

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.14  
(ID # 23363)

MEETING DATE:

FROM : FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Tuesday, December 05, 2023

**SUBJECT:** FIRE DEPARTMENT: Adopt Resolution No. 2023-282, Accepting FY 2023 Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) Program Funds, Approving the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) Agreement #7GF23102 Under the VFC Program, and Authorizing the Fire Chief, or Designee, to Execute Said Agreement, and any Amendments Thereto; and, Approve the Budget Adjustment; District 4; [\$18,520 Total Cost - 50% Federal Funds, 12% General Funds, 17% Structural Fire Taxes, 21% Contract Reimbursement]; 4/5 Vote Required

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-282, Accepting FY 2023 Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) Program Funds, Approving the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Agreement #7GF23102 Under the VFC Program, and Authorize the Fire Chief, or Designee, to Execute Said Agreement, and any Amendments thereto;
2. Accept the FY 2023 VFC award in the amount of \$9,260 from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) awarded to the Riverside County Fire Department with a cash match of \$9,260;
3. Authorize the Fire Chief or designee, to execute any and all documents associated with Agreement #7GF23102, subject to approval as to form by County Counsel, and administer the grant program; and
4. Approve and direct the Auditor-Controller to adjust appropriations and estimated revenue as outlined in Schedule A for the Fire Department for FY 23/24.

**ACTION:**4/5 Vote Required

  
Geoff Pemberton, Chief Deputy County Fire

11/13/2023

  
Bill Weiser, Fire Department Chief

11/13/2023

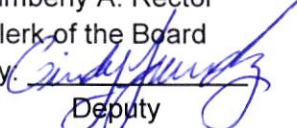
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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Spiegel, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington and Perez and Gutierrez  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: December 5, 2023  
xc: Fire

Kimberly A. Rector  
Clerk of the Board

By:   
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$ 18,520	\$ 0	\$ 18,520	\$ 0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ 2,222	\$ 0	\$ 2,222	\$ 0
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> 50% Federal Funds, 12% General Funds, 17% Structural Fire Taxes; 21% Contract Reimbursement			<b>Budget Adjustment:</b>	Yes
			<b>For Fiscal Year:</b>	23/24

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** Approve

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) has awarded the Riverside County Fire Department funding from the Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) program grant in the amount of \$9,260 to purchase full Structural Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the departments Volunteer Services Program. This grant funding will benefit the unincorporated community of Mecca, located in Supervisorial District 4. The equipment funded by this grant will ensure volunteer firefighters are in compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.

The Fire Department received funding from this source in 2017 to purchase full Structural and Wildland Personal Protective Equipment for the department's Volunteer Services Program serving the unincorporated areas of eastern Riverside County. This is a competitive grant, and the Department cannot expect to be funded annually.

The purpose of the VFC Program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The program provides direct financial assistance to fire departments for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.

A budget adjustment is attached for approval (Schedule A) for the grant funding only. It has been reviewed and approved by the Auditor-Controller. The cash match is already budgeted for FY 23/24.

**Impact on Residents and Businesses**

These funds are dedicated to protecting the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire related hazards in the unincorporated area of Mecca.

**Additional Fiscal Information**

The Riverside County Fire Department is responsible for providing the 50% cash match requirement (\$9,260). The grant funds will cover 50% of the total cost of the equipment

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

(\$9,260) for a total cost of \$18,520. Riverside County Fire Department's cash match will be covered by County Fire's General Fund already budgeted in fiscal year 23/24 per the requirements of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection agency.

**Contract History and Price Reasonableness**

On September 12, 2017 (Minute Order 3.21), the Board of Supervisors authorized the acceptance and terms of the VFC grant in the amount of \$20,000 for structural and wildland personal protective equipment.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**SCHEDULE A.      BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

Increase Appropriations		
10000-2700200000-527780	Special Program Expense	\$9,260
	Total	\$9,260
Increase Estimated Revenue:		
10000-2700200000-767220	Fed-Other Operating Grants	\$9,260
	Total	\$9,260

**ATTACHMENT B.    Resolution Number 2023-282**

**ATTACHMENT C.    Grant Agreement: 7GF23102**

**ATTACHMENT D.    AD-1048**

  
Evangelina Gregorio      11/15/2023

  
Rebecca S Cortez, Principal Management Analyst      11/20/2023

  
Michelle Paradise, ACEO      11/21/2023

  
Amrit Dhillon      11/15/2023

  
Aaron Gettis, Deputy County Counsel      11/15/2023

1 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

2 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-282

3 APPROVING THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
4 (CAL FIRE) AGREEMENT #7GF23102 FOR SERVICES FROM THE DATE OF THE LAST  
5 SIGNATORY ON PAGE 1 OF THE AGREEMENT TO JUNE 30, 2024 UNDER THE  
6 VOLUNTEER FIRE CAPACITY PROGRAM OF THE COOPERATIVE FORESTRY  
7 ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1978

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, the Riverside County Fire Department ("Fire Department") applied for a 2023-2024 Volunteer  
10 Fire Capacity ("VFC") Program Grant offered through the California Department of Forestry and Fire  
11 Protection ("Cal Fire"); and

12 **WHEREAS**, Cal Fire selected the Fire Department for a grant award through the VFC Program and Fire  
13 Department desires to accept the grant award;

14 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FOUND, DETERMINED, AND ORDERED** by  
15 the Board of Supervisors, in regular session assembled on November 28, 2023, at 9:30 am. in the meeting  
16 room of the Board of Supervisors located on the first floor of the County Administrative Center, 4080  
17 Lemon Street, Riverside, California, as follows:

18 **THAT** the Board of Supervisors does hereby approve Grant Agreement #7GF23102  
19 ("Agreement") with Cal Fire dated as of the last signatory date on page 1 of the Agreement and approves  
20 of any amendments thereto. This Agreement provides for an award, during the term of this Agreement,  
21 under the Volunteer Fire Capacity Program of the Cooperative Fire Assistance Act of 1978 during the  
22 State Fiscal Year 2023-24 up to and no more than the amount of \$9,260.

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED** that the Chair of the Board  
24 of Supervisors authorizes the Riverside County Fire Chief, Chief Deputy, or Deputy Director of  
25 Administration to sign and execute said Agreement and any amendments thereto on behalf of the County  
26 of Riverside.

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED** by the Board of  
28 Supervisors that the individuals whose title appears below are hereby designated as Authorized Agents

FORWARDED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY APD 11/15/2023 DATE  
AMRIT P. DHILLON

1 and are authorized to execute for and on behalf of the County of Riverside, any related documents  
2 necessary for the purpose of accepting and administering the subject grant, as required by Cal Fire, subject  
3 to County Counsel's approval as to form.

4 Fire Chief, OR

5 (Title of Authorized Agent)

6 Chief Deputy, OR

7 (Title of Authorized Agent)

8 Deputy Director of Administration

9 (Title of Authorized Agent)

10 //

11 // ROLL CALL:

12 Ayes: Jeffries, Washington, Spiegel, Perez, and Gutierrez

13 Nays: None

14 Absent: None

15 The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of  
16 Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

17 KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, Clerk of said Board

18 By:  \_\_\_\_\_

19 Deputy

**CLERK'S COPY**

to Riverside County Clerk of the Board, Stop 1010  
Post Office Box 1147, Riverside, Ca 92502-1147  
Thank you.

**State of California  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)  
Cooperative Fire Protection  
GRANT AGREEMENT**

**APPLICANT:** Riverside County Fire Department

**PROJECT TITLE:** Volunteer Fire Capacity

**GRANT AGREEMENT:** 7GF23102

**PROJECT PERFORMANCE PERIOD** is from date upon approval through **June 30, 2024.**

Under the terms and conditions of this Grant Agreement, the applicant agrees to complete the project as described in the project description, and the State of California, acting through the Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, agrees to fund the project up to the total state grant amount indicated.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Cost-share funds awarded to provide assistance to rural areas in upgrading their capability to organize, train, and equip local forces for fire protection.

**Total State Grant not to exceed \$ 9,260.00** (or project costs, whichever is less).

*\*The Special and General Provisions attached are made a part of and incorporated into this Grant Agreement.*

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY: AMRIT P. DHILLON  
DATE: 11/15/2023

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY  
AND FIRE PROTECTION**

Riverside County Fire Department  
Applicant

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Representative

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Title: **David Scheurich**  
**Staff Chief, Cooperative Fire Programs**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION OF FUNDING**

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER	PO ID	SUPPLIER ID
FUND <b>0001</b>	FUND NAME General Fund	
PROJECT ID <b>354023DG2012166</b>	ACTIVITY ID SUBGNT	AMOUNT OF ESTIMATE FUNDING <b>\$ 9,260.00</b>
GL UNIT <b>3540</b>	BUD REF                      CHAPTER 001                                      12	ADJ. INCREASING ENCUMBRANCE <b>\$ 0.00</b>
PROGRAM NUMBER 9999000FED	ENY <b>2023</b>	ADJ. DECREASING ENCUMBRANCE <b>\$ 0.00</b>
ACCOUNT 5340580	ALT ACCOUNT <b>5340580002</b>	UNENCUMBERED BALANCE <b>\$ 9,260.00</b>
REPORTING STRUCTURE 35409206	SERVICE LOCATION 92750	

**I hereby certify upon my personal knowledge that budgeted funds are available for this encumbrance.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of CAL FIRE Accounting Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**VOLUNTEER FIRE CAPACITY PROGRAM  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Natural Resources Agency

Agreement for the Volunteer Fire Capacity Program of the  
Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered between the STATE of California, acting through the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection hereinafter called "STATE", and Riverside County Fire Department hereinafter called "LOCAL AGENCY", covenants as follows:

RECITALS:

1. STATE has been approved as a passthrough agent of the United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA), Forest Service for the purpose of administering the Volunteer Fire Capacity program in California, hereinafter referred to as VFC, authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) of 1978 (PL 95-313, 92 Stat 365, 16 U.S.C. 2106), as amended.
2. This is a subaward under the 2023 Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant #23-DG-11052012-166 awarded to STATE by the Forest Service on August 3, 2023. The Federal Assistance Listing for the award is 10.698, Cooperative Forestry Program. This subaward is funded solely with Federal funds and is subject to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance in subparts A through F of 2 CFR Part 200, as adopted and supplemented by the USDA in 2 CFR Part 400, and under certain terms and conditions to LOCAL AGENCY to assist LOCAL AGENCY to upgrade its fire protection capability.
3. LOCAL AGENCY desires to participate in said VFC and agrees to the terms and conditions specified in the Procedural Guide for Volunteer Fire Capacity Program 2023.

NOW THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed between the parties as follows:

4. **APPROVAL:** This Agreement is of no force or effect until signed by both parties and approved by the Department of General Services, if required. LOCAL AGENCY may not commence performance until such approval has been obtained.
5. **INCORPORATION:** The Procedural Guide for Volunteer Fire Capacity Program 2023, submitted Application for Funding and associated Grant Assurances are hereby incorporated by reference as part of the Grant Agreement.
6. **TIMELINESS:** Time is of the essence in this Agreement.
7. **FORFEITURE OF AWARD:** LOCAL AGENCY must return this Agreement and required resolution properly signed and executed to STATE at the email address specified in paragraph 12, with a timestamp no later than December 1, 2023 or LOCAL AGENCY will forfeit the funds.

8. GRANT AND BUDGET CONTIGENCY CLAUSE: It is mutually understood between the parties that this **Agreement** may have been written for the mutual benefit of both parties before ascertaining the availability of congressional appropriation of funds, to avoid program and fiscal delays that would occur if the **Agreement** were executed after that determination was made.

This **Agreement** is valid and enforceable only if sufficient funds are made available to the STATE by the United States Government for the **State Fiscal Year 2023** for the purpose of this program. In addition, this **Agreement** is subject to any additional restrictions, limitations, or conditions enacted by the Congress or to any statute enacted by the Congress that may affect the provisions, terms, or funding of this **Agreement** in any manner.

The parties mutually agree that if the Congress does not appropriate sufficient funds for the program, this **Agreement** shall be amended to reflect any reduction in funds.

The STATE has the option to invalidate the **Agreement** under the 30-day cancellation clause or to amend the **Agreement** to reflect any reduction in funds.

9. REIMBURSEMENT: STATE will reimburse LOCAL AGENCY, from funds made available to STATE by the Federal Government, an amount not to exceed **\$9,260.00** on a 50/50 matching funds basis, for the performance of specific projects and/or purchase of specific items identified in Proposed Project, Application for Funding, attached hereto. **Reimbursement will be only for those projects accomplished and/or items purchased between THE LAST SIGNATORY DATE ON PAGE 1 and JUNE 30, 2024.** This sum is the sole and maximum payment that STATE will make pursuant to this Agreement. **LOCAL AGENCY must bill STATE at the e-mail address specified in paragraph 12, with a timestamp no later than September 1, 2024 in order to receive the funds.** The bill submitted by LOCAL AGENCY must clearly delineate the projects performed and/or items purchased. A vendor's invoice and proof of payment to vendor(s) must be included for items purchased.
10. LIMITATIONS: Expenditure of the funds distributed by STATE herein is subject to the same limitations as placed by the VFC, upon expenditure of United States Government Funds. Pursuant to 2CFR200.313 Equipment, subject to the obligations and conditions set forth in that section; title to any equipment and supplies acquired under this **Agreement** vests with the LOCAL AGENCY. For any equipment items over \$5,000, the federal government may retain a vested interest in accordance with paragraph 17 below.
11. MATCHING FUNDS: Any and all funds paid to LOCAL AGENCY under the terms of this **Agreement**, hereinafter referred to as "VFC Funds", shall be matched by LOCAL AGENCY on a dollar-for-dollar basis, for each project listed on attachment(s) hereto identified as "Proposed Project". No amount of unpaid "contributed" or "volunteer" labor or services shall be used or consigned in calculating the matching amount "actually spent" by LOCAL AGENCY.

LOCAL AGENCY shall not use VFC Funds as matching funds for other federal grants, including Department of Interior (USDI) Rural Fire Assistance grants, nor use funds from other federal grants, including USDI Rural Fire Assistance grants, as matching funds for VFC Funds.



12. ADDRESSES: The mailing addresses of the parties hereto under the terms of the Agreement are:

LOCAL AGENCY: Riverside County Fire Department  
210 W. San Jacinto Ave.  
Perris, CA 92570  
Attention: GRANTS  
Telephone Number(s): 951-940-6769  
E-mail [calfirerrucountygrants@fire.ca.gov](mailto:calfirerrucountygrants@fire.ca.gov)

STATE: **Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**  
**Grants Management Unit, Attn: Megan Esfandiary**  
**P. O. Box 944246**  
**Sacramento, California 94244-2460**  
**PHONE: (916) 894-9845**  
**E-MAIL: [Megan.Esfandiary@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Megan.Esfandiary@fire.ca.gov)**

13. PURPOSE: Any project to be funded hereunder must be intended to specifically assist LOCAL AGENCY to organize, train, and/or equip local firefighting forces in the aforementioned rural area and community to prevent or suppress fires which threaten life, resources, and/or improvements within the area of operation of LOCAL AGENCY. Project funds are not to be used for research and development.
14. COMBINING: In the event funds are paid for two or more separate, but closely related projects, the 50/50 cost-sharing formula will be applied to the total cost of such combined projects.
15. OVERRUNS: In the event that the total cost of a funded project exceeds the estimate of costs upon which this Agreement is made, LOCAL AGENCY may request additional funds to cover the **Agreement** share of the amount exceeded. However, there is no assurance that any such funds are, or may be, available for reimbursement. Any increase in funding will require an amendment.
16. UNDERRUNS: In the event that the total cost of a funded project is less than the estimate of costs upon which this **Agreement** is made, LOCAL AGENCY may request that additional eligible projects/items be approved by STATE for **Agreement** funding. However, there is no assurance that any such approval will be funded. Approval of additional projects/items, not listed on the Proposed Project application, made by STATE, will be in writing and will require an amendment.
17. FEDERAL INTEREST IN EQUIPMENT: The Federal Government has a vested interest in any item purchased with VFC funding in excess of \$5,000 regardless of the length of this **Agreement**, until such time as the fair market value is less than \$5,000. The VFC percentage used to purchase the equipment will be applied to the sale price and recovered for the Government during the sale. This percentage will remain the same even following depreciation. The Federal Government may not have to be reimbursed if the disposal sale amounts to a fair market value of less than \$5,000. LOCAL AGENCY will notify STATE of the disposal of such items.

18. EQUIPMENT INVENTORY: Any single item purchased in excess of \$5,000 will be assigned an VFC Property Number by the STATE. LOCAL AGENCY shall forward a copy of the purchase documents listing the item, brand, model, serial number, any LOCAL AGENCY property number assigned, and a LOCAL AGENCY contact and return address to STATE at the address specified in paragraph 12. The STATE will advise the LOCAL AGENCY Contact of the VFC Property Number assigned.
19. AUDIT: LOCAL AGENCY agrees that the STATE, the Department of General Services, the Bureau of State Audits, or their designated representative shall have the right to review and to copy any records and supporting documentation pertaining to the performance of this **Agreement**. LOCAL AGENCY agrees to maintain such records for possible audit for a minimum of five (5) years after final payment, unless a longer period of records retention is stipulated. LOCAL AGENCY agrees to allow the auditor(s) access to such records during normal business hours and to allow interviews of any employees who might reasonably have information related to such records. Further, LOCAL AGENCY agrees to include a similar right of the State of California to audit records and interview staff in any subcontract related to performance of this **Agreement**. (GC 8546.7, PCC 10115 et seq., CCR Title 2, Section 1896).
20. DISPUTES: In the event of any dispute over qualifying matching expenditures of LOCAL AGENCY or audit findings, the dispute will be decided by STATE and its decision shall be final and binding.
21. MONITORING: LOCAL AGENCY agrees to the monitoring of activities as necessary by STATE to ensure that the award is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the agreement; and that performance goals are achieved.
22. INDEMNIFICATION: LOCAL AGENCY agrees to indemnify, defend, and save harmless, the STATE, its officers, agents, and employees, from any and all claims and losses, accruing or resulting to any and all contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, laborers, and any other person, firm or corporation furnishing or supplying work services, materials, or supplies in connection with the performance of this **Agreement**, and from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm or corporation who may be injured or damaged by LOCAL AGENCY in the performance of this **Agreement**.
23. CIVIL RIGHTS: LOCAL AGENCY agrees to comply with civil rights requirements as detailed in the Complying With Civil Rights Requirements brochure (FS-850) and the And Justice For All poster (AD-475A). The poster is to be placed at all public point of contact/reception areas.
24. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS: LOCAL AGENCY will comply with the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1990 and will provide a drug-free workplace by taking the following actions:
  - a. Publish a statement notifying employees that unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited and specifying actions to be taken against employees for violations.
  - b. Establish a Drug-Free Awareness Program to inform employees about:

- 1) the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
- 2) the person's or organization's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
- 3) any available counseling, rehabilitation and employee assistance programs; and,
- 4) penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations.

c. Every employee who works on the proposed **Agreement** will:

- 1) receive a copy of the company's drug-free workplace policy statement; and,
- 2) agree to abide by the terms of the company's statement as a condition of employment on the **Agreement**.

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in suspension of payments under the **Agreement** or termination of the **Agreement** or both and LOCAL AGENCY may be ineligible for funding of any future State **Agreement** if the department determines that any of the following has occurred: (1) the LOCAL AGENCY has made false certification, or violated the certification by failing to carry out the requirements as noted above. (GC 8350 et seq.)

25. **TERM:** The term of the Agreement SHALL COMMENCE ON THE LAST SIGNATORY DATE ON PAGE 1 and continue through June 30, 2024.
26. **TERMINATION:** This **Agreement** may be terminated by either party giving 30 days written notice to the other party or provisions herein amended upon mutual consent of the parties hereto.
27. **AMENDMENTS:** No amendment or variation of the terms of this **Agreement** shall be valid unless made in writing, signed by the parties and approved as required. No oral understanding or **Agreement** not incorporated in the **Agreement** is binding on any of the parties.
28. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR:** LOCAL AGENCY, and the agents and employees of LOCAL AGENCY, in the performance of this **Agreement**, shall act in an independent capacity and not as officers or employees or agents of the STATE or the Federal Government.
29. **INDIRECT RATE:** LOCAL AGENCY may not assess an indirect rate in excess of their Federally approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), a de minimis rate if LOCAL AGENCY does not have an approved NICRA, or the VFC program cap rate of 10%, whichever is lesser. LOCAL AGENCY may also elect not to assess an indirect rate. The approved indirect cost rate at the time of execution is 0%.

30. MEDIA: LOCAL AGENCY shall acknowledge STATE and USDA Forest Service support in any publications, audiovisuals and electronic media developed as a result of this award.

It is encouraged to give public notice of the receipt of this award and announce progress and accomplishments, acknowledging STATE and USDA Forest Service support. Follow direction in USDA Supplemental 2 CFR 415.2.

31. ASSIGNMENT: This Agreement is not assignable by LOCAL AGENCY either in whole or in part.

**CLERK'S COPY**

to Riverside County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
 Post Office Box 1147, Riverside, CA 92503-1147  
 Thank you.

AD-1048



**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion  
 Lower Tier Covered Transactions**

The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a, as amended). This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, and 2 CFR §§ 180.300, 180.335, Participants' responsibilities. The regulations were amended and published on August 31, 2005, in 70 Fed. Reg. 51865-51880. Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the Department of Agriculture agency offering the proposed covered transaction.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0505-0027. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal or civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided.

*(Read instructions on page two before completing certification.)*

- A. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency;
- B. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

ORGANIZATION NAME Riverside County Fire Department	PR/AWARD NUMBER OR PROJECT NAME 7GF23102
NAME(S) AND TITLE(S) OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE(S)	
SIGNATURE	DATE

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
 BY: Amrit P. Bhillon 11/15/2023  
 AMRIT P. BHILLON DATE

DEC 5 2023 3.14

### Instructions for Certification

- (1) By signing and submitting this form, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out on page 1 in accordance with these instructions.
- (2) The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension or debarment.
- (3) The prospective lower tier participant must provide immediate written notice to the person(s) to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
- (4) The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549, at 2 CFR Parts 180 and 417. You may contact the Department or agency to which this proposal is being submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
- (5) The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this form that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it may not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the Department or agency with which this transaction originated.
- (6) The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this form that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
- (7) A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the General Services Administration's System for Award Management Exclusions database.
- (8) Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
- (9) Except for transactions authorized under paragraph (5) of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

WHEN DOCUMENT IS FULLY EXECUTED RETURN  
CLERK'S COPY

to Riverside County Clerk of the Board, Stop 1010  
Post Office Box 1147, Riverside, Ca 92502-1147  
Thank you.

State of California  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)  
Cooperative Fire Protection  
GRANT AGREEMENT

APPLICANT: Riverside County Fire Department

PROJECT TITLE: Volunteer Fire Capacity

GRANT AGREEMENT: 7GF23102

PROJECT PERFORMANCE PERIOD is from date upon approval through June 30, 2024.

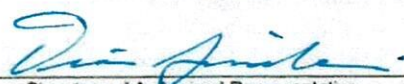
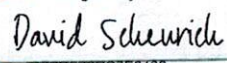
Under the terms and conditions of this Grant Agreement, the applicant agrees to complete the project as described in the project description, and the State of California, acting through the Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, agrees to fund the project up to the total state grant amount indicated.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Cost-share funds awarded to provide assistance to rural areas in upgrading their capability to organize, train, and equip local forces for fire protection

Total State Grant not to exceed \$ **\$9,260.00** (or project costs, whichever is less)

\*The Special and General Provisions attached are made a part of and incorporated into this Grant Agreement.


FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY AMRIT P DHILLON  
11/15/2023  
DATE

Riverside County Fire Department Applicant	STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
By  Signature of Authorized Representative	DocuSigned by:  D7BBE72CC7E6462...
Title <u>Deputy Director of Admin</u>	Title: <b>David Scheurich</b> <b>Staff Chief, Cooperative Fire Programs</b>
Date <u>12/7/23</u>	Date 12/11/2023

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDING

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER	PO ID 0000616764	SUPPLIER ID 0000030399
FUND 0001	FUND NAME General Fund	
PROJECT ID 354023DG2012166	ACTIVITY ID SUBGNT	AMOUNT OF ESTIMATE FUNDING \$ 9,260.00
GL UNIT 3540	BUD REF 001 CHAPTER 12	ADJ. INCREASING ENCUMBRANCE \$ 0.00
PROGRAM NUMBER 9999000FED	ENY 2023	ADJ. DECREASING ENCUMBRANCE \$ 0.00
ACCOUNT 5340580	ALT ACCOUNT 5340580002	UNENCUMBERED BALANCE \$ 9,260.00
REPORTING STRUCTURE 35409206	SERVICE LOCATION 92750	

I hereby certify upon my personal knowledge that budgeted funds are available for this encumbrance.

 Signature of CAL FIRE Accounting Officer	12/15/2023 Date
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**VOLUNTEER FIRE CAPACITY PROGRAM  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Natural Resources Agency

Agreement for the Volunteer Fire Capacity Program of the  
Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered between the STATE of California, acting through the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection hereinafter called "STATE", and Riverside County Fire Department hereinafter called "LOCAL AGENCY", covenants as follows:

RECITALS:

1. STATE has been approved as a passthrough agent of the United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA), Forest Service for the purpose of administering the Volunteer Fire Capacity program in California, hereinafter referred to as VFC, authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) of 1978 (PL 95-313, 92 Stat 365, 16 U.S.C. 2106), as amended.
2. This is a subaward under the 2023 Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant #23-DG-11052012-166 awarded to STATE by the Forest Service on August 3, 2023. The Federal Assistance Listing for the award is 10.698, Cooperative Forestry Program. This subaward is funded solely with Federal funds and is subject to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance in subparts A through F of 2 CFR Part 200, as adopted and supplemented by the USDA in 2 CFR Part 400, and under certain terms and conditions to LOCAL AGENCY to assist LOCAL AGENCY to upgrade its fire protection capability.
3. LOCAL AGENCY desires to participate in said VFC and agrees to the terms and conditions specified in the Procedural Guide for Volunteer Fire Capacity Program 2023.

NOW THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed between the parties as follows:

4. **APPROVAL: This Agreement is of no force or effect until signed by both parties and approved by the Department of General Services, if required. LOCAL AGENCY may not commence performance until such approval has been obtained.**
5. **INCORPORATION: The Procedural Guide for Volunteer Fire Capacity Program 2023, submitted Application for Funding and associated Grant Assurances are hereby incorporated by reference as part of the Grant Agreement.**
6. **TIMELINESS: Time is of the essence in this Agreement.**
7. **FORFEITURE OF AWARD: LOCAL AGENCY must return this Agreement and required resolution properly signed and executed to STATE at the email address specified in paragraph 12, with a timestamp no later than December 1, 2023 or LOCAL AGENCY will forfeit the funds.**



8. GRANT AND BUDGET CONTIGENCY CLAUSE: It is mutually understood between the parties that this **Agreement** may have been written for the mutual benefit of both parties before ascertaining the availability of congressional appropriation of funds, to avoid program and fiscal delays that would occur if the **Agreement** were executed after that determination was made.

This **Agreement** is valid and enforceable only if sufficient funds are made available to the STATE by the United States Government for the **State Fiscal Year 2023** for the purpose of this program. In addition, this **Agreement** is subject to any additional restrictions, limitations, or conditions enacted by the Congress or to any statute enacted by the Congress that may affect the provisions, terms, or funding of this **Agreement** in any manner.

The parties mutually agree that if the Congress does not appropriate sufficient funds for the program, this **Agreement** shall be amended to reflect any reduction in funds.

The STATE has the option to invalidate the **Agreement** under the 30-day cancellation clause or to amend the **Agreement** to reflect any reduction in funds.

9. REIMBURSEMENT: STATE will reimburse LOCAL AGENCY, from funds made available to STATE by the Federal Government, an amount not to exceed **\$9,260.00** on a 50/50 matching funds basis, for the performance of specific projects and/or purchase of specific items identified in Proposed Project, Application for Funding, attached hereto. **Reimbursement will be only for those projects accomplished and/or items purchased between THE LAST SIGNATORY DATE ON PAGE 1 and JUNE 30, 2024.** This sum is the sole and maximum payment that STATE will make pursuant to this Agreement. **LOCAL AGENCY must bill STATE at the e-mail address specified in paragraph 12, with a timestamp no later than September 1, 2024 in order to receive the funds.** The bill submitted by LOCAL AGENCY must clearly delineate the projects performed and/or items purchased. A vendor's invoice and proof of payment to vendor(s) must be included for items purchased.
10. LIMITATIONS: Expenditure of the funds distributed by STATE herein is subject to the same limitations as placed by the VFC, upon expenditure of United States Government Funds. Pursuant to 2CFR200.313 Equipment, subject to the obligations and conditions set forth in that section; title to any equipment and supplies acquired under this **Agreement** vests with the LOCAL AGENCY. For any equipment items over \$5,000, the federal government may retain a vested interest in accordance with paragraph 17 below.
11. MATCHING FUNDS: Any and all funds paid to LOCAL AGENCY under the terms of this **Agreement**, hereinafter referred to as "VFC Funds", shall be matched by LOCAL AGENCY on a dollar-for-dollar basis, for each project listed on attachment(s) hereto identified as "Proposed Project". No amount of unpaid "contributed" or "volunteer" labor or services shall be used or consigned in calculating the matching amount "actually spent" by LOCAL AGENCY.

LOCAL AGENCY shall not use VFC Funds as matching funds for other federal grants, including Department of Interior (USDI) Rural Fire Assistance grants, nor use funds from other federal grants, including USDI Rural Fire Assistance grants, as matching funds for VFC Funds.

12. ADDRESSES: The mailing addresses of the parties hereto under the terms of the Agreement are:

LOCAL AGENCY: Riverside County Fire Department  
210 W. San Jacinto Ave.  
Perris, CA 92570  
Attention: GRANTS  
Telephone Number(s): 951-940-6769  
E-mail calfirerrucountygrants@fire.ca.gov

STATE: **Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**  
**Grants Management Unit, Attn: Megan Esfandiary**  
**P. O. Box 944246**  
**Sacramento, California 94244-2460**  
**PHONE: (916) 894-9845**  
**E-MAIL: [Megan.Esfandiary@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Megan.Esfandiary@fire.ca.gov)**

13. PURPOSE: Any project to be funded hereunder must be intended to specifically assist LOCAL AGENCY to organize, train, and/or equip local firefighting forces in the aforementioned rural area and community to prevent or suppress fires which threaten life, resources, and/or improvements within the area of operation of LOCAL AGENCY. Project funds are not to be used for research and development.
14. COMBINING: In the event funds are paid for two or more separate, but closely related projects, the 50/50 cost-sharing formula will be applied to the total cost of such combined projects.
15. OVERRUNS: In the event that the total cost of a funded project exceeds the estimate of costs upon which this Agreement is made, LOCAL AGENCY may request additional funds to cover the **Agreement** share of the amount exceeded. However, there is no assurance that any such funds are, or may be, available for reimbursement. Any increase in funding will require an amendment.
16. UNDERRUNS: In the event that the total cost of a funded project is less than the estimate of costs upon which this **Agreement** is made, LOCAL AGENCY may request that additional eligible projects/items be approved by STATE for **Agreement** funding. However, there is no assurance that any such approval will be funded. Approval of additional projects/items, not listed on the Proposed Project application, made by STATE, will be in writing and will require an amendment.
17. FEDERAL INTEREST IN EQUIPMENT: The Federal Government has a vested interest in any item purchased with VFC funding in excess of \$5,000 regardless of the length of this **Agreement**, until such time as the fair market value is less than \$5,000. The VFC percentage used to purchase the equipment will be applied to the sale price and recovered for the Government during the sale. This percentage will remain the same even following depreciation. The Federal Government may not have to be reimbursed if the disposal sale amounts to a fair market value of less than \$5,000. LOCAL AGENCY will notify STATE of the disposal of such items.

18. EQUIPMENT INVENTORY: Any single item purchased in excess of \$5,000 will be assigned an VFC Property Number by the STATE. LOCAL AGENCY shall forward a copy of the purchase documents listing the item, brand, model, serial number, any LOCAL AGENCY property number assigned, and a LOCAL AGENCY contact and return address to STATE at the address specified in paragraph 12. The STATE will advise the LOCAL AGENCY Contact of the VFC Property Number assigned.
19. AUDIT: LOCAL AGENCY agrees that the STATE, the Department of General Services, the Bureau of State Audits, or their designated representative shall have the right to review and to copy any records and supporting documentation pertaining to the performance of this **Agreement**. LOCAL AGENCY agrees to maintain such records for possible audit for a minimum of five (5) years after final payment, unless a longer period of records retention is stipulated. LOCAL AGENCY agrees to allow the auditor(s) access to such records during normal business hours and to allow interviews of any employees who might reasonably have information related to such records. Further, LOCAL AGENCY agrees to include a similar right of the State of California to audit records and interview staff in any subcontract related to performance of this **Agreement**. (GC 8546.7, PCC 10115 et seq., CCR Title 2, Section 1896).
20. DISPUTES: In the event of any dispute over qualifying matching expenditures of LOCAL AGENCY or audit findings, the dispute will be decided by STATE and its decision shall be final and binding.
21. MONITORING: LOCAL AGENCY agrees to the monitoring of activities as necessary by STATE to ensure that the award is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the agreement; and that performance goals are achieved.
22. INDEMNIFICATION: LOCAL AGENCY agrees to indemnify, defend, and save harmless, the STATE, its officers, agents, and employees, from any and all claims and losses, accruing or resulting to any and all contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, laborers, and any other person, firm or corporation furnishing or supplying work services, materials, or supplies in connection with the performance of this **Agreement**, and from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm or corporation who may be injured or damaged by LOCAL AGENCY in the performance of this **Agreement**.
23. CIVIL RIGHTS: LOCAL AGENCY agrees to comply with civil rights requirements as detailed in the Complying With Civil Rights Requirements brochure (FS-850) and the And Justice For All poster (AD-475A). The poster is to be placed at all public point of contact/reception areas.
24. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS: LOCAL AGENCY will comply with the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1990 and will provide a drug-free workplace by taking the following actions:
  - a. Publish a statement notifying employees that unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited and specifying actions to be taken against employees for violations.
  - b. Establish a Drug-Free Awareness Program to inform employees about:

- 1) the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
- 2) the person's or organization's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
- 3) any available counseling, rehabilitation and employee assistance programs; and,
- 4) penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations.

c. Every employee who works on the proposed **Agreement** will:

- 1) receive a copy of the company's drug-free workplace policy statement; and,
- 2) agree to abide by the terms of the company's statement as a condition of employment on the **Agreement**.

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in suspension of payments under the **Agreement** or termination of the **Agreement** or both and LOCAL AGENCY may be ineligible for funding of any future State **Agreement** if the department determines that any of the following has occurred: (1) the LOCAL AGENCY has made false certification, or violated the certification by failing to carry out the requirements as noted above. (GC 8350 et seq.)

25. **TERM:** The term of the **Agreement** SHALL COMMENCE ON THE LAST SIGNATORY DATE ON PAGE 1 and continue through June 30, 2024.
26. **TERMINATION:** This **Agreement** may be terminated by either party giving 30 days written notice to the other party or provisions herein amended upon mutual consent of the parties hereto.
27. **AMENDMENTS:** No amendment or variation of the terms of this **Agreement** shall be valid unless made in writing, signed by the parties and approved as required. No oral understanding or **Agreement** not incorporated in the **Agreement** is binding on any of the parties.
28. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR:** LOCAL AGENCY, and the agents and employees of LOCAL AGENCY, in the performance of this **Agreement**, shall act in an independent capacity and not as officers or employees or agents of the STATE or the Federal Government.
29. **INDIRECT RATE:** LOCAL AGENCY may not assess an indirect rate in excess of their Federally approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), a de minimis rate if LOCAL AGENCY does not have an approved NICRA, or the VFC program cap rate of 10%, whichever is lesser. LOCAL AGENCY may also elect not to assess an indirect rate. The approved indirect cost rate at the time of execution is 0%.

30. MEDIA: LOCAL AGENCY shall acknowledge STATE and USDA Forest Service support in any publications, audiovisuals and electronic media developed as a result of this award.

It is encouraged to give public notice of the receipt of this award and announce progress and accomplishments, acknowledging STATE and USDA Forest Service support. Follow direction in USDA Supplemental 2 CFR 415.2.

31. ASSIGNMENT: This Agreement is not assignable by LOCAL AGENCY either in whole or in part.



AD-1048

WHEN DOCUMENT IS FULLY EXECUTED RETURN  
**CLERK'S COPY**  
to Riverside County Clerk of the Board/Stop 1010  
Post Office Box 1147, Riverside, Ca 92503-1147  
Thank you. Expiration Date 12/25/25



**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion  
Lower Tier Covered Transactions**

The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a, as amended). This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, and 2 CFR §§ 180.300, 180.335. Participants' responsibilities. The regulations were amended and published on August 31, 2005, in 70 Fed. Reg. 51865-51880. Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the Department of Agriculture agency offering the proposed covered transaction.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0505-0027. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The provisions of appropriate criminal or civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided.

*(Read instructions on page two before completing certification.)*

- A. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency;
- B. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

ORGANIZATION NAME Riverside County Fire Department	PR/AWARD NUMBER OR PROJECT NAME 7GF23102
NAME(S) AND TITLE(S) OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE(S) <i>Diane Sinclair Deputy Director of Administration</i>	
SIGNATURE <i>Diane Sinclair</i>	DATE 12/7/23

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY: *[Signature]* AMRIT R. DHILLON  
DATE: 11/15/2023

Instructions for Certification

- (1) By signing and submitting this form, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out on page 1 in accordance with these instructions.
- (2) The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension or debarment.
- (3) The prospective lower tier participant must provide immediate written notice to the person(s) to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
- (4) The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549, at 2 CFR Parts 180 and 417. You may contact the Department or agency to which this proposal is being submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
- (5) The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this form that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it may not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the Department or agency with which this transaction originated.
- (6) The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this form that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
- (7) A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the General Services Administration's System for Award Management Exclusions database.
- (8) Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
- (9) Except for transactions authorized under paragraph (5) of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the Department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.