

**Project Title:** Gualala River & Coastal Tributaries Watershed Coalition

**Applicant:** Sonoma Resource Conservation District  
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# Technical Proposal

## 1. Executive Summary

**Date:** January 19, 2021

**Applicant:** Sonoma Resource Conservation District

**City:** Santa Rosa

**County:** Sonoma

**State:** California

### **Project Summary:**

Sonoma Resource Conservation District (RCD) will facilitate the formation of a participatory and collaborative stakeholder watershed group for the Gualala River Watershed and associated coastal tributaries (collectively referred to in this proposal as Gualala River Watershed). The formation of the watershed coalition will allow the stakeholders currently working in the Gualala River Watershed to coordinate with one another on leveraging past and ongoing efforts, complete comprehensive planning for the watershed, and implement on-the-ground and watershed management projects through a participatory process that will foster the sustainability of such efforts. Grant funds will be used to carry out the development of the watershed coalition, Watershed Management Plan, and identification and ranking of priority restoration projects (Action Plan) to be determined through a consensus of stakeholders within the watershed coalition. The proposed project will meet the goals of the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) through the development of the Gualala River and Coastal Tributaries Watershed Coalition, and the planning and development of a comprehensive watershed management plan, including identification and prioritization of site-specific restoration projects within the project area. The completed watershed plan will incorporate data from long-term reach monitoring that has been ongoing by Gualala River Watershed Council (GRWC) which will serve to update baseline data that exists from the 2002 North Coast Watershed Assessment program (NCWAP).

**Project Length:** January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023 (estimated completion date)

The proposed project area overlaps the trust holding for the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians held by the United States..

## 2. Project Location

The Gualala River Watershed is located in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, in California. The approximate centroid of the watershed is located roughly 80 air miles north northwest of the city of San Francisco. The Gualala River Watershed drains directly into the Pacific Ocean, it is the largest coastal watershed between the Russian River and Eel River watersheds.

The map below depicts the current borders of the Gualala River Watershed and the proposed project area which includes its associated coastal tributaries. All of the project area is located within the HUC 8 watershed 18010109 “Gualala-Salmon”.



The Gualala River watershed drains 298 square miles along the coast of southern Mendocino and northern Sonoma counties. The river enters the Pacific Ocean near the town of Gualala, 114 miles north of San Francisco and 17 miles south of Point Arena. The Gualala River Watershed is elongated, running over 32 miles long north-south, with an average width of 14 miles. Elevations vary from sea level to 2,602 feet at Gube Mountain, and terrain is most mountainous in the northern and eastern parts of the watershed. A long history of movement along the San Andreas Fault and the Tombs Creek Fault has been a dominant force in shaping the watershed. The climate is influenced by fog near the coast with seasonal temperatures ranging from 40 to 60 F, with the interior areas of the watershed ranging from below freezing to over 90 F seasonally.

Rainfall also varies by location within the watershed with 33 inches falling on average near the town of Gualala and totals reaching over 63 inches in some areas within the interior. (Gualala NCWAP)

The Gualala River Watershed has five principal subbasins: Wheatfield Fork (37 percent of drainage), Gualala Mainstem/South Fork (21 percent), North Fork (16 percent), Buckeye (14 percent), and Rockpile (12 percent). The mainstem Gualala extends only from the convergence of the North Fork and South Fork to the ocean, with much of this reach comprising the estuary. Coastal conifer forests of redwood and Douglas-fir occupy the northwestern, southwestern, and central portions of the watershed, while oak-woodland and grassland cover many slopes in the interior. Coho salmon naturally inhabited the streams flowing from coniferous forest, but likely were sub-dominant to steelhead trout in interior areas due to the more open nature of the channels, less suitable habitat, and naturally warmer stream temperatures. The interior is largely grassland with scattered oaks. Surface waters in this area generally lack shade and are warmed with abundant sunshine and warmer air temperatures. (Gualala NCWAP)

Prior to European settlement, coniferous forest extended throughout approximately two thirds of the Gualala River Watershed. Dense old growth redwood forests occupied the northwestern portion of the Gualala River Watershed, particularly the alluvial North Fork Subbasin. Old growth redwood also lined the long and narrow South Fork valley. Douglas-fir predominated in central and mid-slope locations more distant from the coast. Further inland in the eastern portion of the Gualala River Watershed, the natural distribution of Douglas-fir becomes increasingly fragmented. Here, the long summer drought limits Douglas-fir to north facing slopes. The oak-woodland predominates as a more continuous distribution on higher, inland terrain the more distant from the coastal marine influence. Large areas of prairie grassland occupy the driest sites along ridge and upslope locations. These occupy larger continuous areas on the highest and easternmost areas of the Gualala River Watershed.

The Gualala River Watershed has one of the longest spans of historical use compared to other north coast watersheds. Logging of the virgin old growth redwood forest began during the mid 1800s. The first documented account dates to 1862 in lower portions of the watershed near coastal ramp and port facilities. The first logging methods used oxen teams to move large old growth redwood logs to terminal points of lateral connecting rail lines. The original rail line ran along the South Fork. Watercourses were frequently used as skid paths to move logs downslope including the use of splash dams. Main rivers were used to float logs downstream. Fire was used extensively to reduce slash during logging and in attempts to convert redwood forest to grazing land after the logging. Early logging activities left a legacy of impacts, some of which persist to the present. Splash dams and log drives tended to flatten and simplify stream channels. Rail line construction included massive cut and fill excavation along roadbeds which followed streams. Increased demand for lumber products during the 1950s coincided with the widespread deployment of heavy tractors that were greatly improved by technology advanced during World War II. Harvest operations followed straight parcel lines regardless of watercourse condition or difficult terrain. Roads often followed the stream channel to enable downslope skidding. Many

roads had steep gradients designed to access all positions of the sideslope. Skid trails frequently followed or crossed ephemeral stream channels. Landings were often located in, or adjacent to, watercourses. These were built by pushing woody debris into the channel and overtopping by dirt fill. Across steep terrain, skid trails cut deep into the sideslopes, creating a terraced effect.

The State of California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) regulates water quality in the Gualala River Watershed. Due in large part to the legacy of poorly designed historic timber harvest and road construction in the watershed, in 2001 the Gualala River Watershed was added to the EPA 303(d) list of impaired water bodies in the state for excessive sediment loads and temperatures. The primary adverse impacts associated with excessive sediment in the Gualala River pertain to the salmonid fishery. The populations of Salmonids present in the Gualala River and its tributaries are in severe decline. The populations of coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*) are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. (NCRWQCB 2001).

In response to this listing, there has been a considerable amount of scientific inquiry into the watershed. In 2003, a Watershed Assessment Plan was created for the Gualala River under the authority of the North Coast Watershed Assessment Program (NCWAP) by a joint agency cooperative of staff within the California Resources Agency, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), California Department of Conservation/California Geological Survey (DOC/CGS), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). This Watershed Assessment Plan organized data that was available at the time in order to create a baseline data set for the condition of the watershed. The Watershed Assessment Plan also provided assessment information to help focus watershed improvement programs, and assist landowners, local watershed groups, and individuals to develop successful projects in the highest need reaches of the watershed. Since the creation of the Watershed Assessment Plan, Gualala River Watershed Council has conducted continuous monitoring of water temperatures, sediment accumulation, and salmonid population counts, and has taken part in collaboration with local landowners to decommission roads, and install habitat enhancement projects in the form of large woody debris structures.

In 2008 the NCRWQCB created a work plan for sediment-impaired watersheds, which included the Gualala River Watershed. The work plan identified 12 tasks that should be taken to control sediment in the basin. Staff recommendations for the watershed were as follows: *Identify and work with key stakeholders; conduct outreach and education and work with interested stakeholders; fund excess sediment control, road restoration, and Large Woody Debris (LWD) placement projects; encourage the Gualala River Watershed Council and/or Sotoyome [Sonoma] RCD to develop a third party NPS control program; identify most egregious excess sediment sources; use progressive enforcement or develop Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) or conditional waivers; regulate instream gravel mining operations; work with Coastal Ridges to ensure compliance with the Measures to Control Excess Sediment Prohibition; develop*

*ownership-wide WDRs for Gualala Redwoods Inc; develop ownership-wide WDRs for Mendocino Redwood Company; develop ownership-wide WDRs for Preservation Ranch; develop WDRs for county roads in Mendocino and Sonoma counties.* The work plan directly called on Sonoma RCD (formerly named Sotoyome RCD) and Gualala River Watershed Council to be the key entities necessary to work with stakeholders, conduct outreach and education, and develop a third-party program for controlling non-point sources of sediment. This 2008 work plan was the last major planning document to have included the Gualala River Watershed; to date, there has been no concerted attempt to implement any of the recommendations made in the plan.

In the time since the Watershed Assessment Plan was completed, there have been a number of additional threats to the overall health of the watershed that have become evident, particularly in regard to the health of the forests which make up the majority of the land area in the watershed. In 1995 Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*) herein after referred to as SOD, was introduced to Marin County by way of ornamental nursery plants. SOD has to date made its way along the coast from Marin County, just north of San Francisco County, all the way to the Oregon border. SOD affects virtually every tree species on the North Coast, but it kills with near certainty infected tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*) and true oaks in the red oak subgroup, such as coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*). These tree species are culturally relevant and are emblematic of California, and they hold special significance to native Pomo, such as the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, who historically used the acorns of these trees as a major food staple.

In recent years coastal Bishop pine (*Pinus muricata*) within the project area have been hit hard with pitch canker (*Fusarium circinatum*) causing substantial mortality, most notably along the widely used travel corridor at the coast highway (CA Highway 1). Pitch canker is also negatively affecting Douglas-fir in the region, but with less direct impact on mortality. Recent surveys have also discovered the presence of non-native Balsam wooly adelgid (*Adelgis piceae*) which is killing grand fir (*Abies grandis*) near the coast.

Some of the major concerns that have been expressed from residents within the Gualala River Watershed relate to the fuel hazard which this unprecedented tree die-off represents. Since 1945 there have been a dozen or so fires in the watershed, but only three of which occurred since 1960. In 1978 the Creighton Ridge fire burned nearly 11,000 acres on the break between the South Fork Gualala and Austin Creek, a tributary to the Russian River, after the fire was started by a grass mower. The fire was devastating, producing lasting effects on the local vegetation, and generating significant erosion in the watershed. The community responded with the support of state and federal agencies, planting thousands of acres and more than a million trees, but these plantations were never maintained. Forty years after the fire, there is a clear trend towards overstocking, resulting in increased fire danger and increased pressure on groundwater and surface water resources due to uptake of water by trees. The original plantations that were not thinned ended up as very dense, tight forests with little understory success and heavy ladder fuels. (Euphrat, 2016). In 1993 there was a fire along the coast highway between Wildcat Creek

and Miller Creek on what is currently Salt Point State Park. The area regenerated into a thick Bishop pine stand that is now dying off due to pitch canker. In June of 2020 there was a lightning-caused fire near Meyers grade road which very nearly spread to Fort Ross Road; an area that has been under tight watch by fire officials for the last decade, as SOD induced mortality has killed up to 90% of the trees in the area, and the fuels have never been treated; by a stroke of lucky weather the fire did not manage to enter SOD mortality areas. The watershed is currently primed for another stand replacing fire event, such as what was seen in the 1978 Creighton Ridge fire, although current fuel conditions are arguably worse than what was present at that time. Such fire events can have devastating watershed impacts, including negative impacts to stream hydrology and significant erosion impacts that degrade water quality and impair watershed functions by filling gravels and pools.

The Gualala River Watershed supports many listed threatened and endangered species on both the Federal Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act. There are also a number of species on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Species of Special Concern list, which are species that have not yet been warranted for CESA listing by the California Fish and Game Commission but are in decline. Not listed, but present in the watershed, are many dozens of rare plants that have been identified by the California Native Plant Society as species that warrant review by the Fish and Game Commission for listing under the CESA.

C NAME	S NAME	TAXON GROUP	FED LIST	CA LIST	CDFW STATUS
American badger	Taxidea taxus	Mammals	None	None	SSC
bald eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Birds	Delisted	Endangered	FP
Behren's silverspot butterfly	Speyeria zerene behrensii	Insects	Endangered	None	
California giant salamander	Dicamptodon ensatus	Amphibians	None	None	SSC
California red-legged frog	Rana draytonii	Amphibians	Threatened	None	SSC
coho salmon	Oncorhynchus kisutch	Fish	Threatened	Threatened	
foothill yellow-legged frog	Rana boylei	Amphibians	None	Candidate Threatened	SSC
grasshopper sparrow	Ammodramus savannarum	Birds	None	None	SSC
Gualala roach	Lavinia symmetricus parvipinnis	Fish	None	None	SSC



Humboldt County milk-vetch	Astragalus agnicidus	Dicots	None	Endangered	
marbled murrelet	Brachyramphus marmoratus	Birds	Threatened	Endangered	
Northern spotted owl	Strix occidentalis	Birds	Threatened	Threatened	
pallid bat	Antrozous pallidus	Mammals	None	None	SSC
red-bellied newt	Taricha rivularis	Amphibians	None	None	SSC
Roderick's fritillary	Fritillaria roderickii	Monocots	None	Endangered	
Sonoma spineflower	Chorizanthe valida	Dicots	Endangered	Endangered	
Sonoma tree vole	Arborimus pomonensis	Mammals	None	None	SSC
steelhead	Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus	Fish	Threatened	None	
The Cedars manzanita	Arctostaphylos bakeri ssp. sublaevis	Dicots	None	Rare	
Townsend's big-eared bat	Corynorhinus townsendii	Mammals	None	None	SSC
western pond turtle	Emys marmorata	Reptiles	None	None	SSC

### 3. Technical Project Description

**Application Category:** New Watershed Group.

Although several groups currently conduct natural resource conservation, management, and restoration in the Gualala River Watershed, the watershed lacks a concerted effort to collaborate among diverse stakeholders, which would catalyze and expedite watershed management projects. Not only will a new watershed group allow for stakeholders to leverage one another's expertise and previous efforts, the group will build the institutional capacity necessary for stakeholders to work together in a participatory process that will optimize the sustainability of watershed management efforts. Developing unified consensus-based focus among the watershed group is necessary to achieve a restored and sustainable watershed.

Several agencies within the Natural Resources Agency and Department of Conservation, including the California Departments of Forestry and Fire Protection, Fish and Wildlife, and Geological Survey, along with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, of the State Water Resources Control Board worked together to draft the Gualala River Watershed Assessment in 2003. The watershed assessment provided information to help focus watershed improvement programs, and assist landowners, local watershed groups, and individuals to

develop successful projects in the highest need reaches of the watershed, but it has not been updated in nearly 20 years. The plan was focused on water quality and salmonid habitat, and the main recommendations were related to road planning and decommissioning, as well as encouraging best management practices that have already become standard as part of the California Forest Practice Rules for commercial timber harvesting. This document did not cover management priorities of the community, nor did it discuss the importance of maintaining the health of forest resources in the watershed, a critical component to water quality, quantity, and other ecosystem functions.

In 2008 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board staff released a work plan to control excess sediment in sediment-impaired watersheds. This work plan focused exclusively on sediment impairments, and did not consider temperature, nutrients, other water quality impairments, or water quantity issues. Gualala River Watershed was one of the watersheds identified in this plan. Staff recommendations specifically cited Sonoma RCD (formerly named Sotoyome RCD) and Gualala River Watershed Council as entities that were well poised to coordinate outreach efforts and work with key stakeholders in the watershed to discuss sediment control efforts. The work plan also described the need to encourage the development of a third-party non-point source control program, the exact recommendation was as follows:

*Encourage and work with the GRWC and/or Sotoyome [Sonoma] RCD to develop and implement an official Third Party NPS Control Program, as described by the NPS Policy. As a third party, the GRWC/RCD would be an intermediary between the Regional Water Board and smaller landowners. The GRWC/RCD would coordinate the inventory, prioritization, scheduling, repair, monitoring, and adaptive management of excess sediment sites from roads and other sources owned by smaller landowners. The GRWC/RCD would also help landowners develop management practices that will prevent and reduce future discharges from their activities. Landowners who work with the GRWC/RCD under this program would be in compliance with the Regional Excess Sediment Prohibition (if and once they take effect).*

To date, the recommendations made for Gualala River Watershed have not been implemented. This proposal would create an opportunity to conduct the stakeholder outreach, project identification, and NPS control program (i.e. watershed action plan) that was identified as needed in 2008.

Since the 2003 watershed assessment was made, the watershed has become a dramatic example of Sudden Oak Death's impact on our coast range forests. The mortality seen in the region's tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*) is catastrophic, with large areas losing canopy cover in a rapid fashion. In addition to canopy cover loss, the sheer biomass from these massive die off events is creating a severe fire hazard potential. Adding to the tree mortality concerns in the region is the relative age of short-lived coastal pine species, which are reaching the upper end of their natural lives. The region has become inundated with widespread pitch canker (*Fusarium circinatum*) which is accelerating mortality in these coastal pines. Coastal pines in our area, specifically Bishop pine (*Pinus muricata*), require fire in order to regenerate because their closed cones are serotinous, meaning they open after the heat of a fire. Indigenous practices in the

region included the use of frequent, low-severity broadcast fire, which supported the life history of these trees. These practices have long since been abandoned as western Europeans began to settle in the watershed. Many stakeholders in the watershed are concerned about the potential loss of these tree species, tanoak is of special significance to the native Pomo because of the stable food source that they provide. There is also an emerging concern about stand-replacing wildfire, not only because of the life/safety element that must be considered with wildfire, but because of the damage that could be done if a high severity fire swept through the watershed; this would very likely eliminate much of the beneficial work that has been done to reduce sediment loads and improve water quality, quantity, and fish habitat within the watershed in the last 20 years.

Future stewardship of the watershed must include a consideration for the forests that make up the majority of the landscape in the watershed. The effects of climate change and water stress are exacerbating conditions in the already stressed headwaters of our coastal watersheds. Major obstacles that hinder landscape-level forest management in the area are typically high costs associated with conducting forest improvement work, difficulty of access due to rugged coastal mountain ranges which limit road planning, different motivations for and abilities to conduct work that exist between land ownerships, and a general lack of communication and understanding between landowners to consider the motivations behind management objectives. There is considerable disagreement in the watershed about the role and intent of forest management, and how it could help or hinder efforts to improve watershed health. This concern is largely a response to historic logging activities that resulted in the removal of the majority of old-growth redwood in the watershed, and tremendous damage that was done to the many tributaries from past yarding practices. In order for realistic community-focused efforts to begin addressing the health of the watershed, there needs to be an opportunity for all of the various stakeholders in the region to discuss their priorities and voice their opinions. We believe there are many values that are shared by stakeholders in the watershed, the Gualala River and Coastal Tributaries Watershed Coalition would allow for a way for stakeholders in the region to make decisions about management in the watershed through a consensus-based approach. Stakeholders in the watershed are diverse, there are State and County Parks, private industrial timber companies, non-industrial small private forest landowners, agricultural producers, the Kashia Pomo, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and other land protection organizations, associations representing the communities of Sea Ranch, Timber Cove, and Annapolis, and a multitude of political, scientific, and environmental advocacy groups that are active in the watershed.

The proposed watershed coalition will create a framework for long term collaboration and understanding among all of the stakeholders living, working, and caring for the Gualala River Watershed and its nearby tributaries. An initial list of stakeholders interested in participating in this effort include Gualala River Watershed Council, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, California State Parks, Gualala Redwood Timber Inc, Jenner Headlands Preserve, University of California Cooperative Extension, The Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group, The Redwood Coast Land Conservancy, Sea Ranch Association, and Coast Ridge Community

Forest. By working together toward common watershed management goals, the coalition's diversity in governance, resources, education, and community engagement will be leveraged to achieve the sustainable management of the Gualala River Watershed and nearby coastal tributaries. Furthermore, this partnership will consist of entities with water supply management, and with public and private entities with land management responsibilities representing homeowners' associations, commercial timber producers, recreation and tourism entities, local tribes, and local, state, and federal government agencies. The proposed project is an exceptional opportunity to work more closely with each partner in a way that strengthens our relationships and builds our capacity to utilize one another as resources to meet our mutually beneficial goals of watershed sustainability. Additionally, the watershed coalition will engage the larger community in the watershed through education, watershed management, restoration, and solicit community participation in these efforts as opportunities arise.

This effort will lead to effective long-standing water quality and ecosystem restoration benefits for the entire watershed. By collectively pooling efforts and resources, the watershed coalition will be able to implement recommendations for the watershed in a more effective and efficient manner.

**Eligibility of Applicant:**

Sonoma RCD is a special district and meets the eligibility requirements to be an applicant to Reclamation's CWMP for a new watershed group because it significantly affects and is affected by the quality and quantity of water in the Gualala River Watershed, is capable of promoting the sustainable use of water and resources, and is located in California. Sonoma RCD will carry out a coordination role in the Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition and will work with local entities Gualala River Watershed Council, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, and Matt Greene Forestry and Biological Consulting to meet the goals of the program.

**Goals:** The goals of the *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* are as follows:

1. Build the institutional capacity of Gualala River Watershed stakeholders to carry out sustainable watershed management and restoration in the watershed through the creation and sustaining of a Gualala River and Coastal Tributaries Watershed Coalition.
2. Complete a watershed management plan for the Gualala River Watershed and associated coastal tributaries which updates to information included in the 2003 Gualala River Watershed Assessment utilizing monitoring data that GRWC has been collecting since its publishing, and data that has been collected on various management plans that have been assembled for individual ownerships in the watershed, such as the Kashia's forest management plan, and the Fuels Management Plan for Salt Point State Park (in development).
3. Develop an Action Plan which solicits and prioritizes watershed management and restoration projects based on stakeholder input.

All three of these goals were identified as necessary tasks in the 2008 NCRW/CB Work Plan To Control Excess Sediment in Sediment-Impaired Watersheds.

**Approach:** The *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* will carry out Tasks A, and B, described in *Section C.3.1. Eligible Projects* as follows:

#### Task A – Watershed Group Development

Sonoma RCD staff will lead the development of the watershed coalition, including the development of the structural framework of the organization. Sonoma RCD staff will serve as the coordinator for the watershed coalition to organize monthly meetings, facilitate group development and governance, and coordinate planning and other related activities to be determined through a participatory stakeholder approach. Sonoma RCD will work with Gualala River Watershed Council as a contractor, and other stakeholders who have already expressed their support for the coalition, to conduct outreach to additional stakeholders and the community in the project area. Gualala River Watershed Council has decades of experience conducting reach surveys and water quality data analysis within the many tributaries of the Gualala River Watershed. As a necessary component of this work, they have developed relationships with many of the landowners in the watershed whose properties provide access to survey reaches. Initial meetings among the watershed coalition will address whether or not all stakeholders have been contacted in order to seek their participation, and if not, setting action items to complete stakeholder outreach. Ensuring this step is complete before moving forward with other activities will help ensure that the group functions through a participatory process in which each stakeholder is able to exercise decision-making power from the very beginning of the group formation. Following meetings early in the watershed group's development will focus on developing mission and vision statements and setting goals for the coalition.

#### Task B – Watershed Restoration Planning

The Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition will complete a management plan for the watershed which considers objectives for water quality and natural resource conservation that are developed through the participatory stakeholder process described in Task A. The management plan will build on baseline data that was established in the 2003 NCWAP plan, soliciting data from large private landowners that have been monitoring reaches in the watershed, and consolidating that information with continuous monitoring data that has been gathered by the Gualala River Watershed Council over the past two decades. The plan will also consider degradation of headwater forest ecosystems which threaten water quality in the watershed, which is something that has not been addressed in previous planning documents for Gualala or any of its associated coastal tributaries; for this task, information will be ascertained from local Environmental Impact Reports, and equivalent public documents, which have been put together for projects that require compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, such as the in-development State Parks Fuels Management Plan for Salt Point State Park and Fort Ross State Park, and any relevant Timber Harvest Plans which have been recently submitted in the watershed.

Additionally, the management plan will contain an action plan for high priority projects designed to improve or maintain watershed function and health. To develop the action plan, the watershed coalition will determine a process by which stakeholders will be solicited to identify potential projects such as known erosion control points, in-stream impediments to salmonid migration or

degraded habitat, high priority roads for decommission, and high priority areas for forest/headwaters management. Priority will be given to projects that have the highest impact on watershed health, encourage collaboration between stakeholders, and meet the stakeholder objectives that are set forth in the watershed management plan.

The Gualala River Watershed Group has not previously received a CWMP Phase I grant.

#### **4. Evaluation Criteria**

##### **E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion A— Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope (30 points)**

Sub-criterion No. A1. Watershed Group Diversity

**Affected stakeholders:** Stakeholders in the watershed are diverse, there are State and County Parks, private industrial timber companies, non-industrial small private forest landowners, agricultural producers, the Kashia Pomo, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and other land protection organizations, associations representing the communities of Sea Ranch, Timber Cove, and Annapolis, and a multitude of political, scientific, and environmental advocacy groups that are active in the watershed.

**Stakeholders in support of new watershed group formation:** Gualala River Watershed Council, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, California State Parks, Gualala Redwood Timber Inc, Jenner Headlands Preserve, University of California Cooperative Extension, The Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group, The Redwood Coast Land Conservancy, Sea Ranch Association, and Coast Ridge Community Forest. Letters of support from a number of these groups are attached.

**Plants to target affected stakeholders:** Initial meetings among the watershed coalition will address whether or not all stakeholders have been contacted in order to seek their participation, and if not, setting action items to complete stakeholder outreach. Actions to engage additional stakeholders will leverage Gualala River Watershed Council's existing outreach channels, as well as other relationships and contacts available through the stakeholders already involved. Ensuring this step is complete before moving forward with other activities will help ensure that the group functions through a participatory process in which each stakeholder is able to exercise decision-making power from the very beginning of the group formation. Following meetings early in the watershed group's development will focus on developing mission and vision statements and setting goals for the coalition.

Sub-criterion No. A2. Geographic Scope

**Map:** a map of the project area is included in section 2, project location. The area encompasses the entire Gualala River Watershed, as well as coastal tributaries that are also part of the same HUC-8 watershed.

**Geographic boundaries of stakeholders & Extent that group membership represents the**

**full geographic scope:** Initial outreach efforts for the coalition have contacted landowners whose holdings are spread throughout the entire watershed. The largest landowners in the watershed include, Gualala Redwood Timber Co., The Conservation Fund, Richardson Ranch, Soper-Wheeler Company, Mendocino Redwood Company and CA State Parks; all of these entities have been notified of this project, and some have responded with letters of support. Most stakeholders involved have an interest in the overall watershed area, because while landowning stakeholders' legal interest may be limited to property boundaries, they are all affected by management of surrounding lands and the watershed as whole. This is true not only in a biological context, as species listing status on the ESA can have major implications for landowners, but the threat of wildfire and the need to holistically approach management of forests is becoming more evident to all stakeholders in the western United States. In addition to landowning stakeholders in the watershed, many government, non-profit, and environmental organizations with interest in the watershed have been contacted including the Friends of the Gualala River, NBRWQCB, CAL FIRE, Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group, and Forests Unlimited, some of these groups have responded with letters of support.

**Efforts to target stakeholders that represent full geographic scope:** The stakeholder outreach exercise described in A1 will include looking at geographic distribution of stakeholders and identifying gaps. For example, while many stakeholders represent the entire watershed, if the landowner stakeholders' properties are concentrated in a particular area of the watershed, then efforts will be made to engage landowners in other areas of that watershed as well. This is an approach the RCD has used in other watersheds as well.

### **E.1.2. Evaluation Criterion B — Addressing Critical Watershed Needs (35 points)**

#### Sub-criterion No. B1. Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

The State of California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) regulates water quality in the Gualala River Watershed. Due in large part to the legacy of poorly designed historic timber harvest and road construction in the watershed, in 2001 the Gualala River Watershed was added to the EPA 303(d) list of impaired water bodies in the state for excessive sediment loads and temperatures. The primary adverse impacts associated with excessive sediment in the Gualala River pertain to the salmonid fishery. The populations of Salmonids present in the Gualala River and its tributaries are in severe decline. The populations of coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*) are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. (NCRWQCB 2001). NOAA Fisheries has identified low summer streamflow as a factor impairing coho salmon survival in the watershed (Recovery Plan for the Evolutionary Significant Unit of Central California Coast Coho Salmon, 2012).

A significant decline in forest health within the project area, driven by forest pathogens and changes in forest management, presents major problems for the watershed, including increased pressure on surface and groundwater, impaired ecosystem function, and increased risk of catastrophic wildfire which poses a dire threat to water quality, hydrology, fish and wildlife habitat, and more.

#### Sub-criterion No. B2. Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Stakeholder outreach and consensus-based approaches to management are activities that were described as needed in the watershed by the NCRWQCB in their 2008 work plan. This proposal will conduct that necessary outreach, bringing together stakeholders with unique knowledge about the watershed’s ecology, geomorphology, socioeconomics, and biological health. Many of the watershed’s stakeholders have expertise in some of these important aspects, but lack understanding in the larger picture which makes up the whole watershed. This coalition will provide a necessary forum for collaboration among the many stakeholders in the region that will allow for a dialogue regarding management of natural resources that, rather than waiting for a project to have a mandatory public comment period, can take place in a friendly environment where discussions can focus on broad management implications rather than specific items on a real proposal. Wildfire concerns are widely regarded in the watershed as an important threat to the sustained health of the watershed and those who live within it. The coalition will ultimately decide which issues are the most important to address, but it is very likely that wildfire and accepted scientific principles for managing fuel loads will be a topic addressed in the watershed plan. There is still significant distrust in the region between timber companies and environmental groups which have resulted in decades of lawsuits and petty squabbles. This coalition will provide for a space wherein best management practices can be discussed using balanced and science-based approaches to protecting water quality while meeting the socioeconomic and ecological needs of the watershed.

To develop the watershed plan, this group will rely on existing literature, monitoring data that is being collected already by the Gualala River Watershed Council, information from land owners and land managers, and from natural resource agency representatives. As noted above, there is currently distrust among some stakeholders in the watershed, and the watershed plan will provide science-based information in an effort to move past conflicts and identify shared priorities for the watershed. The group will prioritize potential projects within the watershed using a set of criteria based on the priority issues identified earlier in the process.

**E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion C— Implementation and Results (25 points)**

Sub-criterion No. C1—Project Implementation

<b>1. Watershed Group Development</b>	Q1: Jan 2022-Mar 2022 Q2 Apr 2022-Ju 2022 Q3: Jul 2022-Sept 2022 Q4 Oct 2022-Dec2022 Q1: Jan 2023-Mar 2023 Q2 Apr 2023-Jun2023 Q3: Jul 2023-Sept 2023 Q4 Oct 2023-Dec2023	<b>Task Start and End Dates</b>	<b>Milestones and Dates</b>	<b>Task Costs</b>
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1.1 Facilitate outreach to all watershed stakeholders and solicit participation in the Gualala River Watershed Coalition						Jan 2022- Mar 2022	Responses from all stakeholders; March 2022	\$1,308.82
1.2 Coordinate meetings						January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2023	Meetings held on the following months in 2022-23; Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Nov	\$2,944.85
1.3 Facilitate watershed group development and governance processes development						Jan 2022- Mar 2022	First meeting; Jan, 2022; Agreed upon decision making processes; Mar 30, 2022	\$4,362.74
1.4 Mission, vision, and goals development						Jan 1, 2022 - Jun 30, 2022	Agreed upon mission statement, vision statement, and goals; Jun 30, 2022	\$4,362.74
1.5 Group review of 2002 Gualala Watershed Assessment Report; identify needs for updates.						Apr 1, 2022 - Sept 30, 2022	Feedback collected; October 31, 2022	\$6,805.87
1.6 Group collaborative outline for Gualala River Watershed and Associated Coastal Tributaries Management Plan: compilation of baseline data & identification of restoration needs.						Nov 1, 2022 - Jun 30, 2023	Outline drafted; Jul 31, 2023	\$7,634.79

<b>2. Watershed Restoration Planning</b>										
2.1 Collect data where group determines gaps in information remain								Jul 1, 2022 - Mar 31, 2023	Data collected by; Mar 31, 2023	\$8,071.07
2.2 Create the Gualala River Watershed and Associated Coastal Tributaries Management Plan: (content development, mapping, technical analysis, developing recommendations)								Oct 1, 2022 - Sept 30, 2023	Watershed plan completed; Sept 30, 2023	\$32,217.58
2.3 Create prioritization criteria for watershed projects								Oct 1, 2022 - Mar 31, 2023	Prioritization criteria due; Mar 31, 2023	\$3,053.92
2.4 Solicit project descriptions from stakeholders to consider through the prioritization criteria								Jan 1, 2023 - Jun 30, 2023	Project submissions; June 30, 2023	\$1,963.23
2.5 Rank project submissions using the prioritization criteria								Apr 1 - Jun 30, 2023	Ranked projects; June 30, 2023	\$2,091.57
2.6 Create Action Plan with ranked projects that will guide watershed group								Jul 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023	Completed Action Plan; Dec 31, 2023	\$14,555.47
<b>4. Administration; Oversight; Reporting</b>										
4.1 Admin								Jan 1, 2022 - Dec 31, 2023	Invoices; Quarterly	\$1,656.96
4.2 Oversight								Jan 1, 2022 - Dec 31, 2023	Meetings; As needed	\$5,157.60

4.3 Reporting		Jan 1, 2022 - Dec 31, 2023	Interim and final reports; Quarterly	\$1,656.96
			<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	\$97,844.48

Sub-criterion No. C2. Building on Relevant Federal, State, or Regional Planning Efforts

The proposed project will fulfill key tasks that were identified in the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Staff Work Plan to Control Excess Sediment in Sediment-Impaired Watersheds document for Gualala River Watershed, including: Identify and work with key stakeholders, conduct outreach and education [related to sediment control] and work with interested stakeholders, encourage GRWC and SRCD to develop and implement an official non-point source control program, and identify most egregious sediment sources.

Additionally, the proposed project will allow for a compilation of reach monitoring data to update the 2003 North Coast Watershed Assessment Plan that was developed by state agencies within the Natural Resources Agency and Department of Conservation. This data includes information on sediment and temperature monitoring, and salmonid population estimates.

**E.1.1. E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion D— Nexus to Department of the Interior Initiatives (10 points)**

- Will the development of the watershed group support implementation of a Department of the Interior initiative (e.g., the National Drought Resiliency Partnership, the Colorado River Pilot System Conservation Program, or the Urban Water Federal Partnership)?  
*N/A*
- Will the development of the watershed group benefit a basin where a Reclamation project, facility, or activity is located?  
*No*
- Will the development of the watershed group support a complementary initiative of another Department of the Interior agency (e.g., a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Refuge or Bureau of Land Management National Conservation Area)?  
*No*
- Will the development of the watershed group positively impact federally threatened or endangered aquatic or riparian species?  
*Yes, the activities of the watershed group will benefit federally threatened and endangered species that include but are not limited to: CCC steelhead trout, CCC Chinook salmon, California red-legged frog, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and Behren's silverspot butterfly.*
- Will the development of the watershed group benefit any tribe(s)?  
*Yes, the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians have been invited to participate as a member of the coalition and have equal decision-making power within the group. The Kashia have also been included in this grant proposal as a sub-contractor so that they may provide*

*technical writing assistance and consultation related to cultural management practices and history to inform the development of the watershed plan. The Kashia are also a landowner in the project area, and their involvement may provide specific information on priority projects for inclusion in the action plan.*

## **Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance**

The proposed project does not include direct monitoring, measurement, or other field work.

## **Required Permits or Approvals**

The proposed project does not require permits or approvals.

## **Project Budget**

### **1. Budget Proposal**

Table 1. Total Project Cost Table

<b>Source</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	\$97,844.18
Costs to be paid by the applicant	\$0.00
Value of third-party contributions	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$97,844.18</b>

Table 2. Proposal Budget

<b>BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>COMPUTATION</b>		<b>Quantity Type</b>	<b>TOTAL COST</b>
	<b>\$/Unit</b>	<b>Quantity</b>		
<b>Salaries and Wages</b>				
Executive Director, Valerie Quinto	\$59.61	48	Hour	\$2,861.28
Forester, Jason Wells	\$42.03	160	Hour	\$6,724.80
Project Manager, Anya Starovoytov Education & Communications	\$38.14	360	Hour	\$13,730.40
Manager, Christine Kuehn	\$36.32	85	Hour	\$3,087.20
Program Assistant, Shannon Drew	\$23.49	140	Hour	\$3,288.60
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>				
Executive Director, Valerie Quinto	\$22.73	48	Hour	\$1,091.04
Forester, Jason Wells	\$14.59	160	Hour	\$2,334.40
Project Manager, Anya Starovoytov Education & Communications	\$14.77	360	Hour	\$5,317.20
Manager, Christine Kuehn	\$11.98	85	Hour	\$1,018.30
Program Assistant, Shannon Drew	\$9.17	140	Hour	\$1,283.80
<b>Travel</b>				
Trip 1: Roundtrip Santa Rosa, CA - Gualala, CA	\$0.560	138	Miles	\$77.28

Trip 2: Roundtrip Santa Rosa, CA - Gualala, CA	\$0.560	138	Miles	\$77.28
Trip 3: Roundtrip Santa Rosa, CA - Gualala, CA	\$0.560	138	Miles	\$77.28
Trip 4: Roundtrip Santa Rosa, CA - Gualala, CA	\$0.560	138	Miles	\$77.28
Trip 5: Roundtrip Santa Rosa, CA - Gualala, CA	\$0.560	138	Miles	\$77.28
Trip 6: Roundtrip Santa Rosa, CA - Gualala, CA	\$0.560	138	Miles	\$77.28
Trip 7: Roundtrip Santa Rosa, CA - Gualala, CA	\$0.560	138	Miles	\$77.28
Trip 8: Roundtrip Santa Rosa, CA - Gualala, CA	\$0.560	138	Miles	\$77.28
Trip 9: Roundtrip Santa Rosa, CA - Gualala, CA	\$0.560	138	Miles	\$77.28
Trip 10: Roundtrip Santa Rosa, CA - Gualala, CA	\$0.560	138	Miles	\$77.28
Trip 11: Roundtrip Santa Rosa, CA - Gualala, CA	\$0.560	138	Miles	\$77.28
Trip 12: Roundtrip Santa Rosa, CA - Gualala, CA	\$0.560	138	Miles	\$77.28
<b>Equipment</b>				
				\$0.00
<b>Supplies and Materials</b>				
Printing	\$0.10	1,920	Page	\$192.00
<b>Contractual</b>				
Gualala River Watershed Council	\$60.00	340	Hours	\$20,400.00
Matt Greene Forestry & Biological Resources	\$120.00	82	Hours	\$9,840.00
Kashia Band of Pomo Indians	\$90.00	32	Hours	\$2,880.00
<b>Other</b>				
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>				<b>\$74,976.38</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>				
Type of rate: Provisional	Percentage: 30.5%	Base: \$74,976.38		\$22,867.80
				<b>\$97,844.18</b>

## 2. Budget Narrative

### Salaries and Wages

The following personnel will carry out the proposed project:

1. Jason Wells, Forester (program manager of the proposed project) – Salary Wages= \$42.03/hour; Project hours = 160
2. Anya Starovoytov, Project Manager – Salary Wages= \$38.44/hour; Project hours= 360
3. Shannon Drew, Project Assistance, Program Assistant – Salary Wages= \$23.49/hour; Project hours = 140
4. Christine Kuehn, Education and Communications Specialist – Salary Wages= \$36.32/hour; Project hours = 85
5. Valerie Quinto, Executive Director – Salary Wages= \$59.61/hour; Project hours= 48

Labor costs for project tasks are as follows:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Task A – Watershed Group Development	Forester	\$42.03	80	\$3,362.40
	Project Manager	\$38.44	80	\$3,054.20
	Project Assistant	\$23.49	12	\$281.88
	Education and Communications Specialist	\$36.32	45	\$1,634.40
<b>Task A Subtotal</b>				<b>\$8,329.88</b>
Task B - Watershed Restoration Planning	Forester	\$42.03	80	\$3,362.40
	Project Manager	\$38.44	232	\$8,848.48
	Project Assistant	\$23.49	128	\$3,006.72
	Education and Communications Specialist	\$36.32	40	\$1,452.80
<b>Task B Subtotal</b>				<b>\$16,670.40</b>
Administration, Oversight, Reporting	<b>Program Manager</b>	\$38.14	48	\$1,830.72
	Executive Director	\$59.61	48	\$2,861.28
<b>Administration, Oversight, Reporting Subtotal</b>				<b>\$4,692.00</b>
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,692.28</b>

### **Fringe Benefits**

Fringe benefits are 37.20% of requested wages and include: FICA, worker’s compensation insurance, medical, dental, vision, and life insurance, SIMPLE IRA retirement plan, employee assistance plan, and paid absences. Fringe benefits are calculated by multiplying a budgeted staff member’s projected hourly fringe cost by their budgeted number of hours.

### **Travel**

The purpose of all 12 trips in the proposed project budget are for Sonoma RCD staff to travel round trip for local travel between the Sonoma RCD office in Santa Rosa, California to the Watershed Improvement Coalition meeting place, which is expected to be in one of the coastal communities along CA Hwy 1, e.g. Timber Cover, Gualala, or Stewart’s Point. Total mileage for

the 12 trips is 1,656 miles and total travel costs were calculated using the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate for the year 2021, \$0.56/mile.

**Equipment**

Equipment will not be purchased for the proposed project.

**Materials and Supplies**

Printing supplies in the budget are calculated using the cost of copies at \$0.10/copy. The proposed project will expend funds to create 1,920 copies, coming to \$192.00. Copies will be used for Watershed Improvement Coalition meeting materials to facilitate the work of the group.

**Contractual**

The budget includes three subcontractors.

Contract 1: Gualala River Watershed Council

Procurement method: Sonoma RCD would be seeking express authorization for sole sourcing of this contractor, and we believe noncompetitive procurement is necessary and justifiable for this contract as existing outreach channels in the watershed occur solely through the Gualala River Watershed Council (GRWC). GRWC also has the unique position of holding monitoring data that is essential to completion of Task B.

<b>Subcontractor Tasks</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Task A – Watershed Group Development	Staff Lead	\$60.00	100	\$6,000
Task B - Watershed Restoration Planning	Staff Lead	\$60.00	240	\$14,400.00
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,400.00</b>

Task A activities and associated costs to be carried out by GRWC include \$6,000 for outreach to watershed stakeholders, acquisition of local meeting locations, communication and coordination with Sonoma RCD, and participation in the development of watershed consortium mission, vision, and goals.

Task B activities and associated costs to be carried out by GRWC include \$14,400 to combine and consolidate watershed data that has been collected by GRWC and other stakeholders over the last 20 years, and to support the creation of Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Management Plan by providing technical writing, primarily on sections of the plan pertaining to in-stream habitat, sediment, temperature, and fish population monitoring.

Contract 2: Matt Greene Forestry and Biological Consulting

Procurement method: Micro-purchase

<b>Subcontractor Tasks</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Task A – Watershed Group Development	Forester	\$120.00	12	\$1,440.00
Task B - Watershed Restoration Planning	Forester	\$120.00	70	\$8,400.00
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,840.00</b>

Task A activities and associated costs to be carried out by Matt Greene Forestry and Biological Consulting include \$1,440 to participate in group meetings and aid in the development of watershed consortium mission, vision, and goals.

Task B activities and associated costs to be carried out by Matt Greene Forestry and Biological Consulting include \$8,400 to provide technical writing assistance to SRCD staff, primarily on sections of the plan pertaining to forest and road management, and biological concerns for threatened and endangered species in the planning area.

Contract 3: Kashia Band of Pomo Indians

Procurement method: Micro-purchase.

<b>Subcontractor Tasks</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Task A – Watershed Group Development	Staff	\$90.00	12	\$1,080.00
Task B - Watershed Restoration Planning	Staff	\$90.00	20	\$1,800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$2,880.00</b>

Task A activities and associated costs to be carried out by Kashia Band of Pomo Indians include \$1,080 to participate in group meetings and aid in the development of watershed consortium mission, vision, and goals.

Task B activities and associated costs to be carried out by Kashia Band of Pomo Indians include \$1,800 to provide technical writing assistance to SRCD staff, primarily on sections of the plan pertaining to cultural resource management, values, and history.

**Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs**

N/A

**Other Expenses**

N/A

**Indirect Costs**

Sonoma RCD is applying its federally negotiated indirect cost rate of 30.5% to the project’s modified total direct cost base of \$74,976.38, amounting to \$ 22,867.80 in indirect costs. Please find Sonoma RCD’s federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement attached to this proposal in the appendices.

**Total Costs**

Federal: \$97,844.18

Non-Federal: \$0

\*No costs will be incurred prior to the award date for this proposal\*



## **Letters of Support**

Please see attached letters of support in the appendices from California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, California State Parks, Gualala Redwood Timber Inc, Jenner Headlands Preserve, University of California Cooperative Extension, The Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group, The Redwood Coast Land Conservancy, Sea Ranch Association, and Coast Ridge Community Forest

## **Official Resolution**

We are unable to attach a resolution to this application due to timing of Board Meetings. Our next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2020. A resolution will be considered at that meeting, and once adopted will be provided to Bureau of Reclamation.

## **Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management**

Sonoma RCD DUNS number: 1701431060000

## **Federal Lobbying Statement**

Sonoma RCD has not agreed to make payment to any lobbying entity for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with a covered Federal action

## **References**

Eurphrat, Frederick D., et.al. 2017. Plantations as a response to the Creighton Ridge Fire: a landscape experiment in Cazadero, California. USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/treearch/pubs/55459>

Klamt, Robert R., C. LeDoux-Bloom, J. Clements, M. Fuller , D. Morse, and M. Scruggs (multidisciplinary team leads). 2002. Gualala River Watershed Assessment Report. North Coast Watershed Assessment Program, 367pp plus Appendices. California Resources Agency, and California Environmental Protection Agency, Sacramento, California.

NCRWQCB, 2008. Regional Water Board Staff Work Plan to Control Excess Sediment in Sediment-Impaired Watersheds. P.123-131

## **Appendices**

**Appendix 1: Letters of Support**

**Appendix 2: Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement**

January 11, 2021

Avra Morgan  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Mail Code: 84-51000  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition

Dear Ms. Morgan:

I am writing this letter in support of Sonoma Resource Conservation District's (RCD) *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal for grant funding from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I. The proposed project will establish a much-needed watershed group for the Gualala River Watershed, and coastal tributaries including Russian Gulch, that will foster the collaboration and leveraging of resources necessary for restoring and sustainably managing the Gualala River Watershed and associated tributaries. Project activities will include the completion of a watershed management plan, and stakeholder-driven prioritization of critical management and restoration projects.

Gualala Redwood Timber, LLC. will participate as a stakeholder in the Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition, working among other partners to make informed and consensus-based watershed management decisions that sustain the watershed and the people in our community who depend on it. We are grateful for Sonoma RCD's initiative in convening a diverse set of stakeholders in order to carry out a participatory and sustainable process for carrying out watershed restoration and management for the watershed. The watershed has quite a number of stakeholders who are willing to invest resources in its sustainability. However, the lack of coordination among stakeholders has been an impediment to using our collective resources efficiently. The proposed watershed coalition will also surely enhance the effectiveness of each stakeholder's contribution and provide a forum for reaching consensus among stakeholder members before decisions are made, thereby allowing for well-informed decisions that are supported by others within the watershed.

The proposed project will be instrumental in building the institutional capacity necessary in the Gualala River Watershed and the surrounding areas to catalyze sustainable watershed management. I encourage your support of the *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Bennett  
Forest Manager  
Gualala Redwood Timber, LLC.  
jbennett@pacificstates.com



January 11, 2021



Avra Morgan  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Mail Code: 84-51000  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition

Dear Ms. Morgan:

As UC Cooperative Extension Forest Advisor for Mendocino and Sonoma County, I submit this letter in support of Sonoma Resource Conservation District's (RCD) *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal for grant funding from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I. Sonoma RCD will be a crucial partner in organizing stakeholders for the development of a watershed management plan that will help sustain the watershed and the people in our community who depend on it.

The proposed project will establish a much-needed watershed coalition for the Gualala River Watershed and coastal tributaries including Russian Gulch, that will foster the collaboration and leveraging of resources necessary for restoring and sustainably managing the Gualala River Watershed and associated tributaries. The proposed watershed coalition will also surely enhance the effectiveness of each stakeholder's contribution and provide a forum for reaching consensus among stakeholder members, thereby allowing for well-informed decisions that are supported by others within the watershed. Project activities will include the completion of a watershed management plan, and stakeholder-driven prioritization of critical management and restoration projects.

The proposed project will be instrumental in building sustainable watershed management. I encourage your support of Sonoma RCD's *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael I. Jones, Ph.D.  
UCCE Forest Advisor Mendocino, Lake, and Sonoma Counties  
[mjones@ucanr.edu](mailto:mjones@ucanr.edu) / (707) 463-4495

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## North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 15, 2021

Avra Morgan  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Mail Code: 84-51000  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition

Dear Ms. Morgan:

I am writing this letter in support of Sonoma Resource Conservation District's (RCD) *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal for grant funding from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I. The proposed project will establish a much-needed watershed group for the Gualala River Watershed, and coastal tributaries including Russian Gulch, that will foster the collaboration and leveraging of resources necessary for restoring and sustainably managing the Gualala River Watershed and associated tributaries. Project activities will include the completion of a watershed management plan, and stakeholder-driven prioritization of critical management and restoration projects.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) has been deeply involved in environmental protection issues in the watershed for many years, including working with the Gualala River Watershed Council to develop and implement a robust science based watershed monitoring program, development of the Gualala River Total Maximum Daily Load Technical Support Document and participation in development of the multi-agency North Coast Watershed Assessment Program for the Gualala River Watershed.

The Regional Water Board's 2008 Staff Work Plan to Control Excess Sediment in Sediment-Impaired Watersheds (Work Plan), describes the actions and tasks

VALERIE L. QUINTO, CHAIR | MATTHIAS ST. JOHN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

staff are currently taking or intend to take over the next ten years, as resources allow, to control human-caused excess sediment in the sediment-impaired water bodies of the North Coast Region, included several significant tasks specific to the Gualala River Watershed. The RCD's proposed project will dovetail well with tasks such as those described in the Work Plan. The Regional Water Board is also involved water quality regulation of many land use activities, such as timber harvesting, vineyard development and operation, road building and maintenance, and various agricultural activities in the Gualala River Watershed.

The Regional Water Board will participate as appropriate as a stakeholder in the Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition, working among other partners to make informed and consensus-based watershed management decisions that sustain the watershed and the people in our community who depend on it. The proposed project aligns well with our Watershed Stewardship efforts. We are grateful for Sonoma RCD's initiative in convening a diverse set of stakeholders in order to carry out a participatory and sustainable process for carrying out watershed restoration and management for the watershed. The watershed has quite a number of stakeholders who are willing to invest resources in its recovery and protection. However, the lack of coordination among stakeholders has been an impediment to using our collective resources efficiently. The proposed watershed coalition will also surely enhance the effectiveness of each stakeholder's contribution and provide a forum for reaching consensus among stakeholder members before decisions are made, thereby allowing for well-informed decisions that are supported by others within the watershed.

The proposed project will be instrumental in building the institutional capacity necessary in the Gualala River Watershed and the surrounding areas to catalyze sustainable watershed management. I encourage your support of the *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthias St. John  
Executive Officer



January 12, 2021

Avra Morgan  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Mail Code: 84-51000  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition

Dear Ms. Morgan:

I am writing this letter in support of Sonoma Resource Conservation District's (RCD) *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal for grant funding from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I. The proposed project will establish a much-needed watershed group for the Gualala River Watershed, and coastal tributaries including Russian Gulch, that will foster the collaboration and leveraging of resources necessary for restoring and sustainably managing the Gualala River Watershed and associated tributaries. Project activities will include the completion of a watershed management plan, and stakeholder-driven prioritization of critical management and restoration projects.

The Coast Ridge Community Forest will participate as a partner in the Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition, working among other stakeholders to make informed and consensus-based watershed management decisions that sustain the watershed and the people in our community who depend on it. We are grateful for Sonoma RCD's initiative in convening a diverse set of stakeholders in order to carry out a participatory and sustainable process for carrying out watershed restoration and management for the watershed. The watershed has quite a number of stakeholders who are willing to invest resources in its sustainability. However, the lack of coordination among stakeholders has been an impediment to using our collective resources efficiently. The proposed watershed coalition will also surely enhance the effectiveness of each stakeholder's contribution and provide a forum for reaching consensus among stakeholder members before decisions are made, thereby allowing for well-informed decisions that are supported by others within the watershed.

The proposed project will be instrumental in building the institutional capacity necessary in the Gualala River Watershed and the surrounding areas to catalyze sustainable watershed management. I encourage your support of the *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Judy Rosales  
Coast Ridge Community Forest  
P.O. Box 139  
Cazadero, CA 95421  
707-847-3944  
Coastridgecommunityforest.org



# THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY

ESTERO AMERICANO COAST | JENNER HEADLANDS

## Sonoma Coast Preserves

January 11, 2021

Avra Morgan  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Mail Code: 84-51000  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition

Dear Ms. Morgan:

I am writing this letter in support of Sonoma Resource Conservation District's (RCD) *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal for grant funding from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I. The proposed project will establish a much-needed watershed group for the Gualala River Watershed, and coastal tributaries including Russian Gulch, that will foster the collaboration and leveraging of resources necessary for restoring and sustainably managing the Gualala River Watershed and associated tributaries. My organization has been working in this region over the last decade to improve watershed conditions, and in 2019 we implemented a fish passage restoration project that opened up three miles of important spawning habitat for the federally listed steelhead trout and historic habitat for coho salmon on the East Branch of Russian Gulch.

The Wildlands Conservancy will participate as a stakeholder in the Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition, working among other partners to make informed and consensus-based watershed management decisions that sustain the watershed and the people in our community who depend on it. The watershed has quite a number of stakeholders who are willing to invest resources in its sustainability. The proposed watershed coalition will also surely enhance the effectiveness of each stakeholder's contribution and provide a forum for reaching consensus among stakeholder members before decisions are made, thereby allowing for well-informed decisions that are supported by others within the watershed.

The proposed project will be instrumental in building the institutional capacity necessary in the Gualala River Watershed and the surrounding areas to catalyze sustainable watershed management. I encourage your support of the *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brook R. Edwards  
Sonoma Coast Regional Director

### EXECUTIVE HEADQUARTERS

39611 Oak Glen Road, Building 12, Oak Glen, CA 92399 | (909) 797-8507 | [info@twc-ca.org](mailto:info@twc-ca.org) | [WildlandsConservancy.org](http://WildlandsConservancy.org)

### REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS | JENNER HEADLANDS PRESERVE

PO Box 94, Jenner, CA 95450 | (707) 865-9408 | [sonomacoastpreserves@twc-ca.org](mailto:sonomacoastpreserves@twc-ca.org)





January 15, 2021

Avra Morgan  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Mail Code: 84-51000  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition

Dear Ms. Morgan:

I am writing this letter in support of Sonoma Resource Conservation District's (RCD) *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal for grant funding from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I. The proposed project will establish a much-needed watershed group for the Gualala River Watershed and coastal tributaries including Russian Gulch, that will foster the collaboration and leveraging of resources necessary for restoring and sustainably managing the Gualala River Watershed and associated tributaries. Project activities will include the completion of a watershed management plan, and stakeholder-driven prioritization of critical management and restoration projects.

The Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group will support the Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition, as it has supported other watershed councils in Sonoma County, to make informed and consensus-based watershed management decisions that sustain the watershed and the people in our community who depend on it. We are grateful for Sonoma RCD's initiative in convening a diverse set of stakeholders in order to carry out a participatory and sustainable process for carrying out watershed restoration and management for the watershed. The watershed has quite a number of stakeholders who are willing to invest resources in its sustainability. However, the lack of coordination among stakeholders has been an impediment to using our collective resources efficiently. The proposed watershed coalition will also surely enhance the effectiveness of each stakeholder's contribution and provide a forum for reaching consensus among stakeholder members before decisions are made, thereby allowing for well-informed decisions that are supported by others within the watershed.

The proposed project will be instrumental in building the institutional capacity necessary in the Gualala River Watershed and the surrounding areas to catalyze sustainable watershed management. I encourage your support of the *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Adriana Stagnaro, Coordinator  
Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group

[Audubon Canyon Ranch](#)  
[Baseline Consulting](#)  
[Bodega Land Trust](#)  
[CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife](#)  
[CA State Parks](#)  
[CAL FIRE](#)  
[Coast Ridge Community Forest](#)  
[Fire Safe Camp Meeker](#)  
[Fire Safe Occidental](#)  
[Fire Safe Sonoma](#)  
[Friends of the Upper Mark West Watershed](#)  
[Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District](#)  
[Greenbelt Alliance](#)  
[Gualala Watershed Council](#)  
[Monan's Rill Community](#)  
[Native Plant Society](#)  
[Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#)  
[Pepperwood Preserve](#)  
[Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club](#)  
[Santa Rosa Junior College](#)  
[Sonoma County Ag + Open Space District](#)  
[Sonoma County UCCE](#)  
[Sonoma Ecology Center](#)  
[Sonoma Land Trust](#)  
[Sonoma Resource Conservation District](#)  
[Sonoma Water](#)  
[Taking Action to Reduce Fire Hazards](#)  
[The Wildlands Conservancy](#)





January 13, 2021

Avra Morgan  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Mail Code: 84-51000  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition

Dear Ms. Morgan:

Please accept this letter in support of the Sonoma Resource Conservation District (RCD) *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal for grant funding from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I. The proposed project will establish a much-needed watershed group that can foster collaboration and leveraging of resources necessary for restoring and sustainably managing the Gualala River watershed and coastal tributaries including Russian Gulch. The Redwood Coast Land Conservancy is prepared to participate as a stakeholder in the Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition. Project activities will include the completion of a watershed management plan and stakeholder-driven, fact-based prioritization of critical management and restoration projects.

The Redwood Coast Land Conservancy appreciates Sonoma RCD's initiative in convening a diverse set of stakeholders in a participatory and productive process for watershed restoration and management. The Redwood Coast Land Conservancy and several other Gualala River watershed stakeholders are actively pursuing land conservation, habitat restoration, and public recreation objectives. Yet, improved coordination among stakeholders can increase efficiency through collective investments. The proposed watershed coalition can also enhance the effectiveness of each stakeholder's efforts by providing a forum for information sharing, collaboration, and support before decisions are made within the watershed.

The Redwood Coast Land Conservancy looks forward to working with coalition partners on watershed management decisions that sustain the watershed and the people in our community who value ecosystem functions, healthy habitats, and appropriate public recreational access.

Please support the proposed *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Walton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Walton, Vice President  
Redwood Coast Land Conservancy Board of Directors

**The Sea Ranch Association**

975 Annapolis Road  
P.O. Box 16  
The Sea Ranch, CA 95497-0016

Administration

tel: 707-785-2444  
fax: 707-785-3555

January 11, 2021

Avra Morgan  
Bureau of Reclamation/Water Resources and Planning Office  
Mail Code: 84-51000- P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Proposed Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition

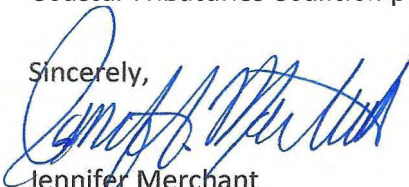
Dear Ms. Morgan:

I am writing this letter in support of Sonoma Resource Conservation District's (RCD) *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal for grant funding from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I. The proposed project will establish a much-needed multi-part collaborative approach to planning for and managing the Gualala River Watershed at a regional scale that could also leverage resources necessary for restoring and sustainably managing the Gualala River Watershed and associated tributaries. Project activities will include the completion of a watershed management plan, and stakeholder-driven prioritization of critical management and restoration projects.

The Sea Ranch Association is a large and active stakeholder in the Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition and is interested in working among other partners to make informed and consensus-based watershed management decisions that sustain the watershed and the people in our community who depend on it. We are grateful for Sonoma RCD's initiative in convening a diverse set of stakeholders in order to carry out a participatory and sustainable process for carrying out watershed restoration and management for the watershed. The watershed has a fair number of stakeholders willing to invest resources in its sustainability. However, the current lack of coordination among stakeholders has been an impediment to using our collective resources efficiently. The proposed watershed coalition approach is likely to enhance the effectiveness of each stakeholder's contribution and provide a forum for reaching consensus among stakeholder members before decisions are made, possibly facilitating well-informed decisions aligned with multiple watershed partner objectives and ultimately catalyzing sustainable watershed management.

On behalf of The Sea Ranch Association, I encourage your support of the *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Merchant  
Community Manager

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

P.O. Box 944246  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
(916) 653-7772  
Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



January 14, 2021

Avra Morgan  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Mail Code: 84-51000  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, Colorado 80225

Dear Ms. Morgan:

I'm writing to support the Sonoma County Resource Conservation District's (RCD's) *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal for funding from your agency's WATERSmart Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I. Funding like that provided by this program is crucial to provide the coordinating infrastructure for stream and forest health improvement in north coastal California's remote and rugged landscape. This is a natural resource-rich community that must manage ecosystems affected by various positive and negative legacies of past resource extraction while also contending with a variety of more contemporary ecological and economic issues, from declining salmonid populations to increased wildfire risk to a plethora of invasive species. The funding offered by your program would help land managers and landowners in coastal northern Sonoma and southern Mendocino Counties take the first step of building communication capacity and articulating stakeholder needs in the region, setting the stage for the needed projects to take place rapidly as further funding sources become available in the future.

My department, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), works with all the strands of forest health listed above, with an added emphasis on life and property safety that will be well-served by enhanced communication between residents of the Gualala River Watershed. Additionally, this project will enable us to advance mandates prescribed by both our former and current governors to increase the quantity and quality of forest management in order to preserve our forested landscapes and associated natural resources, reduce threats from wildfires and climate change, and synergize human and landscape health in California. We very much appreciate the community leadership shown by Sonoma County RCD in developing this grant proposal and look forward to participating actively in the stakeholder activities funded by the grant.

Cal Fire is committed to carrying out our mandate of protecting the state's resources by improving the quantity and quality of forest management in California to increase the health and sustainability of the forest landscapes we all depend on. In this effort, we enthusiastically join with a variety of public and private partners. I and my Cal Fire colleagues look forward to assisting this project in whatever way possible as it works toward a better understanding of current conditions and future solutions for improved landscape health in the Gualala River watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Chris Lee".

Chris Lee  
Forest Health Specialist  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
118 South Fortuna Boulevard  
Fortuna, California 95540  
[christopher.lee@fire.ca.gov](mailto:christopher.lee@fire.ca.gov)  
707.726.1254



State of California • Natural Resources Agency

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District  
12301 North Highway 1, Box 1  
Mendocino, CA 95460

Gavin Newsom, Governor

Armando Quintero, Director

January 12, 2021

Avra Morgan  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Mail Code: 84-51000  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition

Dear Ms. Morgan:

I am writing this letter in support of Sonoma Resource Conservation District's (RCD) *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal for grant funding from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I. The proposed project will establish a much-needed watershed group for the Gualala River Watershed, and coastal tributaries including Russian Gulch, that will foster the collaboration and leveraging of resources necessary for restoring and sustainably managing the Gualala River Watershed and associated tributaries. Project activities will include the completion of a watershed management plan, and stakeholder-driven prioritization of critical management and restoration projects.

California State Parks will participate as a stakeholder in the Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition, working among other partners to make informed and consensus-based watershed management decisions that sustain the watershed and the people in our community who depend on it. State Parks operates three park units in the region and we are committed to leveraging our resources to benefit our landscape and community. We are grateful for Sonoma RCD's initiative in convening a diverse set of stakeholders in order to carry out a participatory and sustainable process for carrying out watershed restoration and management for the watershed. The watershed has quite a number of stakeholders who are willing to invest resources in its sustainability. The proposed watershed coalition will enhance the effectiveness of each stakeholder's contribution and provide a forum for reaching consensus among stakeholder members before decisions are made, thereby allowing for well-informed decisions that are supported by others within the watershed.

The proposed project will be instrumental in building the institutional capacity necessary in the Gualala River Watershed and the surrounding areas to catalyze sustainable watershed management. I encourage your support of the *Gualala River Watershed and Coastal Tributaries Coalition* proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brendan O'Neil  
Natural Resource Manager  
Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District  
California State Parks  
[Brendan.ONeil@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Brendan.ONeil@parks.ca.gov)  
(707) 322-8262

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RATE AGREEMENT**

EIN: 95-2863255

DATE:01/11/2021

ORGANIZATION:

FILING REF.: The preceding agreement was dated 07/17/2018

Sonoma Resource Conservation District  
1221 Farmers Lane, Suite F

Santa Rosa, CA 95405

The rates approved in this agreement are for use on grants, contracts and other agreements with the Federal Government, subject to the conditions in Section III.

**SECTION I: INDIRECT COST RATES**

RATE TYPES:      FIXED              FINAL              PROV. (PROVISIONAL)      PRED. (PREDETERMINED)

EFFECTIVE PERIOD

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>RATE (%)</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>APPLICABLE TO</b>
FINAL	07/01/2017	06/30/2019	30.50	All	All Programs
PROV.	07/01/2019	06/30/2022	30.50	All	All Programs

\*BASE

Total direct costs excluding capital expenditures (building, individual items of equipment; alterations and renovations), and that portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000.

ORGANIZATION: Sonoma Resource Conservation District

AGREEMENT DATE: 1/11/2021

## **SECTION II: SPECIAL REMARKS**

### TREATMENT OF FRINGE BENEFITS:

The fringe benefits are specifically identified to each employee and are charged individually as direct costs. The directly claimed fringe benefits are listed below.

### TREATMENT OF PAID ABSENCES

Vacation, holiday, sick leave pay and other paid absences are included in salaries and wages and are claimed on grants, contracts and other agreements as part of the normal cost for salaries and wages. Separate claims are not made for the cost of these paid absences.

Effective 7/1/18, vacation, holiday, sick leave pay and other paid absences are claimed on grants, contracts and other agreements as part of the fringe benefit costs.

### DEFINITION OF EQUIPMENT

Equipment is defined as tangible nonexpendable personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$1,000 or more per unit.

Effective 7/1/18, equipment is defined as tangible nonexpendable personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds \$5,000.

The following fringe benefits are treated as direct costs:

FICA, WORKER'S COMPENSATION, MEDICAL/DENTAL INSURANCE, AND RETIREMENT-403(B).

Effective 7/1/18, FICA, WORKER'S COMPENSATION, MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION, AND LIFE INSURANCE, SIMPLE IRA RETIREMENT PLAN, EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PLAN, AND PAID ABSENCES.

This Rate Agreement is issued in accordance with the Customer Service Agreement (CSA) between DHHS/CAS and USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

### NEXT PROPOSAL DUE DATE

The indirect cost proposal based on actual costs for fiscal year ending 06/30/20 was submitted to USDA in an email on 12/30/20.

ORGANIZATION: Sonoma Resource Conservation District

AGREEMENT DATE: 1/11/2021

**SECTION III: GENERAL**

**A. LIMITATIONS:**

The rates in this Agreement are subject to any statutory or administrative limitations and apply to a given grant, contract or other agreement only to the extent that funds are available. Acceptance of the rates is subject to the following conditions: (1) Only costs incurred by the organization were included in its indirect cost pool as finally accepted: such costs are legal obligations of the organization and are allowable under the governing cost principles; (2) The same costs that have been treated as indirect costs are not claimed as direct costs; (3) Similar types of costs have been accorded consistent accounting treatment; and (4) The information provided by the organization which was used to establish the rates is not later found to be materially incomplete or inaccurate by the Federal Government. In such situations the rate(s) would be subject to renegotiation at the discretion of the Federal Government.

**B. ACCOUNTING CHANGES:**

This Agreement is based on the accounting system purported by the organization to be in effect during the Agreement period. Changes to the method of accounting for costs which affect the amount of reimbursement resulting from the use of this Agreement require prior approval of the authorized representative of the cognizant agency. Such changes include, but are not limited to, changes in the charging of a particular type of cost from indirect to direct. Failure to obtain approval may result in cost disallowances.

**C. FIXED RATES:**

If a fixed rate is in this Agreement, it is based on an estimate of the costs for the period covered by the rate. When the actual costs for this period are determined, an adjustment will be made to a rate of a future year(s) to compensate for the difference between the costs used to establish the fixed rate and actual costs.

**D. USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES:**

The rates in this Agreement were approved in accordance with the authority in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200 (2 CFR 200), and should be applied to grants, contracts and other agreements covered by 2 CFR 200, subject to any limitations in A above. The organization may provide copies of the Agreement to other Federal Agencies to give them early notification of the Agreement.

**E. OTHER:**

If any Federal contract, grant or other agreement is reimbursing indirect costs by a means other than the approved rate(s) in this Agreement, the organization should (1) credit such costs to the affected programs, and (2) apply the approved rate(s) to the appropriate base to identify the proper amount of indirect costs allocable to these programs.

BY THE INSTITUTION:

Sonoma Resource Conservation District

(INSTITUTION)



(SIGNATURE)

**Valerie Quito**

(NAME)

**Executive Director**

(TITLE)

**1/14/2021**

(DATE)

ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(AGENCY)

**Arif M. Karim -S** Digitally signed by Arif M. Karim -S  
Date: 2021.01.12 12:02:13 -06'00'

(SIGNATURE)

Arif Karim

(NAME)

Director, Cost Allocation Services

(TITLE)

1/11/2021

(DATE) 6080

HHS REPRESENTATIVE: Jeanette Lu

Telephone: (415) 437-7820