



## **County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**

### **Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience

**Subject:** Accept 2025 County Coordinator Grant Revenue

**Meeting Date:** June 10, 2025

**Formal Title:** Adopt resolution accepting unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$151,500 from the California Fire Safe Council to build local wildfire mitigation capacity through the 2025 CAL FIRE County Coordinator Grant Program, and take related actions

### **Recommended Actions**

1. Adopt resolution accepting and appropriating unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$151,410 from the California Fire Safe Council to support build local wildfire mitigation capacity through participation in the 2025 CAL FIRE County Coordinator Grant Program; and
2. Direct the Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience (OR3) to return to the Board of Supervisors on or before July 31, 2026, to provide an update on grant deliverables and impact.

### **Executive Summary**

The California Fire Safe Council has awarded Santa Cruz County \$151,410.35 in a third round of funding through the 2025 County Coordinator Program. The program supports local capacity to coordinate wildfire mitigation efforts across agencies and communities. The County's work plan includes six required tasks and four locally scoped activities, with two tasks structured to serve as local match for the County's FEMA BRIC Phase 1 award. Board approval is requested to accept the funds and implement the grant program.

### **Discussion**

The County Coordinator Program, administered by the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC), supports partial funding for a position in each participating county to enhance local wildfire resilience efforts. Through this program, County Coordinators support planning, outreach, and coordination between local agencies, state partners, and communities. Santa Cruz County successfully participated in this program for two consecutive grant cycles and OR3 has been selected for renewed funding in the 2025 cycle. CFSC now requires that each grantee complete six core activities:

1. Develop a plan with CAL FIRE or a CAL FIRE contractor to integrate County Coordinators into local operations.
2. Contribute to the CFSC GIS Networking Portal.
3. Attend at least one Qualified Entities Training hosted by CAL FIRE.
4. Host a county-level training on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) toolkit.
5. Develop a preliminary plan outlining steps to initiate a county-level CWPP.
6. Present program scope, deliverables, and impacts to the County's Board of Supervisors.

These required tasks form the foundation of the County's grant work plan and are supplemented by several additional locally scoped activities that build on strategic wildfire resilience goals as well as the work of past County Coordinator projects. In addition to meeting CFSC requirements, the County is leveraging select tasks to align with its FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Phase 1 award. Specifically, the following additional tasks were added to the scope of work:

- **GIS Data Development** Supports parcel-level project scoping and environmental compliance using GIS layers and biotic resource data informed by fiscal year (FY) 2023 deliverables.
- **Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Project Development and Solicitation:** Staff time to support early project development and permitting strategies for priority areas originally scoped under Phase 2 of the County's BRIC proposal, which has since been canceled. These tasks will not only fulfill CFSC goals but also serve as local match for the BRIC Phase 1 award, maximizing the benefit of both funding sources while supporting countywide wildfire resilience planning. The remaining tasks focus on continued bilingual outreach, strategic coordination, and staff capacity-building—particularly for under-resourced communities in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

### **Financial Impact**

Total award in the amount of \$151,410.35 will be accepted into General Ledger (GL) Key 186000, revenue object 40810 and appropriated under GL 186000, expense objects 62223/62928/62381/51000 to support staff time, outreach supplies, and contractual costs for this program. No local match is required. Grant revenue is typically issued in two advance installments, provided progress can be demonstrated over course of the performance period. Several tasks are eligible to be claimed as match under FEMA BRIC Phase 1 funding amounting to 2/3 of the total award, with the remaining 1/3 dedicated to supporting required grant deliverables and bolstering existing outreach efforts.

### **Strategic Initiatives**

Equity Framework - Plans, Policies & Budgets, Communications & Education, Community Voices & Partnership  
Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety, Sustainable Environment  
Climate Action - Natural & Working Lands, Wildfire Prevention, Government Operations

### **Submitted By:**

David Reid, OR3 Director

### **Recommended By:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

### **Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:**

Chat GPT 4o, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) large language model tool, significantly contributed to the development of this agenda item, including Staff Report, in compliance with the County of Santa Cruz AI Appropriate Use Policy.