

# 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:** July 31, 2020    **Reporting Period:** May 1 – July 31, 2020

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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. In May, we discussed the outcomes of the capacity assessment with SNC as well as next steps with capacity building and planning. No further work on assessing needs has happened since that time, although we will likely discover needs through some of the additional outreach we have planned.

- b. Capacity building program design

We spent the better part of the reporting period developing the capacity building program design. We expanded on the plan we had put in the capacity assessment and discussed our thinking with SNC twice. We are still determining what parts of the program need to be in the capacity building task vs. what elements are naturally part of the planning task. In addition, we have been working on cost estimates for the various elements.

- c. Capacity building program delivery

We are still in the planning stages and have not yet begun delivery/implementation of

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our capacity building activities.

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

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

We started outreach during the reporting period by distributing the capacity assessment to the stakeholders we interviewed and others that we chose to add to our contact list. The other outreach is covered in part c below.

### **b. Development of agreements (MOUs, MSA, GNAs, other agreements or foundational documents.)**

N/A at this point.

### **c. Meetings with partners/collaborative members**

In June, we met with Janet Hatfield of Plumas Corporation to discuss her SNC-funded Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project and how we can collaborate and help each other. The ESCCRP can benefit from our previous stakeholder outreach, and the ESCCRP may generate projects that can become part of the RFFCP process.

We started discussing funding opportunities with various partners (see 4b below).

On July 20, we held our first region-wide stakeholder meeting via Zoom. Brittany Dyer of American Forests facilitated. In addition to the program team, about 20 people attended. There was representation from all three county governments, several fire safe councils, and state and federal resource and land management agencies. We kept expectations minimal since it was our first meeting, but we had excellent discussion with virtually all attendees participating. We are so pleased with the outcome.

### **d. Collaborative activities**

Janet Hatfield has invited Marlon to be part of her ESCCRP working group focused on biomass utilization. They have not yet met as a group, but Janet and Marlon have had some conversations.

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

### **a. Collecting existing plans and project information**

Following our work collecting existing plans for the capacity assessment, Marlon has been working on extracting projects described in those plans and putting them into an Excel database. This database will be used as our ongoing regional project list and will be validated with the appropriate stakeholders to make sure the projects are still timely

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and relevant. Furthermore, we will then be collecting additional projects from stakeholders to add to the database.

### b. Designing the planning process

This topic was a primary point of both internal conversation and conversation with SNC during the reporting period. Because so much intra-regional planning has already been done, we feel we can focus our efforts more on project identification, prioritization, and development than on plan writing (though we will do that too). The first major step in kicking off our planning process was holding the stakeholder meeting on July 20.

### c. Outreach and involvement of stakeholders and the public

We have not yet done outreach with the public. Within the bounds of project identification and planning, stakeholders have been engaged through just the meeting so far, and we are going to engage them further in asking them to provide us with information about project needs.

### d. Application of scientific methodologies or best practices

N/A at this point.

### e. Project prioritization

N/A at this point.

### 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 considered applying for two grants during the reporting period. The first was from California Fire Safe Council, and we were planning to write the grant for a visitor outreach and education campaign around fire safety for the eastern Sierra. However, we were not able to confirm a grantee or fiscal sponsor, so we ultimately had to stop our process. The second funding opportunity was the NFWF grant. The grant's RFP contained a list of shovel-ready projects for many of the national forests in the West. We reviewed the Inyo National Forest project list with INF staff and determined the best

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possibility was to work with California Trout on a project related to its June Mountain work. Marlon and Rick helped CalTrout staff with a proposal, and the application was submitted by CalTrout.

We are grateful to have learned about and explored these opportunities and will be anticipating them next year when we expect to be in a better position to apply for them.

- c. Completing environmental or other permitting for projects

N/A at this time.

- d. Other project development activities

N/A at this time.

5. Demonstration Project Implementation

- a. Project implementation activities

N/A

- b. Project evaluation activities

N/A

6. Subgrant Administration

- a. Project Reporting

The first quarterly report was submitted on April 30, 2020.

Invoice #2, covering the period April 1 – June 30, 2020, was submitted in late July.

- 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

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Communication with other geographies was minimal during the reporting period except for a couple of workshops and webinars attended by representatives of other geographies. For us, Brittany Dyer is a good liaison with some of the other subregions.

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

We participated in the subgrantee workshop on July 16.

## **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.**

We worked the most on the Capacity Building Work Plan during the reporting period and expect to have it ready for execution in another month or so. However, we will consider this plan a work-in-progress as we expect it to change over the course of this grant.

We have begun to talk about the subregional plan but have not yet produced any material.

## **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.**

We have completed the Next Steps from our previous progress report in that we have focused on designing the planning process. We were not able to follow through on our intention of using the CAFSC grant as a first rallying point for stakeholders, but we have now convened stakeholders and have heard that they are willing and interested to participate in this process.

## **Successes Achieved**

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

Successes

- Submitting our capacity assessment report and receiving very favorable feedback from SNC and stakeholders
- Furthering the design of our capacity-building plan
- Holding our first region-wide stakeholder meeting

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**Opportunities**

- Further investigation of possible grantees and fiscal sponsors for future grant opportunities
- Identification of possible/various match funding sources from regional stakeholders
- Outreach to additional stakeholders, particularly in Inyo County, Tribes, and fire departments

**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 June 30, 2020. That date is the end date of our second invoicing period.

<b>Project Budget Categories</b>	<b>Budgeted Subgrant Dollars</b>	<b>Total Expenditures to date</b>
Staff	\$145,000	\$36,856.05
Materials/Supplies	\$10,000	\$58.97
Travel	\$8,000	\$867.39
Indirect Costs	\$16,300	\$5,227.15
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$179,300</b>	<b>\$43,010.55</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.**

We are still considering what activities we would like to house in our Capacity Building task and whether we want to propose moving funding from our Plan Development task.

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We had a recent conversation with SNC about this possibility and are working on our final request.

## **Next Steps**

**Work anticipated in the next three months, including location and timing of any scheduled events related to the project.**

One of the clearest messages we heard at the stakeholder meeting was the desire for us to do more outreach to increase the number and breadth of stakeholders involved. Thus, outreach will become a primary objective for the next several months. In addition, we will continue building our project database, including soliciting current project needs from stakeholders. We hope we can put pen to paper and begin drafting early parts of the subregional plan. Finally, we will finish the first iteration of our capacity building plan and begin to implement it.

At this time, we do not have any specific events or meetings scheduled, and we anticipate that any meetings will be virtual. We do expect to participate in ESCCRP biomass working group meetings, though none are scheduled yet.

## **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