

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH

Woody Feedstock Aggregation Pilot Program

May 24, 2022

Program Overview

OPR was provided \$3 million from the <u>Wildfire and Forest Resilience Early Action Package</u>. \$2.5 million to support new long-term wood feedstock pilot projects, \$350,000 through an interagency agreement to spur innovation in the wood sector, and \$150,000 to administer the development of the pilot projects.

As stated in the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan Objective 3.10, OPR will fund five pilot projects to develop regional strategies to establish reliable access to woody feedstock through a variety of feedstock aggregation mechanisms and organizational innovations. The pilots will develop plans to improve feedstock supply chain logistics within each target region through an institutional arrangement with the structure, authority, and resources to aggregate and initiate long-term feedstock contracts. Each project will explore and assess market opportunities of potential woody biomass businesses in their region and commit to increasing feedstock aggregation on all relevant land types, including private and non-commercial land, especially where opportunity exists to produce community fire resilience benefits. The pilots are distributed across single and multi-county regions in the Central Sierra, the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Shasta and Lassen region, the North Coast and Marin County.

Project Deliverables

Project deliverables include but are not limited to: (1) organizational studies to investigate potential governance structure(s), fire defensible space enforcement capacity, financial sustainability of entity operations, feedstock availability, wood product businesses and market opportunities, and a community analysis of each project region; (2) a feedstock mapping and aggregation tool; (3) a legal structure implementation plan; (4) an entity action plan; (5) community engagement workshops; (6) templates for long-term feedstock contracts; and (7) wood product campus feasibility study.

Timeline

Project proposals were submitted on November 1, 2021. Grant agreements completed on January 31, 2022 and are currently under review with DGS. Grant terms are set to run through March 31, 2025. Funds are available for expenditure or encumbrance until June 30, 2022, and for liquidation until June 30, 2025. In addition to the deliverables stated above, each pilot will participate in bi-monthly learning cohort discussion sessions, submit quarterly progress reports, and complete a final report at the end of the grant term. All resources produced during the grant term, from each pilot and the learning cohort, will be made available on the OPR website.