Corp. on the ESCCR project is ramping up. We will be assisting Janet with the logistics of the first stakeholder meeting, and she has been including us in some of her meetings and emails.

### **3. Forest Health and Fire Protection Project Planning**

- a. Collecting existing plans and project information

We continue to solicit and add projects to the database, which will be shared in some form on the website. Adding projects will be an ongoing process.

- b. Designing the planning process

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We continue to design the planning process as we go. No work occurred specifically on the plan during the reporting period.

c. Outreach and involvement of stakeholders and the public

We have not yet done outreach with the public. Stakeholders have been engaged through project solicitation, sharing grant opportunities, asking for contractor information, and holding meetings (which anyone from the public can attend). We also respond to stakeholder emails and phone calls as needed.

d. Application of scientific methodologies or best practices

N/A at this point.

e. Project prioritization

The road to project prioritization was started during the reporting period. As we continued to collect project ideas from stakeholders, we began brainstorming potential prioritization criteria by gathering information from other project prioritization processes, such as the IRWMP. We also reviewed the RFFCP Guidelines. We brought this information to the stakeholder group at a late October meeting and began to discuss both process and criteria. A subcommittee of stakeholders was formed during the meeting to recommend initial high-priority projects.

f. Other planning activities

N/A at this point.

#### 4. Forest Health and Fire Protection Project Development

a. Completing design of projects

N/A at this point.

b. Obtaining funding for projects

We continue to actively look for and review funding opportunities in relation to our project database. Though small, we helped Big Pine Fire Protection District with an FM Global grant to obtain portable LED scene lighting. We are currently working with the Fire Protection District on a CalOES grant for a new standby generator.

c. Completing environmental or other permitting for projects

N/A at this time.

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## d. Other project development activities

We continue to converse with Great Basin Institute about the work they can perform, and we shared our project database with them. Jerry Keir gave a talk at our Oct. 28 stakeholder meeting, and we will be working with the subcommittee formed at that meeting to identify 2-3 potential projects for GBI's services.

## 5. Demonstration Project Implementation

### a. Project implementation activities

N/A

### b. Project evaluation activities

N/A

## 6. Subgrant Administration

### a. Project Reporting

The second quarterly report was submitted on July 31, 2020.

Invoice #3, covering the period July 1 – September 30, 2020, was submitted in mid-October.

### b. Administration and/or oversight of subgrants or fiscal agency recipients

ECWA is administering and overseeing this subgrant. ECWA does not oversee any other entities as related to this subgrant.

### c. Other

N/A

## 7. Regional Communication and Collaboration

### a. Communication or collaboration with other Geographies

Holly has been in communication with the South subgeography and American Forests to discuss American Forests' role and how we may be able to collaborate across geographies and realize efficiencies.

Through American Forests, Marlon is in contact with the South and El Dorado South subregions on monthly and ad hoc bases to check in and coordinate efforts.

### b. Participation in any multi-regional conferences, workshops, and webinars

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Holly and Marlon participated in the Sierra Nevada Alliance Biennial Conference in September. Marlon gave a short presentation about his Sierra Corps work.

We participated in the subgrantee workshop on October 15.

## **Status of Specific Deliverables to Date**

**In addition to the above, please report on any specific deliverables included in Exhibit A of your grant agreement.**

The *Capacity Building Work Plan* has been developed and is a working document.

We have begun to work on *educational materials* specifically around home hardening and defensible space.

## **Challenges Encountered**

**Have you completed the 'Next Steps' work as stated in your last Progress Report? If not, please describe any issues that have made or will make completing the project on time difficult; include solutions you initiated to resolve problems. If your project is not on schedule, please explain why here.**

Yes. We have addressed most of the next steps from our previous progress report:

- We have conducted outreach where we knew there were gaps (Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Inyo County stakeholders)
- We have continued building our project database
- We have begun implementing our capacity building plan
- We have not yet begun writing the subregional plan

At this time, our project is on schedule. However, as we learned at the subgrantee meeting, we may exercise the option of extending the end date of the grant. We will consider this over the next quarter and will be in touch with SNC staff if we decide to submit a request.

## **Successes Achieved**

**Please describe any successes or opportunities that have emerged during this reporting period.**

### **Successes**

- Assisting a stakeholder with submitting a grant
- Developing a robust project database, including furthering contact with stakeholders
- Drafting a website
- Progressing with the county fire coordinator concept through CAFSC and ESCOG
- Continued outreach and relationship-building, particularly with ESCOG

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**Opportunities**

- Beginning to schedule trainings
- Obtaining grant funding
- Make progress with project prioritization
- Identify project(s) for GBI's work
- Begin drafting subregional plan

**Media**

**Please provide a description along with copies or links of any coverage including social media posts, print, video, press release, or webpages.**

N/A at this time

**Compare Actual Costs to Budgeted Costs**

**Please refer to your grant agreement for the budget categories and budgeted costs.**

These numbers are current as of September 30, 2020. That date is the end date of our third invoicing period.

<b>Project Budget Categories</b>	<b>Budgeted Subgrant Dollars</b>	<b>Total Expenditures to date</b>
Staff	\$145,000	\$51,286.20
Materials/Supplies	\$10,000	\$104.93
Travel	\$8,000	\$867.39
Indirect Costs	\$16,300	\$5,227.15
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$179,300</b>	<b>\$57,485.67</b>

**Please provide additional budget details as needed**

**Provide an explanation for any categories that are over budget. If you are on an advance payment schedule, list interest earned on advanced funds.**

N/A

**Do you anticipate any challenges to completing the project within established budget category amounts?**

**If so, please list the budget categories in question and describe the potential issues.**

Not at this time.

**Next Steps**

**Work anticipated in the next three months, including location and timing of any**

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## **scheduled events related to the project.**

We anticipate that our work will largely be focused on project prioritization and capacity building over the next three months. We hope to settle on work that GBI will be performing for the subregion and will of course look for funding opportunities for those projects that are closer to implementation-ready.

We will be providing technical support for the first ESCCRP stakeholder meeting, to be held in November. At this time, no other events are scheduled.

## **Comments**

**Please list any other important items/issues pertaining to the project which have not been addressed elsewhere.**

N/A

## **Additional Requirements**

**If you have been requested to provide information on other issues (such as employment benefits, benefits to priority populations, greenhouse gas reductions, etc.), please provide the response below:**

N/A