

# BIOMASS UTILIZATION IN THE CENTRAL SIERRA PUBLIC WORKSHOP

MARCH 24, 2025

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MOTHER LODE JOB TRAINING CENTER





# Central Sierra Biomass Aggregation Pilot

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*Executive Director*

# What is an RCD?

- Special districts of the State, set up to be locally governed by an independent Board of Directors.
- California RCDs implement conservation projects on public and private lands, and educate landowners on resource issues.
- RCDs are a link between federal, state, and local programs across all resource and conservation categories.















# Central Sierra Pilot

- Covers Mariposa, Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador and Alpine Counties.
- First phase studied current circumstances, potential solutions to increase utilization of biomass, financial aspects and organization of a regional entity.
- Next phase will refine and establish regional entity.



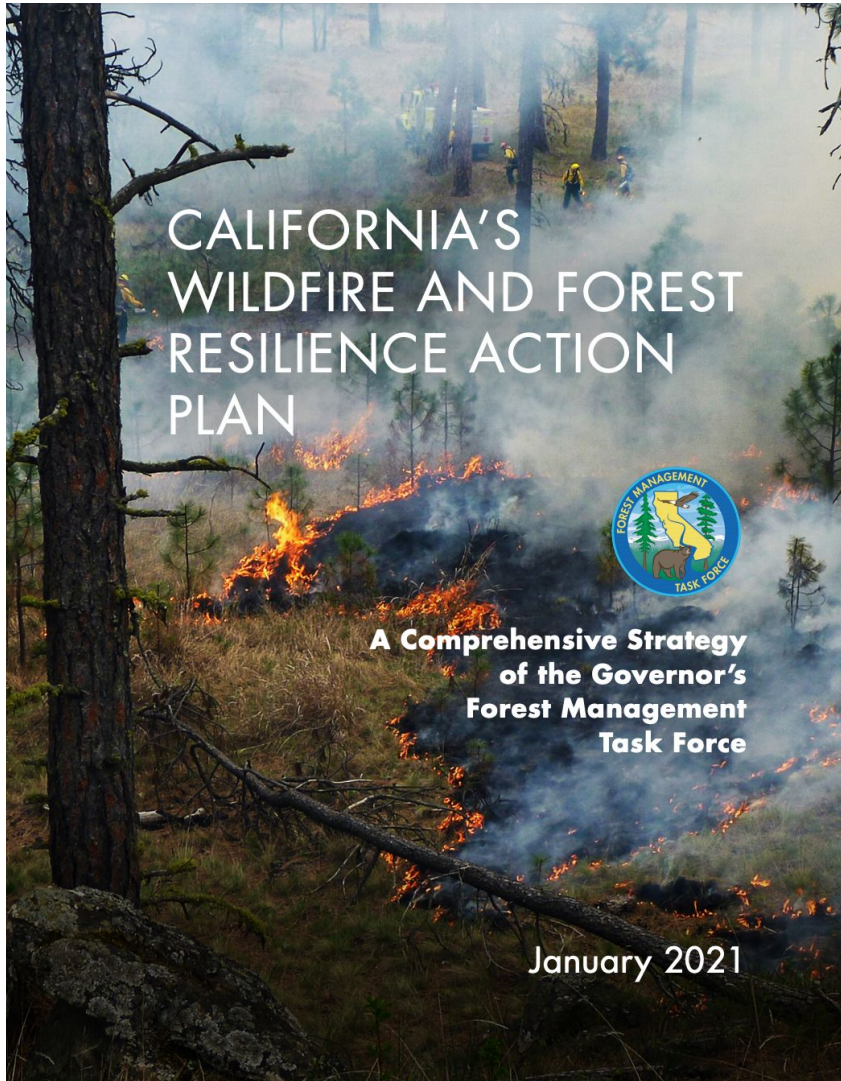


# Woody Feedstock Aggregation Pilot Program **Cal FRAME Overview**

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FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025





# OPR's Key Actions

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## GOAL 3: MANAGE FORESTS TO ACHIEVE THE STATE'S ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

### Task: Create a Sustainable Wood Products Market in California

- Key Actions: 3.09 and 3.10



# OPR's Key Actions

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**3.9 Develop X-Prize for Wood Product Innovation:** By December 2021, OPR will coordinate the development and execution of an X-Prize for wood product innovation. The competition will be designed to showcase California's commitment to becoming the hub of wood product innovation and leverage state investments to bring philanthropic and private capital into the competition.

**3.10 Address Feedstock Barriers through Pilot Projects:** OPR will develop five pilot projects to test new mechanisms for developing long-term feedstock contracts. Information and templates from the pilot projects will be shared broadly to provide a menu of broader adoption options.



# Wildfire and Forest Resilience Expenditure Plan

(\$ in Millions)



CA Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force Goal	Department	Program	Early Action 2020-21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	TOTALS
GOAL 1: Increase the Pace & Scale of Forest Health Projects	CAL FIRE	Forest Health Projects	\$155	\$160	\$120	\$120	\$555
		Assistance to Small Landowners (CFIP)	\$10	\$40	\$11	\$14	\$75
		Prescribed Fire & Hand Crews	\$15	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$120
		Prescribed Fire Liability Fund		\$20			\$20
		Tribal Engagement	\$1	\$19	\$10	\$10	\$40
		Forest Legacy	\$6	\$10	\$14	\$19	\$49
		Post-Fire Reforestation & Regeneration			\$50	\$50	\$100
		Reforestation/Nursery	\$2	\$9	\$2	\$2	\$15
		Demonstration State Forests			\$5	\$5	\$10
	DOC	Regional Fire & Forest Capacity	\$50	\$60	\$20	\$20	\$150
	State Parks	Stewardship of State-Owned Lands	\$15	\$105	\$15	\$15	\$150
GOAL 2: Strengthen Protection of Communities	CNRA				\$25	\$25	\$50
	CDFW		\$15	\$40	\$25	\$25	\$105
	State Conservancies	Regional High-Priority Projects	\$69	\$139	\$35	\$135	\$378
	SWRCB	Regulatory Efficiency		\$2	\$2	\$2	\$6
	CAL FIRE	Home Hardening	\$25		\$13	\$12	\$50
		Fire Prevention Grants	\$123	\$120	\$115	\$117	\$475
		Unit Fire Prevention Projects	\$10	\$40	\$20	\$20	\$90
		Defensible Space Inspectors	\$2	\$13	\$5	\$5	\$25
		Contract Counties		\$14			\$14
	CAL FIRE & UC ANR	Land Use Planning & Public Education		\$7	\$4	\$5	\$16
	CA Conservation Corps	Forestry Corps & CCC Centers		\$27	\$20	\$20	\$67
	CalEPA/ CARB	Smoke & Public Health Programs		\$2	\$2	\$2	\$6
GOAL 3: Manage Forests to Achieve Economic & Environmental Goals	CAL FIRE*	Transportation Grants for Woody Material			\$5	\$5	\$10
		Workforce & Business Development	\$6	\$18	\$15		\$39
	CA Community Colleges	Workforce Training				\$15	\$15
	iBank	Catalyst Fund/Market Strategy	\$16	\$31			\$47
	GO-Biz			\$2			\$2
	DOC	Biomass to Hydrogen/Biofuels Pilot**			\$50		\$50
	OPR	Market Development	\$3		\$2	\$2	\$7
GOAL 4: Drive Innovation & Measure Progress	CAL FIRE	Monitoring & Research	\$3	\$20	\$7	\$8	\$38
	CNRA	Remote Sensing		\$25	\$3	\$2	\$30
	CAL FIRE	Forest Data Hub		\$10			\$10
Total			\$526	\$968	\$630	\$690	\$2,814



# 3.10 Address Feedstock Barriers Through Pilot Projects: Cal-FRAME

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- ❖ The OPR pilots were designed to investigate how to build the institutional capacity at the local level to unlock the biomass supply chain bottleneck and establish reliable access to forest biomass.
- ❖ To date, the pilots have developed biomass management plans to improve feedstock supply chain logistics through the deployment of a new public entity with the authority and resources to aggregate biomass at scale and facilitate long-term feedstock contracts between forest landowners and biomass off-takers.
- ❖ Each pilot is working to assess market conditions, evaluate infrastructure and workforce needs, identify priority landscapes, and enhance economic opportunities for biomass businesses in their project regions.

## BUDGET DETAILS

- ❖ **Round 1: \$3 million** has been allocated through SB 85 (Section 2) to address feedstock barriers through five pilot projects (\$500,000 per project).
- ❖ **Round 2: \$2 million** has been allocated through AB 179 (Section 25, Schedule 1, Provision 10) to enhance forest sector market development and to facilitate implementation of the pilots.
- ❖ **Round 3: \$2 million** has been allocated through SB 104 (Section 10, Schedule 1, Provision 10) to enhance forest sector market development and to facilitate implementation of the pilots.



# Deliverables Completed to Date

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To date, the pilots have completed the following research:

1. Evaluated regional governance models, entity operational plans, public entity financing pathways, feedstock availability, and at scale biomass aggregation mechanisms in 17 counties throughout Northern California;
2. Evaluated biomass utilization recovery pathways, evaluated the economic feasibility and economic development potential of each recovery pathway, assessed the relative carbon impacts of each recovery pathway, including GHG emissions and sequestration potential;
3. Designed a biomass pricing mechanism and feedstock supply contract templates, designed and constructed a prototype digital marketplace for forest biomass, assessed infrastructure needs including bioenergy, biofuels, biochar and hydrogen production facilities; and
4. Investigated insurance gaps for forest landowners, licensed timber operators and biomass off-takers.



# Forest Sector Market Development Grant Program

State of California

Request for Application (RFA)  
Solicitation No. SPPD23173

## GUIDELINES & APPLICATION

Funded by Senate Bill 104, Section 10, Schedule 1, Provision 10  
Wildfire and Forest Resilience Expenditure Plan (FY 23-24)

Release Date: April 22, 2024  
Application Deadline: May 20, 2024

Direct Questions to:  
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## Round 3 Awards

- ❖ Funding: \$2 million via Senate Bill 104 (FY 2023-2024)
- ❖ Goal: Create forest resilience authorities to manage forest biomass supplies at the local and regional level.
- ❖ Awards Range: \$175,000.00 to \$500,000.00 per project
- ❖ Awardees: Fall River RCD, Lake County RCD, Marin RCD, Mariposa County RCD, Placer County Water Agency, Shasta Valley RCD
- ❖ Grant Term: June 30, 2024 – March 31, 2026



# Project Deliverables (Round 3)

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1. Draft governance structure implementation plans, entity action plans, long-term objectives plans, feedstock acquisition plans and entity financing plans;
2. Draft the foundational documents to formally create and launch a new public entity and/or public-private partnership to facilitate the mobilization of biomass on the behalf of participating member counties, cities, water agencies, fire districts, resource conservation districts, and other special districts in each project region;
3. Where applicable, modify the foundational documents of an existing public entity to facilitate the mobilization of biomass on behalf of their membership;
4. Conduct a series of Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone studies to evaluate the business, workforce and infrastructure readiness of the biomass industry in a project region;
5. Establish a sustainable financing mechanism for each public entity;
6. Develop a feedstock supply insurance framework for long-term feedstock contracting; and
7. Support development and modifications to OPR's Digital Marketplace for Forest Biomass.



# Program Timeline

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Action	Target Dates	Status
Round 1: Issue Grant Guidelines	September 1, 2021	COMPLETE
Round 1: Awards Announced	January 31, 2022	COMPLETE
Round 1: Funds Encumbered	June 30, 2022	COMPLETE
Round 2: Contract Amendments	January - May 2023	COMPLETE
Round 2: Funds Encumbered	June 30, 2023	COMPLETE
Round 3: Issue Grant Guidelines	April 22, 2024	COMPLETE
Round 3: Awards Announced	June 19, 2024	COMPLETE
Round 3: Funds Encumbered	June 30, 2024	COMPLETE
End of Grant Term (Rounds 1 and 2)	March 31, 2025	IN PROGRESS
End of Grant Term (Round 3)	March 31, 2026	INCOMPLETE



**2025 KEY DELIVERABLES**

Draft March 11, 2025

**INTRODUCTION**

In January 2021, the Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force announced the nation's first comprehensive Action Plan to improve the wildfire resilience of the state's forests, wildlands and communities. Developed in coordination with a broad range of key stakeholders and agencies, the Action Plan provides a vision, framework, and roadmap for federal, state, local, tribal, and private organizations to increase the pace, scale, and effectiveness of wildfire resilience efforts in California.]

These collaborative efforts have paid off. Since issuing the 2021 Action Plan, the Task Force and its participating agencies have made significant progress in achieving its goals and commitments, including:

- Guided historic levels of coordinated investments in community resilience and landscape health.
- Developed interagency strategies with joint targets and commitments for prescribed fire, reforestation, recreation, and other key priorities.
- Streamlined approvals of projects through large-scale use of exemptions and the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP).
- Enabled the rapid growth, expansion, and effectiveness of local and regional wildfire resilience partnerships.
- Established a public Interagency Treatment Tracking System and Regional Resource Kits to help local and regional agencies better plan, prioritize, and measure progress.

A more complete list of Task Force accomplishments can be found [here](#). The Taskforce will be updating the 2021 Action Plan later this year with updated goals and commitments.

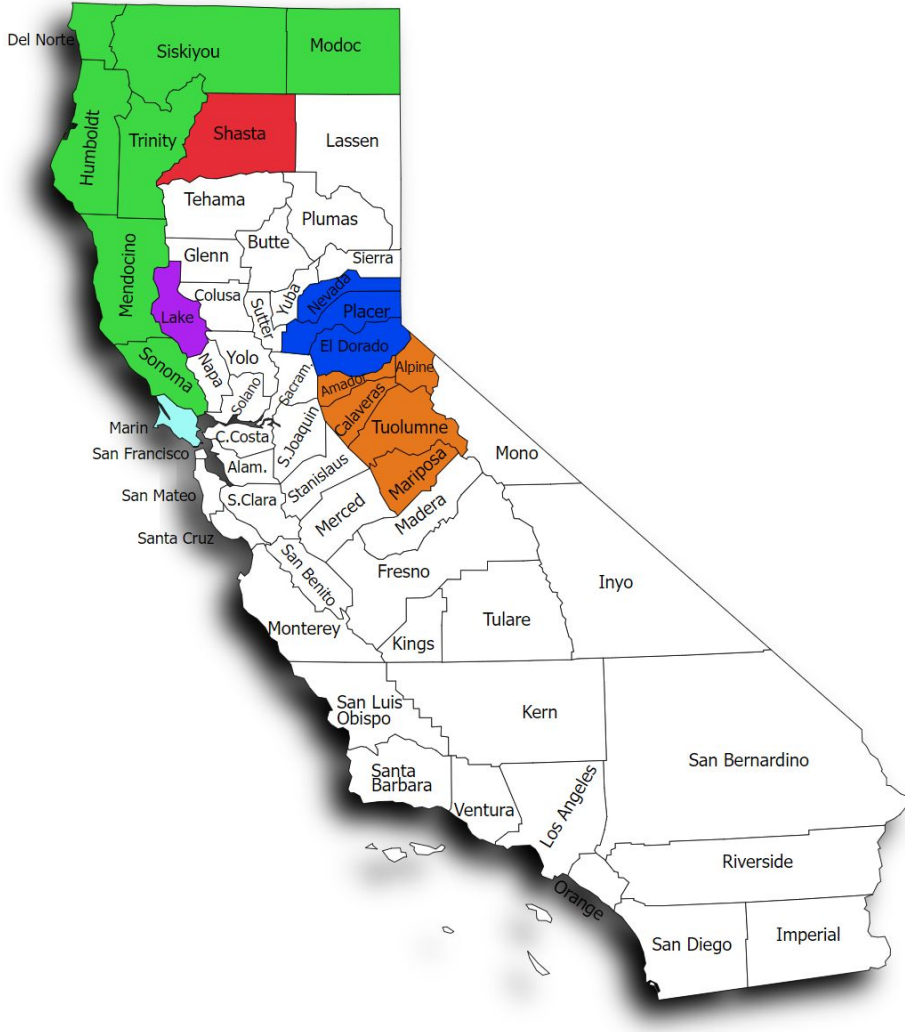
These 2025 Key Deliverables outline the highest priority actions underway this year to achieve the commitments in the 2021 Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and to advance key new initiatives that will be highlighted in the forthcoming update of the Action Plan. They include 10 top priorities and an additional 15 major initiatives now underway.

# WFR Action Plan Update

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- ❖ WFR Action Plan update includes 25 key deliverables
- ❖ A draft will be publicly released next week in Marin
- ❖ The Biomass Pilots are item #20
- ❖ An Expenditure Plan will finance key actions
- ❖ A budget is under consideration to finance Round 4
- ❖ Exact amount is yet to be determined
- ❖ Round 4 will be designed to finance JPA operations
- ❖ Expenditure Plan Release Date: TBD





# Pilot Project Regions

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- **Central Sierra Project**

- Grantee: Mariposa County RCD
- Counties: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa and Tuolumne

- **Marin Biomass Project**

- Grantee: Marin RCD
- County: Marin

- **North Coast Resource Partnership**

- Grantees: Humboldt County (Rounds 1 and 2), Shasta Valley RCD (Round 3)
- Counties: Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Modoc, Siskiyou, Sonoma, and Trinity

- **Northeast California Project**

- Grantee: Fall River RCD
- County: Shasta

- **Tahoe Central Sierra Project**

- Grantee: Placer County Water Agency
- Counties: Nevada, El Dorado and Placer

- **Lake County Project**

- Grantee: Lake County RCD
- County: Lake



# Contact Information

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