

California Department  
of Forestry and Fire  
Protection  
**CAL FIRE**

Forest Health Program  
Draft Grant Guidelines  
2017-2018

*Funding provided via the  
Greenhouse Gas Reduction  
Fund (GGRF)*



January 2018





## Presentation Overview

- Background information about the funding source- California Climate Investments
- Grant Guidelines Overview
- Timelines

# The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)

- The Cap-and-Trade Program began in 2012.
- Market based regulation.
- Companies must hold enough emission allowances to cover their emissions, and are free to buy and sell allowances on the open market.
- Allowances sold at quarterly auctions and reserve sales.
- The proceeds of the sales go into the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF).
- The Legislature and Governor appropriate the funds in the GGRF for projects that meet the goals of AB 32.

# AB 32 The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2016

- Requires California to reduce its GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.
- Helps mitigate risks associated with climate change, while improving energy efficiency, expanding the use of renewable energy resources, cleaner transportation, and reducing waste.
- Regulatory and market-based programs aimed at reducing GHG emissions.
- California Air Resources Board is the lead agency.
- For more information:  
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ab32/ab32.htm>



# California Climate Investments



Cap-and-Trade  
Auctions



Greenhouse Gas  
Reduction Fund (GGRF)

Annual Budget  
Appropriations

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State Agencies



Authority

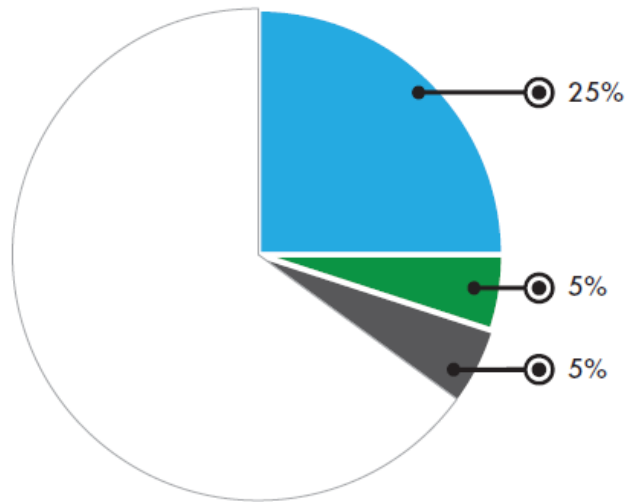
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California Climate  
Investments

# Disadvantaged & Low-income Communities Investments

## Senate Bill 535 and Assembly Bill 1550 Implementation:



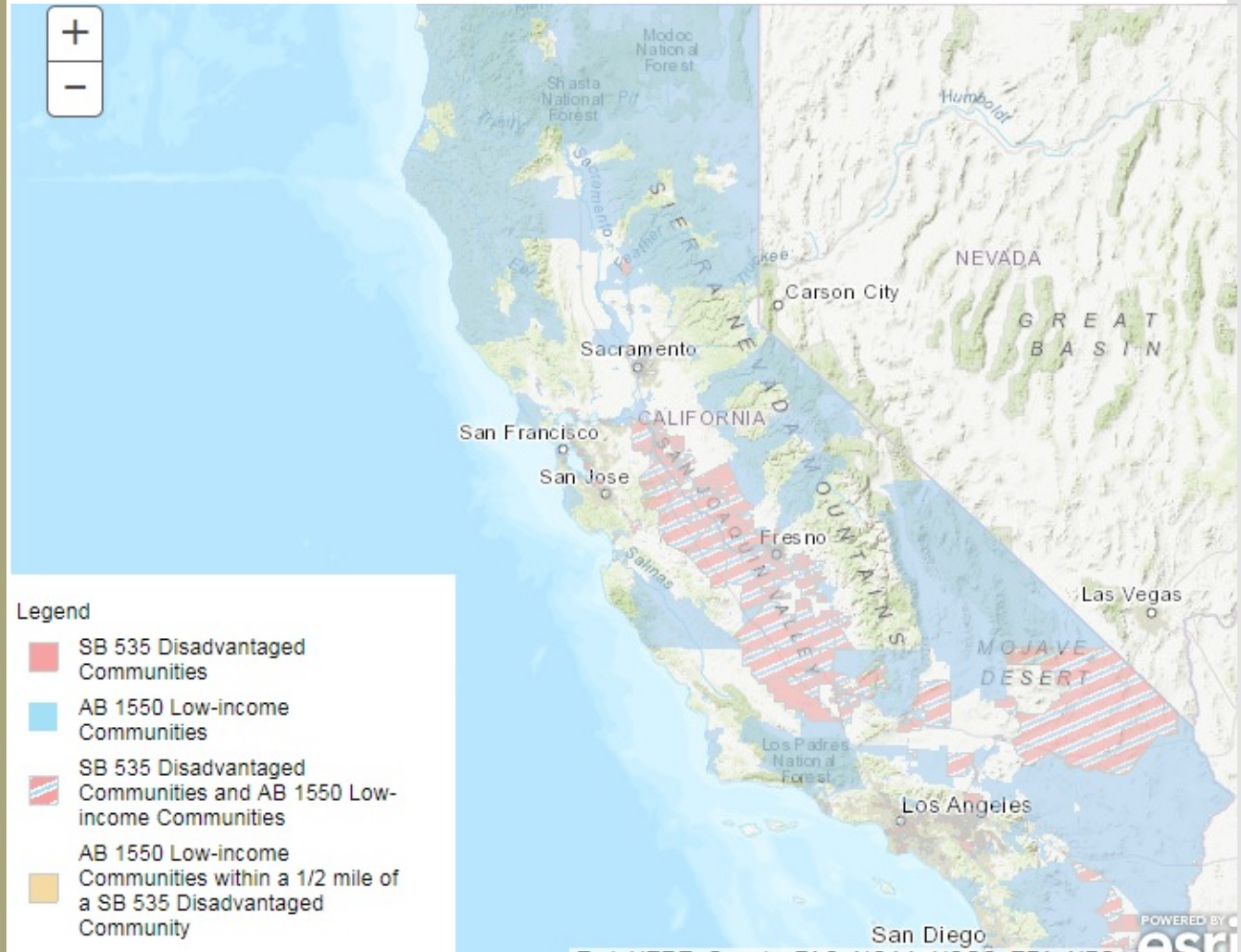
A minimum of 25 percent of the proceeds be invested in projects that are located within and benefiting individuals living in disadvantaged communities;

An additional minimum of 5 percent be invested in projects that are located within and benefiting individuals living in low-income communities or benefiting low-income households statewide; and

An additional minimum of 5 percent that are located within and benefiting individuals living in low-income communities, or benefiting low-income households, that are within a 1/2 mile of a disadvantaged community.



# Disadvantaged & Low-income Communities Investments



# CAL FIRE's California Climate Investments

The Governor's 2017-2018 budget allocated \$225 million in CCI funding to CAL FIRE:

- \$200 million for Forest Health, Forest Legacy, and Fire Prevention grants
- \$5 million to partner with the California Conservation Corps to complete Forest Health projects
- \$20 Million to the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program





# Forest Health Program



## Grant Guidelines Overview

- Introduction
- Applicant Eligibility Criteria
- Application Process
- General Project Conditions and Administration
- Appendix A-J

# Forest Health Program



## Fund projects that proactively restore forest health to:

- Reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs)
- Protect upper watersheds
- Promote long-term storage of carbon in forest trees & soils
- Support biodiversity & wildlife adaptation to climate change
- Minimize loss of forest carbon from large, intense wildfires
- Further goals of the CA Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32)

# Forest Health Program



Priority projects will implement a mix of these activities with multiple partners :

- Forest fuels reduction
- Pest management
- Reforestation
- Biomass utilization
- Research

# Forest Health Program



## Landscape Scale Forest Health Projects :

- Include State Responsibility Areas (SRA)
- 10% disadvantaged &/or low-income communities
- Sub-watersheds, firesheds, or larger logical management units
- Leverage resources to achieve an outcome larger than sum of individual projects
- Use existing agreements to demonstrate cooperation: Good Neighbor Authority, Prescribed Fire MOU, local agreements.

# Forest Health Program



## Required Carbon Accounting:

- CA Air Resources Board (CARB)
- Quantification methods for individual forest treatment activities
- Accounting strategy for combined and synergistic effects at landscape level
- CARB will post draft quantification methodology for public comment prior to finalization
- [www.arb.ca.gov/cci-quantification](http://www.arb.ca.gov/cci-quantification)

# Timeline



- Workshops January 19-26
- Concept Proposals due February 21
- Invitation for full application early March
- Full applications due early June
- Awards in July, contracts by June 30, 2020
  
- Projects must complete all grant-related work by March 30, 2022

## Contact



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Thank you





# Forest Health Program



## Ensure Permanent Project Benefits:

- Increased stem diameter
- Improve forest complexity – variety of tree age classes and species
- Persist for over 50 years
- CARB requires 10-year monitoring provision
- Maintain treatment efficiency over time

# Forest Health Program



## Benefit Disadvantaged &/or Low-income Communities:

- Increased stem diameter
- Improve forest complexity – variety of tree age classes and species
- Persist for <50 years
- CARB requires 10-year monitoring provision
- Maintain treatment efficiency over time

# Grant Guidelines Overview

## *Applicant Eligibility Criteria*

Eligible applicants: federal land management agencies, state land management agencies, local governments, Native American tribes, non-industrial private forest landowners, resource conservation districts, fire safe councils, land trusts, landowner organizations, conservation groups, and other non-profit organizations.

Projects: Forest Health projects and Conservation Easements

GHG Reductions: Projects must further the goals of AB 32

Priority Areas: Forestlands where projects will have the greatest benefits such as sustainable working forests and rangelands, areas with high wildfire threat to ecosystem health and community safety, areas under threat by forest pests, drought, etc.



# Grant Guidelines Overview

*Applicant Eligibility Criteria continued....*

Completion: complete grant-related work by March 30, 2020.

Permanence: Ensure the project benefits are as permanent as possible – see grant guidelines for requirements.

Forest Legacy Funding: Eligible projects may also involve conservation easements individually or as a component of a larger forest health project.

Capacity: Demonstrate capacity to plan and implement a complex, large landscape level project.

Research: Research is allowable as a component of a larger Forest Health project, but not as a stand alone project.

# Grant Selection Criteria

Scope of Work – The project is appropriate for the program with clear, complete articulation of intended work.

Budget - The project budget clearly shows how the grant funds will be spent. Costs are reasonable in proportion to the proposed deliverables.

Matching Funds – Matching funds are not required, though projects that contain matching funds and leverage other financial resources will receive some priority.

Net Greenhouse Gas Benefit – Greenhouse gas benefits are compelling and clearly demonstrated. The project results in a substantial net GHG benefit. The net GHG benefit clearly justifies how the project will further the objectives of AB 32. The numerical calculations can be reviewed and validated and follow the ARB methodology.

Co-Benefits - A description of the co-benefits of the project is included and co-benefits are substantial. Preferred co-benefits include, but are not limited to, socio-economic benefits, public health, air quality, other environmental co-benefits, and jobs.

# Grant Selection Criteria continued

Community Benefit – Project provides direct benefit to a community and meaningfully addresses an important community need.

Local Fire Plan or Other Forest Management Plan Compatibility - Project is included in the State's fire plan, CAL FIRE Unit fire plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans or a conservation plan.

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Collaboration and Community Support - Project shows broad community support, partnerships or collaborative efforts to achieve the net GHG benefit. Collaboration and support is demonstrated by presence of planning, involvement by partners, and funding from private and public partnerships contributing to the project.

# Grant Selection Criteria

Project Inclusion of Multiple Forestry Practices - CAL FIRE will favor those projects that include multiple effective forestry practices and involve multiple activities combined into a landscape level approach to Healthy Forest management.

Grantee's Past Forest Management History and References - The applicant has demonstrated experience with similar landscape level projects and demonstrates a high potential for completing the project.

Readiness - Grantee is ready to implement the project and has capability to begin work on the project within 12 months of the grant award.

Fuels Reduction - For projects with a forest fuels reduction component, project addresses Fire Hazard Severity Zones, infrastructure protection including Tree Mortality Task Force High Hazard Zones, communities at risk and provides vegetation prescriptions.

Pest Management - For projects with a pest management component, project addresses pest mortality risk, stand conditions and vegetation treatment, emergency pest infestation, exotic insects or disease, and/or active infestation thinning.

Reforestation - For projects with a reforestation component, project addresses seed zones, site preparation, planting standards and post-project planting success. Reforestation and other conservation practices are compared to published USDA, NRCS and CFIP cost rates.

Grant  
Selection  
Criteria  
continued  
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Legal Requirements Satisfied – Project are ready to implement, because all required documents and legal requirements (e.g., CEQA, NEPA, ancillary contracts, agreements, MOUs, etc.) are in place.

Involving Local Expertise – Project Uses local government, local fire districts, UC extension, (or appropriate non-governmental organizations) for coordination and oversight.

RPF Involvement - A registered professional forester must design vegetation treatments, oversee vegetation removal, and may calculate the net GHG benefit.

Conservation Easements – Projects are ranked on four criteria: (1) IMPORTANCE, (2) THREAT, (3) STRATEGIC VALUE, AND (4) READINESS. Because funds are limited, this information will help establish the preliminary ranking with the other projects including a conservation easement submitted for consideration. See appendix F, Forest Legacy.



*Application Process* - Projects will be selected through a competitive process.

The application process will consist of two phases:

Concept Proposal: **DUE APRIL &, 2017**. First phase, a brief description of the project evaluated against applicant eligibility criteria to determine if project qualifies for the Forest Health program. If the project meets all of the requirements and CAL FIRE determines it fits with the overall program goals and vision, then the applicant is invited to submit a.....

Project Application: Second phase, applicants will be invited to submit a more detailed Project Application. The project applications will be evaluated using the Grant Selection Criteria (see Appendix D).

# Grant Guidelines Overview

## *General Project Conditions and Administration*

**Progress Reports:** Applicants must provide a method, schedule and reporting mechanism for pre- and post-project monitoring of site conditions and project results.

**Monitoring:** Eligible projects will be monitored according to ARB standards and require a 10-year monitoring provision for forestry projects.

In forested ecosystems, there will always be an inherent risk of carbon loss through any agent of natural disturbance. Grant recipients will be encouraged to implement creative methods for maintaining treatment efficiency over time.

**General Administration:** Project Amendments and Termination, Changes to Approved Project, Accounting Requirements, Loss of Funding, Eligible Costs, Ineligible Costs

# Grant Guidelines Overview

APPENDIX A – Explanation of Terms

APPENDIX B – CEQA Compliance

APPENDIX C – Other Funding Sources and Forest Legacy Program Information

APPENDIX D – Project Eligibility and Grant Selection Criteria

APPENDIX E – Concept Proposal, Attachment A - Grant Application and Instructions

APPENDIX F – Forest Legacy Program

APPENDIX G – Sample Budget, Attachment C

APPENDIX H – Sample Resolution

APPENDIX I – Standard Forms

APPENDIX J – Invoice Guidelines

# Timelines

Public Workshops on Draft Guidelines, comments due December 19, 2016

Finalize Guidelines and complete Application Workshops January/February 2017

Concept Proposal due April 7, 2017

GGRF Forest Health Project Selection (estimated) June 15, 2017

## Grant Agreement and Completion Deadlines

CAL FIRE will execute all grant agreements by June 30, 2018

All funded projects must have grant-related work completed by March 30, 2020