

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

5905 Capistrano Ave, Suite F, Atascadero, CA 93422 | 805.460.7272 | www.us-ltrcd.org

Request for Bid

Cambria Pine Forest Health Linkage Parcels

Linkage Parcel 2

Response Due: July 20th, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Contact:

Spencer Gordon, Forestry Project Manager

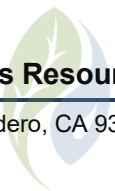
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1. Introduction

This request for bids (RFB) pertains to a wildfire prevention and forest health project in Cambria, California, being undertaken by the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (hereafter referred to as “USLTRCD”). The project consists of vegetation management treatment of 16 acres of land on privately owned property referred to as Linkage Parcel 2. The work under this contract is funded by a CAL FIRE wildfire prevention grant.

Linkage Parcel 2 mainly Monterey consists of Monterey pine forests; of which there are only three natural stands of the species in mainland California. Monterey pines are designated by California Department Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as a sensitive natural community (CDFW 2022).

This project includes 16 acres of fuels reduction and vegetation management treatments via a combination of manual and mechanical thinning. USLTRCD and registered professional forester staff will provide project oversight and management on-site.

Interested contractors are invited to submit qualifications in accordance with the requirements of this Request for Proposal by **Monday, July 20th, 2026, at 5:00 pm. Please submit bids by email to Spencer Gorden, Forestry Project Manager, spencer@us-ltrcd.org.**

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Emergency Proclamation

In response to California's increasing wildfire risk, the Governor has issued a series of Executive Orders and Emergency Proclamations intended to accelerate the implementation of critical wildfire resilience and forest health projects throughout the state. These actions direct state agencies to streamline permitting, suspend or waive certain administrative requirements where authorized by law, and expedite environmental review for qualifying wildfire mitigation projects.

Consistent with these directives, portions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process and Coastal Act permitting requirements have been streamlined or suspended for eligible vegetation management and forest health projects that reduce wildfire risk while maintaining appropriate environmental protections. These actions are intended to facilitate timely implementation of fuel reduction and forest restoration activities on both public and private lands.

The proposed project has been developed in accordance with applicable state requirements and incorporates environmental protection measures to avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive biological, cultural, and water resources during implementation.

1.1.2 Baseline Conditions

The best available information suggests that this Monterey pine forest is outside the natural fire regime. Therefore, it is assumed that the understory density is greater than what would have occurred with a natural fire regime. In addition, prolonged drought conditions and climate- and disease-induced demographic shifts have led to widespread mortality and stressed forest conditions for the Monterey pines in the Cambria area where the project areas are located. Furthermore, excessive buildup of understory shrub composition could serve as available ladder fuels resulting in increased severity of fire behavior. The resulting and continued accumulation of dry, dead vegetation poses a significant risk of a catastrophic, stand-replacing wildfire.

Initial treatment activities would aim to return the landscape closer to conditions that mimic the coastal Monterey pine natural fire regime of approximately 11–20 years by reducing excess buildup of fire fuels in conjunction with controlling nonnative, invasive plants. Reduction of existing fuels coupled with invasive species management would ultimately support habitat conditions, including habitat quality and natural fire processes.

The treatment activity to be implemented is ecological restoration.

1.2 Project Goals

1.2.1 Ecological Restoration/Fuels Reduction

The ecological restoration treatment type would be implemented within a maximum of 16 acres across the property to protect and restore ecological function of native Monterey pine forest. The ecological restoration treatment type would be used to restore ecosystem processes, native stand conditions, and forestland resiliency by reducing dead, dying, and irreversibly diseased trees as well as thinning live/healthy trees up to 8 inches dbh. Monterey pine removal would preferentially target diseased (e.g., pitch canker, heavy mistletoe infestation) trees to reduce stand density and increase sunlight penetration. Ladder fuels would be thinned to reduce the vertical arrangement of hazardous fuels leading to forest canopy. Woodrat middens will be retained as well as a mosaic of woody debris and herbaceous vegetation for wildlife habitat.

Treatments would largely consist of a mixture of manual and mechanical treatment activities. The objective of this work is to selectively thin dense/overstocked tree stands, diseased tree populations, and underlying brush to improve forest health, increase climate resiliency, and lessen the risk of wildfire through these restoration activities. Implementation of the ecological restoration treatment type would result in a modification of the existing fuels, which would reduce the risk of stand-replacing fire events and support the restoration of native vegetation and habitat conditions. This would result in an increase in habitat quality and allow for natural low intensity fire events. The removal of understory vegetation would mimic a natural disturbance that encourages forest succession to occur, influencing the amount of carbon stored in the forest. Thinning of the stand from below through the removal of small diameter live trees and understory vegetation would result in an increased available carrying capacity of the site, which would stimulate growth of the residual dominant and codominant trees. The accumulation of fuels and vegetation creates competition for the available water, nutrients, and sunlight plants need to grow; therefore, the reduction of vegetative competition in the understory would increase the growth and carbon storage capacity in the residual stand.

2.Scope of Services

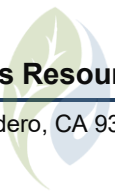
2.1 Vegetation Treatment Activities

The proposed vegetation treatment activities include manual and mechanical treatments. Treatments would occur in Monterey pine forests. Treatment activities could occur during any time of year, although implementation of treatment activities during the nesting bird season would be avoided when feasible. Treatment activities would be limited to daytime hours, Monday through Friday. Treatments would likely begin in summer of 2026 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Vegetation removal during treatment activities would follow the hierarchy described in the Coastal Vegetation Treatment Standards and the order of priority for removal to meet project goals will be as follows: first thinning and removal of dead, dying, and diseased vegetation; then removal of nonnative, invasive plant species; and lastly removal of healthy native species.

Generally, treatment activities would:

- remove live trees up to 8 inches dbh and live woody shrubs, while maintaining retention standards listed below;
- retain 150–250 trees per acre and three to five snags per acre with a preference for the largest snags that exhibit the form and decay characteristics favored by wildlife;
- retain a 15–20 foot spacing between retained trees under 8 inches dbh;
- retain woodrat middens for wildlife habitat;
- retain woody debris in strategic locations to maintain forest floor complexity while reducing fuel connectivity. While masticating, operators would minimize disturbance to down wood greater than 12 inches in diameter where feasible, only moving large pieces of woody debris when necessary to reduce fire behavior or gain access to larger portions of treatment areas, with a per acre retention target of 1–4 downed logs 15 feet in length and greater than or equal to 12 inches in diameter (Strong et al. 2016) per acre with a preference for the largest logs that exhibit the form and decay characteristics favored by wildlife;
- retain a mosaic of native shrubs at a spacing of 75–100 feet between crowns, where the combined crown for each clump is approximately 15–25 feet wide. Retention of less common native shrubs (i.e., coffeeberry and toyon) would be prioritized over common shrubs (e.g., poison oak);
- retain existing native herbaceous species to the extent practicable in ecological restoration treatments;

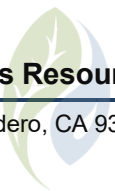


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- outside of riparian areas, generally retain a minimum of 5–10 percent herbaceous understory vegetation per acre in a mosaic pattern;
- selectively thin dead and dying, irreversibly diseased, and hazard trees of any size;
- remove dead and dying ladder fuels including shrubs, subshrubs, and tree limbs;
- chips retained on-site would average 3 inches in depth (maximum of 6 inches) and spread in a mosaic pattern such that herbaceous vegetation growth would not be suppressed;
- reduce nonnative, invasive plant species; and

Trees greater than 8 inches dbh may be removed if they are a public safety hazard, dead or dying, irreversibly diseased, substantially damaged, or an invasive nonnative plant species.

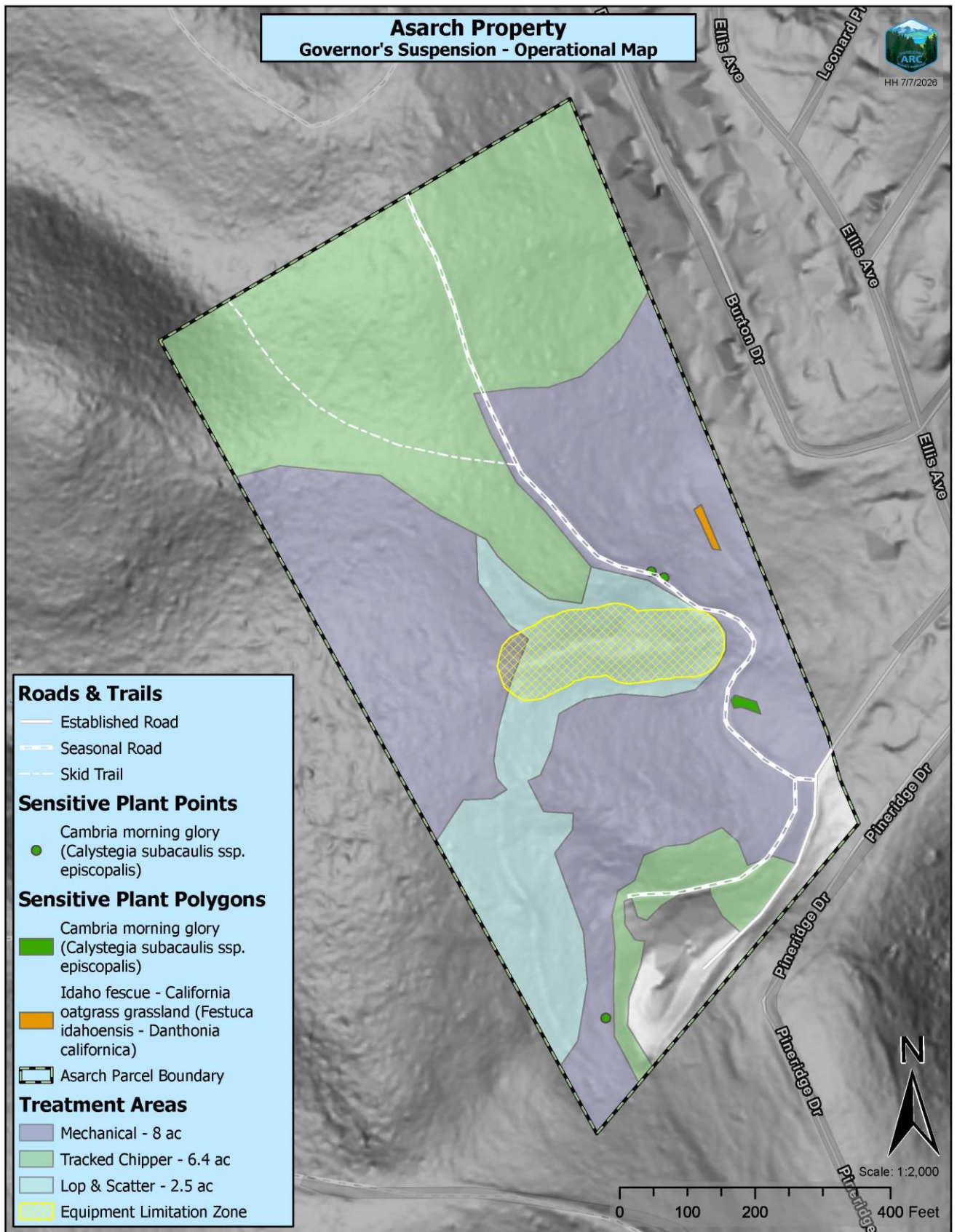


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Treatment type boundaries are approximate and based on slope and vegetation type/density to capture the most reasonable treatment method. Operational adjustments or contractor ability/preference will likely result in treatment boundary and acreage adjustments.

- Mechanical (Boom mounted for roadside and fixed head) ~ 8.0 acres.
 - Small excavator with masticating head for use on along roads to treat steeper slopes.
 - Fixed head machine (i.e. Cat 299 Skid Steer) for remaining areas.
- Handwork with Tracked Chipper ~ 6.4 acres.
 - Chip material up to 12"
- Lop and Scatter ~ 2.5 acres.
 - Steep slopes over 50%.
- Treatment around residence is not included in the treatment map, however fuels reduction of landscape plants surrounding the structure on the property should be factored into the proposal.



3. Proposal Content and Format

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Contractors will clearly indicate in their proposals the services, as described above, and their ability to perform those services to USLTRCD.

The following information will be included in the proposal:

3.1 Executive Summary

Include a concise synopsis of the proposal focused on how the contractor will address USLTRCD's key issues with the contractor's approach to the services described above.

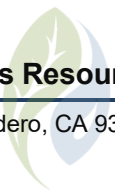
3.2 Qualifications

Because of the time sensitivity and critical nature of the work described within this RFP, USLTRCD seeks services from highly experienced and qualified firms/team. The firm/team must be able to staff this project with qualified individuals, experienced in the key technical disciplines needed, who will remain committed to this work from inception through completion. A clear and comprehensive organization chart must be presented to illustrate the organization of the team and key team members, including any subcontractors. The contractor must be familiar with and adhere closely to regulations put forth in project permits.

3.2.1 Firm/Team Qualifications

Provide a statement of the firm's/team's qualifications, including a brief resume(s) of lead staff members and/or subcontractors proposed to work on the project. Include the office locations of key staff and subcontractors. The information should be focused on experience on similar and/or complementary projects. The roles proposed for each subcontractor as well as their qualifications in that area will also be identified in the proposal. Your ability to identify and highlight key staff in the proposal will be considered when evaluating your understanding of the project. The Contractor's team members should be able to exhibit and understand the appropriate licenses, certifications and pre-qualifications for services.

Include a description of two (2) of the most recent projects/programs/efforts that included similar scope of work. The following information will be included for each project:



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- Client
- Client contact information
- Project Description
- Start and end dates of the project
- Key staff member's role
- Contractor fees and overall project budget
- Contractors' ability to manage purchasing materials with long lead times
- Contractor's role in the project – highlight roles of staff

3.2.2 Technical Approach

The contractor(s) technical approach to the project is a very important component of the selection. In the proposal, the contractor(s) is requested to demonstrate their project understanding, provide a summary of the critical issues, and describe the contractor's proposed sequence of activities to meet the USLTRCD's objectives for the services they are proposing.

3.2.3 Cost Estimate

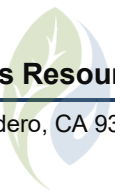
Costs will be broken down by personnel, supplies, materials, equipment, and any subcontractor costs. Contractors will be required to submit weekly material tags and employee timesheets. A Scope of Work Template is provided for reference to develop a cost estimate.

3.2.4 Timeline

The contractors(s) will provide a detailed timeline for phases of project including contingency plans in the event that ecologically sensitive species are found (such as nesting birds).

3.2.5 Safety Procedures

Contractor(s) will provide examples of safety measures and protocols from previous construction operations and or potential safety protocols for this project. Examples should demonstrate exemplary safety procedures for employees as well as the public. Contractors(s) will provide examples of avoidance measures to minimize impacts on sensitive plants and animals (i.e. nesting birds, Ca red legged frog etc.)



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3.3 Statements

The contractor(s) will include a statement confirming no personal or organizational conflicts of interest are known to exist.

3.4 Licenses, Certifications, and Pre-qualifications

The contractor(s) will include a table detailing the licenses, certifications, and pre-qualifications currently held by each team member. Copies of said licenses, certifications, and pre-qualifications will be provided upon the request of the USLTRCD.

3.5 Detailed Resumes

Detailed resumes for key team members may be included as an appendix. No more than two pages per resume.

4. Evaluation & Selection Process

The USLTRCD will not accept proposals delivered after the closing date and time. Proposals will be emailed, or hand delivered, prior to the closing date. The written proposals will be evaluated and scored by the USLTRCD utilizing the following criteria:

Written Qualifications (40% of Total Score)

Firm/Team Qualifications – 25%

Performance on previous jobs – 15%

Technical Approach (60% of Total Score)

Project understanding – 40%

Critical Issues – 20%

Review of proposals will include staff members of USLTRCD, UC Santa Barbara and contracted Registered Professional Forester. The proposals will be ranked individually, and the highest scores will be recommended for consideration by USLTRCD, in compliance with the USLTRCD Procurement Policy. Upon approval by the USLTRCD Board of Directors, USLTRCD staff will announce to all bidding contractors who the selected proposal is awarded to.

After USLTRCD approval, the USLTRCD will enter negotiations with the highest ranked firm.

Upon reaching agreement on the scope of work and total not-to-exceed prices for the project, the USLTRCD will award a contract to the selected contractor(s). The selected contractor(s) cannot commence work on any aspect of the project prior to execution of the USLTRCD's standard Agreement.

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