

Potential changes to the Board's SRAFPF Grant Program
as identified during development of the
CAL FIRE 2015-2016 SRAFPF Grant Program

CAL FIRE's 2015-2016 State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund (SRAFPF) Grant Program relied heavily upon the SRAFPF Grant Program under development at the Board's Resource Protection Committee (RPC). The following document identifies some of the more substantial language changes for the RPC to consider adopting into the Board's SRAFPF Grant Program.

The changes are presented by section in the order they appear in the Board's SRAFPF Procedural Guide. Underlined font indicates added language, and ~~strikethrough font~~ indicates removed language. Page numbers of where this is found in the Department's procedural guide is included in parenthesis in the section heading.

Chapter 1: Introduction

- **Eligibility** (Dept. pg 5)
 - Fire Safe Councils recognized through the California Fire Safe Council;
 - **CEQA Compliance** (Dept pgs 32 – 33)
 - Adopt language explicitly including Archaeology in the CEQA review, including link to document titled "Archaeological Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects". Archaeology is already referenced in Important Points #9, this would make it more explicit and give guidance for meeting the CEQA requirements.
 - **Grant Conditions** (Dept. pgs 6-7)
 - 5. For fuel reduction projects:
 - A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) will be required to design and oversee any fuel hazard reduction project proposed on forested landscapes, as defined in PRC §754. The RPF will conduct at least one site visit during active project operations to ensure vegetation removal is being conducted according to the prescription. A RPF is not required to provide the general project information required in the Scope of Work during the grant application phase, but the applicant must demonstrate how CEQA compliance will be met, including RPF involvement, in Item E4 of the Project Scope of Work and include this cost in the budget if applicable.
- PRC § 754 - "Forested landscapes" means those tree dominated landscapes and their associated vegetation types on which there is growing a significant stand of tree species, or which are naturally capable of growing a significant stand of native trees in perpetuity, and is not otherwise devoted to non-forestry commercial, urban, or farming uses.*
- Projects outside of the forested landscape should consider the use of a professional ecologist, biologist, Certified Rangeland Manager, or other professional with knowledge of local ecosystem processes, to develop an appropriate fuel hazard reduction removal project. The project prescription should consider retention of habitat elements, such as

Comment [KC1]: To place a minimum criteria on what is a Fire Safe Council.

Comment [KC2]: To explicitly state that the applicant does not need to hire a RPF until after a grant has been awarded.

ground cover necessary for the long term management of local wildlife populations when such retention is compatible with the fuel hazard reduction goals of the project.

○ Fuel reduction vegetation treatment prescriptions shall focus on selectively removing ~~understory~~ trees and brush with a goal of reducing fire hazards. In addition, trees and brush selected for removal must include vegetation that eliminates the vertical and horizontal continuity of vegetative fuels for the purpose of reducing the rate of fire spread, duration and intensity, fuel ignitability, or ignition of tree crowns.

○ Required project deliverables for all hazardous fuel reduction projects to be included in Item E3 of the Project Scope of Work.

1. Projects will include a pre and post-treatment description of site conditions relative to the wildfire hazards.
2. GIS data files supporting the project map to allow CAL FIRE to accurately document the spatial extent of the project.
3. Documented CEQA compliance within 1 year of grant execution.
4. Documentation of at least one site visit during active project operations to ensure vegetation removal is being conducted according to the prescription.

Comment [KC3]: To make it clear to the applicant that these activities must be included in the project design.

• **Scope of Work** (Dept pgs 48 – 52)

- Include a request for the following information at the beginning of the Scope of Work.
Project Description Summary: Please provide a paragraph summarizing the **proposed** project.
- add E4 under Project Implementation: If applicable, how will the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) be met?

Comment [KC4]: A short description of the project was identified as a missing component during last year's grant review.

Comment [KC5]: There is not another location to discuss CEQA's relevance to the project in the Scope of Work.

• **Evaluation Criteria**

- Add under Project Implementation #4 If applicable, how will the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) be met?