

5 Narrative Descriptions for Wilseyville Product Yard Engineering Plans

a) Wilseyville Woody Biomass Utilization Product Yard Development Project Narrative

This is a request of SNC for 2012 grant Category 2 funding assistance to do key project engineering plans needed to develop the Wilseyville Woody Biomass Utilization Product Yard. This project is directly related to developing local economic infrastructure capacity for sustainable utilization of biomass and small diameter tree harvesting. The infrastructure is for a range of forest products in activities associated with improving forest health and watershed protection for the Mokelumne River and Calaveras River watersheds, and for fire fuel reduction to protect local communities with a wildland-urban-interface.

There is currently no local infrastructure for providing diverse, market based value added products using harvested biomass and small diameter trees to their highest and best value. The Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions (CHIPS), a California non-profit corporation certified by the IRS as a 501 (c)(3) organization, is facilitating a cooperative community economic development project to create local sustainable biomass utilization. CHIPS is a member of the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG) and its practices are consistent with cooperating in partnerships to realize the triple-bottom-line approach consistent with ACCG principles. This collaborative approach seeks a healthy equilibrium between the environment, community, and economy.

CHIPS helped facilitate organization of the Amador Calaveras Cooperative Association for Biomass Utilization (ACCABU) created by MOA. Cooperative association members include local forest contractors and related small business operators involved in the effort to develop a local infrastructure for sustained woody biomass utilization. The Wilseyville Product Yard site is located on property that once served as a lumber mill, but has been closed and abandoned as a working site since 1968. It is adjacent to the Calaveras County Water District spray field to the northwest, near the community of Wilseyville to the southeast, and has private rangeland to the west. The environmental setting lends itself well to revitalizing this site which is centrally located to the operating area of the Mokelumne and Calaveras River watersheds.

The property is being purchased by CHIPS from the Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) and the two organizations are working towards satisfying CCWD conditions of sale. The Calaveras County Planning Director has provided a positive opinion on zoned uses (see attached feasibility study for section 6d below) and is preparing a CEQA determination, it is anticipated to be either exempt or a negative declaration and completed by March 2012.

Currently a USDA/USFS grant is providing funding for CHIPS' community economic development work with local contractors, CCWD and the County, including project site appraisal, parcel survey, County planning fees, and similar front end project costs. Also, a USDA/ Rural Development RBEG grant funded a Woody Biomass Utilization feasibility study with value added uses sited at the Wilseyville Product Yard conducted by TSS Consultants. (See 6d below.) Of critical need for this Product Yard development effort is qualified Civil Engineering work for the following:

- Encroachment permit plans for Blizzard Mine Road access for Calaveras County Public Works

- Access plans for commercial driveway from Blizzard Mine Rd. to the Product Site
- Water main line extension plan
- Grading plan
- A Storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP)

SNC 2012 Category 2 funding will provide these critical assessments and plans provided by a local qualified civil engineering firm – Weatherby, Reynolds, Fritson Engineering Design. The proposed SNC grant project for the Wilseyville Woody Biomass Product Yard is anticipated to Start in August 2012 and be completed before the end of the year. The proposed engineering work is a critical part of pre-development activities needed to create the local Product Yard. The cooperative Product Yard operation currently has local small businesses interested in developing opportunities on the site such as the following: (See 6d attached Feasibility Study for more detail on the first 4 below).

- Small scale biomass fueled power and heat cogeneration (i.e. power for site operations and to sell onto the grid; heat for wood kilns and future activities such as native plant greenhouses).
- Small sawmill and wood kiln operation.
- Firewood processing and kiln operation.
- Hog fuel chipping for forest material and green waste to provide feedstock to power generation, lawn and soil amendments, particle board and similar products.
- Native plant green house for wholesale to landscape architects and for forest restoration projects.
- Post and pole fabrication for both agricultural and architectural uses.

The outcome of this SNC funded activity will be the engineered plans required for developing the woody biomass product yard site for such value added activities as those listed above.

b) Workplan and Schedule Narrative

The proposed engineering work will begin in August / Sept. 2012 and is anticipated to complete prior to the end of 2012. Key milestones include: SNC grant award completed; Steering Committee meeting with engineers; Engineers draft plans compliant with County requirements reviewed; Final engineered plans completed. The final project deliverables are Product Yard development required plans compliant with Calaveras County requirements for: an encroachment permit; commercial driveway; water main line extension; site grading; storm water pollution prevention plan.

<i>Detailed Project Deliverables</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Begin project	August 2012
Initial Steering Committee meeting with engineers for scoping dialogue	Sept
Draft engineering plans ready for review by Steering Committee	October
Steering Committee engineering plans review input to engineers	Nov
Final civil engineering work completed and delivered	Dec 2012
Final project report delivered to Sierra Nevada Conservancy	Jan 2013

c) Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements Narrative

The property is being purchased by CHIPS from the Calaveras County Water District with conditional approvals of sale for both mutually agreeable sale price, and Calaveras County use approval and required permits. An appraisal to be used to establish the purchase price is scheduled to be completed by March 2012. Calaveras County Planning Director has determined that planned uses are consistent with zoning (see 6d – Feasibility Study); this is a Pre-Project request for funding not requiring a completed CEQA. The requested funding help with core engineering is to meet requirements for County approval for development of the site access, commercial driveway, grading, and storm water pollution prevention plan. Future engineering to meet local requirements and permitting beyond the scope of this proposed project include: Air Quality (co-gen plant) permit; water and sewer hookup permits. CEQA compliance is expected by March 2012; this is not federal property and NEPA does not apply.

d) CHIPS Wilseyville Product Yard Project Organizational Capacity Narrative

CHIPS partners in this grant include: Weatherby, Reynolds, Fritson Engineering Design for civil engineering; Breeze-Martin Consulting for project facilitation and management, ACCG and ACCABU members for the Steering Committee. CHIPS has grant administrative capacity for grant documentation and reporting. Weatherby, Reynolds and Fritson is a qualified engineering firm experienced working with Amador and Calaveras County requirements for encroachment permits and similar work providing engineered plans. Breeze-Martin Consulting is currently providing project management for the Biomass Utilization Capacity Building partnership between CHIPS and the USFS Stanislaus National Forest – Calaveras Ranger District. ACCG and ACCABU members have extensive local knowledge and experience with other partner collaborative efforts such as developing the collaborative Cornerstone Project, guiding the Wilseyville Product Yard Feasibility Study, and the BLM Big Lily Gap Stewardship Project.

e) Cooperative and Community Support Narrative

The ACCG is a local collaborative working to create healthy forests and watersheds, fire-safe communities, and sustainable local economies. It fosters partnerships among private, nonprofit, state, and federal entities with common interest in the health and well-being of the landscape and communities in the Mokelumne and Calaveras watersheds. The group is advancing an All-Lands Triple Bottom Line strategy to create a heightened degree of environmental stewardship, local jobs, greater local economic stability, healthy forests and communities. CHIPS is a member of the ACCG and is also administrative member of the ACCABU facilitating the development of local biomass added value infrastructure. This funding request to SNC for help with producing needed engineered plans has been reviewed by the ACCG and it supports its funding and implementation. It also has the support of the CalFire Calaveras – Tuolumne Battalion Chief (See attached support letters in 6c).

f) Long-Term Management and Sustainability Narrative

The Wilseyville Product Yard project is consistent with the CHIPS / USFS capacity building partnership plans. It is consistent with Sierra Nevada Conservancy Strategic goals for: protecting historical and living resources; preserving working landscapes; assisting the regional economy. It is to be developed and implemented consistent with ACCG supported triple bottom line principles and the ACCABU cooperative economic approach to biomass utilization. The project intends to work with its community partners to develop Product Yard specific triple bottom line protocols and metrics. These protocols and metrics are to be useful for monitoring operations and growth of the biomass utilization infrastructure consistent with triple bottom line principles. With ACCG and ACCABU members involvement the project will demonstrate the benefit of a local cooperative approach to developing a diverse and sustainable infrastructure (see Product Yard Feasibility Study included in 6d for details).

g) Performance Measures Narrative

Project documentation and reporting will track the performance measures listed below so as to provide a reliable means of measuring reported project outcomes and will include how they contribute to Sierra Nevada Conservancy programmatic goals. The Wilseyville Biomass Utilization Product Yard engineering project performance result measures include:

- A measurable change in specific engineering required knowledge for site development (measured by specific plans compliant with Calaveras County requirements).
- 5 specific engineering plans (see section 5a above) done with collaborative guidance (measured by count of plans and Steering Committee sign in sheets).
- At least 25 local organizations and 100 people reached with info and/or involvement (measured with sign in sheets and similar activities documentation).
- 90+ percent of planned project results accomplished on time (measured by documenting milestones achieved in 5b above).

6. Supplemental and Supporting Documents

6 a) SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY Appendix B3 PROPOSITION 84 - DETAILED BUDGET FORM

Project Name: Wilseyville Woody Biomass Utilization Product Yard Development Engineering Plans

Applicant: Calaveras Healthy Impact Products Solutions, Inc. (CHIPS)

SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
<i>Engineering plans: Encroachment; Commercial Drive and Water Line</i>	\$34,500.00					\$34,500.00
<i>Engineering Grading Plans</i>	\$31,500.00					\$31,500.00
<i>Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan</i>	\$3,500.00					\$3,500.00
Project Management / Facilitation	\$2,500.00					\$2,500.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$72,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$72,000.00

SECTION TWO INDIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
PROJECT TOTAL:	\$72,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$72,000.00

SECTION THREE Administrative Costs (Costs may not to exceed 15% of total Project Cost) :						Total
<i>CHIPS Admin & Fiscal Oversight</i>	\$2,800.00					\$2,800.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:	\$2,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,800.00
SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:	\$74,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$74,800.00

SECTION FOUR OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
Project Steering Committee in-kind	\$2,400.00					\$2,400.00
CHIPS In-kind Admin & Fiscal	\$1,110.00					\$1,110.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
Total Other Contributions:	\$3,510.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,510.00

NOTE: The categories listed on this form are examples and may or may not be an expense related to the project. Rows may be added or deleted on the form as needed. Applicants should contact the SNC if questions arise.

* Operating Costs should be allocated to the percentage that is applicable to the grant based on your cost allocation methodology and cannot exceed 15% of your total project costs.