



PG&E Allocation: Vegetation Management & CLEE Group Findings

County Administrator's Office

March 23, 2021

Today's Presentation

- Allocation overview
- Common themes
- CLEE group findings
- Next steps





Sonoma County Wildfire Funds: Prioritizing Vegetation Management Dollars

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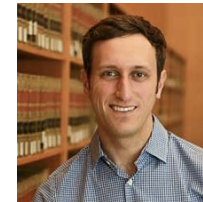


Oceans

Land Use

Water

Climate
& Energy



Channeling the knowledge and creativity of the Berkeley Law community into pragmatic policy solutions to pressing environmental & energy law issues

CLEE Convening Process

Goal: Define spending principles and recommend implementation actions



2 Expert Convenings in February 2021

- State-level
- County-level

Priorities for Fund Allocation

1. Centralizing Governance & Stakeholder Coordination
2. Community Outreach & Education
3. Immediate Vegetation Management Activities
4. Data, Planning, & Mapping
5. Long-term Financial Sustainability
6. Labor and Workforce Development

1. Centralizing Governance & Stakeholder Coordination

Goals

- Coordinate immediate projects
- Administer funds
- Spearhead outreach
- Streamline permitting
- Compile research efforts
- Lead and/or support grant efforts

3 potential pathways



County-based group

New governing entity



Joint-powers authority or public-private community development corporation

2. Outreach, Education, & Equity



Focus on public engagement, outreach, and education, including through a dedicated staff member/capacity



Focus outreach, engagement, and direct project support for lower-income and disadvantaged communities, including through a dedicated staff member/capacity



Coordinate with neighboring counties



Connect local, state, and national partners in long-term planning and implementation

3. Immediate Vegetation Management Activities



\$8 million to near-term actions in high-risk areas and outreach/education

\$2-\$4 million of this in advance of 2021 fire season



Initiate immediate competitive grant process



Award criteria



Project zones



Project types

4. Data, Planning, and Mapping



Build on existing efforts and expertise



Focus on regular and comprehensive data collection



Monitor and evaluate progress



Coordinate efforts

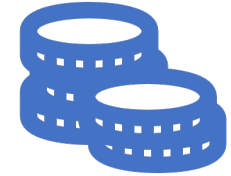
5. Long-term Financial Sustainability



Revolving Fund



Financing District



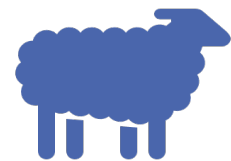
Sales or Parcel Tax Revenue Measure



Forest Resilience Bond



Biomass Facility/Use Feasibility Study



Contract Grazing

6. Labor and Workforce Development



3 to 5 Year College
Program



Paid Apprenticeship
Program



Labor and Equipment
Share Program

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Next Steps

- 1) Establish an interim group to facilitate allocating funds for near-term projects.
- 2) Authorize staff and/or the interim governance group to establish a streamlined process for submission, evaluation and award of proposals for near-term projects, and delegate authority to this group to disburse funding.
- 3) Allocate \$660,000 for a three-year coordinator position to provide support related to vegetation management efforts.
- 4) Allocate \$1.5 million to hire a CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) consultant to develop a county-wide program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that would streamline environmental reviews for similar vegetation management activities or geographies.

