



County of Sonoma 2024 Vegetation Management Grant Program

GRANT APPLICATION

Applications due at 3pm on MARCH 28, 2024

The County of Sonoma is directing up to \$1 million to near-term vegetation management activities in high-risk areas. All interested parties must submit an application to be eligible for receipt of grant funds.

The Sonoma County Vegetation Management Grant Program (VMGP) supports community resiliency, improves risk mitigation techniques, and encourages multi-benefit, ecologically sound practices that can increase our communities and wildlands' resilience to wildfire. The VMGP supports the County of Sonoma's commitment to reducing the threat of wildfires through education, collaboration, and mitigation.

Application Process

- Grant applications must be received by **Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 3:00pm** to be considered. Exceptions will not be made, and late submissions will not be considered.
- All eligible and complete applications will be distributed to the VMGP Selection Committee for review.
- The VMGP Selection Committee evaluates projects for funding. **All applicants will be notified in writing of their grant status after the VMGP Selection Committee completes their evaluation and Board of Supervisors approves the grant agreements.**

1. Format

- a. Applicants must submit electronic proposal.
- b. **Electronic submission.** All applications must be submitted as a Word-version (.docx) or fillable (pdf) version application, maps may be sent separately as images (jpg- or pdf-file format) via email to: (zipped or **compressed files** are **NOT** acceptable)

Vegmanagement@sonoma-county.org

- c. **Project Entry Portal.** All applicants must complete the survey in the Sonoma County Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (CWPP) **Project Entry Portal Hub Site** to be considered for funding: <https://sonoma-county-cwpp-hub-site-sonomacounty.hub.arcgis.com/apps/f77d85eda2ac4c4e9107e066e088e4b6/explore>

2. Due Date

Applications must be received no later than **3:00 p.m. on March 28, 2024**

3. Questions

Please submit to Kim Batchelder by **5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2024** via email:

vegmanagement@sonoma-county.org.

A response to all questions will be prepared by 5:00 p.m. on March 15, 2024 and posted on the Ag + Open

Space website: <https://www.sonomaopenspace.org/our-impact/vegmanagement/>

4. Workshops

The County will host three virtual workshops on February 13, February 27, and March 12, 2024.

Participation is voluntary. The workshop will be conducted in English with live Spanish translation. County staff and VMGP Selection Committee members will provide an overview of the application process and respond to applicants' questions.

Workshop dates:

February 13, 2024

February 27, 2024

March 12, 2024

Times: 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Zoom Webinar Link (for ALL workshops):

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/99384957557?pwd=NVRKb2pZNGtQM3p0SW9JYVRIVUxSZz09>

Meeting ID (for both workshops): 993 8495 7557

Passcode (for both workshops): 630841

Or Telephone:

(669) 900 9128

(669) 444 9171

5. Application Format and Contents

For ease of review and to facilitate evaluation, the application submittal should be organized and presented in the order provided in the application below. If a question, or supporting documentation, does not apply to your project, please note (N/A).

(Advance to Application Form Below)

Project title:	Requested Grant Amount: \$ _____
Project location/address:	Other Funding Sources: \$ _____
	TOTAL Project Cost: \$ _____
Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (if applicable):	Name of agency/organization requesting funding:
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates:	Supervisorial District where project is located:

What is your project type? (Mark all that apply)

- Access & Egress:** Projects that improve safe travel on identified priority evacuation routes and firefighter access during a wildfire, including roadside vegetation management. Local fire districts can provide information about critical evacuation routes.
- Defensible Space and Community Risk Reduction:** Projects that modify vegetation to stop or slow wildfire up to 100 feet from structures and along driveways and private access roads or protect critical community infrastructure such as communications facilities, water supply, medical facilities, power grid, etc.
- Wildlands Fuel Treatment:** Modify wildland fuels (i.e., fuel breaks, prescribed burning, understory thinning, etc.) to reduce wildfire risk and enhance ecosystem services, typically more than 100' from structures in undeveloped landscapes. Strategic fuel breaks that aim to assist firefighters slow the advance of wildfires, thus protecting homes, communities, and natural resources. Prescribed burns help to reduce fuel loads in controlled conditions. Site-appropriate understory thinning (improving tree spacing, reducing tree density and/or ladder fuels) can create space for low intensity fires to burn along forest floor and not into the canopy. All treatments should aim to maintain and enhance ecosystem health, enhance biodiversity while protecting communities.
- Community Education:** Projects that provide education to increase understanding of wildfire and wildfire risk reduction, including defensible space, structure hardening, fire ecology, fire risks, ecosystem, and forest health, and how to reduce risks effectively while enhancing environmental values and services.
- Environmental Compliance:** Preparation of environmental compliance documents such as California Vegetation Treatment Program (CAL VTPs), that increase safety and allow large land-holding managers and nearby residents to achieve mutually acceptable strategies for fuels management.

Project Manager representing agency/organization:

_____	_____
Name – Project Manager	Title

Authorized person representing agency/organization (all fields must be completed):

_____	_____	_____
Name – Contact Person	Email	Phone
_____	_____	_____
Title	Signature	Date

GRANT SCOPE: This Application Packet describes the intended use of the requested Grant funds to complete the Project identified above and the elements listed in the Project Budget. I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the information contained in this Application Packet, including required attachments, is accurate.

AGREEMENT TERMS

The applicant acknowledges their organization’s willingness to accept the sample agreement terms (Attachment A) or identify specific exceptions to the sample agreement.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Title _____

Date _____

Project Summary: Explain what the project will do. Please include specifics such as the number of acres, homes treated, people reached with educational materials, or planning documents that will be produced. When complete, how will the project reduce risks to life, property, and the environment? (2-3 paragraphs – 1000 characters) This short description can be entered in the CWPP Project Entry Portal.

Application Questions

Please answer the following questions as they apply to your project. **Responses are limited.**
12-point font. Please include page numbers on all pages.

SECTION I – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Question 1: Project Goal and Expected Outcomes (1 page limit)

Question 2: Identify major tasks– what are you going to do and how are you going to do it. (1 page limit)

Question 3: Describe treatment methodologies or prescriptions. (1 page limit)

Question 4: Why is this project important for the community? Why does the community need assistance to get it done? (1 page limit)

Question 5: Does this project connect to other regional efforts or collaborations?

Project Mapping: Please submit accurate project location map and clear depiction of the area to be treated by grant funding. Maps can be inserted as images into the application or sent as a separate file (*.jpg or *.pdf-format preferable) or as a shapefile.

Alternatively, if mapping skills are limited, please complete CWPP Project Entry Portal survey and complete the mapping instructions to generate an image that reflects the project area (see section G.4 from Grant Guidelines).

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to submit a project location map or a generated image of the project area.

SECTION II – PROJECT WORK SCHEDULE

Provide a project schedule that estimates the completion date of the project tasks and major milestones. Projects may begin work as soon as execution of VMGP Agreement by the County and receipt and approval of all Agreement documents and must be completed no later than December 31, 2025. **(Page Limit: 0.5 page)**

SECTION IV – COST OF PROJECT

Clearly state ALL costs associated with the project. Identify all project costs by cost category and include all expenses that will be covered by grant funds. Please include the total cost of the project, and the proposed sources of MATCH funding. Include proposed funding sources even if they are not yet secured, but please make status clear. **(PLEASE USE PROJECT COST ESTIMATE TEMPLATE FOR DETAILS BELOW)** **(Page Limit: 1 page)**

SECTION IV – BENEFIT AND SUCCESS OF PROJECT

Explain how will you measure the success of this project outcome and any anticipated benefits. (Page Limit: 0.5 page)

SECTION V –ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Include any other information that may be pertinent, but not required (1000 characters max)

SECTION VI –CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) COMPLIANCE

The County must make findings regarding compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when approving a project for funding. Your project must be either exempt from CEQA or CEQA review must be complete before the grant award. Please state if your project does not require CEQA compliance (e.g., educational or training program)

- a. Specify the current status of CEQA review (not started, in progress, complete). If CEQA review is not complete, specify the estimated date when it will be complete.

Not Started In Progress Complete

Not Applicable/ (No on-the-ground activity, e.g., education and outreach or planning only)

Estimated completion date: _____

- b. What is the mechanism for the CEQA review? Attach supporting documentation.

EXEMPTION (SPECIFY)

NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ND)

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT DOCUMENT (EIR)

CALIFORNIA VEGETATION TREATMENT PROGRAM STATEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (VTP-EIR) (provide documentation)

- c. If an ND, MND, or EIR is required, specify the CEQA LEAD AGENCY.

Lead Agency: _____

(See to Budget Template Below)

PROJECT NAME: _____

Cost Estimate: List all costs.

Cost Estimate		Requested Funds	Matching Funds
Salaries/Wages			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
Contracted Services			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
Materials/Supplies			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
Printing/Reproduction			
1.			
2.			
Rentals			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
Other			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
Total Requested Grant Amount		A.	
Total Matching Funds (if any)			B.
Total Project Cost (A+B)		\$	

Other Funding Sources (MATCH):

Funding Sources	Date Committed	Amount
Total		