

# **ATTACHMENT C**

Agreement with Resource Conservation District  
of Monterey County

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# COUNTY OF MONTEREY STANDARD AGREEMENT

This **Agreement** is made by and between the County of Monterey, a political subdivision of the State of California ("County") and Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC) ("CONTRACTOR").

In consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions set forth in this Agreement, the parties agree as follows:

## 1.0 **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The County hereby engages CONTRACTOR to perform, and CONTRACTOR hereby agrees to perform, the services described in **Exhibit A** in conformity with the terms of this Agreement. The goods and/or services are generally described as follows:

Provide administration of a fire fuel mitigation program that includes removal of eucalyptus trees within the defensible space of structures and roads in North County utilizing grant funds authorized through AB 102.

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## 2.0 **PAYMENTS PROVISIONS:**

County shall pay the CONTRACTOR in accordance with the payment provisions set forth in **Exhibit A**, subject to the limitations set forth in this Agreement. The total amount payable by County to CONTRACTOR under this Agreement shall not exceed the sum of \$990,000.

## 3.0 **TERM OF AGREEMENT.**

3.01 The term of this Agreement is from upon execution to June 30, 2027, unless sooner terminated pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. This Agreement is of no force or effect until signed by both CONTRACTOR and County and with County signing last, and **CONTRACTOR may not commence work before County signs this Agreement.**

3.02 The County reserves the right to cancel this Agreement, or any extension of this Agreement, without cause, with a thirty (30) day written notice or with cause immediately.

## 4.0 **SCOPE OF SERVICES AND ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS:**

The following attached exhibits are incorporated herein by reference and constitute a part of this Agreement:

**Exhibit A**      **Scope of Services/Payment Provisions**

**Exhibit B**      **Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space Adopted by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection**

## 5.0 **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:**

5.01 CONTRACTOR warrants that CONTRACTOR and CONTRACTOR's agents, employees, and subcontractors performing services under this Agreement are specially trained, experienced, competent, and appropriately licensed to perform the work and deliver the services required

under this Agreement and are not employees of the County or immediate family of an employee of the County.

- 5.02 CONTRACTOR, its agents, employees, and subcontractors shall perform all work in a safe and skillful manner and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. All work performed under this Agreement that is required by law to be performed or supervised by licensed personnel shall be performed in accordance with such licensing requirements.
- 5.03 CONTRACTOR shall furnish, at its own expense, all materials, equipment, and personnel necessary to carry out the terms of this Agreement, except as otherwise specified in this Agreement. CONTRACTOR shall not use County premises, property (including equipment, instruments, or supplies) or personnel for any purpose other than in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

## **6.0 PAYMENT CONDITIONS:**

- 6.01 Prices shall remain firm for the initial term of the Agreement and, thereafter, may be adjusted annually as provided in this paragraph. The County does not guarantee any minimum or maximum amount of dollars to be spent under this Agreement.
- 6.02 Negotiations for rate changes shall be commenced, by CONTRACTOR, a minimum of ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of the Agreement. Rate changes are not binding unless mutually agreed upon in writing by the County and the CONTRACTOR.
- 6.03 Invoice amounts shall be billed directly to the ordering department.
- 6.04 CONTRACTOR shall submit such invoice periodically or at the completion of services, but in any event, not later than 30 days after completion of services. The invoice shall set forth the amounts claimed by CONTRACTOR for the previous period, together with an itemized basis for the amounts claimed, and such other information pertinent to the invoice. The County shall certify the invoice, either in the requested amount or in such other amount as the County approves in conformity with this Agreement and shall promptly submit such invoice to the County Auditor-Controller for payment. The County Auditor-Controller shall pay the amount certified within 30 days of receiving the certified invoice.
- 6.05 The Parties agree that CONTRACTOR and its subcontractors shall be reimbursed for mileage based upon the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) standard business mileage rate at the time of travel.

## **7.0 TERMINATION:**

- 7.01 During the term of this Agreement, the County may terminate the Agreement for any reason by giving written notice of termination to the CONTRACTOR at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of termination. Such notice shall set forth the effective date of termination. In the event of such termination, the amount payable under this Agreement shall be reduced in proportion to the services provided prior to the date of termination.

- 7.02 The County may cancel and terminate this Agreement for good cause effective immediately upon written notice to CONTRACTOR. “Good cause” includes the failure of CONTRACTOR to perform the required services at the time and in the manner provided under this Agreement. If County terminates this Agreement for good cause, the County may be relieved of the payment of any consideration to CONTRACTOR, and the County may proceed with the work in any manner which County deems proper. The cost to the County shall be deducted from any sum due the CONTRACTOR under this Agreement.
- 7.03 The County’s payments to CONTRACTOR under this Agreement are funded by local, state and federal governments. If funds from local, state and federal sources are not obtained and continued at a level sufficient to allow for the County’s purchase of the indicated quantity of services, then the County may give written notice of this fact to CONTRACTOR, and the obligations of the parties under this Agreement shall terminate immediately, or on such date thereafter, as the County may specify in its notice, unless in the meanwhile the parties enter into a written amendment modify this Agreement.

## **8.0 INDEMNIFICATION:**

CONTRACTOR shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the County, its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, liabilities and losses whatsoever (including damages to property and injuries to or death of persons, court costs, and reasonable attorneys’ fees) occurring or resulting to any and all persons, firms or corporations furnishing or supplying work, services, materials, or supplies in connection with the performance of this Agreement and from any and all claims, liabilities, and losses occurring or resulting to any persons, firms, or corporations for damage, injury, or death arising out of or connected with the CONTRACTOR’s performance of this Agreement, unless such claims, liabilities, or losses arise out of the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the County. “CONTRACTOR’s performance” includes CONTRACTOR’s action or inaction and the action or inaction of CONTRACTOR’s officers, employees, agents, and subcontractors.

## **9.0 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **9.01 Evidence of Coverage:**

Prior to commencement of this Agreement, the Contractor shall provide a “Certificate of Insurance” certifying that coverage as required herein has been obtained. Individual endorsements executed by the insurance carrier shall accompany the certificate. In addition, the Contractor, upon request, shall provide a certified copy of the policy or policies.

This verification of coverage shall be sent to the County’s Contracts/Purchasing Department, unless otherwise directed. The CONTRACTOR shall not receive a “Notice to Proceed” with the work under this Agreement until it has obtained all insurance required and the County has approved such insurance. This approval of insurance shall neither relieve nor decrease the liability of the CONTRACTOR.

### **9.02 Qualifying Insurers:**

All coverages, except surety, shall be issued by companies which hold a current policy holder’s alphabetic and financial size category rating of not less than A-VII, according to the current

A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide or a company of equal financial stability that is approved by the County's Purchasing Agent.

9.03 **Insurance Coverage Requirements:**

Without limiting CONTRACTOR's duty to indemnify, CONTRACTOR shall maintain in effect throughout the term of this Agreement a policy or policies of insurance with the following minimum limits of liability:

**Commercial General Liability Insurance:**

Including but not limited to premises and operations, including coverage for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, Personal Injury, Contractual Liability, Broad form Property Damage, Independent Contractors, Products and Completed Operations with a combined single limit for Bodily Injury and Property Damage of not less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate.

*(Note: Any proposed modifications to these auto insurance requirements shall be attached as an Exhibit hereto, and the section(s) above that are proposed as not applicable shall be lined out in blue ink. All proposed modifications are subject to County approval.)*

**Auto Liability Coverage:**

Must include all motor vehicles, including owned, leased, non-owned, and hired vehicles, used in providing services under this Agreement, with a combined single limit or Bodily Injury and Property Damage of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

*(Note: Any proposed modifications to these auto insurance requirements shall be attached as an Exhibit hereto, and the section(s) above that are proposed as not applicable shall be lined out in blue ink. All proposed modifications are subject to County approval.)*

**Worker's Compensation Insurance:**

If CONTRACTOR employs others in the performance of this Agreement, in accordance with California Labor Code section 3700 and with Employer's Liability limits not less than \$1,000,000 each person, \$1,000,000 each accident, and \$1,000,000 each disease.

*(Note: Any proposed modifications to these auto insurance requirements shall be attached as an Exhibit hereto, and the section(s) above that are proposed as not applicable shall be lined out in blue ink. All proposed modifications are subject to County approval.)*

**Professional Liability Insurance:**

If required for the professional services being provided (e.g., those persons authorized by a license to engage in a business or profession regulated by the California Business and Professions Code), in the amount of not less than \$1,000,000 per claim and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate to cover liability for malpractice or errors or omissions made in the course of rendering professional services. If professional liability insurance is written on a "claims-made" basis rather than an occurrence basis, the CONTRACTOR shall, upon the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement, obtain extended reporting coverage ("tail coverage") with the same liability limits. Any such tail coverage shall continue for at least three years following the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

*(Note: Professional liability insurance coverage is required if the contractor is providing a professional service regulated by the state. Examples of service providers regulated by the state are insurance agents, professional architects and engineers, doctors, certified public accountants, lawyers, etc. However, other professional contractors, such as computer or software designers, technology services, and services providers such as claims administrators, should also have professional liability. If in doubt, consult with your risk or contract manager.)*

If the CONTRACTOR maintains broader coverage and/or higher limits than the minimums shown above, the County requires and shall be entitled to the broader coverage and/or higher limits maintained by the CONTRACTOR.

9.04 **Other Requirements:**

All insurance required by this Agreement shall be with a company acceptable to the County and issued and executed by an admitted insurer authorized to transact insurance business in the State of California. Unless otherwise specified by this Agreement, all such insurance shall be written on an occurrence basis, or if the policy is not written on an occurrence basis, such policy with the coverage required herein shall continue in effect for a period of three years following the date CONTRACTOR completes its performance of services under this Agreement.

Each liability policy shall provide that the County shall be given notice in writing at least thirty days in advance of any endorsed reduction in coverage or limit, cancellation, or intended non-renewal thereof. Each policy shall provide coverage for CONTRACTOR and additional insureds with respect to claims arising from each subcontractor, if any, performing work under this Agreement, or be accompanied by a certificate of insurance from each subcontractor showing each subcontractor has identical insurance coverage to the above requirements.

**Additional Insured Status:**

The County of Monterey, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers are to be covered as additional insureds on the commercial general liability policy with respect to liability arising out of work or operations performed by or on behalf of the CONTRACTOR including materials, parts, or equipment furnished in connection with such work or operations. General liability coverage shall be provided in the form of an endorsement to the CONTRACTOR's insurance (at least as broad as ISO Form CG 20 10 11 85 or if not available, through the addition of both CG 20 10, CG 20 26, CG 20 33, or CG 20 38; and CG 20 37 if a later edition is used).

**Primary Coverage:**

For any claims related to this contract, the CONTRACTOR's insurance coverage shall be primary and non-contributory and at least as broad as ISO CG 20 01 04 13 as respects the County, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the County, its officers, officials, employees, or volunteers shall be excess of the CONTRACTOR's insurance and shall not contribute with it. This requirement shall also apply to any Excess or Umbrella liability policies.

**Waiver of Subrogation:**

CONTRACTOR hereby grants to the County a waiver of any right to subrogation which any insurer of said CONTRACTOR may acquire against the County by virtue of the payment of any loss under such insurance. CONTRACTOR agrees to obtain any endorsement that may be necessary to affect this waiver of subrogation, but this provision applies regardless of whether or not the County has received a waiver of subrogation endorsement from the insurer.

Prior to the execution of this Agreement by the County, CONTRACTOR shall file certificates of insurance with the County's Contract Administrator and the County's Contracts/Purchasing Division showing that the CONTRACTOR has in effect the insurance required by this Agreement. The CONTRACTOR shall file a new or amended certificate of insurance within five calendar days after any change is made in any insurance policy, which would alter the information on the certificate then on file. Acceptance or approval of insurance shall in no way modify or change the indemnification clause in this Agreement, which shall continue in full force and effect. CONTRACTOR shall always during the term of this Agreement maintain in force the insurance coverage required under this Agreement and shall send, without demand by County, annual certificates to County's Contract Administrator and County's Contracts/Purchasing Division. If the certificate is not received by the expiration date, County shall notify CONTRACTOR and CONTRACTOR shall have five calendar days to send in the certificate, evidencing no lapse in coverage during the interim. Failure by CONTRACTOR to maintain such insurance is a default of this Agreement, which entitles the County, at its sole discretion, to terminate this Agreement immediately.

**10.0 RECORDS AND CONFIDENTIALITY:**

**10.01 Confidentiality:**

CONTRACTOR and its officers, employees, agents, and subcontractors shall comply with any and all federal, state, and local laws which provide for the confidentiality of records and other information. CONTRACTOR shall not disclose any confidential records or other confidential information received from the County or prepared in connection with the performance of this Agreement unless County specifically permits CONTRACTOR to disclose such records or information. CONTRACTOR shall promptly transmit to the County any and all requests for disclosure of any such confidential records or information. CONTRACTOR shall not use any confidential information gained by CONTRACTOR in the performance of this Agreement except for the sole purpose of carrying out CONTRACTOR's obligations under this Agreement.

**10.02 County Records:**

When this Agreement expires or terminates, CONTRACTOR shall return to the County any County records which CONTRACTOR used or received from the County to perform services under this Agreement.

**10.03 Maintenance of Records:**

CONTRACTOR shall prepare, maintain, and preserve all reports and records that may be required by federal, state, and County rules and regulations related to services performed under this Agreement. CONTRACTOR shall maintain such records for a period of at least three years after receipt of final payment under this Agreement. If any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit



exception, or other action relating to this Agreement is pending at the end of the three-year period, then CONTRACTOR shall retain said records until such action is resolved.

**10.04 Access to and Audit of Records:**

The County shall have the right to examine, monitor, and audit all records, documents, conditions, and activities of the CONTRACTOR and its subcontractors related to services provided under this Agreement. Pursuant to Government Code section 8546.7, if this Agreement involves the expenditure of public funds in excess of \$10,000, the parties to this Agreement may be subject, at the request of the County or as part of any audit of the County, to the examination and audit of the State Auditor pertaining to matters connected with the performance of this Agreement for a period of three years after final payment under the Agreement.

**10.05 Royalties and Inventions:**

County shall have a royalty-free, exclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, and use, and authorize others to do so, all original computer programs, writings, sound recordings, pictorial reproductions, drawings, and other works of similar nature produced in the course of or under this Agreement. CONTRACTOR shall not publish any such material without the prior written approval of County.

**11.0 NON-DISCRIMINATION:**

During the performance of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR, and its subcontractors, shall not unlawfully discriminate against any person because of race, religious creed, color, sex, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age (over 40), sexual orientation, or any other characteristic set forth in California Government Code § 12940(a), either in CONTRACTOR's employment practices or in the furnishing of services to recipients. CONTRACTOR shall ensure that the evaluation and treatment of its employees and applicants for employment and all persons receiving and requesting services are free of such discrimination. CONTRACTOR and any subcontractor shall, in the performance of this Agreement, fully comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations which prohibit discrimination. The provision of services primarily or exclusively to such target population as may be designated in this Agreement shall not be deemed to be prohibited discrimination.

**12.0 COMPLIANCE WITH TERMS OF STATE OR FEDERAL GRANTS:**

If this Agreement has been or will be funded with monies received by the County pursuant to a contract with the state or federal government in which the County is the grantee, CONTRACTOR will comply with all the provisions of said contract to the extent applicable to CONTRACTOR as a subgrantee under said contract, and said provisions shall be deemed a part of this Agreement, as though fully set forth herein. Upon request, the County will deliver a copy of said contract to CONTRACTOR, at no cost to CONTRACTOR.

**13.0 COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS:**

13.1 CONTRACTOR shall keep itself informed of and in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, regulations, and orders, including but not limited to all state and federal tax laws that may affect in any manner the Project or the performance of the Services or those engaged to perform Services under this Agreement as well as any privacy laws including, if

applicable, HIPAA. CONTRACTOR shall procure all permits and licenses, pay all charges and fees, and give all notices required by law in the performance of the Services.

13.2 CONTRACTOR shall report immediately to the County's Contracts/Purchasing Officer, in writing, any discrepancy or inconsistency it discovers in the laws, ordinances, regulations, orders, and/or guidelines in relation to the Project of the performance of the Services.

13.3 All documentation prepared by CONTRACTOR shall provide for a completed project that conforms to all applicable codes, rules, regulations, and guidelines that are in force at the time such documentation is prepared.

#### 14.0 **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR:**

In the performance of work, duties, and obligations under this Agreement, CONTRACTOR is always acting and performing as an independent contractor and not as an employee of the County. No offer or obligation of permanent employment with the County or County department or agency is intended in any manner, and CONTRACTOR shall not become entitled by virtue of this Agreement to receive from the County any form of employee benefits including but not limited to sick leave, vacation, retirement benefits, workers' compensation coverage, insurance or disability benefits. CONTRACTOR shall be solely liable for and obligated to pay directly all applicable taxes, including federal and state income taxes and social security, arising out of CONTRACTOR's performance of this Agreement. In connection therewith, CONTRACTOR shall defend, indemnify, and hold the County harmless from any and all liability which the County may incur because of CONTRACTOR's failure to pay such taxes.

#### 15.0 **NOTICES:**

Notices required under this Agreement shall be delivered personally or by first-class, postage pre-paid mail to the County and CONTRACTOR's Contract Administrators at the addresses listed below:

<b>FOR COUNTY:</b>	<b>FOR CONTRACTOR:</b>
Kathy Nielsen, Management Analyst II	Paul Robins, Executive Director
Name and Title	Name and Title
Housing & Community Development 1441 Schilling Place, South 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Salinas, CA 93901-4527	Resource Conservation District of Monterey County 744A La Guardia Street Salinas, CA 93905
Address	Address
(831) 755-4832	(831) 975-7757
194-HCD-Contracts@countyofmonterey.gov	<a href="mailto:Paul.Robins@rcdmonterey.org">Paul.Robins@rcdmonterey.org</a>
Phone	Phone

#### 16.0 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS:**

16.01 **Conflict of Interest:** CONTRACTOR represents that it presently has no interest and agrees not to acquire any interest during the term of this Agreement, which would directly or indirectly conflict in any manner or to any degree with the full and complete performance of the services required to be rendered under this Agreement.

- 16.02 **Amendment:** This Agreement may be amended or modified only by an instrument in writing signed by the County and the CONTRACTOR.
- 16.03 **Waiver:** Any waiver of any terms and conditions of this Agreement must be in writing and signed by the County and the CONTRACTOR. A waiver of any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver of any other terms or conditions in this Agreement.
- 16.04 **Contractor:** The term “CONTRACTOR,” as used in this Agreement, includes CONTRACTOR’s officers, agents, and employees acting on CONTRACTOR’s behalf in the performance of this Agreement.
- 16.05 **Disputes:** CONTRACTOR shall continue to perform under this Agreement during any dispute.
- 16.06 **Assignment and Subcontracting:** The CONTRACTOR shall not assign, sell, or otherwise transfer its interest or obligations in this Agreement without the prior written consent of the County. None of the services covered by this Agreement shall be subcontracted without the prior written approval of the County. Notwithstanding any such subcontract, CONTRACTOR shall continue to be liable for the performance of all requirements of this Agreement.
- 16.07 **Successors and Assigns:** This Agreement and the rights, privileges, duties, and obligations of the County and CONTRACTOR under this Agreement, to the extent assignable or delegable, shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties and their respective successors, permitted assigns, and heirs.
- 16.08 **Headings:** The headings are for convenience only and shall not be used to interpret the terms of this Agreement.
- 16.09 **Time is of the Essence:** Time is of the essence in each and all the provisions of this Agreement.
- 16.10 **Governing Law:** This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted under the laws of the State of California; venue shall be Monterey County.
- 16.11 **Non-exclusive Agreement:** This Agreement is non-exclusive and both County and CONTRACTOR expressly reserve the right to contract with other entities for the same or similar services.
- 16.12 **Construction of Agreement:** The County and CONTRACTOR agree that each party has fully participated in the review and revision of this Agreement and that any rule of construction to the effect that ambiguities are to be resolved against the drafting party shall not apply in the interpretation of this Agreement or any amendment to this Agreement.
- 16.13 **Counterparts:** This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same Agreement.

- 16.14 **Authority:** Any individual executing this Agreement on behalf of the County or the CONTRACTOR represents and warrants hereby that he or she has the requisite authority to enter into this Agreement on behalf of such party and bind the party to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 16.15 **Integration:** This Agreement, including the exhibits, represents the entire Agreement between the County and the CONTRACTOR with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement and shall supersede all prior negotiations, representations, or agreements, either written or oral, between the County and the CONTRACTOR as of the effective date of this Agreement, which is the date that the County signs the Agreement.
- 16.16 **Interpretation of Conflicting Provisions:** In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the provisions of this Agreement and the provisions of any exhibit or other attachment to this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail and control.

## **17.0 CONSENT TO USE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES:**

- 17.1 The parties to this Agreement consent to the use of electronic signatures via DocuSign to execute this Agreement. The parties understand and agree that the legality of electronic signatures is governed by state and federal law, 15 U.S.C. section 7001 et seq.; California Government Code section 16.5; and California Civil Code section 1633.1 *et. seq.* Pursuant to said state and federal law as may be amended from time to time, the parties to this Agreement hereby authenticate and execute this Agreement, and any and all Exhibits to this Agreement, with their respective electronic signatures, including any and all scanned signatures in Portable Document Format (PDF).
- 17.2 **Counterparts:**  
The parties to this Agreement understand and agree that this Agreement can be executed in two or more counterparts and transmitted electronically via facsimile transmission or by delivery of a scanned counterpart in PDF via email transmittal.
- 17.3 **Form - Delivery by E-Mail or Facsimile:**  
Executed counterparts of this Agreement may be delivered by facsimile transmission or by delivery of a scanned counterpart in PDF by e-mail transmittal, in either case with delivery confirmed. On such confirmed delivery, the signatures in the facsimile or PDF data file shall be deemed to have the same force and effect as if the manually signed counterpart or counterparts had been delivered to the other party in person.

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## 18.0 SIGNATURE PAGE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, County and CONTRACTOR have executed this Agreement as of the day and year written below.

### COUNTY OF MONTEREY

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contracts/Purchasing Officer

Date:

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Head (if applicable)

Date:

Approved as to Form  
Office of the County Counsel  
Susan K. Blitch, County Counsel

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Counsel

Date:

Approved as to Fiscal Provisions<sup>2</sup>

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor-Controller

Date:

Approved as to Liability Provisions<sup>3</sup>  
Office of the County Counsel-Risk Management

\_\_\_\_\_  
N/A

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Bolton, Risk Manager

Date:

### CONTRACTOR

Resource Conservation District of  
Monterey County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor/Business Name\*

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Chair, President, or Vice President)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca King, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title

Date:

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Secretary, Asst. Secretary, CFO,  
Treasurer or Asst. Treasurer)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Robins, Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title

Date:

County Board of Supervisors' Agreement Number: \_\_\_\_\_ approved on \_\_\_\_\_.

\*INSTRUCTIONS: If CONTRACTOR is a corporation, including non-profit corporations, the full legal name of the corporation shall be set forth above together with the signatures of two (2) specified officers per California Corporations Code section 313. If CONTRACTOR is a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC), the full legal name of the LLC shall be set forth above together with the signatures of two (2) managers. If CONTRACTOR is a partnership, the full legal name of the partnership shall be set forth above together with the signature of a partner who has authority to execute this Agreement on behalf of the partnership. If CONTRACTOR is contracting in an individual capacity, the individual shall set forth the name of the business, if any, and shall personally sign the Agreement or Amendment to said Agreement.

<sup>1</sup> Approval by County Counsel is required.

<sup>2</sup> Approval by Auditor-Controller is required.

<sup>3</sup> Approval by Risk Management is required only if changes are made in paragraph 8 or 9.

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## EXHIBIT A – SCOPE OF WORK/PAYMENT PROVISIONS

To Agreement by and between  
County of Monterey, hereinafter referred to as “County”  
and  
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC),  
hereinafter referred to as “CONTRACTOR”

### A. SCOPE OF SERVICES

**A.1** CONTRACTOR shall provide services and staff, and otherwise do all things necessary for or incidental to the performance of work as set forth below:

#### **A.1.1 Description:**

Large areas of North Monterey County have been designated as High or Very High Fire Hazard Security Zones by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire). Eucalyptus trees located in these areas present a unique fire hazard due to natural oils in the trees, bark shedding, and flammable leaf canopies which creates the potential for catastrophic wildfire events.

There is a need to improve resiliency and reduce the impacts of wildfire in northern Monterey County by thinning, trimming, or removing eucalyptus trees within the defensible space of structures or near roadways. Defensible space is generally described as areas within 100 feet of a structure, or up to the property line, or within 30 feet of a road (see Attachment 1).

#### **A.1.2 Documentation**

A.1.2.1 CONTRACTOR shall review, make recommendations, conduct site visits, and approve or deny applications from property owners according to the Guidelines for “Wildfire Prevention and Eucalyptus Tree Removal Pilot Project” (see Attachment 2).

A.1.2.2 CONTRACTOR shall pay a designated percentage of the costs to a licensed tree contractor or property owners for approved applications and completed services.

A.1.2.3 CONTRACTOR shall ensure property owners and/or the licensed tree contractor(s) provide records of receipts for services, before and after photographs of the site, and evidence of compliance with this program including:

- a. Number of trees removed/trimmed.
- b. Method of slash and stump removal.
- c. Treatment of stumps and limbs.
- d. Date of work.
- e. Pre-work verifications; and
- f. Other relevant information

## EXHIBIT A – SCOPE OF WORK/PAYMENT PROVISIONS

### A.1.3 Community Outreach

CONTRACTOR shall participate in community outreach activities as needed.

## B. PAYMENT PROVISIONS

### B.1 COMPENSATION/PAYMENT

County shall pay an amount not to exceed \$990,000 for the performance of all things necessary for or incidental to the performance of work as set forth in the Scope of Work. The County shall receive one percent (1%) (\$10,000) for oversight and implementation of the program. CONTRACTOR shall receive \$20,000 for administering the program.

CONTRACTOR'S compensation for services rendered shall be based on the following rates or in accordance with the following terms:

Hourly Rates effective through June 30, 2027

Title	Rate
Executive Director	\$ 139
Engineer	\$ 116
Ecologist	\$ 106
Forest Health Program Manager	\$ 103
Environmental Scientist	\$ 84
Watershed Program Manager	\$ 80
Finance Manager	\$ 76
Field Manager	\$ 72
Programs Assistant	\$ 66
Biologist	\$ 66

There shall be no travel reimbursement allowed during this Agreement.

CONTRACTOR warrants that the costs charged for services under the terms of this contract are not in excess of those charged any other client for the same services performed by the same individuals.

### B.2 CONTRACTOR'S REPORTING PROCEDURES

**B.2.1** CONTRACTOR shall receive the \$990,000 at one time for administration of the pilot program.



## EXHIBIT A – SCOPE OF WORK/PAYMENT PROVISIONS

**B.2.2** CONTRACTOR shall make all records and documents related to administration of the Pilot Project available to the County upon request and sent to:

Housing and Community Development  
Attn: **Craig Spencer, HCD Director**  
1441 Schilling Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901  
Email: [spencerc@countyofmonterey.gov](mailto:spencerc@countyofmonterey.gov)  
Phone: (831) 755-5025

### **B.2.3 CONTRACTOR’S BILLING PROCEDURES**

Invoices under this Agreement shall be submitted monthly and promptly, and in accordance with Paragraph 6, “Payment Conditions,” of the Agreement. All invoices shall reference the Multiyear Agreement (MYA) number, Project name, and/or services, and associated Delivery Order number, and an original hardcopy shall be sent to the following address or via email to [194-HCD-Finance@countyofmonterey.gov](mailto:194-HCD-Finance@countyofmonterey.gov):

County of Monterey  
Housing and Community Development (HCD) – Finance  
1441 Schilling Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Salinas, California 93901-4527

Any questions pertaining to invoices under this Agreement should be directed to HCD Finance at (831) 755-4800 or via email to [194-HCD-Finance@countyofmonterey.gov](mailto:194-HCD-Finance@countyofmonterey.gov):

County may, in its sole discretion, terminate this Agreement or withhold payments claimed by CONTRACTOR for services rendered if CONTRACTOR fails to satisfactorily comply with any term or condition of this Agreement.

The County shall certify the invoice, either in the requested amount or in such other amount as the County approves in conformity with this Agreement and shall promptly submit such invoice to the County Auditor-Controller for payment. The County Auditor-Controller shall pay the amount certified within 30 days of receiving the certified invoice.

No payments in advance or in anticipation of services to be provided under this Agreement shall be made by the County.

The County shall not pay any claims for payment for services submitted more than twelve (12) months after the calendar month in which the services were completed.

**DISALLOWED COSTS:** CONTRACTOR is responsible for any audit exceptions or disallowed costs incurred by its own organization or that of its subcontractors.

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## Attachment 1 to Exhibit A

# General Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space

State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF)  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Adopted by BOF on February 8, 2006  
Approved by Office of Administrative Law on May 8, 2006



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## A. Purpose of Guidelines

Recent changes to Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291 expand the defensible space clearance requirement maintained around buildings and structures from 30 feet to a distance of 100 feet. These guidelines are intended to provide property owners with examples of fuel modification measures that can be used to create an area around buildings or structures to create defensible space. A defensible space perimeter around buildings and structures provide firefighters a working environment that allows them to protect buildings and structures from encroaching wildfires as well as minimizing the chance that a structure fire will escape to the surrounding wildland. These guidelines apply to any person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or any land that is covered with flammable material, and located within a State Responsibility Area.



*Effective defensible space*

The vegetation surrounding a building or structure is fuel for a fire. Even the building or structure itself is considered fuel. Research and experience have shown that fuel reduction around a building or structure increases the probability of it surviving a wildfire. Good defensible space allows firefighters to protect and save buildings or structures safely without facing unacceptable risk to their lives. Fuel reduction through vegetation management is the key to creating good defensible space.

Terrain, climate conditions and vegetation interact to affect fire behavior and fuel reduction standards. The diversity of California's geography also influences fire behavior and fuel reduction standards as well. While fuel reduction standards will vary throughout the State, there are some common practices that guide fuel modification treatments to ensure creation of adequate defensible space:

- Properties with greater fire hazards will require more clearing. Clearing requirements will be greater for those lands with steeper terrain, larger and denser fuels, fuels that are highly volatile, and in locations subject to frequent fires.
- Creation of defensible space through vegetation management usually means reducing the amount of fuel around the building or structure, providing separation between fuels, and or reshaping retained fuels by trimming. Defensible space can be created removing dead vegetation, separating fuels, and pruning lower limbs.
- In all cases, fuel reduction means arranging the tree, shrubs and other fuels sources in a way that makes it difficult for fire to transfer from one fuel source to another. It does not mean cutting down all trees and shrubs, or creating a bare ring of earth across the property.
- A homeowner's clearing responsibility is limited to 100 feet away from his or her building or structure or to the property line, which ever is less, and limited to their land. While individual property owners are not required to clear beyond 100 feet, groups of property owners are encouraged to extend clearances beyond the 100 foot requirement in order to create community-wide defensible spaces.
- Homeowners who do fuel reduction activities that remove or dispose of vegetation are required to comply with all federal, state or local environmental protection laws and obtain permits when necessary. Environmental protection laws include, but are not limited to, threatened and endangered species, water quality, air quality, and cultural/archeological resources. For example, trees removed for fuel reduction that are used for commercial purposes require permits from the

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Also, many counties and towns require tree removal permits when cutting trees over a specified size. Contact your local resource or planning agency officials to ensure compliance.

The methods used to manage fuel can be important in the safe creation of defensible space. Care should be taken with the use of equipment when creating your defensible space zone. Internal combustion engines must have an approved spark arresters and metal cutting blades (lawn mowers or weed trimmers) should be used with caution to prevent starting fires during periods of high fire danger. A metal blade striking a rock can create a spark and start a fire, a common cause of fires during summertime.

Vegetation removal can also cause soil disturbance, soil erosion, regrowth of new vegetation, and introduce non-native invasive plants. Always keep soil disturbance to a minimum, especially on steep slopes. Erosion control techniques such as minimizing use of heavy equipment, avoiding stream or gully crossings, using mobile equipment during dry conditions, and covering exposed disturbed soil areas will help reduce soil erosion and plant regrowth.

Areas near water (riparian areas), such as streams or ponds, are a particular concern for protection of water quality. To help protect water quality in riparian areas, avoid removing vegetation associated with water, avoid using heavy equipment, and do not clear vegetation to bare mineral soil.

## **B. Definitions**

**Defensible space:** The area within the perimeter of a parcel where basic wildfire protection practices are implemented, providing the key point of defense from an approaching wildfire or escaping structure fire. The area is characterized by the establishment and maintenance of emergency vehicle access, emergency water reserves, street names and building identification, and fuel modification measures.

**Aerial fuels:** All live and dead vegetation in the forest canopy or above surface fuels, including tree branches, twigs and cones, snags, moss, and high brush. Examples include trees and large bushes.

**Building or structure:** Any structure used for support or shelter of any use or occupancy.

**Flammable and combustible vegetation:** Fuel as defined in these guidelines.

**Fuel Vegetative material,** live or dead, which is combustible during normal summer weather. For the purposes of these guidelines, it does not include fences, decks, woodpiles, trash, etc.

**Homeowner:** Any person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or any land that is covered with flammable material, and located within a State Responsibility Area.

**Ladder Fuels:** Fuels that can carry a fire vertically between or within a fuel type.

**Reduced Fuel Zone:** The area that extends out from 30 to 100 feet away from the building or structure (or to the property line, whichever is nearer to the building or structure).

**Surface fuels:** Loose surface litter on the soil surface, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches that have not yet decayed enough to lose their identity; also grasses, forbs, low and medium shrubs, tree seedlings, heavier branches and downed logs.



## C. Fuel Treatment Guidelines

The following fuel treatment guidelines comply with the requirements of 14 CCR 1299 and PRC 4291. **All persons using these guidelines to comply with CCR 1299 and PRC 4291 shall implement General Guidelines 1., 2., 3., and either 4a or 4b., as described below.**

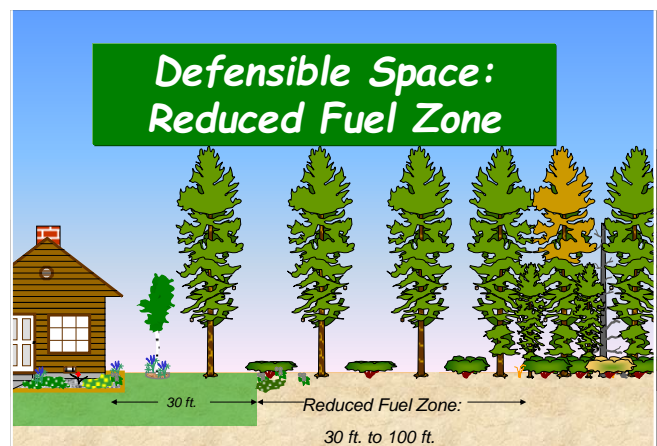
### General Guidelines:

1. Maintain a firebreak by removing and clearing away all flammable vegetation and other combustible growth within 30 feet of each building or structure, with certain exceptions pursuant to PRC §4291(a). Single specimens of trees or other vegetation may be retained provided they are well-spaced, well-pruned, and create a condition that avoids spread of fire to other vegetation or to a building or structure.
2. Dead and dying woody surface fuels and aerial fuels within the Reduced Fuel Zone shall be removed. Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches, shall be permitted to a depth of 3 inches. This guideline is primarily intended to eliminate trees, bushes, shrubs and surface debris that are completely dead or with substantial amounts of dead branches or leaves/needles that would readily burn.
3. Down logs or stumps anywhere within 100 feet from the building or structure, when embedded in the soil, may be retained when isolated from other vegetation. Occasional (approximately one per acre) standing dead trees (snags) that are well-space from other vegetation and which will not fall on buildings or structures or on roadways/driveways may be retained.
4. Within the Reduced Fuel Zone, one of the following fuel treatments (4a. or 4b.) shall be implemented. Properties with greater fire hazards will require greater clearing treatments. Combinations of the methods may be acceptable under §1299(c) as long as the intent of these guidelines is met.

### 4a. Reduced Fuel Zone: Fuel Separation

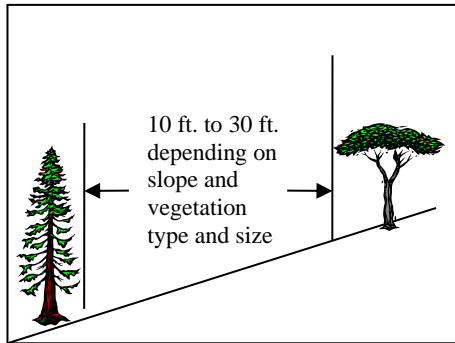
In conjunction with General Guidelines 1., 2., and 3., above, minimum clearance between fuels surrounding each building or structure will range from 4 feet to 40 feet in all directions, both horizontally and vertically.

Clearance distances between vegetation will depend on the slope, vegetation size, vegetation type (brush, grass, trees), and other fuel characteristics (fuel compaction, chemical content etc.). Properties with greater fire hazards will require greater separation between fuels. For example, properties on steep slopes having large sized vegetation will require greater spacing between individual trees and bushes (see Plant Spacing Guidelines and Case Examples below). Groups of vegetation (numerous plants growing together less than 10 feet in total foliage width) may be treated as a single plant. For example, three individual manzanita plants growing together with a total foliage width of eight feet can be “grouped” and considered as one plant and spaced according to the Plant Spacing Guidelines in this document.

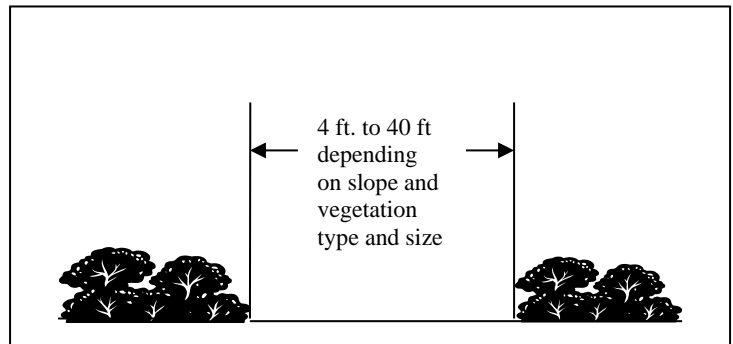


Grass generally should not exceed 4 inches in height. However, homeowners may keep grass and other forbs less than 18 inches in height above the ground when these grasses are isolated from other fuels or where necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion. Clearance requirements include:

- Horizontal clearance between aerial fuels, such as the outside edge of the tree crowns or high brush. Horizontal clearance helps stop the spread of fire from one fuel to the next.



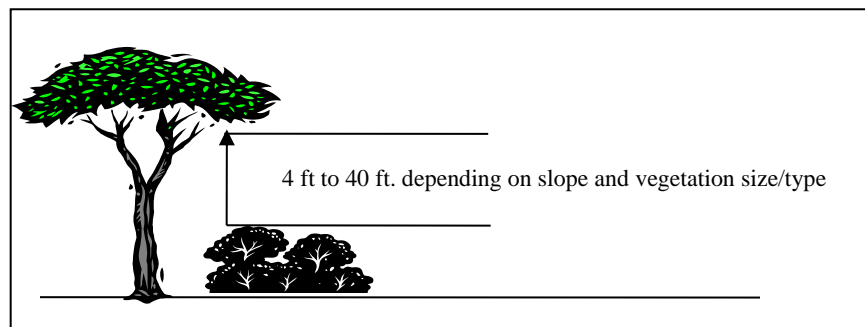
Trees



Shrubs

Horizontal clearance between aerial fuels

- Vertical clearance between lower limbs of aerial fuels and the nearest surface fuels and grass/weeds. Vertical clearance removes *ladder fuels* and helps prevent a fire from moving from the shorter fuels to the taller fuels.



Vertical clearance between aerial fuels



Effective vertical and horizontal fuel separation  
Photo Courtesy Plumas Fire Safe Council.

## Plant Spacing Guidelines

Guidelines are designed to break the continuity of fuels and be used as a “rule of thumb” for achieving compliance with Regulation 14 CCR 1299.

Trees	Minimum horizontal space from edge of one tree canopy to the edge of the next	
	Slope	Spacing
	0% to 20 %	10 feet
	20% to 40%	20 feet
	Greater than 40%	30 feet
Shrubs	Minimum horizontal space between edges of shrub	
	Slope	Spacing
	0% to 20 %	2 times the height of the shrub
	20% to 40%	4 times the height of the shrub
	Greater than 40%	6 times the height of the shrub
Vertical Space	Minimum vertical space between top of shrub and bottom of lower tree branches: 3 times the height of the shrub	

*Adapted from: Gilmer, M. 1994. California Wildfire Landscaping*

### **Case Example of Fuel Separation: Sierra Nevada conifer forests**

Conifer forests intermixed with rural housing present a hazardous fire situation. Dense vegetation, long fire seasons, and ample ignition sources related to human access and lightning, makes this home vulnerable to wildfires. This home is located on gentle slopes (less than 20%), and is surrounded by large mature tree overstory and intermixed small to medium size brush (three to four feet in height).

Application of the guideline under 4a. would result in horizontal spacing between large tree branches of 10 feet; removal of many of the smaller trees to create vertical space between large trees and smaller trees and horizontal spacing between brush of six to eight feet (calculated by using 2 times the height of brush).





## **Case Example of Fuel Separation: Southern California chaparral**

Mature, dense and continuous chaparral brush fields on steep slopes found in Southern California represents one of the most hazardous fuel situations in the United States. Chaparral grows in an unbroken sea of dense vegetation creating a fuel-rich path which spreads fire rapidly. Chaparral shrubs burn hot and produce tall flames. From the flames come burning embers which can ignite homes and plants. (Gilmer, 1994). All these factors results in a setting where aggressive defensible space clearing requirements are necessary.

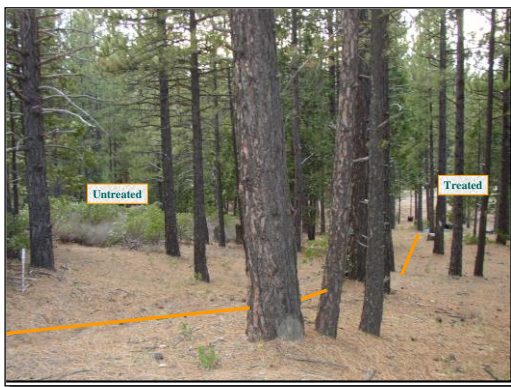
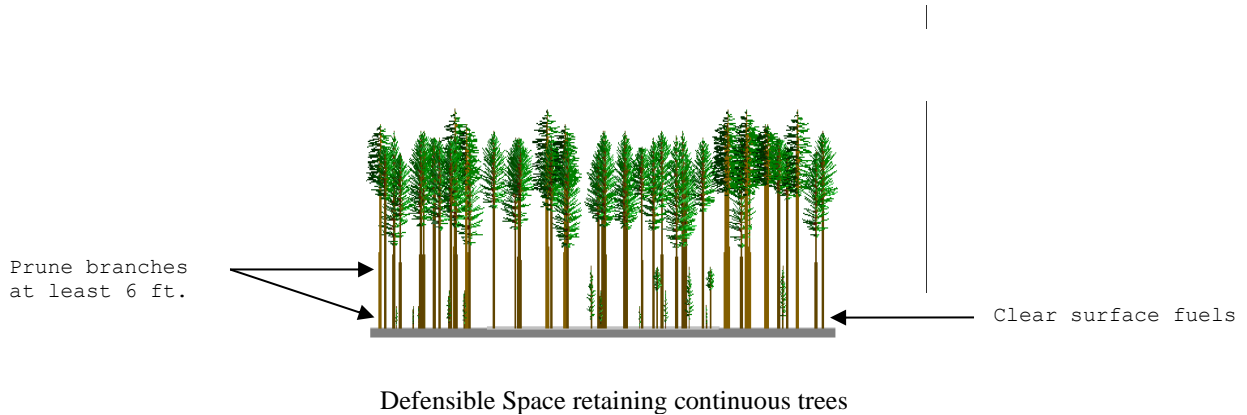
Steep slopes (greater than 40%) and tall, old brush (greater than 7 feet tall), need significant modification. These settings require aggressive clearing to create defensible space, and would require maximum spacing. Application of the guidelines would result in 42 feet horizontal spacing (calculated as 6 times the height of the brush) between retained groups of chaparral.



#### **4b. Reduced Fuel Zone: Defensible Space with Continuous Tree Canopy**

To achieve defensible space while retaining a stand of larger trees with a continuous tree canopy apply the following treatments:

- Generally, remove all surface fuels greater than 4 inches in height. Single specimens of trees or other vegetation may be retained provided they are well-spaced, well-pruned, and create a condition that avoids spread of fire to other vegetation or to a building or structure.
- Remove lower limbs of trees (“prune”) to at least 6 feet up to 15 feet (or the lower 1/3 branches for small trees). Properties with greater fire hazards, such as steeper slopes or more severe fire danger, will require pruning heights in the upper end of this range.



*Photo Courtesy Plumas Fire Safe Council.*

Defensible space with continuous tree canopy by clearing understory and pruning

*Authority cited: Section 4102, 4291, 4125-4128.5, Public Resource Code. Reference: 4291, Public Resource Code; 14 CCR 1299 (d).*

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