



Project Ranking Tool Questions

List of Questions in Project Ranking Tool – Vegetation Management Grant Program Portal

Your Information and General Project Information (Page 2)

Project Ranking Tool Question	Answer Guidelines
Project Submitter's Name:	Please use information from your narrative application – be consistent with project lead name. This information will not be used for any other purposes than related to the Vegetation Management Grant Program.
Project Submitter's Email Address:	Essential information that needs to be consistent with your application. This information will not be used for any other purposes than related to the Vegetation Management Grant Program.
Supervisor District (for project):	In which Sonoma County Supervisorial District is the project located in? If you don't know, you can use this District Lookup map ¹ provided by Sonoma County.

Project Location Information (Page 3)

Project Ranking Tool Question	Answer Guidelines
Project Map:	Using the map in the Project Rank Tool, navigate to the general area of your project by using the '+' and '-' buttons to zoom in and out on the map. You can pan around on the map by clicking and dragging across it. You can also change the basemap by using the top, right hand tool (looks like four boxes arranged in a grid). When ready, draw in your project location using the drawing tool (second tool beneath the basemap tool). You don't have to be exact. Simply click along the project perimeter. Double-click to complete your drawing. If needed, you can re-draw the perimeter.
Project Acres:	If you drew in your project on the map above, this is auto-generated. No need to enter in the project acres.
Project Area Description:	Please provide a brief description of the project area (e.g., street address, community name, etc.) (Limit: 1000 characters.) For this and other questions, you can use this word/character counting application ² to estimate the length of your response.

¹ <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Board-of-Supervisors/Supervisorial-District-Map/>

² <https://wordcounter.net/character-count>



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Project Sponsorship Information (Page 4)

Project Ranking Tool Question	Answer Guidelines
Name of Sponsoring Agency or Group:	Example: Homeowner's Association, your local Fire Safe Council, COPE, local non-profit, etc. If none, please enter 'None'. (Limit: 100 characters.)
Fiscal Sponsor:	If applicable, please enter your Fiscal Sponsor (could be the same as your project sponsor). If none, please enter 'None'. (Limit: 100 characters.)
Lead Agency:	If known, please enter the lead agency who will submit documentation for CEQA compliance (could be the same as your sponsoring agency or fiscal sponsor). If none, please enter 'None'. (Limit: 100 characters.)
Cooperating & Interested Agencies and Groups:	Provide a list of interested groups such as local fire agencies, environmental groups, businesses, etc. (Limit: 100 characters.)

Project Description Information: (Page 5)

Project Ranking Tool Question	Answer Guidelines
Project Title:	Example: Jenner Headlands Shaded Fuel Break (Limit: 100 characters.)
Project Type:	Check all that apply. (Note: Not all of these project types will be considered for VMGP funding – but applicants should still mark all that apply.) <input type="checkbox"/> Defensible Space <input type="checkbox"/> Harden Structures <input type="checkbox"/> Roadside Fuels Treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Wildland Fuels Treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Planning and Preparedness <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Fuel Reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Prevention Education <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Prevention Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Post-fire Restoration
Project Goal:	Please describe this project's overall goal (Limit: 500 characters) .
Project Outcomes:	Please describe this project's specific, measurable outcomes such as number of acres treated, number educated, etc. (Limit: 1000 characters) .
Project Timeline:	Please describe this project's overall timeline (e.g., we will treat 5 acres in two years) (Limit: 500 characters) .
Project Need:	Please describe why this project is important to your community (Limit: 1000 characters) .



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Project Maintenance:	Please describe the plans for maintaining this project after completion (Limit: 500 characters). Many grant applications require a maintenance plan.
Project Status:	Please select from the following list the option that best describes the status of this project. <input type="checkbox"/> In concept phase <input type="checkbox"/> Grant application submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Project started
Environmental Review Status (e.g., CEQA):	If a Notice of Exemption, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Cal VTP has been filed by the Lead Agency, environmental compliance is considered Complete. Only projects with no on-the-ground treatment (i.e. education) are "Not Applicable". A project is "shovel-ready" only after environmental review is complete. <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable/Unknown/I Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/> Not Started <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Complete

Project Funding Information: (Page 6)

Project Ranking Tool Question	Answer Guidelines
Project Cost:	Please select from the following list the option that best describes the cost of this project. <input type="checkbox"/> No Cost (volunteer labor and materials) <input type="checkbox"/> Low (less than \$20K) <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate (\$20K to \$100K) <input type="checkbox"/> High (\$100K to \$1M) <input type="checkbox"/> Very High (greater than \$1M)
Project Funding Received:	Please list or describe any funding received so far for this project (Limit: 255 characters).
Project Funders:	If known, please list or describe any potential funders for this project (Limit: 255 characters).



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Project Wildfire Risk Ranking (Page 7)

Determine Wildfire Risk and Hazard

To determine the average Wildfire Risk Index, average CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ), and the number of Communities at Risk (CARs) near your project, use [this online web map application](#)³ to draw the perimeter and get statistics for this project location. This online tool can be used to answer the first three questions below. The link will open up a new map. Follow the instructions in the About box to get the answers to the first three questions. Jot down your average risk, hazard, and the number of CARs. Then click on the back button in your browser to return to the survey to enter in your answers.

Project Ranking Tool Question	Answer Guidelines
Project Wildfire Risk Index (average):	<input type="checkbox"/> Low (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate (2) <input type="checkbox"/> High (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Very High (4) <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme (5)
Project CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone (average):	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate (1) <input type="checkbox"/> High (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Very High (3)
Project Area Proximity to "Communities at Risk":	Please enter the number of CARs within 1.5 miles of project.
Project Estimated Response Time:	Please pick from the list below. If you are uncertain, ask your local fire agency and/or CAL FIRE. <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 10 minutes <input type="checkbox"/> Between 11 and 20 minutes <input type="checkbox"/> Between 20 and 30 minutes <input type="checkbox"/> Over 30 minutes

Community Collaboration (Page 8)

Project Ranking Tool Question	Answer Guidelines
Are local Residents/community groups involved?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are Local Agencies (such as fire departments) involved?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are State Agencies involved?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are Federal Agencies involved?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

³ <https://sonomacounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7fe9f4a78fd4430e8b1028161ebc8bd1>



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Local Considerations (Page 9)

Project Ranking Tool Question	Answer Guidelines
Does the project reduce structural ignitability through education or retrofit?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the project help residents create or maintain defensible space?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the project educate residents about fire, fire risks, emergency preparedness, vegetation management, ecosystem and forest health, structural vulnerability, and how to most efficiently reduce risks?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the project increase community safety through planning (such as creating local CWPPs, risk assessments or action plans)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does this project include evacuation outreach planning and preparedness?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the project include strategic fuel breaks that will help protect homes, communities and natural resources?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the project protect critical community infrastructure such as communications, water supply, medical facilities, power grid, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the project consider demographic trends of residents, persons with disabilities, and underserved populations?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the project address post-fire conditions including but not limited to dead and dying vegetation, invasive species control, rebuilding, hazardous tree removal?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the project help large land holding managers and nearby residents achieve mutually acceptable strategies for fuels management?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the project improve conditions and health in fire-prone ecosystems, especially in areas impacted by tree diseases, pathogens or insects, or in areas where native species are at risk because of changing conditions?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the project make use of traditional understory forest thinning (small logs) or other technologies for woody biomass removal or treatment?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the project support and aid fire agencies in achieving their missions?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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Ecological Functionality and Engagement of Vulnerable or Low-Income Communities (Page 10)

Project Ranking Tool Question	Answer Guidelines
Is the project adjacent to or within a mile of a protected area? (Regional Park, Open Space Preserve, etc. – see county protected areas map)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the project incorporate mitigations that will protect wildlife habitat and corridors and/or special-status species?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the project incorporate elements specifically intended to enhance biodiversity, wildlife corridors, or other habitat functionality, or provide similar incidental benefits for enhancing these features?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the project incorporate design elements and Best Management Practices that will protect the health of local or regional watersheds?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the project engage economically challenged communities such as provide fuel treatments to economically disadvantaged communities or provide multi-lingual translation of defensible space practices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the project operationalize Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion principles in its implementation? (for instance, project targets communities of color by conducting outreach to tribal members or latinx communities, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No