

Climate Resilience Fund (CRF) Updates

10/28/25

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors established the Climate Resilience Fund (CRF) in May 2021 by committing \$10 million from the 2017 Wildfires Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) settlement fund to County climate projects. The Board has periodically received updates on CRF projects, most recently on [2/11/2025](#). With most projects complete or nearing completion, funding for 4 of the 21 projects, all selected during CRF Round 2, was re-budgeted in FY 2025-26. All re-budgeted CRF funds are expected to be fully expended on approved projects by the end of FY 25-26; staff will continue to track expenditures against awarded CRF funding.

Bikeable Sonoma County

CRF Funding approved	\$500,000
Rolled over into FY 25-26	\$415,092

This project helps fund the addition of nearly 2 miles of Class II bike lanes on Arnold Drive in the Sonoma area, between Country Club Drive and Madrone Road. Class II bike lanes are defined as adjacent to roadway travel lanes, with signage and striping denoting the exclusive use of bicycles in the bike lane.

Sonoma Public Infrastructure requested \$500,000 from the Climate Resiliency Fund for costs associated with right-of-way portion of the project. These costs include right-of-way engineering (the determination of the existing and proposed right-of-way boundaries), appraisal and acquisition consultant services, and finally the purchase of the right-of-way.

Status: In September 2025, the project reached the 65% design milestone and is undergoing internal review. The project is currently in the right-of-way acquisition phase. Projection of a full construction timeline is premature, however, a start date in Spring 2027 is anticipated.

Autonomous Renewable Chargers (ARCs) in Parks

CRF Funding approved	\$941,760
Rolled over into FY 25-26	\$352,412

The Autonomous Renewable Charger (ARCs) in Parks project enables more rapid deployment of EV charging infrastructure in the County. An ARC is a solar-powered Level 2 EV charger that also serves as a reliable source of backup power during emergencies. The project involves installing EV ARC chargers across a range of County parks.

Status: ARCs have been deployed at Ragle Ranch Park, Taylor Mountain Park, and North Sonoma Mountain Park. The County is preparing for an additional purchase of ARCs in FY 25-26 with the CRF funds. This program has been well received and is expected to expand via a reimbursement through a Congressional Appropriation administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Permit Sonoma is evaluating whether permitting for the ARCs is needed and will collaborate with Regional Parks on implementation.

EV Park & Charge

CRF Funding approved	\$100,000
Rolled over into FY 25-26	\$81,100

Sonoma County Transit, which maintains and operates Park and Ride lots across Sonoma County, will seek a qualified vendor to construct, install, operate, maintain, and secure Level 3 chargers. The vendor would lease a portion of each lot at fair market value, paying for all electricity usage, and establishing a free or reduced rate option for qualified low-income individuals and Fleet users.

Status: Identifying a funding strategy for this project has been challenging. The initial RFP to select a qualified vendor was paused at the end of 2024 to pursue federal grant funding through the Department of Transportation. When that effort was unsuccessful, staff explored partnering with a private entity to secure a grant, a common approach in these types of public-private partnerships. However, the landscape for this model has recently shifted, with a significant decline in available grant funding. Staff are now assessing whether to revisit the RFP or explore alternative funding strategies and are continuing to pursue ARCs in Parks installations (see above).

Promoting Prescribed Grazing

CRF Funding approved	\$300,000
Rolled over into FY 25-26	\$49,374

The goal of the project is to assess the total grazable acreage in Sonoma County and work with landowners and managers to better maintain these lands to achieve climate mitigation and conservation goals. Grasslands, including oak woodlands and coastal scrublands in which grasses make up a key part of the understory, jointly account for approximately 18% of California's total land area. In this context, grazing (or another disturbance like prescribed fire) is necessary for conservation and wildfire risk reduction purposes. This project provides trainings, resources and mentorships on grazing management to landowners and business / workforce development to increase grazing enterprises.

Status:

Through the project, 10 different grazing collaboratives and the potential to expand them have been documented. The documentation included estimates of carbon sequestered through prescribed grazing, calculated with the COMET-Planner tool. An expanded online website, Match.Graze.com, makes it easier to find land and/or grazer in individual counties. Beginning grazers have received equipment and infrastructure to increase their capacity for grazing projects. These efforts have resulted in a stable workforce of grazers.

With remaining funding, the following activities and programs will be implemented in FY 25-26:

1. Grazing School, hosted by UCCE & County (Spring 2026)
2. Hands-on training for landowners on Climate-Smart Practices on Agricultural Lands
3. Development & Public Outreach on Statewide Grazing Guidelines
4. Creation of "How to Graze" & "Animal Husbandry" Videos for landowners