



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



DRAFT - 2022 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Stockton Community Emissions Reduction
Program: Urban Greening

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is seeking proposals from entities to implement Urban Greening projects in the Stockton AB 617 Community.

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Request for Proposals

Stockton Community Emissions Reduction Program: Urban Greening

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) is soliciting proposals from entities (applicants) to implement Urban Greening projects in the Stockton Community boundaries. This Request for Proposal (RFP) will provide a total grant amount of up to \$1,000,000 to the selected applicant(s) that can demonstrate the ability to efficiently and effectively implement urban greening projects by working with the community to reduce emissions and to provide several key co-benefits. The Urban Greening Emissions Reduction Program is a Community Identified Project that has been included and prioritized in the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and District adopted Community Emission Reduction Program (CERP).

Introduction

Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) requires CARB and air districts to develop and implement additional emissions reporting, monitoring, reduction plans and emission reduction measures in an effort to reduce air pollution exposure in disadvantaged communities. Stockton is one of the San Joaquin Valley (Valley) communities selected by CARB for investment of additional resources under AB 617.

AB 617 provides mechanisms and resources to invest substantial funding in the community through voluntary incentive funding measures. Most importantly, these measures are guided by the shared experience and knowledge of local community members, through their input and involvement on Steering Committees for each AB 617-selected community.

Background

The Urban Greening Emission Reduction Program is a part of California Climate Investments (CCI), a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.

Urban Greening projects will use natural solutions to improve air quality and public health, while enhancing a community with drought tolerant and low maintenance greenery. While a major benefit of Urban Greening projects is GHG reductions, the projects can also reduce exposure to criteria air pollutant (CAP) emissions by improving local air quality and in protecting sensitive communities. Demonstrating that particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions decrease as a result of Urban Greening is vitally important and necessitates the incorporation of available baseline and performance period air monitoring data.

Placement and choice of trees and vegetation can help reduce the impacts of heat islands, and maximize cooling benefits. Shade provided by trees and other vegetation

prevents sunlight from reaching heat-absorbing surfaces such as sidewalks and parking lots, cooling the area by 1 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit. Furthermore, the reduction in water and electricity usage from some of these projects will benefit air quality and the community.

Qualitative Benefits

In addition to reducing GHG and CAP emissions, Urban Greening projects will qualitatively benefit the surrounding communities. Urban Greening projects can provide shade to sidewalks and streets, which can encourage active transportation by making it more comfortable to walk or bike in those areas. This can improve the health and well-being of the community. Similarly, Urban Greening projects can shade buildings and reduce energy consumption by lessening the load on air conditioning systems. When native and/or drought-resistant vegetation is planted and maintained using water efficient irrigation methods, Urban Greening projects can reduce water usage. In addition, planting more trees in certain areas, such as near freeways, may also help reduce noise pollution.

Community Support for Urban Greening

Community engagement continues to be an important part of the CERP development. District staff have routinely met with the respective Community Steering Committee (CSC) subcommittees. Through ongoing discussions with the Stockton CSC subcommittee for the vegetative barriers and urban greening measures, the subcommittee had expressed strong interest in providing funding to support the Urban Greening measure (UB.1). The Urban Greening measure has been discussed at CSC meetings in addition to additional subcommittee meetings conducted to inform residents of the program and to shape the requirements for participation. Following the outreach efforts, this measure received support from the Stockton CSC and was included in the adopted CERP. This RFP was developed and modeled after existing plans and resources for similar projects within the state of California and includes feedback received from the CSC to create a program that addresses the unique needs of the community.

Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
TBD	Release Request for Proposal (for 60 days?)
TBD	Applicant Workshop
TBD	Proposal submission deadline
TBD	Proposal review by District staff
TBD	Final selection announced
TBD	Proposed contract start date
TBD	Contract end date

Funding Available

The total funding available for the Urban Greening Emission Reduction Program is \$1,000,000 for projects within the Stockton Community.

The applicant must be in compliance with applicable State and/or federal conflict of interest laws. To be eligible to receive incentive funding, the applicant **must** agree to disclose additional funding sources that include, but are not limited to, federal, state, and third-party private sources as follows:

1. Indicate if their organization has applied for or received funding from any other sources for this project.
2. Indicate if you intend to apply for additional funding from other sources in the future for this project.
3. Disclose the value of any current financial incentive that directly reduces the project cost including tax credits or deductions or other public financial assistance.

For any additional funding that the applicant will receive or has already received for this project, the applicant will submit copies of letter(s) of financial commitment(s), agreement(s), or grant award letter(s). Information provided may be shared as required by federal, state, and local laws. Any owner, designee, or other third party who is found to have submitted multiple applications or signed multiple contracts for this project without proper disclosure may be disqualified from funding for that project from all sources within the control of the District. Applying for or receiving funding from other sources for this project does not necessarily preclude you from this RFP.

Projects funded through existing initiatives within the community may be leveraged to expand existing projects in the Stockton AB 617 community. Applicants may use the grant awarded to them as leverage to raise matching funds for Urban Greening projects. Match funding is not required for this program.

Contract Period

Applicants selected through this RFP are required to commit to their projects for a minimum of 10 years. The project implementation phase shall be completed within three (3) years of the contract execution date. During the contract period, Applicants must maintain the project, comply with other requirements described in this RFP, and make the project available for inspection if requested by District and/or CARB staff.

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Applicant must be a joint powers authority, special district (Green Improvement/Benefit District, Flood Control District, etc.), non-profit, tribal government, or public agency and have the necessary experience or can work with project partners with the experience to implement urban greening projects within the selected AB 617 community.
2. Applicant must be the property owner or have documented authority from the property owner on which the project will be implemented;
3. Applicant must commit to implementing the project within three years of contract execution date and maintaining the green space during the entire contract period.

The contract will be ten (10) years from the date of execution. This includes having a commitment to irrigate trees, and tree maintenance, up to and including removal and replacement of dead trees;

4. Applicant must commit to making the project available for inspection if requested by the District or CARB staff during the entire contract period, which will be ten (10) years;
5. Applicant must contact the local County Agricultural Commissioner's Office before obtaining any plant material originating from outside the respective county to ensure all the requirements for movement of plant material into the respective county are met;
6. Applicant must ensure that trees are purchased, planted, and maintained to the specifications provided in Appendix H *Tree Selection, Planting, and Care Specifications* of the CAL Fire Urban and Community Forestry Grant Guidelines.¹
7. Applicant shall, provide public access to the project where feasible.
8. Applicant shall obtain any required permits necessary for successful project completion;
9. Applicant must ensure that all work performed is in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act and all other applicable statutes, rules, and regulations. Urban Greening projects must obtain permits as required by local, regional, state, or federal agencies before approval.
10. Applicant and project partner(s) must have financial capacity to complete, operate, and maintain the project. If the Applicant is unable to carry the financial responsibility of a reimbursement program on their own, they may partner with a local public agency or 501(c)(3) non-profit.
11. Applicant must ensure that all property taxes where the Urban Greening project will be located are current at the time of application.
12. Applicant must ensure that any funds required from other sources are reasonably expected to be available in the time frame needed to carry out the project.

Project Eligibility

The following criteria are based on the adopted community CERP. Applicants are encouraged to review the resources provided in Exhibit C as they prepare their proposals.

1. All projects must be located within the Stockton Community boundaries and meet eligibility requirements described in this RFP.
2. Required species selection for the projects
 - a. Non-Invasive
 - b. Non-Poisonous
 - c. Roadway safety conformity (where applicable)
 - d. Maximize GHG reductions
 - e. Low-biogenic volatile organic compound (BVOC) emitting
 - f. Minimize allergenic pollen
3. Payments will be made on a **reimbursement** basis. The Grantee pays for services, products, and supplies, then submits invoices and proof of payment, and is then reimbursed.

- a. The following costs are **eligible** for funding:
 - i. Initial study
 - ii. Supplies and materials
 - iii. Labor and construction of the project, such as removal of materials and equipment, installation of trees, and other approved items
 - iv. Contracted services related to the project
 - v. Signs and interpretive aids communicating information about the project
 - vi. On-going project maintenance for the continued health of the project trees
 - vii. Up to 25% of the grant request may be budgeted for non-construction costs, including but not limited to design, permitting, outreach, and direct project administration and management.
 - viii. Up to 10% may be budgeted for contingency costs
 - ix. The grant amount will cover up to 100% of eligible costs
- b. The following costs are **ineligible** to receive funding:
 - i. Overhead (i.e., rent, utilities, office equipment/supplies)

Project Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

Applications received by the District will be distributed to District staff and the Stockton CSC, who will work in partnership to evaluate and score the projects according to the scoring criteria described in Table 1 below. A meeting with the CSC will be scheduled after the conclusion of the RFP period to present and rank the submitted proposals. The scoring criteria and points, which were developed in partnership with the Stockton CSC, are meant to inform the decision-making process. Several of these criteria were based off of the CCI Urban Greening Guidelinesⁱⁱ and additional scoring criteria were added at the request of the sub-committee.

Table 1 – Scoring Criteria

Criteria	Points Available
Cost-Effectiveness - \$/ton GHG reduced	0-30
Exposure Benefits - Proximity to sensitive populations - Proximity to buildings to reduce energy costs	0-25
Co-benefits - Criteria air pollutant emission reductions	0-25
Species Selection - Types of species of trees and plants - Environmental benefits of the species selected	0-10
Project Readiness - Timeliness of project implementation - Leveraging existing efforts in the community	0-10

During the selection process, the District and the CSC may wish to interview some Applicants for clarification purposes only. No new material will be permitted at this time.

Additional information provided during the bid review process is limited to clarification by the Applicant of information presented in the proposal upon request by the District and the CSC.

The determination shall be based solely on the Evaluation Criteria contained in the RFP, on evidence provided in the proposal and on any other evidence provided during the bid review process.

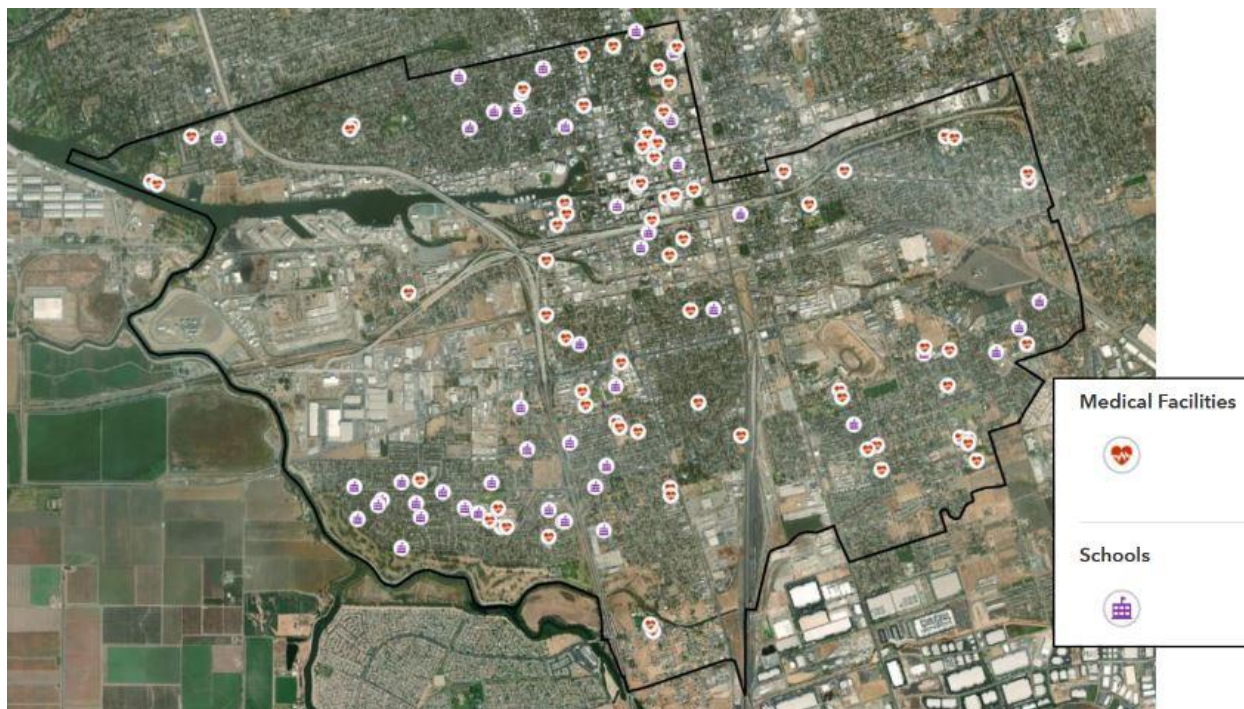
The District will report program information in accordance with Community Air Protection program guidelines available at:

https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/msprog/cap/docs/cap_incentives_2019_guidelines.pdf.

Location

Stockton is the largest metropolitan area in the Northern Region of the District, with a current estimated population of over 310,000 residents. A number of heavily trafficked freeways pass through the City of Stockton, including Interstate 5 (I-5) and Highways 99 and 4, contributing a significant amount of PM_{2.5} emissions in the community. Specifically, southwest Stockton is a densely populated community within the City of Stockton directly impacted by large freeways, the Port of Stockton, freight locomotives, industrial sources, and emissions traveling downwind from the northern portion of the city. The Stockton AB 617 community, as approved by the Community Steering Committee, is approximately 16 square miles, has an estimated population of 132,000 and is impacted across a number of health and pollution indicators. Using the State CES tool, all census tracts located within the Southwest Stockton proposed community rank in the top 5% most disadvantaged communities in California, and rank highest in the Valley amongst census tracts not already a part of an AB 617 community.

Proximity to emission sources can pose health risks for community members, particularly for sensitive groups such as children, the elderly, and those with cardiovascular diseases. Sensitive receptors located in Stockton include schools, daycare facilities, and medical facilities, as shown in the map below.



The Stockton Steering Committee placed a high priority on measures that would protect the health of children and suggested additional urban greening near these sensitive receptors. Reducing exposures for sensitive receptors will be accomplished through the implementation of Urban Greening.

The project(s) to be implemented through this RFP **must be** within the boundaries of the 617-selected community of Stockton.

Emission Reductions

Various California state and institutional bodies have developed tools to help estimate the GHG reductions and co-benefits associated with Urban Greening projects. The methodology and referenced tools below are consistent with the Quantification Methodology developed for the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Urban Greening Grant Program under the California Climate Investments Program.

All Urban Greening project calculations can be performed in the Benefits Calculator Tool, a workbook, which has been developed by CARB for the CNRA.ⁱⁱⁱ Project Applicants need to fill out data within two tabs in this workbook in order to quantify emissions and co-benefits. Applicants must fill out tabs “Project Info,” and “Tree Planting – ITP.” The tab “Tree Planting – ITS” should not be filled out (The “Tree Planting – ITS” tab is designed for an alternative input tab for use with alternative software that is no longer supported). Tab “New Bike-Ped Infrastructure” should not be completed, as new bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure is not included in the Urban Greening Program Plan.

In order to fill out all the information as prompted in the spreadsheet, project Applicants will also need to use three external tools, as follows:

- University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (WUCOLS IV) tool^{7iv}
- California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Water Budget Workbook^{8v}
- i-Tree Planting Tool^{9vi}

A guide detailing how to use each of these tools can be found in Exhibit B.

Proposal Requirements and Process

Applicants must submit a completed application (Exhibit A) and requested supplemental documents listed in this RFP to the District prior to the RFP deadline. Incomplete proposals or proposals arriving after the deadline will be automatically disqualified from consideration.

Local entities will submit applications that include the required information as described in this RFP. A certification section is included in the application and details applicant requirements. Participation occurs in several phases:

1. Applicants must submit the following documents in response to this RFP:
 - a. Completed Application, with no fields left blank;
 - i. Applicants may submit answers to Section 3, questions 1-14, of the application on a separate document so long as the proposal answers each question in the order presented in the application and the responses are numbered accordingly.
 - b. Completed Certifications Form section, signed by applicant;
 - c. First page of IRS Form W-9;
 - d. Completed California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Draft Urban Greening Benefits Calculator Tool and provide copies of the “GHG Summary” tab and “Co-benefit Summary” tab;
 - e. Dated and itemized quote(s) for the project costs; and
 - f. Photographs of the project site, an aerial photo of the project from an online resource, and a representation of the project plan area (i.e., site plan).
2. Once the RFP period has ended, the District and the CSC will review applications received and contact Applicants as necessary to gather additional information. The District will aim to respond to prospective Applicants within 60 days following the end of the RFP period to alert them if their projects have been selected to receive funding. However, this timeline may be extended at the discretion of the District and CSC (e.g. to reach consensus from the CSC).
3. Upon CSC consensus, applications selected for funding will be processed by District Staff and a contract will be offered to the applicant. Once both parties have agreed to sign the contract, the applicant will be notified of the contract execution, at which point Applicants may then commence work on the project. Project expenses cannot be incurred prior to contract execution. In the event that the

District and the selected applicant(s) cannot agree to a contract, the District reserves the right to award the grant to the next qualified applicant(s) or close this solicitation.

4. Claim for Payments may be submitted for partial/progress payments for reimbursement throughout the project implementation period and up to 90-days following the completion of the project implementation period. A complete Claim for Payment packet is required as part of the reimbursement process and must include, but is not limited to, the invoice(s) and receipts for the services performed and materials purchased, and proof of payment for all expenses. During this time, District inspectors will inspect and take photos of the project site. District staff will review submitted claim packets and reimburse for eligible costs, up to the approved contract amount.

Proposal Submittal

All proposals must be submitted to the District according to specifications set forth in this RFP. Failure to adhere to these specifications may be cause for rejection of proposal.

Signature – All proposals shall be signed by an authorized representative of the Applicant.

Due Date – All proposals are due no later than 5:00 PM, **INSERT DATE**, and should be directed to:

David Lopez
Supervising Air quality Specialist
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave
Fresno, CA 93726-0244
Email: grants@valleyair.org
Subject: Stockton Urban Greening Application

Late Proposals – Late proposals will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Grounds for Rejection – A proposal may be immediately rejected if:

- It is not prepared in the required format, or
- It is signed by an individual not authorized to represent the firm, or
- It is not signed.

Modification or Withdrawal – Once submitted, proposals cannot be altered without the prior written consent of the District. All proposals shall constitute firm offers and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days following the last day to accept proposals.

Administration

1. **Cost of Developing Application**
The Applicant is responsible for the cost of developing an Application, and this cost cannot be charged to the District. In addition, the District is not liable for any costs incurred during environmental review or as a result of withdrawing a proposed award or canceling the solicitation.
2. **Errors**
If an Applicant discovers any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error in the solicitation, the Applicant shall immediately notify the District of such error in writing and request modification or clarification of the document. The District shall not be responsible for failure to correct errors.
3. **Immaterial Defect**
The District may waive any immaterial defect or deviation contained in an Applicant's application. The District's waiver shall in no way modify the Application or excuse the successful Applicant from full compliance.
4. **Disposition of Applicant's Documents**
Pursuant to the District's Procurement Policy and Procedure, the District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. On the date that the Agreement is signed, all applications and related material submitted in response to this solicitation become a part of the property of the District and public record.
5. **Applicant's Admonishment**
This solicitation contains the instructions governing the requirements for funding projects submitted by interested Applicants, including the format in which the information is to be submitted, the material to be included, the requirements that must be met to be eligible for consideration, and Applicant responsibilities. Applicants must take the responsibility to carefully read the entire solicitation, ask appropriate questions in a timely manner, submit the application with all required responses in a complete manner by the required date and time, and make sure that all procedures and requirements of the solicitation are followed and appropriately addressed.
6. **Agreement Requirements**
The content of this solicitation and each grant Recipient's application shall be incorporated by reference into a final grant agreement. The District reserves the right to negotiate with Applicants to modify the project scope, the level of funding, or both. If the District is unable to successfully negotiate and execute a funding agreement with an Applicant, the District, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to withdraw the pending award and fund the next highest ranked eligible project. This does not limit the District's ability to withdraw a proposed award for other reasons, including for no cause.
7. **No Agreement Until Signed**

No agreement between the District and the successful Applicant is in effect until the agreement is signed by the Recipient and signed by the authorized District representative. Costs are only subject to reimbursement by the District after execution; no costs incurred prior to execution of the agreement are reimbursable.

8. No Modifications to the General Provisions

Because time is of the essence, if an Applicant at any time, including after Preliminary Grantee Selection, attempts to negotiate, or otherwise seeks modification of, the application or proposed award, the District may reject an application or withdraw a proposed award.

9. Payment of Prevailing Wages

If applicable, all Applicants must read and pay particular attention to prevailing wages and labor compliance. Prevailing wage rates can be significantly higher than non-prevailing wage rates. Failure to pay legally-required prevailing wage rates can result in substantial damages and financial penalties, termination of the grant agreement, disruption of projects, and other complications.

10. Solicitation Cancellation and Amendments

The District reserves the right to cancel this solicitation, revise the amount of funds available under this solicitation, amend this solicitation as needed, and reject any or all applications received in response to this solicitation.

Insurance

The selected applicant(s) is required to maintain sufficient insurance, licenses, or other required certifications for the type of work being performed. The District may require specific insurance coverage be established and maintained during the course of the work and as a condition of award or continuation of contract.

Reporting Requirements

All projects that receive funding under this program must comply with the requirements described in Section H of Chapter 3 in the Community Air Protection Incentives 2019 Guidelines^{vii}. This will involve the preparation of Semi-annual and Yearly Reports, which the District will prepare based on information collected from the selected Applicant(s). Applicant(s) must ensure that project-related information is complete, correct, supported by documentation, and supplied to the District upon request for the preparation of the reports. Some of the information to be included in these reports is described below:

- Project information, including but not limited to the following:
 - Location information.
 - Priority population identification, if applicable.
 - Approach for identifying beneficial projects (e.g. outreach efforts, community-based organization letters, etc.).
 - Project benefits (e.g. reduction of emissions, greater mobility, etc.).

- Program-level information, including but not limited to the following:
 - Employment benefits and outcomes (jobs).
 - Public transparency and outreach events (outreach).
- Status of projects and funds for each grant year of CAP incentives
- A list of any projects identified as nonperforming and a brief narrative of any related enforcement actions

The above is not an exhaustive list of reporting requirements for the selected Applicant(s) in this program and the District will work with the Applicant(s) to ensure that the required data and information are collected for the reports. For more information, please refer to the Community Air Protection Incentives 2019 Guidelines.

Applicant Workshop

The District will host an informational meeting to address questions from Applicants interested in submitting a proposal. This meeting is open to the public and is not limited to interested Applicants. Attendance at the informational meeting is NOT a requirement for submitting a proposal.

The informational meeting will be held on **TBD**

Please email the District's contact person below to RSVP for this RFP informational meeting.

Contact Person

All questions concerning this RFP and application submittals should be directed to:

David Lopez
Supervising Air quality Specialist
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave
Fresno, CA 93726-0244
Phone (559) 230-5961
Email: David.Lopez@valleyair.org

ⁱ Appendix H, CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grant Guidelines. Available at: https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/9653/cal-fire-ucf-cci-2019-20_grant-guidelines_final.pdf#page=54

Accessed: March 2021.

ⁱⁱ Urban Greening Program Final Guidelines. Available at: <https://resources.ca.gov/grants/urban-greening/>
Accessed: February 2021.

ⁱⁱⁱ CARB Urban Greening Calculator Tool (Version 3). Available at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cci-quantification-benefits-and-reporting-materials?corr>

Accessed: February 2021.

^{iv} WUCOLS IV Database. Available at <https://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/> Accessed: February 2021.

^v DWR Water Budget Workbook. Available at:

<https://cadwr.app.box.com/s/5k39tv10u42rp5bn2uebd7fodkxzqve7>

Accessed: February 2021.

^{vi} i-Tree Planting Calculator v2.1.2. Available at: <https://planting.itreetools.org/> Accessed: February 2021.

^{vii} Community Air Protection Incentives 2019 Guidelines. Available at:

https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/cap_incentives_2019_guidelines_final_rev_10_14_2020_0.pdf

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Exhibit A

Urban Greening Application Here

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Exhibit B

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Urban Greening Tool – User Guides Here

Exhibit C

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Helpful Resources Here