

**VOLUNTEER FIRE CAPACITY PROGRAM  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Natural Resources Agency

Agreement for the Volunteer Fire Capacity Program of the  
Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered between the STATE of California, acting through the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection hereinafter called "STATE", and Tuolumne Fire District hereinafter called "LOCAL AGENCY", covenants as follows:

RECITALS:

1. STATE has been approved as a passthrough agent of the United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA), Forest Service for the purpose of administering the Volunteer Fire Capacity program in California, hereinafter referred to as VFC, authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) of 1978 (PL 95-313, 92 Stat 365, 16 U.S.C. 2101-2114), as amended.
2. This is a subaward under the 2022 Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant #22-DG-11052012-142 awarded to STATE by the Forest Service on August 26, 2022. The Federal Assistance Listing for the award is 10.664, Cooperative Forestry Program. This subaward is funded solely with Federal funds and is subject to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance in subparts A through F of 2 CFR Part 200, as adopted and supplemented by the USDA in 2 CFR Part 400, and under certain terms and conditions to LOCAL AGENCY to assist LOCAL AGENCY to upgrade its fire protection capability.
3. LOCAL AGENCY desires to participate in said VFC and agrees to the terms and conditions specified in the Procedural Guide for Volunteer Fire Capacity Program 2022.

NOW THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed between the parties as follows:

4. **APPROVAL: This Agreement is of no force or effect until signed by both parties and approved by the Department of General Services, if required. LOCAL AGENCY may not commence performance until such approval has been obtained.**
5. **INCORPORATION: The Procedural Guide for Volunteer Fire Capacity Program 2022, submitted Application for Funding and associated Grant Assurances are hereby incorporated by reference as part of the Grant Agreement.**
6. **TIMELINESS: Time is of the essence in this Agreement.**
7. **FORFEITURE OF AWARD: LOCAL AGENCY must return this Agreement and required resolution properly signed and executed to STATE at the email address specified in paragraph 12, with a timestamp no later than December 1, 2022 or LOCAL AGENCY will forfeit the funds.**

8. GRANT AND BUDGET CONTIGENCY CLAUSE: It is mutually understood between the parties that this **Agreement** may have been written for the mutual benefit of both parties before ascertaining the availability of congressional appropriation of funds, to avoid program and fiscal delays that would occur if the **Agreement** were executed after that determination was made.

This **Agreement** is valid and enforceable only if sufficient funds are made available to the STATE by the United States Government for the **State Fiscal Year 2022** for the purpose of this program. In addition, this **Agreement** is subject to any additional restrictions, limitations, or conditions enacted by the Congress or to any statute enacted by the Congress that may affect the provisions, terms, or funding of this **Agreement** in any manner.

The parties mutually agree that if the Congress does not appropriate sufficient funds for the program, this **Agreement** shall be amended to reflect any reduction in funds.

The STATE has the option to invalidate the **Agreement** under the 30-day cancellation clause or to amend the **Agreement** to reflect any reduction in funds.

9. REIMBURSEMENT: STATE will reimburse LOCAL AGENCY, from funds made available to STATE by the Federal Government, an amount not to exceed **\$19,313.70** on a 50/50 matching funds basis, for the performance of specific projects and/or purchase of specific items identified in Proposed Project, Application for Funding, attached hereto. **Reimbursement will be only for those projects accomplished and/or items purchased between THE LAST SIGNATORY DATE ON PAGE 1 and JUNE 30, 2023.** This sum is the sole and maximum payment that STATE will make pursuant to this Agreement. **LOCAL AGENCY must bill STATE at the e-mail address specified in paragraph 12, with a timestamp no later than September 1, 2023 in order to receive the funds.** The bill submitted by LOCAL AGENCY must clearly delineate the projects performed and/or items purchased. A vendor's invoice and proof of payment to vendor(s) must be included for items purchased.
10. LIMITATIONS: Expenditure of the funds distributed by STATE herein is subject to the same limitations as placed by the VFC, upon expenditure of United States Government Funds. Pursuant to 2CFR200.313 Equipment, subject to the obligations and conditions set forth in that section; title to any equipment and supplies acquired under this **Agreement** vests with the LOCAL AGENCY. For any equipment items over \$5,000, the federal government may retain a vested interest in accordance with paragraph 17 below.
11. MATCHING FUNDS: Any and all funds paid to LOCAL AGENCY under the terms of this **Agreement**, hereinafter referred to as "VFC Funds", shall be matched by LOCAL AGENCY on a dollar-for-dollar basis, for each project listed on attachment(s) hereto identified as "Proposed Project". No amount of unpaid "contributed" or "volunteer" labor or services shall be used or consigned in calculating the matching amount "actually spent" by LOCAL AGENCY.

LOCAL AGENCY shall not use VFC Funds as matching funds for other federal grants, including Department of Interior (USDI) Rural Fire Assistance grants, nor use funds from other federal grants, including USDI Rural Fire Assistance grants, as matching funds for VFC Funds.

12. ADDRESSES: The mailing addresses of the parties hereto under the terms of the Agreement are:

LOCAL AGENCY: Tuolumne Fire District  
18690 Main St.  
Tuolumne CA 95379  
 Attention: Nick Ohler, Fire Chief  
 Telephone Number(s): 209-928-4505  
 E-mail Nick Ohler @ tuolumnefire.com

STATE: **Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**  
**Grants Management Unit, Attn: Megan Esfandiary**  
**P. O. Box 944246**  
**Sacramento, California 94244-2460**  
**PHONE: (916) 894-9845**  
**E-MAIL:**

13. PURPOSE: Any project to be funded hereunder must be intended to specifically assist LOCAL AGENCY to organize, train, and/or equip local firefighting forces in the aforementioned rural area and community to prevent or suppress fires which threaten life, resources, and/or improvements within the area of operation of LOCAL AGENCY. Project funds are not to be used for research and development.
14. COMBINING: In the event funds are paid for two or more separate, but closely related projects, the 50/50 cost-sharing formula will be applied to the total cost of such combined projects.
15. OVERRUNS: In the event that the total cost of a funded project exceeds the estimate of costs upon which this Agreement is made, LOCAL AGENCY may request additional funds to cover the **Agreement** share of the amount exceeded. However, there is no assurance that any such funds are, or may be, available for reimbursement. Any increase in funding will require an amendment.
16. UNDERRUNS: In the event that the total cost of a funded project is less than the estimate of costs upon which this **Agreement** is made, LOCAL AGENCY may request that additional eligible projects/items be approved by STATE for **Agreement** funding. However, there is no assurance that any such approval will be funded. Approval of additional projects/items, not listed on the Proposed Project application, made by STATE, will be in writing and will require an amendment.
17. FEDERAL INTEREST IN EQUIPMENT: The Federal Government has a vested interest in any item purchased with VFC funding in excess of \$5,000 regardless of the length of this **Agreement**, until such time as the fair market value is less than \$5,000. The VFC percentage used to purchase the equipment will be applied to the sale price and recovered for the Government during the sale. This percentage will remain the same even following depreciation. The Federal Government may not have to be reimbursed if the disposal sale amounts to a fair market value of less than \$5,000. LOCAL AGENCY will notify STATE of the disposal of such items.

18. EQUIPMENT INVENTORY: Any single item purchased in excess of \$5,000 will be assigned an VFC Property Number by the STATE. LOCAL AGENCY shall forward a copy of the purchase documents listing the item, brand, model, serial number, any LOCAL AGENCY property number assigned, and a LOCAL AGENCY contact and return address to STATE at the address specified in paragraph 12. The STATE will advise the LOCAL AGENCY Contact of the VFC Property Number assigned.
19. AUDIT: LOCAL AGENCY agrees that the STATE, the Department of General Services, the Bureau of State Audits, or their designated representative shall have the right to review and to copy any records and supporting documentation pertaining to the performance of this **Agreement**. LOCAL AGENCY agrees to maintain such records for possible audit for a minimum of five (5) years after final payment, unless a longer period of records retention is stipulated. LOCAL AGENCY agrees to allow the auditor(s) access to such records during normal business hours and to allow interviews of any employees who might reasonably have information related to such records. Further, LOCAL AGENCY agrees to include a similar right of the State of California to audit records and interview staff in any subcontract related to performance of this **Agreement**. (GC 8546.7, PCC 10115 et seq., CCR Title 2, Section 1896).
20. DISPUTES: In the event of any dispute over qualifying matching expenditures of LOCAL AGENCY or audit findings, the dispute will be decided by STATE and its decision shall be final and binding.
21. MONITORING: LOCAL AGENCY agrees to the monitoring of activities as necessary by STATE to ensure that the award is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the agreement; and that performance goals are achieved.
22. INDEMNIFICATION: LOCAL AGENCY agrees to indemnify, defend, and save harmless, the STATE, its officers, agents, and employees, from any and all claims and losses, accruing or resulting to any and all contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, laborers, and any other person, firm or corporation furnishing or supplying work services, materials, or supplies in connection with the performance of this **Agreement**, and from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm or corporation who may be injured or damaged by LOCAL AGENCY in the performance of this **Agreement**.
23. CIVIL RIGHTS: LOCAL AGENCY agrees to comply with civil rights requirements as detailed in the Complying With Civil Rights Requirements brochure (FS-850) and the And Justice For All poster (AD-475A). The poster is to be placed at all public point of contact/reception areas.
24. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS: LOCAL AGENCY will comply with the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1990 and will provide a drug-free workplace by taking the following actions:
  - a. Publish a statement notifying employees that unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited and specifying actions to be taken against employees for violations.
  - b. Establish a Drug-Free Awareness Program to inform employees about:

- 1) the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
- 2) the person's or organization's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
- 3) any available counseling, rehabilitation and employee assistance programs; and,
- 4) penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations.

c. Every employee who works on the proposed **Agreement** will:

- 1) receive a copy of the company's drug-free workplace policy statement; and,
- 2) agree to abide by the terms of the company's statement as a condition of employment on the **Agreement**.

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in suspension of payments under the **Agreement** or termination of the **Agreement** or both and LOCAL AGENCY may be ineligible for funding of any future State **Agreement** if the department determines that any of the following has occurred: (1) the LOCAL AGENCY has made false certification, or violated the certification by failing to carry out the requirements as noted above. (GC 8350 et seq.)

25. **TERM:** The term of the Agreement SHALL COMMENCE ON THE LAST SIGNATORY DATE ON PAGE 1 and continue through June 30, 2023.
26. **TERMINATION:** This **Agreement** may be terminated by either party giving 30 days written notice to the other party or provisions herein amended upon mutual consent of the parties hereto.
27. **AMENDMENTS:** No amendment or variation of the terms of this **Agreement** shall be valid unless made in writing, signed by the parties and approved as required. No oral understanding or **Agreement** not incorporated in the **Agreement** is binding on any of the parties.
28. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR:** LOCAL AGENCY, and the agents and employees of LOCAL AGENCY, in the performance of this **Agreement**, shall act in an independent capacity and not as officers or employees or agents of the STATE or the Federal Government.
29. **INDIRECT RATE:** LOCAL AGENCY may not assess an indirect rate in excess of their Federally approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), a de minimis rate if LOCAL AGENCY does not have an approved NICRA, or the VFC program cap rate of 10%, whichever is lesser. LOCAL AGENCY may also elect not to assess an indirect rate. The approved indirect cost rate at the time of execution is 0%.

30. MEDIA: LOCAL AGENCY shall acknowledge STATE and USDA Forest Service support in any publications, audiovisuals and electronic media developed as a result of this award.

It is encouraged to give public notice of the receipt of this award and announce progress and accomplishments, acknowledging STATE and USDA Forest Service support. Follow direction in USDA Supplemental 2 CFR 415.2.

31. ASSIGNMENT: This Agreement is not assignable by LOCAL AGENCY either in whole or in part.