CONSOLIDATED RFP QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CAL FIRE Grant No. 5GG23220 | RFP No. TFSC-5GG23220-BKM-01

Purpose and status

This consolidates questions raised by prospective bidders, including questions from the October 29, 2026 pre-bid tour and questions submitted in writing so that all prospective bidders receive the same information. Responses remain subject to TFSC review. Items identified as requiring confirmation are not final bidder instructions.

In addition to the Consolidated RFP Questions and Answers, additional items addressed in RFP Addendum 1:

Prevailing Wage

CEQA Requirements

Pile Burning and Fire Plan Requirements

1. Will there be any affect to treatment map based on County of Tuolumne review?

TFSC has confirmed treatment may occur as described in treatment maps provided and described at the pre-bid tour.

2. What acreage should bidders use for pricing: the approximately 145-acres CEQA project area or the project area consisting of approximately 76 flagged acres? How should the estimated 30 acres of treatment be applied ?

The pre-bid tour direction was to bid on the 76 acres flagged for treatment. The approximately 30 acres of hand treatment is an estimate that applies to the actual treatable acres, not to the full 145-acre CEQA area. The RFP distinguishes the CEQA project boundary from the planned treatment boundary.

3. Some parcels contain openings or other areas that may not be treatable. How should bidders account for those areas?

At the pre-bid tour, TFSC indicated that treatment units were flagged to exclude as many large openings and untreatable areas as possible. Bidders should use the flagged treatment units and applicable project maps when preparing their proposals. Verification of treated acres is based on CAL FIRE's judgment. Maps accurately reflect TFSC's best estimate of treatable acres, subject to CalFire verification.

4. At Belleview Elementary School, is chipped material required to be hauled off site?

Yes. The direction provided at the October 29 pre-bid tour was that all chipped material generated within the school grounds is to be hauled off site. This is a site-specific direction and is distinct from the general RFP/CEQA requirement that chipped or masticated material remain on site elsewhere

5. May a contractor substitute chipping for mastication in mechanical treatment areas, and how should the Chipping line item be priced?

The CEQA project description identifies both mastication and chipping as project treatment methods. The RFP's Mechanical Treatment subsection specifies tracked mastication equipment, while chipping is separately listed in the cost proposal. The documents do not expressly authorize a contractor to

unilaterally substitute chipping for mastication. Chipping should be identified and priced separately unless TFSC issues a different written direction.

6. In hand-treatment areas not designated for pile and burn, is the required treatment lop and scatter or chip and broadcast? Which bid item applies?

The CEQA project description and RFP identify multiple hand-treatment methods, including hand chipping, piling and burning, and lop and scatter. The documents do not state that every hand-treatment acre not assigned to pile and burn must automatically be lop and scatter, nor do they establish a general chip-and-broadcast prescription. The applicable method is governed by the treatment prescription, maps, and TFSC field direction. Authorized lop-and-scatter work is priced under "Hand Treatment – Lop & Scatter"; chipping is priced under the separate "Chipping" line item.

7. : Is there a predesignated portion of the project for lop and scatter, or should it be priced as Other Authorized Work?

The bid form contains a separate "Hand Treatment – Lop & Scatter" line item. Authorized lop-and-scatter work should be priced under that line item, not "Other Authorized Work." The RFP and CEQA materials do not identify a fixed acreage exclusively assigned to lop and scatter.

8. May contractors propose additional pile-burning areas beyond the approximately 30 acres estimated, and would the Pile & Burn unit price apply?

The approximately 30 acres identified for hand piling and burning are an estimate, not a guaranteed final quantity. A contractor may identify additional areas for TFSC consideration, including areas where chipping is impractical. Additional pile-and-burn work is not automatically authorized and may be performed only within the approved project area, consistent with applicable environmental requirements, and with prior TFSC authorization.

9. What are the requirements for constructing burn piles, including dimensions and spacing?

The RFP and CEQA materials establish location restrictions and applicable permitting, fire-prevention, and resource-protection requirements. The documents reviewed do not specify numeric pile dimensions, spacing, or a detailed pile-construction standard. Piles may be constructed only in approved locations and must comply with applicable air-district permits, fire restrictions, burn-day requirements, and required suppression measures.

10. What restrictions apply to equipment crossings and work near Class II and Class III watercourses?

The pre-bid tour notes state that Class III watercourses are marked with blue/white striped flagging identifying the Equipment Limitation Zone (ELZ). Equipment may not enter the ELZ except at an existing crossing or at one designated crossing made at a right angle to the channel. Class II watercourses are marked with blue or blue/red flagging identifying Equipment Exclusion Zones (EEZs); only hand work is permitted within these zones and equipment may not cross them. The RFP and environmental documents' more specific resource-protection requirements also apply.

11. Must chipped or masticated material near creeks, drainages, ditches, or wet areas be hauled off site?

The CEQA report states that chipped and masticated material outside flagged equipment limitation/exclusion zones will remain on site and provide erosion protection. Within designated resource-protection zones, the applicable treatment and material-handling recostrictions control. The

documents do not establish a blanket off-haul requirement for all material near creeks or drainages. The separate Belleview Elementary School off-haul direction applies to material generated within school grounds.

12. How should multiple-stemmed oak trees be treated?

The direction recorded during the pre-bid tour was that cutting only some stems may expose the remaining stem or stems to disease or rot. The stated approach was to either leave all stems or remove all stems, and to limb up trees designated to remain.

13. Must all snags be felled?

The pre-bid tour direction was to fell snags as needed or when practical. Complex trees that would require climbing to remove, or whose felling could create greater disturbance or damage, may be left.

14. Are contractors required to perform utility checks on parcels before beginning work?

The pre-bid tour response was that this depends on the parcel and that contractors may request utility information through USA (811). Contractors remain responsible for identifying applicable underground utilities and complying with the RFP and applicable law before excavation or other ground-disturbing work.

15. May equipment travel or be staged on the school playground or basketball-court asphalt?

TFSC must still confirm with school officials. At time of RFP, assume school asphalt areas will not be available for laydown or stagging areas.

16. What are the timing and buffer requirements for Great Gray Owl areas, and when will the locations be identified?

The pre-bid tour notes state that operations are limited to September 1 through February 15. Outside that period, work must remain at least one-quarter mile from documented occurrence locations at the edge of the project area. The notes further state that locations will be reviewed during the pre-work walk with the forester after award. Applicable biological-resource measures in the CEQA documentation also govern.

17. What project fire plan determines when a qualified fire supervisor must be on site, and what qualifications are required?

The RFP requires compliance with applicable fire-prevention requirements, appropriate fire tools and suppression equipment, an adequate transportable water supply when required, and designation of a qualified fire supervisor when required by the project fire plan. The CEQA report reviewed does not establish a project fire plan or define the supervisor qualifications. Pile burning and fire plan specifications included in Addendum 1.

18. What is the expected timeline from CAL FIRE verification of treated acres to contractor payment?

Payment is governed by the RFP and contract provisions for invoicing, inspection, acceptance, and verification. TFSC's practice has been within 30 days of CAL FIRE verification.

19. Which contractor licenses and registrations are required, including CSLB C-61/D-49, CAL FIRE Licensed Timber Operator, and DIR public works registration?

The RFP requires contractors to hold and provide proof of all licenses, insurance, and certifications legally required to perform the proposed work. The CEQA report does not address contractor

licensing or registration and does not establish whether the specific credentials listed in the question are required.

20. If the contractor uses pile burning as a treatment method, who is responsible for obtaining and paying for the required burn permits—the contractor, TFSC, or the County?

If pile burning is selected and authorized, the contractor's responsibility for obtaining and paying for required permits and will be documented in the contract documents.

21. What limited operating periods and other operational restrictions apply to this project, including noise restrictions, local ordinances, school schedules, and other limitations that may affect project activities? If all restrictions cannot be identified before bidding, will TFSC coordinate with the awarded contractor to establish them after award?

TFSC will coordinate with the selected contractor after award to confirm site-specific scheduling constraints, but that coordination does not waive applicable requirements or authorize work outside the approved scope or restrictions.