

**Sierra County
Board of Supervisors'
Agenda Transmittal &
Record of Proceedings**

MEETING DATE: February 4, 2020	TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM: <input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Timed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent
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DEPARTMENT: Public Works and Transportation
APPROVING PARTY: Tim H. Beals, Director
PHONE NUMBER: 530-289-3201

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution approving grant application and identifying the County as a cooperative partner and collaborator for a project and grant being pursued by the Sierra Business Council regarding biomass utilization and development in Sierra County.

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED: Memo Resolution Agreement Other
Draft Project Description.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Steve Frisch of the Sierra Business Council presented to the Board at the meeting of January 21, 2020.

FUNDING SOURCE:
GENERAL FUND IMPACT: No General Fund Impact
OTHER FUND:
AMOUNT: \$ N/A

ARE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, -- -- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	IS THIS ITEM ALLOCATED IN THE BUDGET? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No IS A BUDGET TRANSFER REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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SPACE BELOW FOR CLERK'S USE

BOARD ACTION: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Action Taken	<input type="checkbox"/> Set public hearing For: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Direction to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Continued to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Authorization given to: _____	Resolution 2020- _____ Agreement 2020- _____ Ordinance _____ Vote: Ayes: Noes: Abstain: Absent: <input type="checkbox"/> By Consensus
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COMMENTS:

CLERK TO THE BOARD _____	DATE _____
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SIERRA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**APPROVAL OF APPROVAL FOR
GRANT FUNDING PURSUIT
BY SIERRA BUSINESS COUNCIL
FOR UTILIZATION OF BIOMASS**

RESOLUTION 2020-_____

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sierra hereby support and approve of the application for grant funding by the Sierra Business Council and hereby agree to be identified as cooperative partner and collaborator for a regarding biomass utilization and development in Sierra County.

ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sierra on the 4th day of February, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

COUNTY OF SIERRA

JAMES BEARD
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

HEATHER FOSTER
CLERK OF THE BOARD

DAVID PRENTICE
COUNTY COUNSEL

Increasing economic and fire resilience of forest communities through climate smart land management and biomass utilization

Draft Project Description

15 Jan. 2020

Objectives

The objectives of this project inherently facilitate a crosscutting approach that addresses all three research priority areas. We aim to support and protect vulnerable communities through development of a framework to evaluate land and resource management options that have climate mitigation and adaptation potential while providing wildfire, economic, and health benefits. The proposed evaluation framework will be vetted by stakeholders and presented as a template for other forest communities interested in making a similar transition toward climatic and economic resilience. Our guiding research question is: What are the co-benefits and tradeoffs of various forest and biomass management strategies in terms of landscape carbon, emissions, air quality, economic development, and wildfire protection? To address this question within the scope of the two-year project we will:

- Develop a framework for community-based forest resource planning
- Apply the framework to a Northern Sierra Nevada forest community to assess:
 - The landscape forest carbon budget, wildfire severity benefits, and potential biomass availability of desired management strategies
 - The carbon and emissions outcomes of harvested biomass under various forest management and biomass pathway scenarios ranging from limited harvest and utilization to different combinations of bioenergy and wood product production under extensive management
 - The air quality implications of each scenario
 - The infrastructure, transportation, and human resource needs of each scenario
 - The total cost per unit of product (e.g., bioenergy, pressboard, wood chips) for each scenario
 - The potential, overall economic benefit to the community of each scenario
- Facilitate community evaluation of the framework and its outcomes to inform a report on planning similar forest management transitions in other communities and at larger scales

We hypothesize that there are both environmental and community benefits of increased forest management, and that these benefits vary based on the level and type of biomass harvest and utilization. In particular, we expect wood product production to be less expensive than and generate fewer emissions than alternative biomass uses, bioenergy production to improve local air quality over in-forest burning if bioenergy plants are sited appropriately, and for increased forest management to create jobs and facilitate economic development.