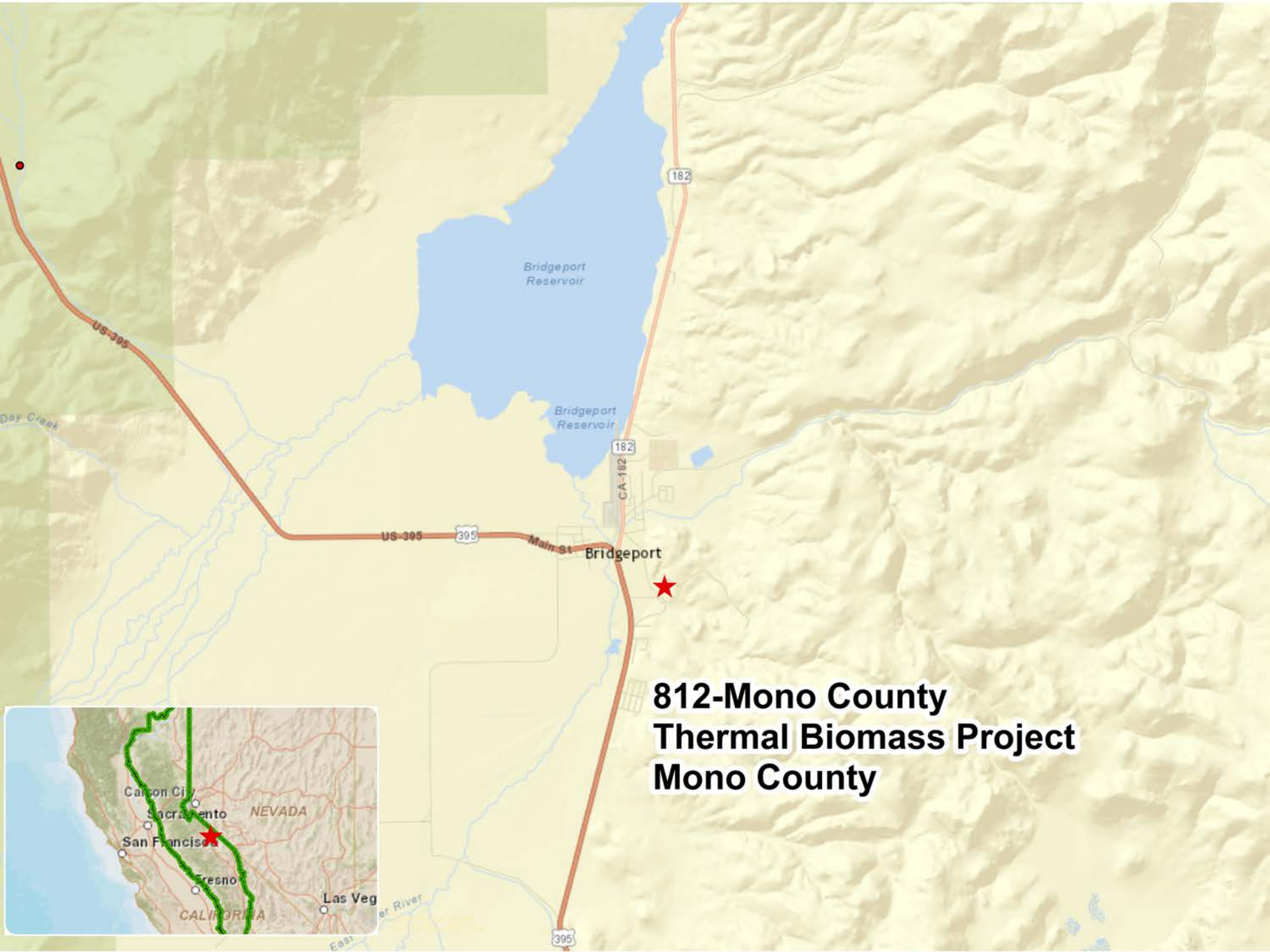
Bridgeport Reservoir
Bridgeport Reservoir
US-395
182
CA-182
395
Main St
Bridgeport
Day Creek
Carson City
Sacramento
NEVADA
San Francisco
Fresno
Las Vegas
CALIFORNIA
812-Mono County
Thermal Biomass Project
Mono County

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)

Applicant:	**Mono County**
Project Title:	**Mono County Thermal Biomass Project**
Subregion:	**East**
County:	**Mono**
SNC Funding:	**$215,000.00**
Total Project Cost:	**$229,008.58**
Application Number:	**812**
Final Score:	**87**

PROJECT SCOPE

The goal of the Mono County Thermal Biomass Project is to sustainably utilize biomass resulting from activities associated with reducing catastrophic wildfire risk, improving forest habitat and resilience, treating forest pests, and restoring meadow structure and function. A secondary goal is to provide a model in the Sierra Nevada Region of a successful thermal biomass project, potentially paving the way for other thermal projects and expanding the utilization of forest-sourced biomass. The project is a Category I on-the-ground facility improvement project.

The project proposes to remove and replace the current, outdated, and inefficient propane boiler system at the County Road Shop and Parks/Facilities building in Bridgeport with a new 2.5 MM BTU/hour or less thermal biomass boiler system. The biomass boiler will be installed within the current boiler footprint and will provide heat for approximately 12,855 square feet. The mechanical room will be retrofitted to accommodate a fuel hopper and water storage tank, and existing piping and pumps will be reconfigured as necessary for full system integration. Staff will be fully trained in system operations and maintenance, and a new wood chip storage building of up to 960 square feet will be constructed on-site to ensure one week of fuel supply. The thermal unit will consume a maximum of 367 bone dry tons (BDT) of biomass a year.

In approximately 2010, Mono County convened the voluntary Eastside Biomass Project Team (Project Team) to explore biomass utilization projects. The convening of the Project Team was a result of the SNC funded Mill City Fuels Reduction Project managed by the Mammoth Lakes Fired Protection District. The Project Team consists of the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Town of Mammoth Lakes,

Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District, GC Forest Products, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, and Mono County. The SNC, Southern California Edison (SCE), Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD), and the University of California Woody Biomass Utilization Program provided technical assistance and, in the case of the SNC and SCE, general guidance.

The Project Team convened in the interest of finding a better use for biomass than open pile burning in the forest or chipping for alternative daily cover at the landfill. Recognizing that forest health and fuel reduction treatments are critical for immediately reducing the risk of fire and preserving/restoring ecosystem function in forests and meadows, the Project Team sought to utilize biomass "waste" in a way that would benefit the public, while also creating a long-term market that could drive future land management decisions to treat forested areas. The expense of biomass disposal is a significant barrier, but the creation of a market through viable utilization of the biomass has the potential to eliminate this issue and support increased treatment projects on a long-term basis.

In January 2013, Mono County secured $50,000 in grant funding from the State of California (Sustainable Communities Planning Grant) and the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (Clean Air Projects Program Block Grant) for a "Comprehensive Feasibility Study for a Heat and/or Power Biomass Facility and Expanded Forest Products Utilization in Mono County, California" (Feasibility Study). The Feasibility Study serves as the reference for all data in this project proposal.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	**TIMELINE**
Project Coordination – assignment of roles, refined work plan	Feb. – March 2015
Community Outreach/Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)	March 2015
Thermal Unit Request for Proposals – vendor/unit selection	April – June 2015
RPAC/Community Outreach	June 2015
Plans, Specs, and Engineering – preparation of construction documents	June – July 2015
Required Permits – GBUAPCD permit, building permit	June – July 2015
6-month SNC progress report (Jan-June 2015)	July 1, 2015
Equipment Acquisition & Installation	July – Dec. 2015
6-month SNC progress report (July-Dec 2015)	January 2, 2016
Testing, monitoring, performance evaluation – includes cost savings & performance analysis and GBUAPCD annual permit	January – Dec.2016
6-month SNC progress report (Jan-Jun 2016)	July 1, 2016
Final SNC progress report/grant closeout (Jul-Dec. 2016)	December 1, 2016
FINAL PAYMENT/FINAL PAYMENT REQUEST	**January 15, 2017**

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Direct*	
Project Management	35,210.00
Design & Engineering	30,000.00
Equipment & Construction	132,000.00
Mechanical Integration	10,000.00
Permits/fees	1,773.00
Indirect**	
Monitoring and Operations/Maintenance	$3,500.00
Annual Permits/Fees	517.00
Administrative***	
Project Administrative	$2,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	**$215,000.00**

* Direct: Direct costs are expenses necessary to acquire, construct, or to adapt property to a new or different use, or to improve property including land, buildings and equipment. The property/expense must have a useful life longer than one year.

** Indirect: Expenses involve ongoing operations, repair or maintenance costs, regardless of whether the repair or maintenance may last more than one year.

*** Administrative: Expenses associated with the administration of a project and may not exceed 15 percent of the total SNC grant request for direct and indirect costs.

PROJECT LETTERS SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

- Support
  - Byng Hunt, Mono County Supervisor, District 5
  - Greg Cook, President, G.C. Forest Products, Inc.
  - Scott Kusumoto, Interagency Vegetation Management Team, Inyo NF

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

There are four Performance Measures common to all grants. In addition, grantees are required to include between one and three project-specific measures. Performance Measures listed here represent those proposed by applicants and may be modified through further discussion with SNC staff.

- Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity Maintained or Created
- Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Project Title: Mono County Thermal Biomass Project (SNC 812)

Project Location – Specific:
The project is located on Bureau of Land Management land leased by Mono County at 207 Jack Sawyer Road, Assessor Parcel Number [APN] 008-060-046, immediately east of Highway 395, immediately southwest of the City of Bridgeport, in Mono County, California. Approximate Latitude/Longitude: 38.251223 / -119.217102.

Project Location – City: Bridgeport
Project Location – County: Mono

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
Mono County is requesting $215,000 in funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act Grant Program to remove the existing propane boiler system at the County Road Shop and Parks/Facilities building and replace it with a new thermal biomass boiler system, along with a fuel storage building, in Bridgeport, Mono County, California.

The biomass boiler would be installed within the current boiler footprint and would provide heat for approximately 12,855 square feet. The mechanical room would be retrofitted to accommodate a fuel hopper and water storage tank, and existing piping and pumps would be reconfigured as necessary for full system integration. Staff would be fully trained in system operations and maintenance, and a new wood chip storage building of up to 960 square feet would be constructed on-site to ensure one week of fuel supply. The thermal unit would consume a maximum of 367 bone dry tons (BDT) of biomass a year.

The proposed boiler replacement would occur within an existing building. The proposed new wood chip storage building would be an accessory structure to the Road Shop and is not larger than a typical two-car garage, located within a disturbed, paved, and graveled area. No biological or cultural resources would be impacted by the proposed project. The biomass boiler would be permitted by the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District.

The goal of the proposed project is to sustainably utilize biomass residue resulting from activities associated with reducing forest fuel loads in the general vicinity of the project. The proposed project would provide a model in California of a successful thermal biomass project, utilizing forest-sourced biomass in the surrounding area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mono County

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15285);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(2));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15302, "Replacement or Reconstruction," and Section 15303, "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures"
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed Mono County Thermal Biomass Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15302, Class 2, and Section 15303, Class 3. The Class 2 exemption permits the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The Class 3 exemption permits the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structures. The proposed project consists of the replacement of the existing heating system with a new thermal biomass boiler system in an existing building and the construction of a 960-square-foot storage facility for the biomass (wood chips). The proposed project would sustainably utilize biomass resulting from activities associated with reducing forest fuel loads for heating purposes. No significant adverse impacts to natural or cultural resources will occur as a result of the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matthew Daley
Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 823-4698

Signature:_____ Date:_____ Title: Executive Officer
Jim Branham

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Revised 2005