

EMC projects are solicited through an annual Request for Proposals (RFP) which is released following the start of the new fiscal year. Initial Concept Proposals are typically received in September and the EMC conducts a preliminary technical review of all Initial Concept Proposals that are received by the deadline (established annually in the RFP). This review considers the completeness of the proposals and whether they are within the scope of the Themes and Critical Monitoring Questions elaborated in the Strategic Plan. The EMC also works with Board staff to screen proposals for any conflicts of interest and may request that the Principal Investigator provide additional information within a reasonable period.

When the EMC determines that an Initial Concept Proposal is complete and within scope, the Principal Investigator is invited to submit a Full Project Proposal by the deadline specified in the RFP. The EMC then conducts a thorough technical review of all Full Project Proposals that are received and a formal ranking is conducted per the procedures outlined in the EMC's Strategic Plan. EMC members individually rank each project and the average ranking score is calculated for each project. No specific minimum average ranking score is required for support; rather, individual project scores are considered relative to other project scores. Once all Full Project Proposals have been ranked, EMC members vote to make recommendations for allocation of available EMC funds, taking into consideration the project ranking score, how well the project tests the effectiveness of the Forest Practice Rules (FPRs), and the reasonableness of the requested budget. Utilizing the EMC's funding recommendations, Board staff will make the final funding decisions, as delegated by the Board. It is the intent of the EMC to keep the ranking process transparent, with the ranking done in an easily trackable manner. The EMC receives periodic updates on the projects that have received funding and presentations on findings from completed projects.

EMC FUNDING

For fiscal year 2020/21, the EMC has been allocated ongoing funding of \$267,841.12 from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF),² established by AB 1492 (2012). This funding is being used to support EMC projects and is granted through the Board/CAL FIRE contracting process.

EMC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During 2020, the EMC accomplished the following:

- Three published manuscripts and a published poster related to EMC-2015-001 and EMC-2016-002 were published and/or submitted in 2020.
- Received an ongoing allocation of \$267,841.12 from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund.
- Met three times virtually in open, webcast public meetings to conduct work.
- The EMC charter was updated by the Committee and approved by the Board of Forestry.
- Strategic Plan themes and critical questions for 2019 were reviewed and retained. No additions or alterations were made to the priorities for 2020. The EMC committed to

² http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201120120AB1492.

