

# Staff Report

Meeting Date: August 2, 2022  
To: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors  
From: Shelley Gray, Assistant Planner / Community Development Dept.  
Subject: CalRecycle Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program Application

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## Background

### *About*

The Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program provides funding from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) pursuant to Section 48100 of the Public Resources Code. The purpose of the grant is to clean up illegally dumped material on farm and/or ranch properties as defined in Title 14 CCD Section 17991(d). Grants are limited to \$50,000 per site, with a limit not to exceed \$200,000 per year for each eligible applicant, which do not require matched funds. Grants are awarded based on eligibility and threat to public health and safety.

### *Proposed Project Summary*

To help mitigate areas of Siskiyou County where unlawful dumping on private property has occurred, Siskiyou County Community Development is requesting permission to submit an application for a grant through CalRecycle to cleanup eligible sites and provide preventative measures to help aid property owners from becoming repeat victims of unlawful dumping.

The five identified sites are in the northern portion of the County, and in need of trash, waste, scrap, recyclables, refuse, and medical hazardous waste removal. The sites will have fencing and access gates installed.

### **Project Site 1: Cottonwood Creek Road, Cotton Wood Creek Subdivision, Hornbrook, CA**

The project site is an approximate .40-acre parcel located in the Cottonwood Subdivision, which is approximately 2.27 miles northwest of the community of Hornbrook on APN 040-380-070, Township 47 North, Range 6 West, Section 18: Latitude 41.931°, Longitude -122.586°. The site is undeveloped and located approximately 528 feet from Cottonwood Creek. The site is zoned Non-Prime Agricultural, which has a minimum parcel size of 20-acres (AG-2-B-20).

The site has been used as a septic dump site without knowledge or consent from the owner. Siskiyou County Code Enforcement has since removed “squatters” from the property. However, abandoned items remain and illegal dumping continues to occur. The owner has pursued locating assistance for removal of illegally dumped items. However, finances have been a serious impediment in cleanup efforts.

### **Project Site 2: Dennis Place, Klamath River Country Estates (KRCE), Montague, CA**

The project site is an approximate 3.5-acre parcel located in the Klamath River Country Estates (KRCE), approximately 4.13 miles southeast of the community of Hornbrook on APN 103-310-080, Township 47 North, Range 6 West, Section 25: Latitude 41.893°, Longitude -122.480°. The site is undeveloped and zoned Rural Residential Agricultural, with a minimum 2.5-acre parcel size (R-R-B-2.5). Willow Creek is currently a dried creek bed and is seasonal in nature, which runs through the project site and is a tributary to the Klamath River.

Trash has accumulated and increased over the years and now contains a dismantled vehicle and household trash. The site was previously used as a cannabis grow and trash has now spread to the nearby creek bed. County Code Enforcement has been unsuccessful in making contacting with the property owner of record.

### **Project Site 3: Minnow Way, Klamath River Country Estates (KRCE), Montague, CA**

The project site is an approximate 2.6-acre parcel located in the Klamath River Country Estates (KRCE), approximately 7 miles southeast of the community of Hornbrook on APN 104-200-300 Township 47 North, Range 5 West, Section 28: Latitude 41.901°, Longitude -122.429°. The site is undeveloped and zoned Rural Residential Agricultural, with a minimum 2.5-acre parcel size (R-R-B-2.5). The Little Bogus Creek is approximately .57, miles South of the project site and is a tributary to the Klamath River.

The site contains approximately 25% of household waste that has collected in the brush on a steep hillside, an abandoned vehicle, vehicle parts, and tires. The owner has pursued locating assistance for removal of illegally dumped items but has not been successful.

### **Project Site 4: Doe Avenue, Iron Gate Estates, Montague, CA**

The project site is an approximate 3.0-acre parcel located in Iron Gate Lake Estates Subdivision, approximately 1 mile east of the Iron Gate Reservoir and approximately 8 miles northeast of the community of Hornbrook on APN 102-330-160, Township 47 North, Range 5 West, Section 3: Latitude 41.957°, Longitude -122.406°. The site is undeveloped and zoned Rural Residential Agricultural, with a minimum 2.5-acre parcel size (R-R-B-2.5).

The site was previously inhabited by squatters and trash, debris, and trailers have been left abandoned on the property. The owner was unaware of the illegal dumping and has attempted to locate service haulers to perform cleanup and removal. However, no success in acquiring such services due to the remote location.

### **Project Site 5: Fond Lane, Iron Gate Estates, Montague, CA**

The project site is an approximate 2.5-acre parcel located in the Iron Gate Lake Estates, approximately 9 miles northeast of the community of Hornbrook on APN 102-330-190, Township 47 North, Range 5 West, Section 3: Latitude 41.955°, Longitude -122.406°. The site is undeveloped and zoned Rural Residential Agricultural, with a minimum 2.5-acre parcel size (R-R-B-2.5).

The site had been used as a commercial cannabis grow. There are remains of a greenhouse structure, two abandoned travel trailers, garbage, and a trash pit in the ground. Contact has been made with the owner and they were unaware of trespassing and illegal activity occurring on the property. The owner has voiced they are not financially capable of affording cleanup of the property.

Additionally, all work shall be performed by a qualified contractor that meets County and State requirements. The County will have approximately two years to ensure cleanup of all project sites from the time the grant is awarded.

## **Environmental Review**

Staff evaluated the project's potential for environmental impacts by reviewing the projects relative to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Based on this review, it was determined that cleanup of the project sites; as proposed, would not adversely impact the environment.

Therefore, because there is not substantial evidence, considering the whole record before the County, that the proposed project sites may have a significant effect on the environment, staff is recommending that an "existing facilities" exemption be adopted in accordance with CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301(c), minor removal and alterations of fencing, and Section 15301(d), removal of debris, and waste. The Class 1 exemption includes the minor alterations of facilities and structures that are already existing, including fencing. Due to the nature of the work, which includes removal of trash and debris, fence installation, and other minor alterations, the Class 1 exemption fits the type of activity that will be occurring on the identified sites.

## **Recommended Action**

As detailed in the Draft Resolution(s) and Staff Report, it is the request of the Community Development Department (CDD) that the Board of Supervisors authorize the following:

- Allow the County Administrator, Community Development Director, or their designees to submit and execute any or all grants and payment programs offered by CalRecycle up to June 30, 2027; and
- Submission of a CalRecycle, Farm and Ranch Grant Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement application; and
- Execute any necessary documents to implement the grant; and
- Allow for the Auditor to establish the budget.

Should the Board of Supervisors concur with the request of the Community Development Department, the Board of Supervisors shall adopt both resolutions. A draft motion to this effect is provided below.

## **Recommended Motions**

I move to take the following actions:

- Determine the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the "Existing Facilities" in accordance with Section 15301(c)(d) of the CEQA Guidelines, and
- Approve Draft Resolution authorizing submission and execution of a CalRecycle, Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Application for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.
- Approve Draft Resolution authorizing the County Administrator, Community Development Director, or their designees to execute in the name of Siskiyou County all documents,

including but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, and requests for payment, necessary to secure funds and implement the approved grant or payment project and any payment programs offered by CalRecycle, effective the date of adoption through June 30, 2027.

#### Attachments

- A. Draft Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_, a Resolution of the County of Siskiyou, State of California, requesting that the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors approve the submission of a CalRecycle Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant application for APNs 040-380-070, 103-310-080, 104-200-300, 102-330-160, and 102-330-190 by the Community Development Director or Designee.
  
- B. Draft Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_, a Resolution of the County of Siskiyou, State of California, requesting that the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors authorize and empower in the name of Siskiyou County, the County Administrator, the Community Development Director, or their designees to execute all documents, including but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, and requests for payment, necessary to secure funds and implement the approved grant or payment project and all payment programs offered by CalRecycle through June 30, 2027.
  
- C. Exhibit A CalRecycle Grant Guidelines /Terms & Conditions /Procedures & Requirements
- D. Exhibit B Project Site 1: Cottonwood Creek
- E. Exhibit C Project Site 2: Dennis Place
- F. Exhibit D Project Site 3: Minnow Way
- G. Exhibit E Project Site 4: Doe Avenue
- H. Exhibit F Project Site 5: Fond Avenue