



Protecting Marin Since 1934

Douglas Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
By email: Tom.Gandesbery@scc.ca.gov.

RE: Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program

Dear Chair Bosco:

Marin Conservation League (MCL), currently commemorating 85 years of preserving, protecting, and enhancing the natural assets of Marin County, wishes to extend its support for the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Grant Program (RFFCP) for the Central Coast. We understand that this grant will draw funds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to expand the work of public land managers, non-profits, fire-safe councils, and others by enabling projects that can mitigate the threat of catastrophic wildfires while restoring health to our forests.

One of the stated goals of the RFFCP is to build capacity at the regional and local level and to reduce fire threat to communities located in the wildlife-urban interface (WUI). With this goal in mind, MCL's particular interest is in the award of RFFCP funds in Marin County. Like so many other forested lands in California where the threatening buildup of fuel loads after decades of fire suppression is compounded by a rise in forest disease due to drought and a warming climate, Marin County is at great risk for catastrophic wildfire.

The One Tam Partnership has a well-established record of collaboration among Marin's land management agencies. With its ongoing digital program that is capturing vegetation imagery at a landscape-scale across the county, coupled with recent experience drawn from a pilot forest health research program in the county's primary watershed, One Tam is particularly well-positioned to leverage its existing knowledge, jurisdictional connections, and community experience to develop new strategies for forest management and revitalization in the county. One Tam's member agencies also have strong working relationships with Marin County Fire Department and fire council "Fire-Safe Marin" and are therefore well-situated to share their knowledge of the multiple functions and values of forest ecosystems with the fire professionals' understanding of fire behavior and the need for fuel reduction, and together develop new strategies to restore the health of Marin's forested lands while reducing risks to public safety.

The Partnership stands ready to contribute to California's statewide efforts to help meet the multiple goals of public safety, wildfire mitigation, ecosystem goals, and climate resilience. MCL strongly urges the Conservancy to award funds to support the One Tam Partnership's proposal for a Regional Forest Health Strategy for Public Lands in Marin County.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda J. Novy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Linda J. Novy
President

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