



## North Santa Clara Resource Conservation District

*An independent special district of the State of California*

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March 28, 2025

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Tribal Wildfire Resilience Program

Dear CAL FIRE Grant Review Committee:

As Executive Director for the North Santa Clara Resource Conservation District (NSCRCD), I am writing to express our strong support for the *Muwekma Ohlone Wildfire Resilience Planning & Workforce Development at 'Ootchamin 'Ooyakma* application to the Tribal Wildfire Resilience Program. The mission of our independent special district is to provide education and technical assistance to constituents and watershed stakeholders to sustainably manage soil, water and wildlife with the best available science. This project aligns with our activities to reduce fire risk and natural resource impacts within our region through public education, technical assistance, and implementation of natural resource conservation practices.

We collaborate with a variety of federal, state, regional, and local agencies, including CAL FIRE, CDFW, UCCE, and USDA-NRCS, to address natural resource issues relevant to agricultural producers and watershed stakeholders, including soil health, vegetation management, crop diversity, and water quality. We recognize the critical importance of supporting tribal-led initiatives that integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge with contemporary land management practices. As a confirmed partner in this project, NSCRCD commits to:

- Supporting the replication of MOPF's cultural burning model developed at Jasper Ridge (Ootchamin 'Ooyakma) on our managed lands within Muwekma ancestral territory.
- Advancing co-management principles through collaborative planning and implementation.
- Providing access to project partners to NSCRCD technical assistance and consultants.
- Contributing to the project's success by conducting comprehensive plant surveys, documenting fire-dependent species, incorporating cultural significance into botanical records, and establishing long-term monitoring protocols for the project.

We believe this project represents a significant opportunity to restore cultural burning practices, enhance ecological resilience, and strengthen tribal sovereignty. Upon successful development of the cultural burning plan at Jasper Ridge, we are committed to implementing these practices in collaboration with other landowners within our District, expanding the project's impact throughout Muwekma ancestral territory.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Moreno*

Stephanie Moreno

Executive Director

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**Proposed NSCRCD Consulting Services**  
**March 26, 2025**

The following budget and scope of services has been prepared as estimated NSCRCD costs to provide two years of consulting services to Muwekma Ohlone Preservation Foundation (MOPF) for their CAL FIRE Tribal Wildfire Resilience Program grant application for the *Muwekma Ohlone Wildfire Resilience Planning & Workforce Development at 'Ootchamin 'Ooyakma* project.

**Budget:**

<b>Line Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Botanical/Fire Ecological Consultant (contract)	Data Analyst and Monitoring Systems Specialist	80 hours	\$160/hour	12,800.00
NSCRCD Conservation Program Coordinator #1	Plant Specialist and Field Survey Lead	400 hours	\$50/hour	20,000.00
NSCRCD Bookkeeper	Bookkeeper	24 hours	\$70/hour	1,680.00
NSCRCD Executive Director	Project Manager (NSCRCD services only)	62 hours	\$70/hour	4,340.00
<b>Subtotal: Personnel</b>				<b>\$38,820.00</b>
Field supplies (e.g., transect, observational camera, collection containers, PPE, etc.)	Supplies needed for field surveys			500.00
Training materials and supplies	Materials and supplies for monitoring protocol trainees			400.00
<b>Subtotal: Supplies</b>				<b>\$ 900.00</b>
Mileage	Travel to and from site	400 miles	.70/mile	280.00
<b>Subtotal: Transportation</b>				<b>\$ 280.00</b>
<b>Total: NSCRCD Services</b>				<b>\$40,000.00</b>

**Scope of Services:**

*Objective:* The services outlined are intended to enhance ecological knowledge and conservation efforts by conducting comprehensive plant surveys, documenting fire-dependent species, incorporating cultural significance into botanical records, and establishing long-term monitoring protocols.

*Tasks:*

1. Lead Plant Surveys:

- Conduct systematic field surveys to identify and document native plant species across the project area.
- Utilize standardized botanical survey methods, including plot sampling and transect studies, to ensure comprehensive coverage.
- Identify and provide coordinates for rare, threatened, and culturally significant plant species.

- Coordinate with MOPC GIS specialist for GIS mapping and spatial analysis of survey results.
2. Document Fire-Dependent Species:
    - Identify and catalog plant species that exhibit fire-adaptive traits or rely on fire for regeneration.
    - Document traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) related to fire-dependent species in collaboration with the MOPC staff, partners, and consultants.
    - Assess post-fire recovery patterns and vegetation succession in the project area.
    - Provide a report on fire-adaptive plant communities and their role in ecosystem resilience.
  3. Update Botanical Database with Cultural Significance Information:
    - Integrate findings into an existing botanical database.
    - Collaborate with tribal representatives, ethnobotanists, and cultural practitioners to ensure accuracy and appropriate handling of sensitive information.
    - Develop an accessible framework for sharing non-sensitive cultural data with land managers and conservationists.
  4. Develop Monitoring Protocols:
    - Establish vegetation monitoring protocols to track changes in plant populations over time.
    - Design methods for assessing the effects of fire, climate variability, and land management on plant communities.
    - Create standardized field data collection templates and guidelines for consistent monitoring.
    - Provide one (1) training session for workforce development program enrollees and/or land managers on implementing monitoring protocols.
  5. Provide NSCRCD Project Administration:
    - Manage NSCRCD staff and contractors.
    - Track grant expenses and invoice MOPF.

*Deliverables:*

1. Plant survey report
2. Fire-dependent species assessment report
3. Updated botanical database with cultural significance information
4. Monitoring protocols training session