



Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)

An independent special district of the State of California

DATE: July 6, 2022
TO: GCRCD Board of Directors
FROM: Stephanie Moreno, Executive Director/District Clerk
SUBJECT: Consent Agenda Item 5.4: Rescape Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with ReScape for provision of District services for the *ReScape/Earth Foundries Bioswale Biochar Installation & Training Project*.

BACKGROUND:

ReScape is a Bay Area nonprofit organization that “educates about and advocates for a whole-systems regenerative approach to landscaping that works in harmony with the natural world and addresses the changing environment”. Earth Foundries, Inc., is a local, “woman-owned California-based Benefit Corporation delivering sustainable forest waste disposal to end catastrophic wildfire”. The two entities are partnering on the *Bioswale Biochar Installation & Training Project*, which includes design and implementation of a stormwater/bioswale pollution prevention project at Veggielution Community Farm in San Jose. The project will incorporate biochar and adhere to the eight ReScape principals for regenerative landscaping. GCRCD was invited to partner on the project by providing a workshop highlighting the benefits of biochar in natural resource conservation efforts.

On March 3, 2022, GCRCD’s Board of Directors authorized me to move forward in partnership with ReScape on their grant application to Valley Water’s (VW) Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Grants & Partnerships Program. The application was successful, but is only being funded at 82%. The grantee intends to secure additional funding to complete the project, so the funding to reimburse GCRCD for costs associated with providing the workshop is anticipated to remain at 100%.

In anticipation of ReScape needing to sign its agreement with Valley Water, I am requesting the Board of Directors authorize me to execute an agreement to provide the approved services to ReScape to formalize our partnership.

Attachments:

- Summary of the project and proposed funding levels (excerpted from VW’s Board packet).
- Appendix A Project Scope.

Project Summary

for program implementation. This will ensure small businesses that have been overlooked throughout the lifetime of the GBP are prioritized and continue to improve small business resiliency for all businesses within Santa Clara County.

Applicant: ReScape California

Project Name: ReScape/Earth Foundries Bioswale Biochar Installation & Training Project

Funding Request: \$119,978.69

Project Summary:

The project will design and implement a minimum 2500 square foot stormwater/bioswale pollution prevention project in Santa Clara County incorporating biochar and adhering to the 8 ReScape principals for regenerative landscaping: act local, reduce waste, nurture soil, sequester carbon, save water, conserve energy, protect water and air, and create habitat. The project will reduce contaminants in local watersheds, educate the public on biochar's beneficial application on bioswale projects and leverage a Regional Conservation District's participation to strengthen the project outcomes and increase public outreach. Public outreach will include at least two press releases, a ribbon cutting or project opening ceremony for Valley Water District and project partners, a project website, ReScape Qualified Training at the project site during installation, and an educational workshop hosted by the Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD).

Applicant: Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

Project Name: Preventing Litter to Restore the River Initiative

Funding Request: \$221,400.00

Project Summary:

Guadalupe River Park Conservancy (GRPC) is the City of San Jose's nonprofit partner for the development and activation of the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens. As part of our stewardship mission, we are seeking two years' funding to expand the collaborative partnerships with Downtown Streets Team, the San Jose Downtown Association through their Groundwerx program, and community volunteers to reduce the accumulation and impact of litter and dumping along the four-mile stretch of the Guadalupe River Trail between Skyport Drive and Virginia Street.

Through collaboration with local nonprofit partners and community volunteers, our goals are as follows: 1) reduce the quantity of litter and large volumes of debris along the trail, thereby reducing the potential for pollutants to enter the riparian corridor; 2) provide a rapid response to debris removal that can address more immediate pollutant threats; 3) increase outreach to homeless members of our community, including the provision of trash bags to encourage stewardship; and 4) promote the project, its partners and volunteers, to bring more awareness to the importance of water quality and to build momentum for future waterway stewards.

The project supports the following One Water Framework's objectives: B) Protect and improve surface and ground water quality, D) Protect, enhance, and sustain the natural ecosystem, E) Mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The project offers the following benefits desired in the grant guidelines: 1) Help prevent contaminants such as pharmaceuticals, household hazardous waste, and trash from entering our waterways, 2) Reduce contaminant source loads in groundwater and surface water, and protects local Watersheds, 3) Leverage community resources for efficient use of funds

FY22 Standard Grants Funding Recommendations

Grant Type	Applicant Name	Project Title	Average Score	Grant Funding Allocation Matrix			Amount Requested	Funding Recommendations			
				Tier	Tier %	Tier Point Range		SCENARIO 1		SCENARIO 2	
								Funding % of Total Request	Funding Award Amount	Funding % of Total Request	Funding Award Amount
Volunteer Cleanups and Education	Saved By Nature	Headwaters to the Bay	93.0	1	70-100%	85-100	\$105,001.98	82%	\$86,101.62	80%	\$84,001.58
Wildlife Habitat Restoration	Grassroots Ecology	Mountain View Tidal Marsh Restoration Project	148.0	1	70-100%	140-200	\$250,562.50	82%	\$205,461.25	80%	\$200,450.00
Volunteer Cleanups and Education	Guadalupe River Park Conservancy	Environmental Stewardship through Education & Program Scaffolding	89.5	1	70-100%	85-100	\$107,600	82%	\$88,232.00	80%	\$86,080.00
Volunteer Cleanups and Education	Marshmallow Minds	Safe Birds, Safe Waters	88.4	1	70-100%	85-100	\$68,600	82%	\$56,252.00	80%	\$54,880.00
Volunteer Cleanups and Education	IISME, dba Ignited	Santa Clara Water Weeks: Environmental Justice	88.4	1	70-100%	85-100	\$158,588.12	82%	\$130,042.26	80%	\$126,870.50
Volunteer Cleanups and Education	Downtown Streets Team	Upper Penitencia Creek Cleanup, Outreach, and Revitalization	87.0	1	70-100%	85-100	\$98,478.40	82%	\$80,752.29	80%	\$78,782.72
Volunteer Cleanups and Education	South County Compassion Center (Gilroy Compassion Center)	Unhoused Creek Cleanup	86.6	1	70-100%	85-100	\$65,905.66	82%	\$54,042.64	80%	\$52,724.53
Wildlife Habitat Restoration	Grassroots Ecology	Arastradero Creek Floodplain Restoration Project	140.9	1	70-100%	140-200	\$183,343.75	82%	\$150,341.88	80%	\$146,675.00
Pollution Prevention	Guadalupe River Park Conservancy	Preventing Litter to Restore the River Initiative	85.5	1	70-100%	85-100	\$221,400	82%	\$181,548.00	80%	\$177,120.00
Pollution Prevention	ReScape California	ReScape/Earth Foundries Bioswale Biochar Installation & Training Project	85.2	1	70-100%	85-100	\$119,978.69	82%	\$98,382.53	80%	\$95,982.95
Volunteer Cleanups and Education	Rural California Broadcasting Corp Krcb-Tv Channel 22	"Refreshing the Watershed: Steps You Can Take to Make a Difference," a series of short-form educational videos that outline the whys and hows for individuals to support Santa Clara Valley Watershed stewardship and organizations engaged in that stewardship	77.6	2	30-69%	70-84	\$100,000	30%	\$30,000.00	50%	\$50,000.00
Pollution Prevention	County of Santa Clara	Green Business Program	74.6	2	30-69%	70-84	\$375,000	30%	\$112,500.00	50%	\$187,500.00
Pollution Prevention	Grassroots Ecology	McClellan Ranch Community Garden Hedgerow Project	72.2	2	30-69%	70-84	\$77,137.00	30%	\$23,141.10	50%	\$38,568.50
Volunteer Cleanups and Education	Grassroots Ecology	California Naturalist Watershed Education Project	70.6	2	30-69%	70-84	\$40,212.50	30%	\$12,063.75	50%	\$20,106.25
Wildlife Habitat Restoration	Talon Ecological Research Group	Fisher Creek Enhancement Project	110.6	2	30-69%	110-139	\$299,158.94	30%	\$89,747.68	50%	\$149,579.47
Pollution Prevention	Downtown Streets Team	Saratoga Creek Pollution Prevention	64.1	N/A	N/A	70-84	\$80,478.40	0%	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00
Pollution Prevention	Downtown Streets Team	Guadalupe River Pollution Prevention	63.9	N/A	N/A	70-84	\$80,478.40	0%	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00
Access to Trails and Open Space	Town of Los Gatos	Los Gatos Creek Trail to Highway 9 Trailhead Connector	60.8	N/A	N/A	70-84	\$1,400,000	0%	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00
Wildlife Habitat Restoration	The California Native Garden Foundation	Coyote Creek Habitat enhancement and Education programs for training young populations on native species, restoration ecology, and regenerative organic agricultural practices.	103.3	N/A	N/A	110-139	\$53,314.00	0%	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00
Pollution Prevention	The Regents of the University of California, Santa Cruz	Identifying and quantifying atmospheric mercury inputs to Valley Water reservoirs using lichen bioindicators	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$93,613.00	0%	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00
Wildlife Habitat Restoration	Leading Youth For Ecology	LYFE Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$3,000.00	0%	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00
Total Amount Requested							\$3,981,851.34	Scenario 1 Total	\$1,398,608.99	Scenario 2 Total	\$1,549,321.50

Projects that are not eligible for funding are shown in red text.

Appendix A Project Scope

1. Site Location:

The project site encompasses an approximately 2500 square foot landscape area located within the poverty level census tracts within the Guadalupe and Coyote Watersheds. These tracts in both San Jose and Santa Clara can be seen on the [ArcGis Low Income Census Tract \(Poverty Zone Map\)](#) linked here. In low-income census tracts 50 percent or more of households have incomes below 60 percent of the Area Median Gross Income (AMGI) or have a poverty rate of at least 25 percent. The project will be within one of the following IRS qualified tracts for 2022 as shown on the [HUD website here](#). 2022 IRS qualified tracts map is shown [here](#). The project will obtain written permission from the property owner and provide it to Valley Water prior to execution of the grant agreement.

2. Project tasks, including deliverables and milestones:

Goal: Demonstrate how biochar can be used to Improve Water Quality.

- **Objective #1:** Demonstrate biochar use in a high-volume, high-profile application such as a stormwater/bioswale pollution prevention project located in a low-income designated area, roadway, or public open space.
- **Objective #2:** Publish Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines for using of biochar in bioswales, including technical details on biochar characteristics appropriate for such use in bioswales, engagement strategies for target markets and available and emerging carbon credit realization/sharing for the carbon sequestered in the project.
- **Objective #3:** Implement a public information and outreach (PIO) plan to publicize the project in local media and target markets channels.

Goal: Via ReScape programming demonstrate regenerative landscaping best practices and provide access and green jobs training to underserved

- **Objective #1:** Utilize the ReScape Rating Program (See Appendix A.3) at the practicum demonstration site at which a ReScape Qualification Training will be held. Full or partial scholarships for the training will be provided.
- **Objective #2:** Teach ReScape's 8 Principles which have a positive effect on our local watersheds. The trainings provide landscape maintenance and design professionals with practical tools to manage healthy landscapes, protect local watersheds, and address our changing climate. Regenerative landscape practices and skills are taught by leading experts in soil health, irrigation, plant care, integrated pest management and more. Training will include education on the benefits of incorporating biochar into the bioswale not only for pollution mitigation, but also as a carbon sequestration vehicle.

3. Measurable Project Outcomes:

a) **Prepare and Publish Best Management Practice Guidelines for Sourcing Biochar to Improve Water Quality.**

- Identify relevant technical biochar characteristics and describe how biochar enhances BMPs.
- Describe effective core engagement strategies with potential regenerative landscape project proponents
- Describe how carbon credits can be used to incentivize biochar deployments.

b) **Construct a 2500 square foot Bioswale**

- Incorporate Biochar into Bioswale as shown in Appendix A.2
- Design project consistent with criteria listed in Appendix A.3 “ReScape Scorecard Practices 2021”
- Design project consistent with “Santa Clara Valley Green Stormwater Handbook” from the *Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program*. Which can be accessed here:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5fe120bdfce3cd3cca992359/t/609a10c0c15acd72626e562b/1620709595212/Santa+Clara+Valley+GSI+Handbook.pdf>
- Hold the ReScape Qualified Training (public outreach) during the project installation and perform the ReScape Rating program to assess the ‘goodness’ of the project per the rating rubric.

c) **Implement Public Information and Outreach Effort to Publicize Results of Our Key Projects.** A robust public information and outreach effort will include the following actions:

- Deploy a project-specific website for industry, collaborator, and public use that will include final project achievements and pictures of the project.
- Create project signage describing efforts underway and participants.
- Issue and distribute at least two press releases to highlight tasks and milestones.
- Promote existing biochar organizations, key studies, users and producers.
- Participate in at least two conferences to highlight and promote the project.
- Prepare quarterly reports as required by Valley Water Grant protocols.
- Install Final ReScape and Valley Water approved educational signage.
- Organize at least one groundbreaking or project opening ceremony with Valley Water approval.
- In cooperation with the GCRCD, host an “in the field” educational workshop to familiarize public agencies and environmental groups about using biochar for stormwater filtration.

4. Existing Agreements

No Existing Agreements

5. Project Team and Partners

Project Applicant, Program Training/Rating Manager: Milena Fiore, Executive Director of ReScape California. Milena has worked in the private sector, in government, and in not-for-profit organizations, and as a consultant, across industries, with diverse groups and cultures in the US, Asia and Europe. Milena's experience includes organizational development, board development, fundraising, needs assessments, and community-building. Under her leadership ReScape is directly addressing climate crisis issues. ReScape has successfully completed approximately 100 landscaping projects in the Bay Area and Sacramento area. Additionally, ReScape has assisted Valley Water with water management policies in the past so has experience with Valley Water goals and objectives.

Project Manager Responsible for Execution of Project, Website Design, and Outreach/Marketing Plan: Roger Smullen, CEO of Earth Foundries, Inc. Roger is a product marketing and business development executive with 30 years of successful international experience building markets and bringing new products to market. His experience includes product development, product definition and specification, program management, partner and customer engagement, product promotion and collateral development and communications programs in support of his products. Products Roger has brought to market have accounted for hundreds of millions of dollars of high margin revenue in a variety of large volume end markets.

Project Permitting, Construction Management, Project Monitoring Plan. Grant Reporting: Dede Smullen, CFO and Grant Manager for Earth Foundries, Inc. Dede is a Bay Area Environmental Planner with many years of local government, private consulting and project management experience. Dede has overseen successful implementation of several U.S. Forest Service grants and acted as agency administrator for several CalFire hazardous fuel reduction grants and contracts.

Biochar Technical Advisor, Marketing Plan and Monitoring Plan Advisor: Raymond Baltar, Biochar Director at Sonoma Ecology Center(SEC) Raymond has had 10 years of experience as a biochar consultant and project manager since earning a degree in Sustainable Enterprise from the "Green" MBA program at Dominican University of California in 2011. He currently serves as Director of biochar projects at Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC) and has served as project manager for several SEC biochar grant projects, and field trials funded by Cal/Fire, North Coast Resource Partnership, California Department of Water Resources, and US Department of Agriculture Conservation Innovation Grant.

Overall Project Advisor: David Morell, PhD, President of the Board of Directors at Sonoma Ecology Center. David brings this project several decades of high-level environmental management experience. He held senior national positions in both water quality and air quality at the US Environmental Protection Agency. As an appointee In Governor Jerry Brown's first Administration, he helped managed the state's hazardous waste program. As Special Assistant to the EPA Regional Administration in San Francisco, he was responsible for coordinating all EPA

programs in California. Appointed as Toxics Coordinator in Santa Clara County he reported directly to the County Administrator. Dr. Morell taught and completed research projects at Princeton University and has published 5 books and over 50 professional articles. He has completed consulting projects for the World Bank, USAID and Conservation Foundation/World Wildlife Fund in Mexico, Russia and Thailand. Dr. Morell currently serves on the City of Sonoma Community Services and Environment Commission and the Sonoma Joint Climate Action Subcommittee.

Bioswale Project Planning Advisor, Monitoring Plan Advisor, Public Outreach and Education Advisor, Supplemental Grant Assistance: Stephanie Moreno, Executive Director of the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District. The GCRCD is an independent special district of the state of California led by a Board of Directors dedicated to watershed protection, natural resources conservation, and preservation of agricultural lands in Santa Clara County. Prior to joining GCRCD Stephanie had extensive experience as a consultant and staff for private, government and non-profit agencies. Stephanie also was elected to the Board of Supervisors of Amador County and Chaired the Board for 2 years.

Consultants & Contractors to be hired

- Stormwater monitoring consultant
- Pollution measurement laboratory
- Landscape design consultant
- Landscape contractor
- ReScape landscape rating consultant will be provided by ReScape

6. Project Operation and Maintenance

Since the continued health and functioning of the project is important to ReScape, the planned regenerative landscaping project signage is intended to be permanent. The project website will also remain supported as long as ReScape and Earth Foundries continue to exist. After the conclusion of the 24-month project and monitoring period, the ongoing operation and maintenance will be the responsibility of the project host. ReScape is available to enter into an agreement with the project host that includes responsibility for ongoing maintenance.

7. Plans for Project monitoring or Change Management

Project monitoring will continue for 18 months following the project opening. The project will include pollution monitoring at specific time intervals. After this time the ongoing operation and monitoring will be the responsibility of the project host.

8. Other information as appropriate

Additional Appendices have been uploaded as follows:

Appendix A.1 Benefits of Biochar for Pollution Control

Appendix A.2 Bioswale + Biochar Diagram

Appendix A.3 ReScape Scorecard Practices

Appendix A.4 Letters of Recommendation

Note: There is no Appendix B

Appendix C Project Budget Template (xls)

Appendix C Project Budget Template (pdf)

Appendix D Governing Body's Resolution

Appendix E 502©(3) Determination Letter

Appendix F W-9 Form

Appendix G Form 990

Appendix H Resumes of Key Staff

9. Valley Water Pollution Control Project Evaluation Criteria

PROJECT GOALS & THEMES

- Project addresses pollutants in priority reaches or areas beyond TMDL or 303d listings.

Per current 303d listings, the project expects to encounter Mercury, PCB's and Diazinon contaminants in the design area. Additionally POPs and various heavy metals may be encountered depending on the final project location. Various studies indicate the biochar is successful in filtering these contaminants, and it will be the project's goal to measure the influent and effluent and assess the effectiveness. Appendix H Benefits of Biochar for Pollution Control demonstrates the expected benefits from incorporating biochar into the bioswale.

- Clear and specific description of project methods and process for addressing the identified pollutant(s).

Extensive best management practices already exist for the monitoring of bioswale/landscape projects of this size. CalTrans has published extensive guidelines (<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/environmental-analysis/documents/env/ctws-ot-20-350-04-01-monitoring-guidance-manual-a11y.pdf>) for monitoring such project sites, and this project intends to follow those under the guidance of an external consultant. Beyond biochar's filtration capabilities, it is also well-known to aid in water retention. Water infiltration in the bioswale leads to pollution mitigation as the water is retained in the catch basin rather than flowing onward to the drain. Therefore infiltration will also be measured as part of measuring pollutant mitigation.

- Project provides solutions lasting beyond the life of the grant by 3+ years.

Biochar is desirable as a project component because it is expected to remain stable, filtering pollutants, hosting microbes and sequestering carbon for 100s of years. A successfully executed project, if undisturbed, will remain effective well beyond 3 years.

- Systematic baseline data identified to measure success of project objective.

A main objective of the project is to demonstrate the effectiveness of Biochar at filtering pollutants. A site-specific monitoring plan will be prepared which includes assessing baseline characteristics, which will be compared to post-project characteristics. Ideally, there will be three adjacent sections to monitor. One section will incorporate biochar into the bioswale design and a second will be the bioswale without biochar. From there, influent and effluent will be measured in each section, baselines can be established and effectiveness of the bioswale and bioswale with biochar can be measured.

CONNECTIVITY

- Demonstrate connectivity with existing enhancements, open space, or habitat areas.

Although the final site has not been identified, every attempt will be made to coordinate the final project with existing enhancements, open space, or habitat areas. Further, there will be opportunities for this project to influence future projects in the Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District. The GCRCD engages and collaborates with numerous partners in its mission to provide education and technical assistance to constituents and watershed stakeholders to sustainably manage soil, water and wildlife with the best available science throughout the Guadalupe and Coyote Watersheds. This project will add to and build on the experience and knowledge of best practices available to future projects in the district.

PROJECT SCOPE

- All deliverables and associated tasks, success measures, and change management tasks are clearly defined.

Specific Project Tasks and Milestones have been identified above and in the Valley Water Fluxx Portal.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- **Clarify base schedule, identify critical path items, and ways to address anticipate schedule slip.**

We will track the project using Microsoft Project. Project staff has extensive experience in project management and buffers are built into all project tasks. Overlap between tasks allows for focus of project staff to pivot to other activities in case of delay of a particular task. The project team is motivated to demonstrate to a wide audience the effectiveness of biochar for water quality and carbon sequestration. Critical path items have been identified and include approval from site host, landscape drawing plans, contractor identification and approval and permitting. Best efforts will be made to address critical path items early in the process to minimize any delays.

PROJECT BUDGET

- **Identified budget items for change management beyond well-defined budget. 51% or greater matching funds.** The project budget, included in Appendix C in PDF and Excel format, is based on multiple previously completed ReScape projects. The project budget is well defined with 65% of the matching funds to be provided in cash. A total of 52% of the overall project will be paid for with participant matching in the form of cash, in-kind staff hours, volunteer hours and donated biochar and building materials.
- **Identified unit cost, provided benchmark data, and demonstrated competitiveness against cost effectiveness.** Staff and volunteer hours will be leveraged to maximize the overall cash outlay of the project. While construction costs have increased significantly over the past few years, every effort will be made to complete the project within budget or additional funding sources will be identified outside of Valley Water. The project team has identified the following grant opportunities that can further support the project:
 - US Forest Service Wood Innovation Grant
 - CalFire Wood Utilization Business and Workforce Development Grants

PROJECT READINESS

- **Planned completion of CEQA within 1 year of signed agreement.**

All environmental requirements will be completed within 6 months of the signed agreement. The project is expected to be exempt from CEQA as a “CLASS 4: MINOR ALTERATIONS TO LAND” effort that consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. However, a project that would ordinarily be insignificant in its impact on the environment may, in a particularly sensitive or hazardous area, be significant. If the selected project site that is selected, may impact an area of special significance that has been designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies, it would not be exempt from CEQA review. In this instance an Initial Study of the Project will be conducted, and the project will be designed to avoid any significant impact and aim to improve the sensitive habitat. Similarly, since a portion of the project is expected to be funded through a Forest Service Wood Innovation Grant, the project would be a Categorical Exempt from NEPA unless extraordinary circumstances are found to apply to the selected site. Funding to complete the environmental review is included in the project budget. Key project staff has extensive CEQA and NEPA compliance experience.
- **Planned completion of permits within 1 year of signed agreement.**

All permitting requirements will be completed within 6 months of the signed agreement. Landscape retrofit projects equal to or less than 2,500 square feet typically require only minor electrical and plumbing permits which are simple to obtain, generally over the counter. Key Project staff members have extensive experience in project permitting.

Appendix A Project 80% Scope

1. Site Location:

The project site encompasses an approximately 2500 square foot landscape area located at Veggelution Farm at the Emma Prusch Farm Park within the poverty level census tracts within the Guadalupe and Coyote Watersheds. These tracts in both San Jose and Santa Clara can be seen on the [ArcGIS Low Income Census Tract \(Poverty Zone Map\)](https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?url=https://services2.arcgis.com/RiZWfy7B1r76pKTz/ArcGIS/rest/services/low_income_census_tract_poverty_zone/FeatureServer/0) linked here:

https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?url=https://services2.arcgis.com/RiZWfy7B1r76pKTz/ArcGIS/rest/services/low_income_census_tract_poverty_zone/FeatureServer/0

In low-income census tracts 50 percent or more of households have incomes below 60 percent of the Area Median Gross Income (AMGI) or have a poverty rate of at least 25 percent. The project is within IRS qualified tract 5026.02 for 2022 shown [here](#).

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html?locate=06085501300

The project will enter an MOU with Veggelution Farm and provide it to Valley Water prior to execution of the grant agreement.

2. Project tasks, including deliverables and milestones:

Goal: Demonstrate how biochar can be used to Improve Water Quality.

- **Objective #1:** Demonstrate biochar use in a high-volume, high-profile application such as a stormwater/bioswale pollution prevention project located in a low-income designated area, roadway, or public open space.
- **Objective #2:** Publish a framework/outline of Best Management Practices (BMP) for using biochar in bioswales, including technical details on biochar characteristics appropriate for such use in bioswales.
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Goal: Via ReScape programming demonstrate regenerative landscaping best practices and provide access and green jobs training to underserved

- **Objective #1:** Utilize the ReScape Rating Program (See Appendix A.3) at the practicum demonstration site at which a ReScape Qualification Training will be held. Full or partial scholarships for the training will be provided.
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3. Measurable Project Outcomes:

a) **Prepare Framework for Best Management Practices for Sourcing Biochar to Improve Water Quality.**

- Identify relevant technical biochar characteristics and describe how biochar enhances BMPs.

b) **Construct a 2500 square foot Bioswale**

- Incorporate Biochar into Bioswale as shown in Appendix A.2
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<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5fe120bdfce3cd3cca992359/t/609a10c0c15acd72626e562b/1620709595212/Santa+Clara+Valley+GSI+Handbook.pdf>
- Hold the ReScape Qualified Training (public outreach) during the project installation and perform the ReScape Rating program to assess the ‘goodness’ of the project per the rating rubric.

c) **Implement Public Information and Outreach Effort to Publicize Results of Our Key Projects.** A robust public information and outreach effort will include the following actions:

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Project Manager Responsible for Execution of Project, Website Design, and Outreach/Marketing Plan: Roger Smullen, CEO of Earth Foundries, Inc. Roger is a product marketing and business development executive with 30 years of successful international experience building markets and bringing new products to market. His experience includes product development, product definition and specification, program management, partner and customer engagement, product promotion and collateral development and communications programs in support of his products. Products Roger has brought to market have accounted for hundreds of millions of dollars of high margin revenue in a variety of large volume end markets.

Project Permitting, Construction Management, Project Monitoring Plan. Grant Reporting: Dede Smullen, CFO and Grant Manager for Earth Foundries, Inc. Dede is a Bay Area Environmental Planner with many years of local government, private consulting and project management experience. Dede has overseen successful implementation of several U.S. Forest Service grants and acted as agency administrator for several CalFire hazardous fuel reduction grants and contracts.

Biochar Technical Advisor, Marketing Plan and Monitoring Plan Advisor: Raymond Baltar, Biochar Director at Sonoma Ecology Center(SEC) Raymond has had 10 years of experience as a biochar consultant and project manager since earning a degree in Sustainable Enterprise from the "Green" MBA program at Dominican University of California in 2011. He currently serves as Director of biochar projects at Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC) and has served as project manager for several SEC biochar grant projects, and field trials funded by Cal/Fire, North Coast Resource Partnership, California Department of Water Resources, and US Department of Agriculture Conservation Innovation Grant.

Overall Project Advisor: David Morell, PhD, President of the Board of Directors at Sonoma Ecology Center. David brings this project several decades of high-level environmental management experience. He held senior national positions in both water quality and air quality at the US Environmental Protection Agency. As an appointee in Governor Jerry Brown's first Administration, he helped managed the state's hazardous waste program. As Special Assistant to the EPA Regional Administration in San Francisco, he was responsible for coordinating all EPA programs in California. Appointed as Toxics Coordinator in Santa Clara County he reported

directly to the County Administrator. Dr. Morell taught and completed research projects at Princeton University and has published 5 books and over 50 professional articles. He has completed consulting projects for the World Bank, USAID and Conservation Foundation/World Wildlife Fund in Mexico, Russia and Thailand. Dr. Morell currently serves on the City of Sonoma Community Services and Environment Commission and the Sonoma Joint Climate Action Subcommittee.

Bioswale Project Planning Advisor, Monitoring Plan Advisor, Public Outreach and Education Advisor, Supplemental Grant Assistance: Stephanie Moreno, Executive Director of the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District. The GCRCDD is an independent special district of the state of California led by a Board of Directors dedicated to watershed protection, natural resources conservation, and preservation of agricultural lands in Santa Clara County. Prior to joining GCRCDD Stephanie had extensive experience as a consultant and staff for private, government and non-profit agencies. Stephanie also was elected to the Board of Supervisors of Amador County and Chaired the Board for 2 years.

Consultants & Contractors to be hired

- Stormwater monitoring consultant
- Pollution measurement laboratory
- Landscape design consultant
- Landscape contractor
- ReScape landscape rating consultant will be provided by ReScape

6. Project Operation and Maintenance

Since the continued health and functioning of the project is important to ReScape, the planned regenerative landscaping project signage is intended to be permanent. The project website will also remain supported as long as ReScape and Earth Foundries continue to exist. After the conclusion of the 24-month project and monitoring period, the ongoing operation and maintenance will be the responsibility of the project host. ReScape is available to enter into an agreement with the project host that includes responsibility for ongoing maintenance.

7. Plans for Project monitoring or Change Management

Project monitoring will continue for 12 months following the project opening. The project will include pollution monitoring at specific time intervals. After this time the ongoing operation and monitoring will be the responsibility of the project host.

8. Other information as appropriate

Additional Appendices have been uploaded as follows:

Appendix A.1 Benefits of Biochar for Pollution Control

Appendix A.2 Bioswale + Biochar Diagram

Appendix A.3 ReScape Scorecard Practices

Appendix A.4 Letters of Recommendation

Note: There is no Appendix B

Appendix C Project Budget Template (xls)

Appendix C Project Budget Template (pdf)

Appendix D Governing Body's Resolution

Appendix E 502©(3) Determination Letter

Appendix F W-9 Form

Appendix G Form 990

Appendix H Resumes of Key Staff

9. Valley Water Pollution Control Project Evaluation Criteria

PROJECT GOALS & THEMES

- Project addresses pollutants in priority reaches or areas beyond TMDL or 303d listings.

Per current 303d listings, the project expects to encounter Mercury, PCB's and Diazinon contaminants in the design area. Additionally POPs and various heavy metals may be encountered depending on the final project location. Various studies indicate the biochar is successful in filtering these contaminants, and it will be the project's goal to measure the influent and effluent and assess the effectiveness. Appendix H Benefits of Biochar for Pollution Control demonstrates the expected benefits from incorporating biochar into the bioswale.

- Clear and specific description of project methods and process for addressing the identified pollutant(s).

Extensive best management practices already exist for the monitoring of bioswale/landscape projects of this size. CalTrans has published extensive guidelines (<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/environmental-analysis/documents/env/ctws-ot-20-350-04-01-monitoring-guidance-manual-a11y.pdf>) for monitoring such project sites, and this project intends to follow those under the guidance of an external consultant. Beyond biochar's filtration capabilities, it is also well-known to aid in water retention. Water infiltration in the bioswale leads to pollution mitigation as the water is retained in the catch basin rather than flowing onward to the drain. Therefore infiltration will also be measured as part of measuring pollutant mitigation.

- Project provides solutions lasting beyond the life of the grant by 3+ years.

Biochar is desirable as a project component because it is expected to remain stable, filtering pollutants, hosting microbes and sequestering carbon for 100s of years. A successfully executed project, if undisturbed, will remain effective well beyond 3 years.

- Systematic baseline data identified to measure success of project objective.

A main objective of the project is to demonstrate the effectiveness of Biochar at filtering pollutants. A site-specific monitoring plan will be prepared which includes assessing baseline characteristics, which will be compared to post-project characteristics. Ideally, there will be three adjacent sections to monitor. One section will incorporate biochar into the bioswale design and a second will be the bioswale without biochar. From there, influent and effluent will be measured in each section, baselines can be established and effectiveness of the bioswale and bioswale with biochar can be measured.

CONNECTIVITY

- Demonstrate connectivity with existing enhancements, open space, or habitat areas.

Although the final site has not been identified, every attempt will be made to coordinate the final project with existing enhancements, open space, or habitat areas. Further, there will be opportunities for this project to influence future projects in the Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District. The GCRCD engages and collaborates with numerous partners in its mission to provide education and technical assistance to constituents and watershed stakeholders to sustainably manage soil, water and wildlife with the best available science throughout the Guadalupe and Coyote Watersheds. This project will add to and build on the experience and knowledge of best practices available to future projects in the district.

PROJECT SCOPE

- All deliverables and associated tasks, success measures, and change management tasks are clearly defined.

Specific Project Tasks and Milestones have been identified above and in the Valley Water Fluxx Portal.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- **Clarify base schedule, identify critical path items, and ways to address anticipate schedule slip.**

We will track the project using Microsoft Project. Project staff has extensive experience in project management and buffers are built into all project tasks. Overlap between tasks allows for focus of project staff to pivot to other activities in case of delay of a particular task. The project team is motivated to demonstrate to a wide audience the effectiveness of biochar for water quality and carbon sequestration. Critical path items have been identified and include approval from site host, landscape drawing plans, contractor identification and approval and permitting. Best efforts will be made to address critical path items early in the process to minimize any delays.

PROJECT BUDGET

- **Identified budget items for change management beyond well-defined budget. 51% or greater matching funds.** The project budget, included in Appendix C in PDF and Excel format, is based on multiple previously completed ReScape projects. The project budget is well defined with 65% of the matching funds to be provided in cash. A total of 52% of the overall project will be paid for with participant matching in the form of cash, in-kind staff hours, volunteer hours and donated biochar and building materials.
- **Identified unit cost, provided benchmark data, and demonstrated competitiveness against cost effectiveness.** Staff and volunteer hours will be leveraged to maximize the overall cash outlay of the project. While construction costs have increased significantly over the past few years, every effort will be made to complete the project within budget or additional funding sources will be identified outside of Valley Water. The project team has been awarded the following grants that can further support the project:
 - US Forest Service Wood Innovation Grant for Bay Area Biochar Market Development Demonstration Projects.
 - CalFire Wood Utilization Business and Workforce Development Grant for Bay Area Biochar Market Development Demonstration Projects.

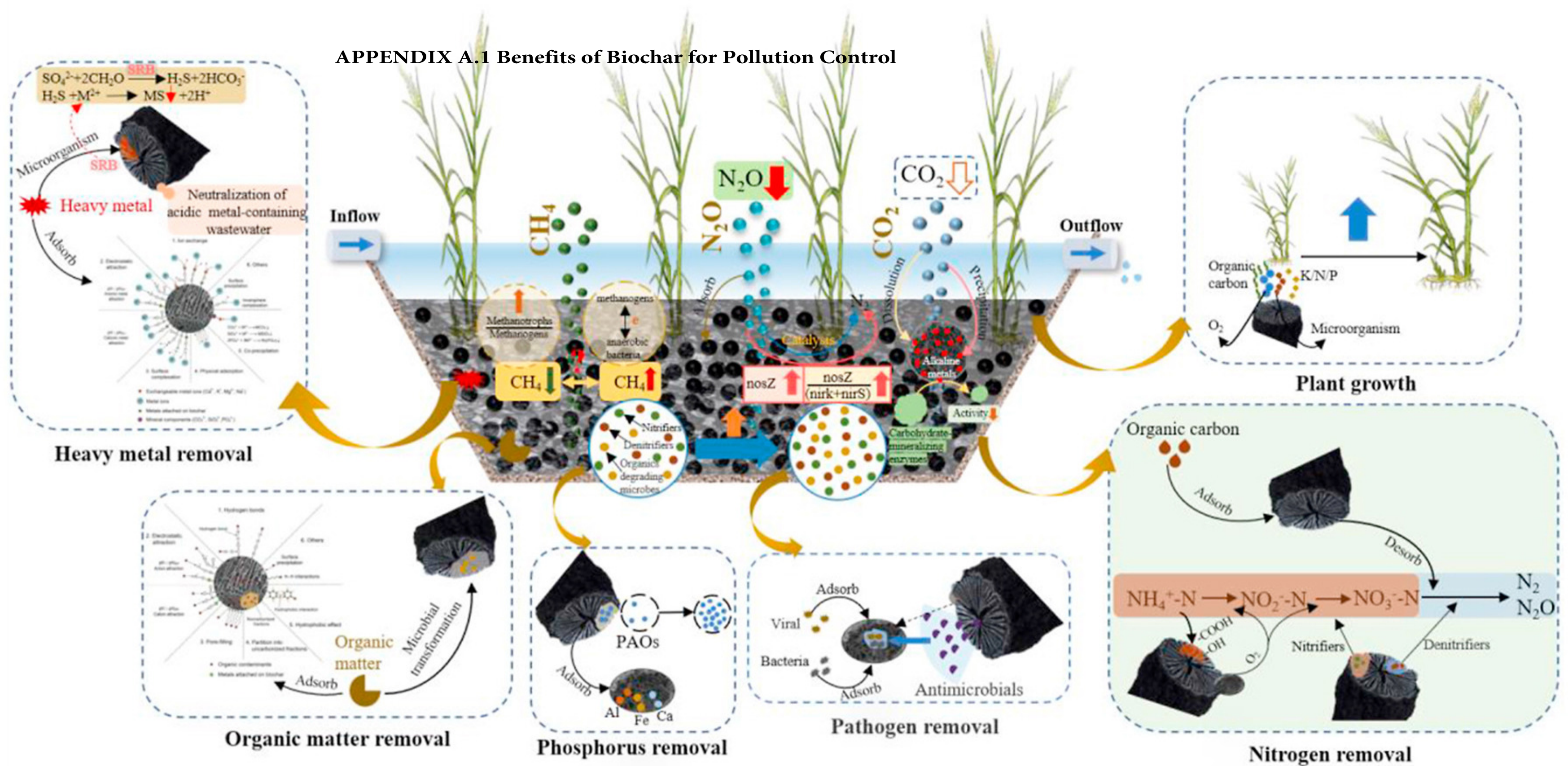
PROJECT READINESS

- **Planned completion of CEQA within 1 year of signed agreement.**

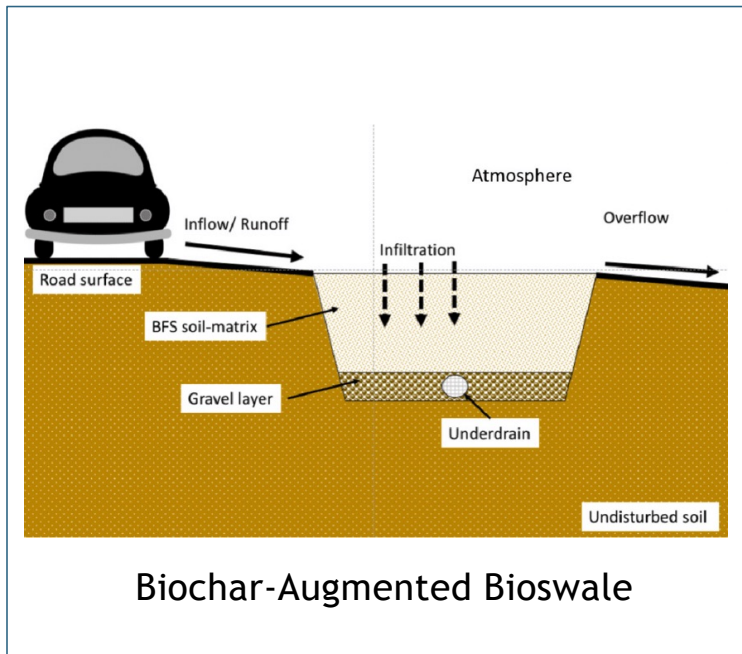
All environmental requirements will be completed within 6 months of the signed agreement. The project is expected to be exempt from CEQA as a “CLASS 4: MINOR ALTERATIONS TO LAND” effort that consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. However, a project that would ordinarily be insignificant in its impact on the environment may, in a particularly sensitive or hazardous area, be significant. The Veggielution Farm site is a refurbishment of an existing failed bioswale. If the selected project site impacts an area of special significance that has been designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies, it would not be exempt from CEQA review. In this instance an Initial Study of the Project will be conducted, and the project will be designed to avoid any significant impact and aim to improve the sensitive habitat. Similarly, since a portion of the project is expected to be funded through a Forest Service Wood Innovation Grant, the project would be a Categorical Exempt from NEPA unless extraordinary circumstances are found to apply to the selected site. Funding to complete the environmental review is included in the project budget. Key project staff has extensive CEQA and NEPA compliance experience.
- **Planned completion of permits within 1 year of signed agreement.**

All permitting requirements will be completed within 6 months of the signed agreement. Landscape retrofit projects equal to or less than 2,500 square feet typically require only minor electrical and plumbing permits which are simple to obtain, generally over the counter. Key Project staff members have extensive experience in project permitting.

APPENDIX A.1 Benefits of Biochar for Pollution Control



Biochar/Bioswale Project



- ▶ Biochar application: % in BFS soil-matrix varied across current BMP's for bioswale/biochar
- ▶ Biochar usage: 100 tons/site (based on grant 18-DG-11052021-240)
- ▶ Testing/Measurement:
 - ▶ Per ASTM standards
 - ▶ Filtering: Influent/Effluent heavy metal and organics measurements
 - ▶ Water Flow: Test vs. control Overflow



ReScape Scorecard Practices

ReScape Rated Landscapes are certified using a **rating system** that recognizes excellence in sustainable landscape design, construction and maintenance practices. Civic, commercial, institutional, residential and multifamily landscapes are eligible to become ReScape Rated. The Rated Scorecard provides property owners and landscape professionals with a flexible, systematic framework for creating healthy, drought-tolerant and environmentally sound landscapes.



Emeryville Greenway in Alameda, California received a ReScape rating of 108 points in 2017 (photograph by Michael Lyon).



The Rated Scorecard is based on ReScape’s 8 Principles and records individual practices according to those principles. Trained Raters use the Scorecard to evaluate eligible landscapes. Each practice earns a specified number of points, as listed in the Scorecard, and principles associated with specific practices are marked with an “X”. To qualify as ReScape Rated, a landscape must earn a total of 60 points or more AND complete the 14 required practices marked with “R” in the “Possible Points” column.

8 Landscape Principles



1. Act Local

Built landscapes are a part of the larger ecosystem of the SF Bay Watershed and they can contribute to its health if designed and maintained using sustainable practices.



2. Reduce Waste

Reduce waste by choosing the right plants, avoiding invasive plant species, using recycled and salvaged products in the landscape, and by composting, mulching and grasscycling plant debris.



3. Nurture Soil

Soils are living ecosystems and when landscape practices allow the soil food web to thrive it can filter pollution, store water, provide plant nutrients and help plants resist pests naturally.



4. Sequester Carbon

Healthy vegetation works together with soil rich in organic matter and beneficial microorganisms to remove carbon dioxide from the air and store it as soil carbon, an important strategy for addressing climate change.



5. Save Water

Creating drought resistant soils, select plants naturally adapted to summer-dry climates, use stormwater, greywater and recycled water in the landscape as much as possible, and use efficient irrigation systems that include self-adjusting, weather-based controllers.



6. Conserve Energy

Reduce the need for mowing and shearing, shade buildings and paved areas, use efficient outdoor lighting, and buy local landscape products.



7. Protect Water & Air

Maximize permeable surfaces and minimize stormwater runoff, use integrated pest management, minimize the use of synthetic pesticides and avoid overuse of fertilizers, reduce fossil fuel consumption, and plant trees to remove CO2 and absorb air pollutants.



8. Create Habitat

By using native plants and increasing the diversity of plant palettes, our built landscape can provide food, water and shelter for birds, butterflies, beneficial insects and other welcome creatures.









A. Site Planning

		Points	 Act Local	 Reduce Waste	 Nurture Soil	 Sequester Carbon	 Save Water	 Conserve Energy	 Protect Water + Air	 Create Habitat
A.1	ReScape site analysis	2	✗						✗	✗
A.2	Urban infill, UGB boundary or TOD	3	✗		✗			✗		✗
A.3	Avoid farmland and sensitive sites	3	✗							✗
A.4	Clean up a brownfield site	3			✗				✗	
A.5	Walking distance to public transit	2	✗			✗		✗	✗	
A.6	Proximity to bike routes	3	✗			✗		✗	✗	
A.7	Provide bicycle parking	2	✗			✗		✗	✗	
A.8	Provide mulch/leaf repositories	1		✗	✗			✗		
A.9	Reuse removed trees onsite	2	✗	✗				✗		
A.10	Compost plant debris onsite	2		✗				✗		
A.11	Provide covered recycling receptacles	2		✗					✗	
A.12	Provide water/shelter for wildlife	1	✗							✗
A.13	Protect 80% mature trees	2						✗	✗	✗
A.14	Restore vegetation & hydrology	3	✗			✗			✗	✗
A.15	Increase or connect to open space	2	✗							✗
A.16	Create or protect diverse plant buffer	2	✗			✗			✗	✗









B. Stormwater & Site Drainage

		Points	 Act Local	 Reduce Waste	 Nurture Soil	 Sequester Carbon	 Save Water	 Conserve Energy	 Protect Water + Air	 Create Habitat
B.1	Install permeable paving	6							×	
B.2	Decrease impervious surface by 10%	1							×	
B.3	Capture & treat stormwater runoff	12							×	
B.4	Design self-retaining planting areas	2					×		×	
B.5	Install a greenroof	3				×		×	×	×









C. Earthwork & Soil Health

		Points	 Act Local	 Reduce Waste	 Nurture Soil	 Sequester Carbon	 Save Water	 Conserve Energy	 Protect Water + Air	 Create Habitat
C.1	Submit soil analysis & recommendations	3	×		×	×				
C.2	Complete soil management plan	3	×		×	×				
C.3	Remove & store topsoil before grading	3	×		×					
C.4	Install fencing to protect soil from compaction	3			×	×				
C.5	Cover soil to limit compaction	1			×	×				
C.6	Alleviate compaction in soil	2			×	×				
C.7	Use only organic fertilizers & soil amendments	1	×		×	×			×	×
C.8	Protect all planting areas with 3" mulch	R	×	×	×	×	×		×	×
C.9	Incorporate quality compost into soil	R	×	×	×	×	×		×	
C.10	Install sheet mulch for weed control	3	×	×	×	×	×		×	
C.11	Prohibit synthetic pre-emergent herbicides	2			×	×			×	×
C.12	Install compost blankets, berms or socks	3			×	×	×		×	



D. Materials

		Points	 Act Local	 Reduce Waste	 Nurture Soil	 Sequester Carbon	 Save Water	 Conserve Energy	 Protect Water + Air	 Create Habitat
D.1	Use environmentally preferred materials	14		X		X	X	X	X	
D.2	Use PVC alternatives for irrigation	2		X					X	
D.3	Use recycled aggregate base	2	X	X				X	X	
D.4	Use PVC alts for mainline, laterals	1		X					X	
D.5	Install local/recycles compost & mulch	2	X	X	X	X		X		
D.6	Divert construction waste	R		X						
D.7	Use online C&D management tools	1		X						
D.8	Separate waste streams	2		X						
D.9	Salvage, reuse, or retain item	5		X				X		
D.10	Retain 25% existing pavement	2		X				X		
D.11	Use cool site techniques	2				X		X	X	
D.12	Do not use black mulch	1			X			X		
D.13	Specify low energy lighting	2					X	X		
D.14	Power site lighting with photovoltaics	5					X	X		
D.15	Reduce light pollution/trespass	1					X	X		
D.16	Do not cast direct beam	1						X		
D.17	Use local stone & hardscape	2						X	X	
D.18	Use IPM during construction	1			X				X	X
D.19	Use organic pest management	2			X				X	X

E. Planting

		Points	 Act Local	 Reduce Waste	 Nurture Soil	 Sequester Carbon	 Save Water	 Conserve Energy	 Protect Water + Air	 Create Habitat
E.1	Locate plants to grow to natural size	R		×				×	×	
E.2	No plants from “don’t plant a pest”	R	×	×						×
E.3	No plants on invasive plant inventory	2	×	×						×
E.4	Eradicate existing invasives	2	×	×						×
E.5	Climate adapted plants in medians	R					×			
E.6	Limit turf to recreational areas	R					×	×		
E.7	Install turf alternatives	6					×			
E.8	Group plants in hydrozones	R					×			
E.9	Shade at least 50% building facade	3				×		×		
E.10	Shade 50% paved site area	3				×		×		
E.11	Provide adequate soil volumes	3				×		×		
E.12	Plant large stature trees	2				×		×	×	×
E.13	Neonicotinoid free plants	4							×	×
E.14	Plant a diverse palette	3								×
E.15	Plant California natives	5	×							×

F. Irrigation

		Points								
F.1	Plumb irrigation for recycled water	2	✗				✗			
F.2	Use rainwater/graywater	5	✗				✗	✗		
F.3	Install SMART controller	R					✗	✗		
F.4	Low volume irrigation where required	R					✗	✗		
F.5	Limit precipitation rates	3					✗	✗		
F.6	Climate adapted plants meet water budget	R					✗			
F.7	Install dedicated water meters	R					✗			
F.8	Conduct an irrigation audit	R					✗			
F.9	Meet your local CA MWELO	R					✗			









G. Maintenance

		Points								
G.1	ReScape professional on maintenance team	3	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
G.2	Site analysis in maintenance manual	2	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
G.3	Grasscycle	2		✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	
G.4	Produce mulch onsite	2		✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	
G.5	Produce compost onsite	3	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	
G.6	No plant trimmings to landfill	3		✗				✗	✗	
G.7	Do not shear hedges	2		✗				✗	✗	
G.8	Protect soil from compaction	1	✗		✗	✗				
G.9	Use compost	2			✗	✗				

G. Maintenance (cont.)

		Points	 Act Local	 Reduce Waste	 Nurture Soil	 Sequester Carbon	 Save Water	 Conserve Energy	 Protect Water + Air	 Create Habitat
G.10	Use only organic fertilizers	2			X	X			X	X
G.11	Reapply mulch regularly	2			X	X	X			
G.12	Read dedicated meter	1					X	X		
G.13	Check irrigation equipment	1					X	X		
G.14	Use IPM during maintenance	2			X	X			X	X
G.15	Use organic pest management	2			X	X			X	X

H. Innovation

		Points	 Act Local	 Reduce Waste	 Nurture Soil	 Sequester Carbon	 Save Water	 Conserve Energy	 Protect Water + Air	 Create Habitat
H.1	Include rating info in bid documents	2	X							
H.2	ReScape professional on design team	2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
H.3	Install educational signage	4	X							
H.4	Employ a holistic approach	5	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
H.5	Implement your own innovation	6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Appendix A.4 Letters of Support



March 2, 2022

Raymond Baltar
Director, Sonoma Biochar Initiative
P.O. Box 1486
Eldridge, CA. 95431

RE: ReScape's Valley Water Standard Grant for a Pollution Prevention Project

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Sonoma Biochar Initiative, I am writing to express my strong support for ReScape's grant proposal for the Valley Water 2022 Standard Grant. ReScape is a nonprofit organization that educates about and advocates for a whole-systems regenerative approach to landscaping that works in harmony with the natural world and addresses the changing environment. Foundational to their work is a whole systems watershed framework that acknowledges that one landscaping input affects the whole ecosystem.

Building on their significant experience in the regenerative landscaping space, ReScape will be partnering with Earth Foundries on a pollution prevention grant. Earth Foundries, a company dedicated to ending California's Catastrophic Wildfire threat and global warming by up-cycling forest waste into carbon negative products and energy, is supporting multiple biochar demonstration projects in the SF Bay Area that highlight the many applications and benefits of biochar. One application includes stormwater/pollution remediation given biochar's ability to retain water and act as a filter medium.

This pollution prevention grant proposal will design and implement a minimum 2500 square foot stormwater/bioswale project in Santa Clara County incorporating biochar and adhering to the 8 principals for regenerative landscaping: act local, reduce waste, nurture soil, sequester carbon, save water, conserve energy, protect water and air, and create habitat. The grant will demonstrate the pollution prevention capabilities, among others, that biochar provides to a landscaping project.

As part of this grant, ReScape and Earth Foundries will publicize the project with at least two press releases, a ribbon cutting or project opening ceremony for Valley Water District and project partners.

Thank you for your consideration of this critically important grant proposal, and please feel free to contact me at 707 291-3240 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Baltar", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Raymond Baltar
Director, Sonoma Biochar Initiative



SONOMA ECOLOGY CENTER

Protecting the beauty and biodiversity of Sonoma Valley

March 2, 2022

To: Valley Water (Santa Clara County)
via Roger Smullen
Co-Founder, Earth Foundries, Inc.
rogerasmullen@gmail.com

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN AT VALLEY WATER:

Letter of Support for Proposed ReScape Pollution Prevention Project

Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC) is pleased to support the current grant proposal by ReScape (<https://www.rescapeca.org>) for a Valley Water 2022 Standard Grant. As a non-profit organization working ourselves in a wide range of environmental management activities, we understand the importance of the effort proposed by ReScape -- itself a nonprofit organization that educates about and advocates whole-systems regenerative approaches to landscaping that work in harmony with the natural world and address the changing environment.

Building on their significant experience in regenerative landscaping, we have learned that ReScape intends to partner with Earth Foundries Inc. in this particular pollution prevention project. We at SEC have been working closely with Earth Foundries on several carbon capture projects associated with creation and use of biochar. From this relationship we are impressed with the extent to which Earth Foundries is a new company dedicated to ending California's wildfire threats by turning forestry wastes into carbon negative products and energy. Our combined team is seeking a state grant to participate in several biochar demonstration projects in the SF Bay Area that highlight the many applications and benefits of biochar. One of these potential applications would focus on stormwater/pollution remediation using biochar's ability to retain water and act as a filter medium.

We understand that the ReScape/Earth Foundries pollution prevention effort now pending for grant approval would design and implement a unique new stormwater/bioswale project in Santa Clara County of some 2500 square feet. This facility, using biochar, would adhere to basic principles for regenerative landscaping: act local, reduce waste, nurture soil, sequester carbon, save water, conserve energy, protect water and air, and create habitat. Work on this project will demonstrate the potent pollution prevention capabilities that biochar can provide to a landscaping project.

As part of this grant, the ReScape/Earth Foundries team will publicize the project through two or more press releases and a ribbon cutting or project opening ceremony for the Valley Water District and project partners.

Thank you for your consideration of this important grant proposal, and please feel free to contact Richard at (707) 888-1656 or David at (510) 551-4067 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard Dale
Executive Director
Sonoma Ecology Center

David Morell
President, Board of Directors
Sonoma Ecology Center



Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)

An independent special district of the State of California

March 4, 2022

Gary Jahns, Ph.D.
President

Susan Hare
Vice-President

Gail Bautista
Director

Rick Lanman, M.D.
Director

Paula Quintero
Director

Roger Castillo
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Larry Johmann
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Bill Leikam
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Mel Sarmento
Associate Director

Kat Wilson
Associate Director

Stephanie Moreno
Executive Director
District Clerk

Nathan Hale
Program Manager

Julie Gantenbein
District Counsel

Richard Roos-Collins
Special Counsel

888 N 1st St., Ste 204
San Jose, CA 95112
408-288-5888
gcrd@gcrd.org
www.rcdsantaclara.org

Valley Water
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3686

RE: ReScape's Safe, Clean Water Grant Application

Dear Grant Reviewers:

As Executive Director for the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD), I am writing to express our support for the grant application submitted by ReScape to design and implement a stormwater/bioswale project to demonstrate the pollution prevention capabilities that biochar can provide for landscape and other watershed projects. We believe this project has the potential to inform the design and implementation of future projects throughout Santa Clara County as public agencies and other watershed stakeholders continue to seek innovative, real-time solutions to address our changing environment.

GCRCD is an independent special district of the State of California dedicated to the preservation of agricultural lands and the conservation of natural resources within northern portions of Santa Clara County. The proposed project aligns with several of the goals in our adopted Long Range Plan, including but not limited to the goal to contribute to improvements in water quality available for the benefit of agricultural production, wildlife, and aquatic habitat within District watersheds.

ReScape and its partner Earth Foundries are well-positioned to successfully complete this project, and we are pleased to have been invited to partner with them by providing technical assistance and hosting public workshops.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant application. Our office is currently closed due to COVID, so if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on my cell (831-235-1799).

Sincerely,

Stephanie Moreno

Stephanie Moreno
Executive Director



March 4, 2022
Roger Smullen, CEO
Earth Foundries, Inc.,
15363 Peach Hill Road
Saratoga, CA 95070

RE: ReScape's Valley Water Standard Grant for a Pollution Prevention Project

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Earth Foundries, Inc. I am writing to express my strong support for ReScape's grant proposal for the Valley Water 2022 Standard Grant. ReScape is a nonprofit organization that educates about and advocates for a whole-systems regenerative approach to landscaping that works in harmony with the natural world and addresses the changing environment. Foundational to their work is a whole systems watershed framework that acknowledges that one landscaping input affects the whole ecosystem.

Building on their significant experience in the regenerative landscaping space, ReScape will be partnering with Earth Foundries on a pollution prevention grant. Earth Foundries, a company dedicated to ending California's Catastrophic Wildfire threat and global warming by up-cycling forest waste into carbon negative products and energy, is supporting multiple biochar demonstration projects in the SF Bay Area that highlight the many applications and benefits of biochar. One application includes stormwater/pollution remediation given biochar's ability to retain water and act as a filter medium.

This pollution prevention grant proposal will design and implement a minimum 2500 square foot stormwater/bioswale project in Santa Clara County incorporating biochar and adhering to the 8 principals for regenerative landscaping: act local, reduce waste, nurture soil, sequester carbon, save water, conserve energy, protect water and air, and create habitat. The grant will demonstrate the pollution prevention capabilities, among others, that biochar provides to a landscaping project.

As part of this grant, ReScape and Earth Foundries will publicize the project with at least two press releases, a ribbon cutting or project opening ceremony for Valley Water District and project partners.

Thank you for your consideration of this critically important grant proposal, and please feel free to contact me at (408) 859-9001 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Roger Smullen
CEO, Earth Foundries, Inc.