CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry: California Climate Investment Grants

Climate Action Team Public Health Workgroup

April 19, 2016

John Melvin, State Urban Forester

Why *CAL FIRE* Does Urban Forestry

The California Urban Forestry Act of 1978 (PRC 4799.06-4799.12)

- **Promote the use of urban forest resources for purposes of increasing integrated projects with multiple benefits in urban communities.**
- **Arrest the decline of our urban forest resources, facilitate the planting of trees in urban communities, and improve the quality of the environment in urban areas through the establishment and improved management of urban forest resources.**
- **Facilitate the creation of permanent jobs in tree maintenance and related urban forestry activities in neighborhood, local, and regional urban areas.**
- **Optimize the potential of tree and vegetative cover in reducing energy consumption and producing fuel and other products.**
- **Encourage the coordination of state and local agency activities in urban forestry and related programs and encourage maximum citizen participation in their development and implementation.**

Program Highlights

- **Staff of 9, six Regional Urban Foresters, one State Urban Forester, two analysts – one for grants, one for education.**
- **Grant Programs (GGRF 14/15, $15.8 million – 29 grants, 100% in and serving disadvantaged communities, at least 55% in DACs)**
  a. Green Trees For The Golden State
  b. Management Activities
  c. Green Innovations
  d. Woods in the Neighborhood
  e. Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization
- **Federal funding from USDA Forest Service**
  - Approximately $1 million per year. Mostly used for priority research and education projects.
- **Tree City USA awards – 148 cities, 12 Tree Line Utilities, 14 Tree Campus Colleges and Universities.**
- **Applied Research & Demonstration**

What The Program Does

- Technical assistance to local governments, non-profits, and the general public.
- Public relations and advocacy to improve urban forestry efforts at the local level.
- Public events (like Arbor Day).
- Establish and promote best management practices.
- Establish grant solicitations when funding is available.
- Review grant applications, award grants, manage and inspect grant projects.
- Assist grantees in overcoming obstacles as needed.
- Incorporating urban forestry into other policy areas.
- Effect improved policies at the local level.
- Networking and partnerships.
- Conduit to national programs.

Biomass, Carbon Sequestration, and Avoided Emissions: Assessing the Role of Urban Trees in California (CAL FIRE FRAP/UC Davis 2015)

- Statewide Urban Tree Canopy Cover: 15.4%. Highly unevenly distributed.
- Total CO_2 stored in CA urban forests in 2012: 102,817,277 metric tons.
- Annual CO_2 sequestered: 7.2 million metric tons ($86.7 million a year), or the equivalent of taking 1,537,275 passenger cars off the road each year.
- Annual CO_2 avoided: 1.3 million metric tons ($15.6 million a year).
- Stormwater Runoff Reduction: Annual Interception of 196.7 million cubic feet ($325.8 million a year); or the equivalent of the water used in 627,586 homes in California per year.
- Energy Effects - Annual Energy Effects (Cooling/Heating), $568.6 million a year).
- Street trees (larger than average tree) - $110.63 in services per tree annually. Costs to maintain the average tree: $19.00 per tree per year.

TREE CITY USA
Arbor Day Foundation

CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry – California Climate Investment Grants

- **The Governor's budget proposes $30 million for the program for fiscal year 16/17.**
- **Urban and Community Forestry Grants Proposed:**
  - ***Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement***
  - ***Urban Forest Management Activities***
  - ***Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization***
- **Grants will have a strong focus on projects in DACs. These census tracts also, not coincidentally, almost always have low tree canopy cover. The percentages are not known yet, though we will definitely make this a primary competitive consideration if it is not a 100% requirement.**
- **Grants would be coordinated with and complementary to the <u>CNRA Green Infrastructure Program</u>. The focus will be different, though there may be some overlap.**

There are likely to still be changes before any grants are offered, if any grants are offered.

Types of Urban Forestry Grant Projects

- **<u>"Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement</u>**
  - **Activities related to planting of trees and other vegetation. Activities include site preparation (including infrastructure modification), planning, and tree establishment and maintenance. Other eligible components include: purchase of and renovation of small, vacant urban parcels to accomplish public benefit pursuant to the Urban Forestry Act.**
- **<u>"Urban Forest Management Activities"</u>**
  - **Management activities are: Urban forest management plans, tree or urban forest related policies and ordinances, urban tree inventories, and urban forest mapping and analysis. Requires setting a tree canopy cover target.**
- **<u>"Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization"</u>**
  - **Development and implementation of an Urban Wood or Urban Biomass Utilization project or program. Better utilizing this resource will lead to improved management of urban vegetation. The focus of this program is to utilize the tree for its highest and best use(s) that leads to reductions in GHG emissions.**
- *Both the "Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement" and "Urban Forest Management Activities" Programs currently require tree planting to achieve GHG reductions.*

There could be changes for the next round.

CITY OF FONTANA
TREE CITY USA
Arbor Day Foundation

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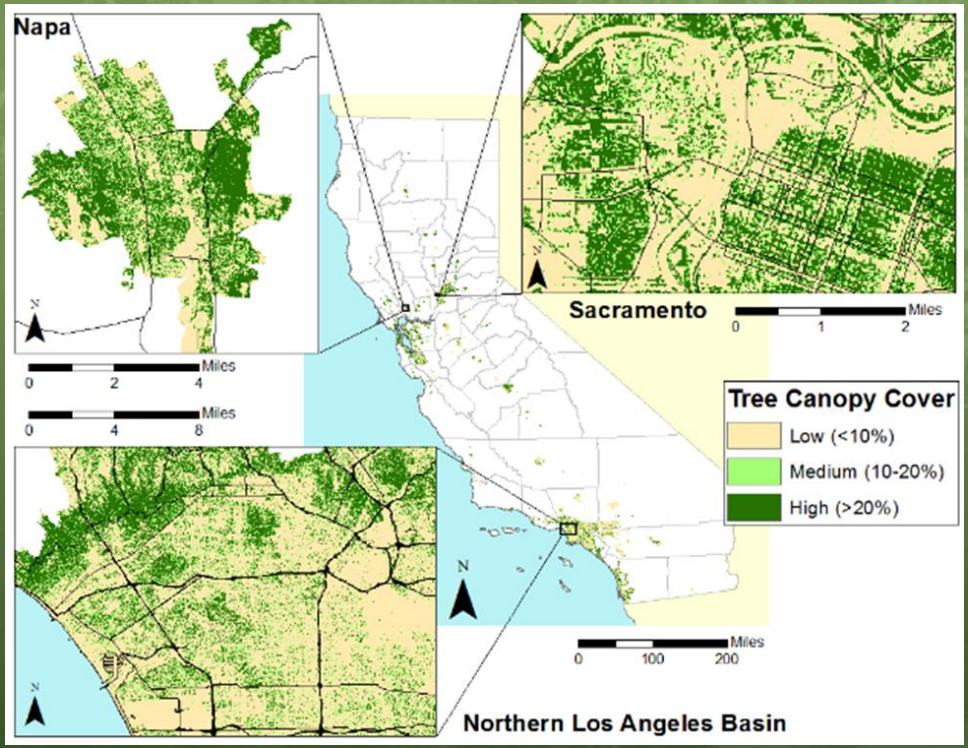
Grant Eligibility

- Projects must reduce GHG emissions and help meet the goals of AB 32. Details are in the RFP documents and the Procedural Guide.
- Grant projects must be in an urban area or urban cluster as defined by the US Census Bureau. See this link: http://www.census.gov/geo/www/ua/2010urbanruralclass.html
- For 14/15, grant projects had to be located in a disadvantaged community or be directly serving a disadvantaged community.
  - Disadvantaged community status will be determined as required by Cal EPA.
- Cities, counties, districts and 501C(3) non-profit organizations are eligible to apply.
- Individuals, companies and federal agencies are not eligible.
- http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry_grants.php#

- There could be changes.

Grant Requirements

- We always require best management practices.
- We inspect all grants. At least annually.
- Quarterly reporting.
- We assist grantees throughout the grant application and implementation.
- We help grantees overcome obstacles to success. Including advocacy for the project.
- We leverage grant funds to accomplish other goals with grantees.


Napa
Sacramento
Northern Los Angeles Basin
Tree Canopy Cover
Low (<10%)
Medium (10-20%)
High (>20%)
Miles
0 2 4
0 4 8
0 1 2
0 100 200
N

Thank You!

John Melvin

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State Urban Forester

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