



CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

120 Toma Court • San Andreas, CA 95249 • Main Line (209) 754-3543

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR CONTRACTED SERVICES TO CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT (CCWD) TO CONSTRUCT THE **Douds Fuelbreak** USFS Cooperative Agreement 23-CA-11051600-014

CONTACT	Kaylee Dillashaw, Project Manager <u>kaylee.dillashaw@gmail.com</u> (209) 768-1603
RFP RELEASE DATE	Friday 31-Jan-2025
PRE-BID TOUR	<p>The pre-bid tour will take place on Friday 14-Feb-2025 at 9:00am. We will meet at the intersection of New McKays Dam Rd (aka 5N38) and Douds Landing Rd. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Tour is mandatory to bid on the project. The project is accessed by private roads, so contractors will not be allowed to independently inspect the area before or after the Pre-Bid Tour. Contact Kaylee Dillashaw at kaylee.dillashaw@gmail.com to register for the tour.</p> <p>This RFP package includes three georeferenced maps which can be downloaded from the following Google drive: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dBIsl8IJG3dm8Al_sWZ-SBqzmae7I8tj?usp=sharing</p> <p>Questions received by the Project Manager by 11-Mar-2025 will be answered and distributed to all bidders by email on 13-Mar-2025 after 5pm.</p>
RFP CLOSING DATE	Proposals may be submitted electronically to the Calaveras County Water District (haleya@ccwd.org). Sealed paper proposals may be delivered to the front office of Calaveras County Water District at 120 Toma Court, San Andreas, CA, 95249. Proposals for each form must be submitted no later than 2:00 pm, 18-Mar-2025 . The proposal and the fee estimates must be submitted separately. For electronic proposals each item needs to be submitted in PDF format as email attachments. Paginate your proposal for two-sided printing at the District office. Paper size is limited to 8-1/2"x11".

CONTRACTOR SELECTION	Bids will be reviewed on 19-Mar-2025 . Review results will be presented to the CCWD Board for acceptance on 26-Mar-2025 . The accepted proposal will be emailed to all bidders and posted on the CCWD website on 27-Mar-2025 .
PROJECT COMMENCEMENT DATE	Weather permitting April 2025
PROJECT COMPLETION DATE	All work must be completed and invoices submitted no later than 12-Dec-2025 . Please ensure that your proposal reflects your ability to complete the project in this period.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Calaveras County Water District has received funding from USDA Forest Service through a Cooperative Agreement with the US Forest Service to implement the Douds Fuelbreak.

ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE in 2025

Activity	Date
Release of RFP	Friday 31-Jan-2025
Pre-Bid Tour	Friday 14-Feb-2025 at 9:00am, New McKays Dam Rd and Douds Landing Rd
Deadline for RFP Responses	Thursday 13-Mar-2025
RFP Closing	Tuesday 18-Mar-2025
Review of Proposals	Wednesday 19-Mar-2025
Notice of Contract Award	CCWD Board Mtg (Wednesday 26-Mar-2025)
Contract Executed	31-Mar-2025
Ground Operations Begin	April 2025
Ground Operations End	12-Dec-2025

RESPONSIBILITIES

USDA Forest Service (USFS)- This project is funded by the USFS through the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The Stanislaus National Forest (STF) intends to be involved as follows:

- Review and approve the lands to be included in the project
- Review environmental documents prepared for fuel reduction activity under this award
- Provide additional support when budget and staff time allows
- Provide funds to CCWD to pay for fuel reduction operations on the Douds Fuelbreak

Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) is the fiscal agent and CEQA Lead Agency. It is responsible for writing and noticing CEQA documents. As grantee, CCWD is also responsible for financial management and reporting requirements as specified in the CCWD/USDA Cooperative

Agreement. CCWD is the only entity authorized to enter or terminate this contract, modify any term or condition of this contract, waive any requirement of this contract, or accept nonconforming work.

Project Manager (PM)- The PM will serve as the liaison and primary contact between the Contractor, Property Owners and CCWD. The PM will coordinate closely with the project forester and CCWD on this Request for Proposal process, contractor selection, field operation supervision, and day-to-day business. The PM will assist the forester with inspections of treated areas, recording the perimeter of the completed treatment areas, and providing treatment maps to the Contractor and CCWD for invoicing. The PM will provide administrative and GIS support to CCWD and draft required reports to the USFS

Project Registered Professional Forester (RPF)- The RPF completed CEQA documentation and developed the silvicultural prescription for this project. The RPF will supervise field operations to assure compliance with the silviculture prescription, resource protection, government regulations, and contract specifications. The RPF will coordinate activities with the Contractor to ensure rules and regulations are in contractual compliance and will continue to coordinate with the Contractor and PM throughout the duration of the project.

PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The project goal is to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire in and around the Douds subdivision and promote a healthy watershed by removing dense surface and ladder fuels, decreasing crown density and retaining large fire-resistant trees. Taken together, these measures should reduce the risk of fire ignition, slow fire spread and increase the chance of success on the initial fire suppression attack by keeping potential fires small and on the ground. The Douds fuel break will tie into adjacent fuel breaks recently built on land managed by Sierra Pacific Industries, the USFS and the Davies Ranch to create a continuous landscape scale wildfire defense system along the north rim of the Stanislaus River Canyon. Reducing roadside fuels will improve ingress for first responders and egress for evacuating residents of the Douds subdivision.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Douds Fuelbreak footprint lies north of the Stanislaus River Canyon between the North Fork of the Stanislaus River and New McKays Dam Road. The project is on 23 parcels of private property bounded by USFS lands on east and south borders and timberlands managed by Sierra Pacific Industries on the west and north borders. There are 13 residences.

While the project area includes ~154.4 acres, homeowners have already treated ~12 acres around their structures leaving **~142.4 acres for fuels reduction under this contract**. Note that this pretreatment acreage is an estimate, and that final determination of treated acres will be made by the PM or RPF based on the actual 'on-the-ground' GPS measurements during certification inspections.

The project maps were based on the land survey pins located on the project boundary, not the county parcel layer. All survey pins and the project lines are flagged in pink ribbon.

RIGHT OF ENTRY

Signed “Right of Entry” forms have been obtained from all parcel owners within project boundary. This project will NOT include any fire safe clearance work as required by Public Resources Code 4291 of Government Code 51182, including areas within 100 feet of any habitable structure.

SILVICULTURE

The silvicultural strategy is to retain healthy trees to create a shaded fuelbreak condition with tree crowns spaced for full utilization of available sunlight, water and nutrients. Treatment will include removal of dead and decadent stands of shrubs/brush and other ladder fuels and thinning of an overstocked plantation. This treatment will significantly reduce the chance of a crown fire.

Treatment methods include:

Mechanical Mastication: Mechanical masticators will be used to grind, chip, and shred vegetation on site. Equipment selected to carry out this task must be designed to minimize ground disturbance such as tracked rather than rubber-tired vehicles and long-reaching articulating booms. Multiple cutting attachments will be used to adapt to the fuel type and terrain. Ladder fuels will be eliminated in the project area to minimize the risk of crown fire. The average depth of masticated material will be less than 12 inches deep. This mulch layer will facilitate erosion control and soil moisture retention while suppressing vegetative resprouting.

Manual Mastication: The project area contains some areas that may be treated by hand crews under the supervision of the project RPF. In addition to using chainsaws and other hand tools, crews would feed cut vegetation into a rubber-tracked brush chipper or similar chipper staged on existing roads and trails. The chipped vegetation will be broadcast over the project area to suppress brush resprouting. In areas where access to a chipper is not practical, fuels may be treated via “lop and scatter” where vegetation is cut into short strips and dispersed evenly over the treatment area.

PRESCRIPTION

The Douds project is relatively flat with slopes between 0 – 30%. Native-surface roads provide access to all areas making this landscape fuels reduction project suitable for treatment by mastication. While the site plan covers 156.5 acres of private land, approximately 12 acres have been excluded from treatment because they are PRC 4291 Defensible Space acres or areas already cleared by the landowners. **Based on GIS roughly 144.3 acres will be treated in this project but note that this is an approximation.** The prescription follows:

- Fuels to be masticated include ground fuels, existing piles, brush, and small trees <12” diameter at breast height (dbh).
- Retain seedlings and saplings of conifers and black oaks at a 30’ x 30’ spacing where no other trees exist in the pre-treatment stand.
- The target residual spacing for mature hardwoods and conifers is also 30’ x 30’.
- Dead, dying, and downed trees of any species and any size must be felled and/or treated except those that have been designated for retention by the RPF.
- Groups of live oaks growing from a common root will either be totally removed or totally retained.

- Residual trees will be limbed along the main bole for a minimum of 10' height or 1/2 the height of the tree.
- Remaining stumps shall be < 6" on the uphill side.
- All slash will be masticated on site to provide a compact layer of mulch that maintains soil moisture, minimizes erosion, and suppresses brush regrowth.
- Mastication mulch shall be arranged so that it does not exceed 12 inches in height above the ground and is not piled along the base of residual trees.
- Masticated materials shall be cleared out of roadways and driveways.
- Mastication requirements:
 - A minimum of 75% of the vegetation treated by mechanical mastication shall be ground into shreds <24" in length.
 - Shredded vegetation shall be spread out as evenly as possible to suppress the regrowth of brush and to retain soil moisture.
 - The maximum allowable mulch depth is 12".
 - Dangerous punji sticks are not allowed.

PROJECT RESTRICTIONS AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

- All operations will adhere to the CCWD Fire plan (See CCWD_FirePlan_240415.pdf).
- Equipment must be careful not to operate on side slopes, only perpendicular to the contour on steep slopes.
- Do not operate under saturated soil conditions when soil compaction is likely.
- Grasses and other low annuals will not be targeted.
- Bear Clover will not be targeted.
- Blackberries need to be targeted.
- Hazards within the project area include fences, poison oak, steep bluffs on the south side, and boulders.
- Avoidance areas, as applicable, will be flagged and/or mapped for avoidance prior to operations (See maps).
- Snags to be retained will be flagged.
- All cut and masticated vegetation will be kept within the unit boundaries. Any cut vegetation falling into ditches, roads, road banks, trails or adjacent properties shall be removed the same day.
- Equipment shall be cleaned before entering the Project Area to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and pathogens.
- Equipment shall be free of leaks, in good operating condition and have functional spark arrestors or turbochargers to prevent fires.
- All roads shall be left in the same or better condition than found. The Contractor will take every measure possible to limit potential damage to private roads.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Sensitive Areas. Sensitive Areas to be avoided will be mapped and/or flagged and discussed on-site only with the selected Contractor for confidentiality purposes. If a new sensitive area is discovered in the project area, operations shall cease and the RPF will be notified immediately. The RPF will determine protection measures as soon as possible so that work can resume.

Nesting Birds: If an active nest is observed within the project area, a buffer or installation of appropriate barriers shall be established between the construction activities and the active nest so

that nesting activities are not interrupted. The buffer shall be delineated by the RPF and shall be in effect throughout construction or until the nest is no longer active. The buffer(s) shall be determined based upon the life history of the individual species, including their sensitivity to noise, vibration, ambient levels of human activity and general disturbance, the current site conditions (screening vegetation, terrain, etc.) and the various project-related activities necessary to implement the project.

Snags: The project area contains standing snags that provide cavity nest habitat for birds and peeling bark for roosting bats. Actively used snags will not be removed during operations.

Watercourses: The project site contains one pond and several swales. The swales transport stormwater within the project area, but do not support physical characteristics typical of defined stream channels. These swales do not require equipment exclusion and may be crossed at any safe location during project operations during the dry season.

Identification of Protected Species or Other Critical Resources. To protect environmentally sensitive areas, identification and avoidance during project implementation is required. If any sensitive resources are located during project implementation, the Contractor must notify the PM or RPF, and avoid the area pending consultation with the RPF. Known sensitive areas to be avoided (not treated) will be designated and marked prior to operations.

PROJECT BOUNDARY DETERMINATIONS

In the Douds area, there are two sources of data that can be used to determine parcel boundaries.

1. Surveyed Boundaries. Parcel boundaries based on corner pins set by Licensed Surveyors are the Gold Standard and are the basis for the Records of Survey archived in the County Recorder's Office. The Douds area was subdivided in the 1960's and the corners of all parcels were monumented with 3/4" x 30" iron pins or similar markers. Most corners are flagged with three strips of pink ribbon and 3/8" x 36" stakes.
2. GIS Boundaries. Parcel boundaries drawn on Calaveras County Assessment Maps are based on Geographic Information System (GIS) data and, unfortunately, their accuracy varies widely. In general, parcel boundaries that coincide with roads are fairly accurate, while other parcel boundaries are far from surveyed lines. In the Douds area, the GIS "virtual" corners are 22-95 feet to the west and 23-40 feet to the south of their corresponding surveyed pins. Both survey and GIS boundaries are depicted on the 'Douds-Terrain.pdf' map so you can see the discrepancies between the two datasets.

Neither the CalAm Team nor CCWD have Right Of Entry permits from the landowners surrounding the Douds project, namely SPI and the USFS. It is the Contractor's responsibility to stay within the Project Boundary. To assist the Contractor and prevent trespass onto these lands, the CalAm Team and CCWD have diligently delineated the project boundaries by the following measures:

1. Locating and flagging the surveyed corners and line pins on the outer project boundary and flagging the exterior project boundaries.
2. Recording the location of these project pins by GPS and digitizing the project boundary lines between them using ArcGIS Pro. In addition, a 15' wide buffer was added to the inside of

the project lines on the maps to warn equipment operators that they are close to the project boundary.

Should an equipment operator be confused about the location of a segment of the project boundary, he/she must stop treatment along the segment in question and consult with the PM or RPF before proceeding.

BID EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING

The contract awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The Contractor must submit information related to the evaluation categories listed below. CCWD is under no obligation to solicit such information if it is not included in the proposal. Failure of the individual or firm to submit such information may cause an adverse impact on the evaluation of the proposal. A selection committee shall be responsible for evaluating each proposal based on the following criteria:

1. Completeness of proposal	Pass/Fail
2. Required insurance/licenses	Pass/Fail
3. Attendance at pre-bid tour	Pass/Fail
4. Qualifications and experience	25 points
5. References/flexibility/workability	25 points
6. Approach and strategy	25 points
TOTAL	75 points

Pass/Fail Items: Items in rows 1-3 must receive a “pass” to be considered for a contract award.

Completeness of Proposal: Bid must describe and include all items listed in rows 4-6 as described below to be considered for award.

Required Insurance/License:

1. Workers Compensation Coverage – Worker’s Compensation Insurance complying with the provisions of Section 3700 of the California Labor Code requiring every employer to be insured against liability for workers’ compensation.
2. General Liability Coverage – Contractor will file with the ‘Calaveras County Water District’, before beginning work, a certificate of insurance and policy endorsements satisfactory to the District that lists general liability coverage of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence (\$2,000,000 general and products-completed operations aggregate (if used)) for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage.
3. Automobile Liability Insurance – Auto liability of at least \$1,000,000 for bodily injury and property damage for each accident limit. This insurance shall cover all vehicles, including rented cars, owned and non-owned, which will be on the project site at any time during the duration of the contract.
4. Insurance Notification – If any of the required coverages expire during the term of this agreement, the Contractor shall deliver the renewal certificate(s) including the general liability additional insured endorsement to Calaveras County Water district at least ten (10) days prior to the expiration date.
5. Contractors are encouraged to purchase ‘Broad Form B’ insurance, but it is not a requirement.

6. Business License - Contractors should state their license type and the state/county in which it is issued.

Selected Contractor(s) shall add 'Calaveras County Water District' to said insurance policies as an "additional insured" and provide CCWD with proof of insurance certificates for all policies prior to execution of the contract and throughout its full duration. The general liability policy shall cover bodily injury and property damage liability for owned and non-owned equipment, blanket contractual liability, completed operations liability, and explosion. Automobile liability shall cover all owned, non-owned, and rented vehicles.

Attendance at Pre-Bid Tour

Contractors who do not attend the pre-bid tour will not be considered for an award.

Qualifications & Experience

Please provide:

- Contractor name and contact information
- Current Licensed Timber Operator (LTO-A or B) status.
- Certificate of liability insurance (See section above)
- A short description of each machine and its capability, including fire-suppression equipment, that will be dedicated to this project (do not include machinery that will not be working on this project).
- The names/years of experience of each operator.
- Include the name and experience of the Contractor's representative who will be on-site managing the project daily.

References/Flexibility/Workability

- Provide three references with at least one being within the past 18 months. Each reference should include a brief description of the job that included mastication/chipping of trees and brush, including the date that each contract was executed, the date the contract was closed, the acreage treated, and the name and phone number of the project overseer/contact person.
- Summarize the characteristics of your company that describe its flexibility to willingness to negotiate and solve problems.
- Provide a description of your company's ability to work as a team with all parties involved in the project.

Approach and Strategy

- Describe the strategy and sequence of operations for treatment.
- Contractor needs to clearly address how treatment will be achieved on moderate-to-steep slopes (up to 55% slope) in confined areas (including land between structures and roads and driveways). The Contractor must address how downed logs will be treated.
- Focus on the use of equipment and operator expertise in all areas of fuels reduction (i.e.: masticating, and erosion control).
- Provide an estimated timeline including your start and completion dates.
- Describe ability to meet the provided CCWD Fire Plan requirements.

Cost

Provide the cost per acre in the bid.

All proposers will receive emailed Award/Non-Award notification(s) on **27-Mar-2025**

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Public Records Access: Proposers should be aware that submitted proposals are subject to the California Public Records Act and may be disclosed to members of the public upon request. **It is the responsibility of the proposers to clearly identify information in their proposals that they consider to be confidential under the California Public Records Act.** To the extent that CCWD agrees with that designation, such information will be held in confidence whenever possible. All other information will be considered public.

Non-Discrimination The Contractor selected through this RFP shall provide services without discrimination based on race, creed, color, ethnic or linguistic identification, gender or sexual preference, disability or handicap or any other basis prohibited by law. All information regarding the proposals will be held confidential until the selection committee has completed its evaluation and contract negotiations are completed.

Off Road Vehicle List Form: Bidder must list each fleet used by you or your subcontractor to perform work in a subject to 13 CCR § 2449 et. seq. Submit a copy of a valid Certificate of Reported Compliance (13 CCR § 2449, subdivision (n)) for each fleet listed on the form within 10 days of bid opening. Failure to list a fleet used by you or your subcontractor to perform work on the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Vehicle List form may result in a nonresponsive bid period. Failure to submit the Certificate of Reported Compliance for a fleet listed on the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Vehicle List form may result in a nonresponsive bid.

Procurement of Recovered Materials: In the performance of this contract, the Contractor shall make a maximum use of products containing recovered materials that are EPA-designated items unless the product cannot be acquired – Competitively within a timeframe providing for compliance with the contract performance schedule; Meeting contract performance requirements; or at a reasonable price.

Information about this requirement, along with the list of EPA-designated items, is available at EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program>.

The Contractor also agrees to comply with all other applicable requirements of Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

Suspension and Debarment: This contract is a covered transaction for purposes of 2 C.F.R. Parts 180 and 3000. As such, the contractor is required to verify that none of the contractor's principles (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.995) or its affiliates (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.905) are excluded (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.940) or disqualified (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.935).

The contractor must comply with 2 C.F.R. Part 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. Part 3000, subpart C, and must include a requirement to comply with these regulations in any lower tier covered transaction it enters into.

This certification is a material representation of fact relied upon by Calaveras County Water District. If it is later determined that the contractor did not comply with 2 C.F.R. Part 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. Part 3000, subpart C, in addition to remedies available, the federal government may pursue available remedies, including but not limited to suspension and/or debarment.

The bidder or proposer agrees to comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. Part 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. Part 3000, subpart C while this offer is valid and throughout the period of any contract that may arise from this offer. The bidder or proposer further agrees to include a provision requiring such compliance in its lower tier covered transactions.

Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment, 31 U.S.C. § 1352 (as amended): Contractors who apply or bid for an award for more than \$100,000 shall file the required certification appended to this RPF (Appendix A).

Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment, 31 U.S.C. § 1352 (as amended)

Contractors who apply or bid for an award of more than \$100,000 shall file the required certification. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used federally appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with obtaining any federal contract, grant, or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier shall also disclose any lobbying with non-federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the recipient who in turn will forward the certification(s) to the federal awarding agency.

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that: No federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

If any funds other than federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, Title 31, U.S.C. Any person who

fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

“The Contractor, _____, certifies or affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of each statement of its certification and disclosure, if any. In addition, the Contractor understands and agrees that the provisions of 31 U.S.C. Chap. 38, Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements, apply to this certification and disclosure, if any.

Signature of Contractor’s Authorized Official

Name and Title of Contractor’s Authorized Official

Date