Sierra Nevada Conservancy-Progress Report

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2008 (Proposition 84)

Grantee Name: **Tulare County Resource Conservation District**

Project title: **Southern Tulare County – Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

SNC Reference Number: **SNC 070034** **Submittal Date: 6-30-11**

Report Preparer: David Witt **Phone #: (661) 319-3308**

Check one:

_____ **6-Month Progress Report**
X **Final Report**

6-Month Progress Reports should reflect the previous six months. **Final Reports** should reflect the entire grant period.

A. **Progress Report Summary:** (Please provide a general description of work completed during this reporting period.)

We completed the Tulare County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and obtained signatures of approval from the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, CALFIRE, and Tulare County Fire Department. A copy is attached to this report.

B. **Deliverables or Outcomes completed during this Reporting Period or Milestones Achieved:** (Include specific information, such as public meetings held, agency participation, partnerships developed, or acres mapped, treated or restored.)

See Above

C. **Challenges or Opportunities Encountered:** (Please describe what has worked and what hasn't; include any solutions you initiated to resolve problems. If your project is not on schedule, please explain why here.)

No significant challenges or opportunities were encountered on this project. We were unsuccessful in a follow up grant with SNC for implementing Phase Two of this project (CEQA work) which was extremely disappointing to all of the groups in Tulare County considering we put so much time into this document and not to mention the time in writing the grant for Phase Two of this project.

D. **Unanticipated Successes Achieved:** (Please describe any additional successes beyond completing scheduled tasks or meeting scheduled milestones.)

Completed the CWPP

E. **Compare Actual Costs to Budgeted Costs:** (Please refer to your grant agreement to list your deliverables/budget categories and budgeted costs compared to actual costs incurred during this reporting period in the table below.)

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	Budgeted SNC Dollars	Actual Dollars
Community Risk Assessments	11,000.00	$11,000.00
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	40,000.00	$40,000.00
Outreach/Education Program	1,000.00	$1,000.00
Monitoring	1,000.00	$1,000.00
Education/Information Products	1,000.00	$1,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	**54,000.00**	**$54,000.00**

Explanation: (if needed)

F. **Do you have information to report on the project-specific Performance Measures for your project?** (If so, please list the Performance Measures below and describe your progress.)

See the end of this document

G. **Were there any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this Agreement that are not a part of the budgeted deliverables? If so, please attach copies.** (Include digital photos, maps, media coverage of project, or other work products.)

No

H. **Next Steps:** (Work anticipated in the next 6 months, including location and timing of any scheduled events related to the project.)

We applied for a grant from SNC thru the assistance of a grant manager, however, we were unsuccessful. So we will not be applying again thru SNC.

Please Complete this Section for FINAL Report ONLY

Capacity-Building Results and Collaboration and Cooperation with Stakeholders: (What partnerships did you initiate or strengthen as a result of this project? How did they affect the project outcome? If applicable, how did this grant increase your organization's capacity? What is your plan to sustain this increase?)

Numerous collaborative meetings were held with agency representatives and stakeholders to obtain and exchange information, discuss issues and opportunities for projects and for public education. The meetings were held in Porterville, Visalia, and Springville at CAL FIRE, Sequoia National Forest, and County offices. Representatives from the Sequoia Fire Safe Council and Tulare County RCD also met with local stakeholders and agencies to identify and discuss potential projects and review future needs. A meeting was also held in Porterville to review and comment on the draft CWPP. Comments were received from the following:

Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield District
CAL FIRE
Camp Nelson Fire Safe Council
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Sequoia Fire Safe Council
Sequoia National Forest
Sierra Forest Products
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Tulare County Fire Department
Tulare County Resource Conservation District
Tule River Indian Reservation
Upper Tule Fire Safe Council
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Description of Project Accomplishments:

1. **Most Significant Accomplishment**
   Describe in one concise, well-written paragraph, the most significant accomplishment that resulted from this grant.

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a collaborative agreement between Tulare County, Tulare County Fire Department, and CAL FIRE that identifies vegetation manipulation projects to reduce hazardous fuels around communities. The CWPP includes the unincorporated communities and undeveloped land in the foothills and mountains of Tulare County. The CWPP describes changes in fuel hazards and fire behavior since pre-European settlement and projects current fire behavior in the communities. It also describes 28 projects to treat approximately 1,625 acres of mostly private land in the CWPP area. The estimated cost of implementing the 28 projects on

1,625 acres is $2.3 million, which is expected to be partially met through state and federal grants.

2. WOW Factor

If applicable, please describe anything that happened as a result of the project or during the project that is particularly impressive.

We completed a CWPP for the whole county instead of just one watershed. Most CWPPs to date cover a very small area, however, we accomplished our mission with just one document and far less money spent then most.

We built working relationships with all of the following agencies:

Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield District
CAL FIRE
Camp Nelson Fire Safe Council
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Sequoia Fire Safe Council
Sequoia National Forest
Sierra Forest Products
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Tulare County Fire Department
Tulare County Resource Conservation District
Tule River Indian Reservation
Upper Tule Fire Safe Council
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

3. Design and Implementation

When considering the design and implementation of this project, what lessons did you learn that might help other grantees implement similar work?

Plan for a significant amount of time spent just bringing together groups of people to work together for a common goal.

4. Indirect Impact

Please describe any indirect benefits of the project such as information that has been developed as a result of the project is being used by several other organizations to improve decision-making, or a conservation easement funded by this grant that encouraged other landowners in the area to have conservation easements on their property.

More people within Tulare County are thinking about how to reduce fuels in their communities.

5. **Collaboration and Conflict Resolution**
If you worked in collaboration or cooperation with other organizations or institutions, describe those arrangements and their importance to the project. Also, describe if you encountered conflict in the project and how you dealt with it, or if there was conflict avoided as a result of the project.

Many hours were spent just getting all of our groups together and collating the many ideas private landowners and agencies had.

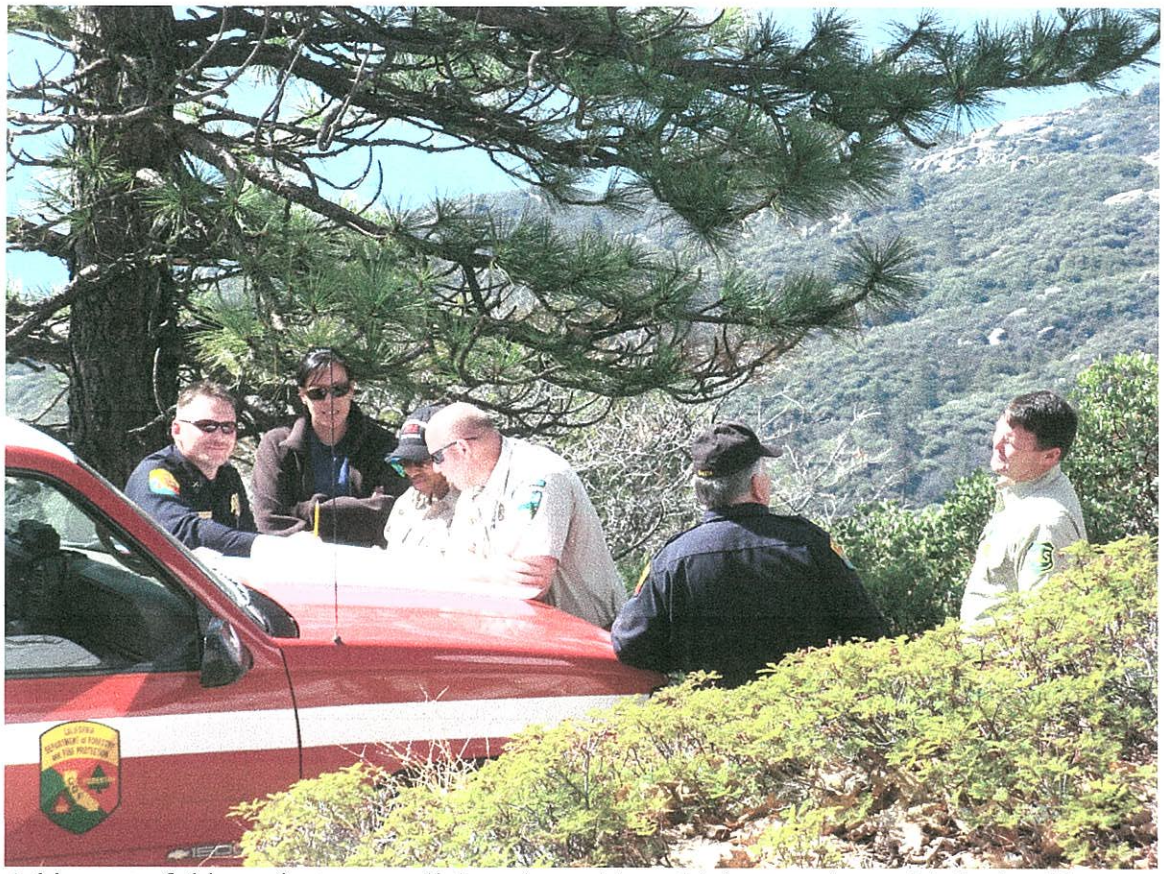
6. **Capacity-Building**
SNC is interested in both the capacity of your organization, as well as local and regional capacity. Please describe the overall health of your organization including areas in need of assistance. SNC is interested in the strength and involvement of your board, significant changes to your staff, size and involvement of membership. In addition, describe how your project improved capabilities of partners, or the larger community.

The Tulare County RCD survives off of working on grants, however, after we finish two grants from the USFS we won't have any funded projects. This in turn will effect the daily operations of the RCD and staff. Thru this project we were able to be the lead coordinator and really get a place at the table with so many agencies and landowners within Tulare County. This improved our capacity to deliver projects because the various groups now know we are capable of delivering big projects.

7. **Challenges**
Did the project face internal or external challenges? How were they addressed? Describe each challenge and any actions that you took to address it. Was there something that SNC did or could have done to assist you? Did you have to change any of your key objectives in response to conditions "on the ground"?

No major external or internal challenges other then the state not having money during certain parts of the year and the grant getting extended.

8. **Photographs**
Grantees are strongly encouraged to submit photos, slides or digital images whenever possible. These images will be used for SNC publications such as annual reports or on the website. Please make sure you clearly identify location, activity, and your project with each submitted image. Images will be credited to the submitting organization, unless specified otherwise.



A big part of this project was collaboration with multiple agencies and bringing ideas together for the common good of Tulare County. USFWS, USFS, BLM, CAL FIRE Tulare County RCD, and Sequoia FSC are looking at potential projects to be implemented in Tulare County.

9. Post Grant Plans

What are the post-grant plans for the project if it does not conclude with the grant? Include a description of the following (if applicable): (1) Changes in operations or scope; (2) Replicaton or use of findings; (3) Names of other organizations you expect to involve; (4) Plans to support the project financially, and; (5) Communication plans?

We plan on finding a grant that will pay for the CEQA to be completed on some of our projects and we plan on finding grant money to implement projects.
We had hoped to receive funding thru SNC for Phase Two which would be CEQA analysis for many of these projects. Then Phase Three which would be funding from CAL FIRE , USFS, and BLM for project implementation.

10. Post Grant Contact

Who can be contacted a few years from now to follow up on the project? Please provide name and contact information.

David Witt
5702 Danbury Ct.
Bakersfield Ca, 93312
(661) 319-3308

SNC-approved Performance Measures: (Please list each Performance Measure for your Project, as identified in your Grant Agreement, and the results/outcomes.)

We reviewed 762,440 acres under our CWPP.
Employed 5 people part time.
We developed 28 projects to treat approximately 1,625 acres.
We built the capacity to work with all of the major natural resource agencies in Tulare County.
We created a planning document for the whole Tulare County Sierra Nevada range.

Since no specific Performance Measures were negotiated nor attached to our grant agreement as Appendix B, these are the performance points we feel are most appropriate.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Project Reporting Guidelines

Progress Reports are required periodically throughout the term of the Grant Agreement (Refer to Exhibit B of the Grant Agreement). These reports will allow you and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to see the degree to which the project is on track and achieving your projected outcomes. Your Progress Reports will further provide the SNC with information that will help us to explain your work to the Board Members and various other audiences. Timing of Progress Reports is specified in the Project Schedule included in Exhibit A of the Grant Agreement, but generally every 6 months until completion of the project.

A Progress Reporting Form is provided to Grantees on the SNC Website. **Six-month Progress Reports** should reflect the previous 6-month period; **Final Reports** should address each question for the entire grant period – looking at the project as a whole.

The form specifies the items you will need to report on. For the Six-Month Interim Report these include, but are not limited to: *A Progress Report Summary of work completed, Deliverables or Outcomes Completed, Challenges or Opportunities Encountered, Unanticipated Successes Achieved, Actual Costs compared to Budgeted Costs, Any Additional Relevant Materials Produced, and Next Steps.*

The Final Report will include additional information, such as**:** *Resources Leveraged, Capacity-Building Results and Collaboration and Cooperation with Stakeholders, a Description of Project Accomplishments, and SNC Approved Performance Measures.*

Please make sure that you submit complete reports by the dates requested in your Grant Agreement.