NDRC Community Resilience Center Project

Activity Status Update (January 2018 – Present)
Board of Supervisors Meeting, November 6, 2018

January 2018
- Responded to Property Solicitation question
- Developed Property Solicitation and ranking forms and proposal packages for NDRC CRC Advisory Team
- Tour of Potential CRC sites by NDRC CRC Advisory and Lionakis Architects
- Worked with Community Resource Agency staff on initial fatal flaw analysis of potential properties.

February 2018
- Continued to gather information on potential properties
- Continued working with Community Resource Agency staff on initial fatal flaw analysis
- Worked on the development of an RFP for Environmental Services to study potential CRC project sites.

March 2018
- Held meetings with potential project partners
- NDRC CRC Advisory Team Meeting to go over Community Resource Agency’s work on fatal flaw analysis conduction on potential sites.

April 2018
- Put together Board of Supervisors closed session package on potential NDRC CRC sites
- Continued talking to potential project partners
- Finalized Environmental Services RFP

May 2018
- Held closed session with the Board of Supervisors on potential NDRC CRC sites and received direction to further study two sites- Groveland and Tuolumne.
THE COMMUNITY AND WATERSHED RESILIENCE PROGRAM

May 2018 (continued)
- Board of Supervisors approved staff to send out RFP for Environmental Services for NDRC CRC project.
- Meet with Groveland Community Service District (GCSD) and talk to them about the potential construction of a CRC on an adjacent property and if they would be willing to donate 2.5 acres of land toward the project. GCSD agreed to the donation of land.

June 2018
- Responded to Environmental Services RFP Questions
- Developed Environmental Services ranking forms and proposal packages for NDRC CRC Advisory Team
- NDRC Advisory Team met to review and rank Environmental Services RFP. The team recommended Ascent Environmental to conduct this work

July 2018
- Environmental Services contract with Ascent Environmental went to your Board for review and approval.

August 2018
- Environmental Kick-Off Meeting and site tour with Ascent Environmental, NDRC CRC Advisory Team and Lionakis Architects
- Gathered information, documents and maps for Ascent Environmental for the environmental study
- Attended site tour with Ascent Environmental Biologist and assisted with additional information gathering.

September 2018
- Continued working with Ascent Environmental staff in gathering information, documents and maps.

October 2018
- Continued to work with Ascent Environmental staff in gathering information, documents and maps
- Held meetings with potential project partners.

Projected Activities Next Six Months (November – March)
- Develop and get approved amendment to Lionakis Architects to conduct Schematic Design work on potential NDRC CRC facilities.
- Work with Lionakis Architects and NDRC Advisory Team on Schematic Design phase (Start in November 2018 and finalize March 2019).
- Continue working with Community groups on partnership arrangements related to the CRC facilities.
- Develop draft partnership agreements.
- Review of Schematic Design Work with: Advisory Team, Stakeholders and Core Team.
- Draft of CEQA/NEPA documents, out for public review and finalize by March 2019.
- Start working on cost estimates (Construction and Operations).
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SNC, HCD, and USFS staff worked through the Spring and early Summer to resolve conflicting contracting issues between HUD requirements and USFS procedures. The NDR team received clearance from HUD to use USFS protocols in late June.

Following approval from HUD, multiple fires throughout California and on the Stanislaus National Forest, caused USFS to divert staff resources, contracting officers in particular, to respond to these disasters. This caused further delays in contracting for forest and watershed health projects.

To date, with the exception of the fuel breaks, all FWHP project activities have been analyzed and approved under NEPA/CEQA and cleared for reimbursement by HCD.

**Fuel Reduction and Biomass Removal**

In mid-November, USFS will release two large contracts for fuel reduction and biomass removal approximately 4,400 acres, with implementation set to begin as soon as access allows in the 2019 field season.

**Reforestation**

USFS has prepared a site preparation contract that will be out to bid shortly for spring of 2019 (for areas to be planted in 2020). This contract will cover nearly 1,300 acres and overlaps with many units that will have fuels reduction and biomass removal next season.

**Noxious Weeds**

This summer, USFS staff began treating Himalayan Blackberry that has invaded post-Rim Fire. In late
October and early November, the Forest was also able to execute prescribed burns on over 1,000 acres on Jawbone Ridge to reduce and contain medusa head, an invasive grass that outcompetes native grasses that are more palatable for foraging animals.

**Rangeland Improvements**

USFS will issue request for proposals for three fence projects totally 3.5 miles to be constructed with NDR funds. USFS and HCD have also completed the NEPA and CEQA planning process for Rangeland Project 2.

**Strategic Fuel Breaks**

The NDR fuel break network is expecting to cross over private land owned by approximately 140 landowners. Since January, CAL FIRE has gotten initial approval to access land from over 85% of these land owners. HCD has also awarded a contract to Helix Environmental Planning to prepare NEPA and CEQA documentation for the entire fuel break network. They are expected to begin work before the end of the year.
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Phase One

The Beck Group has completed the biomass feedstock supply report, the first of two reports for the phase one feasibility study. The report has been posted on the SNC NDRC webpage: http://snc.ca.gov/our-work/ndrc-docs/ndrc-buf-feedstock-supply-report. Representatives from the Beck Group are presenting the results of the study to the Board of Supervisors.

Next, the Beck Group will complete the economic feasibility study for the BUF. They expect to complete the report by the end of 2018 and present the results of the study in early 2019.

Phase Two

SNC and HCD have continued conversations with developers and potential partners interested in developing one or more facilities as phase two of the BUF project. SNC is releasing a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit information from parties interested in participating in phase two. The RFI is intended to inform SNC and NDR partners in the development of the phase two funding mechanisms and to inform potential proposers of the program’s eligibility criteria. All facility types that utilize forest-sourced woody biomass as the primary input, meet the economic development and forest resilience goals of the grant, and comply with HUD requirements are eligible for phase two funding. All BUF project funds must be expended by June 30, 2022, with the project’s economic development objectives completed shortly thereafter.

When the RFI goes live week of November 5, a link to the RFI will be posted on the SNC and HCD NDR webpages and forwarded to Tuolumne County for posting on the County’s webpage. Specific deadlines will be included in the RFI, with a final response deadline in mid-December.

Phase two is expected to begin in winter/spring of 2019, pending feasibility of the project.