

## Arcata Community Forest Expansion Legacy Project

The Arcata Community Forest Expansion- (Forsyth) Legacy Project will enable the City of Arcata (City) to acquire 49± acres of timberland within the Jolly Giant Creek watershed and result in a conservation easement by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) for a cooperative project with CALFIRE, California State Parks and USDA Forest Service for protection of working forest lands, forest reserve areas, watersheds, fisheries and habitat linkages. The conservation easement is being conveyed as a condition of the CALFIRE grant and will protect significant scenic, recreational, timber, riparian, fish and wildlife, cultural, carbon sequestration, and environmental values.

### LOCATION AND SURROUNDING USES

The subject property (Property) is located adjacent to Humboldt State University to the west and the Arcata Community Forest to the north, south and east within the City limits of Arcata in Humboldt County, 8/10ths mile northeast of downtown Arcata and adjacent to the City's 639± acre Arcata Community Forest Tract...

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Property consists of one assessor's parcels of timberland, which encompass a portion of the Jolly Giant Creek watershed. The property is predominantly redwood with lesser amounts of Douglas fir, Sitka spruce and Grand fir. The Property elevation ranges from 245 feet to 550 feet. This acquisition will enable the Property to be managed sustainably for timber production within high levels of sequestered carbon while allowing for public access.

The primary purpose of this acquisition of real property is to: a) protect the forest soils of the Property and the productive viability of the forestland in perpetuity pursuant to clearly delineated federal, state and local governmental policies for the protection of the open space characteristics of natural resource landscape; and b) protect the natural, ecological, cultural, educational, scenic, forested, and open space values of the parcels.

The property will be added to the existing Arcata Community Forest and managed under to following goals:

- 1. Maintain the health of the forest system, specifically, maintain the integrity of the watershed, wildlife, fisheries and plant resources, their relationships and the process through which they interact with their environment.*
- 2. Produce marketable forest products and income to the City in perpetuity, balancing timber harvest and growth.*
- 3. The Community Forest shall also be managed to provide forest recreational opportunities for the Community.*
- 4. The City's forests shall serve as models of managed redwood forests for demonstration purposes.*

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The City is seeking to acquire the Property to protect its species, natural resources, and allow for management of a public working forest. The City will manage the Property as part of the larger sustainable working forest as a research and educational asset thus maintaining both the ecological integrity and economic stability of the Property.

The ongoing and committed funding stream from the City's forestry program ensures proper oversight (including ranger patrol) and sustainable management of the Property, including restoration and erosion control projects as needed. This model has worked very successfully for the City for the past 30 years.

CALFIRE will enter into the Easement with the City and monitor the Property for compliance with the terms of the Easement. The Easement allows access by CALFIRE or its agents annually for monitoring purposes.

## TERMS

The Property owner has agreed to sell the Property to the City for \$625,000.00, equal to the appraised fair market value as approved by the USDA Forest Service. Department of General Services will review the appraisal as well as the review provided by a registered professional forester of the timber valuation and any changes will be made to reflect those valuation differences. Under terms of the grant, WCB staff is responsible for review of all acquisition-related documents prior to disbursement of grant funds. In the event of a breach of the grant terms, the WCB can require grantees to encumber the Property with a conservation easement in favor of the State or another entity approved by the State and seek reimbursement of funds.

## PROJECT FUNDING

State Parks Habitat Conservation Fund	\$250,000.00
USDA Open Space and Community Forest Program	\$315,000.00
CAL FIRE CCI funds	\$67,250.00
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TOTAL Purchase Price	\$625,000.00



**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**RESOLUTION OF THE STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION  
AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS (in substantially the form as  
presented to the Board) AND, IF AWARDED, THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS  
FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS AND USDA OPEN SPACE AND  
COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAM FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A CONSERVATION  
EASEMENT, ON THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS Arcata Community Forest  
Expansion- (Forsyth) IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY.**

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for the State of California (Board) does hereby find and resolve as follows:

Section 1, the legislature of California passed the California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007 allowing the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to acquire conservation easements and that funding shall be obtained from gifts, donations, federal grants and loans, other appropriate funding sources, and from the sale of general obligation bonds.

Section 2, at its March 7th, 2019 meeting, the Wildlife Conservation Board will consider authorizing the acquisition of a conservation easement on the **Arcata Community Forest Expansion- (Forsyth)** as required in Public Resources Code (Public Resources Code section 12240).

Section 3, the People of California found that it is in the public interest to provide for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of real property benefiting fish and wildlife, for the acquisition, restoration, or protection of habitat that promotes recovery of threatened, endangered, or fully protected species, maintains the genetic integrity of wildlife populations, and serves as corridors linking otherwise separate habitat to prevent habitat fragmentation.

Section 4, the Board hereby approves the application for **\$250,000 from the State Parks Habitat Conservation Fund, and \$315,000 from USDA Open Space and Community Forest Program**. The State of California proposes to acquire a working-forest conservation easement on 49 acres of redwood, Doug fir and western red cedar forest. While restricting all development and conversion the easement will continue to allow commercial timber harvest and maintain the significant forest, watershed, view-shed, open space and other fish and wildlife habitat resources, cultural heritage, social and economic agricultural and forest product contributions.

Section 5, if awarded, the Board hereby accepts the grant funds from the California State Parks and USDA Open Space and Community Forest Program for the acquisition of a conservation easement on the **Arcata Community Forest Expansion- (Forsyth)**, and hereby approves the terms and conditions of draft Wildlife Conservation Board Grant Agreement.

Section 6, the Board hereby appoints the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or their designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and compliance with all applicable current state and federal laws, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Section 7, The Executive Officer for the Board shall certify the Board's adoption of this Resolution on January 23, 2019.

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Matt Dias  
Executive Officer  
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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