

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE

COUTY OF ELDORADO
AND THE
EI DORADO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

THIS AGREEMENT, ENTERED INTO by and between the County of El Dorado, a political subdivision of the State of California, hereinafter called “County,” and the El Dorado Resource Conservation District, a political subdivision of the State of California formed pursuant to Division 9 of the Resources Code, hereinafter called “District.”

WHEREAS, there exists a need for erosion and sediment control and watershed management in the urbanizing areas of County, and

WHEREAS, there exists a tree die-off throughout the State of California that has contributed to worsening forest conditions, creating dangerous fire risk, and

WHEREAS, because of the feasibility of erosion control measures and recent guidelines and regulations adopted by the State and Federal governments for waste discharge from land developments, there exists a need to implement farm, ranch, and forestland conservation practices to protect soil productivity, water quality and quantity, air quality, and wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS, there exists a continuing need to engage the expertise within the District on collaborative solutions to adequately address the reforestation needs for citizen’s dependent on ecosystem services that forests provide, now and in the future, and

WHEREAS, the District shall coordinate assistance from all available sources—public and private, local, state, and federal—in an effort to develop locally-driven solutions to natural resource concerns, and

WHEREAS, the District is vital to the conservation of natural resources on private lands, and

WHEREAS, the District is key in leveraging state and federal resources to address current and future resource management needs, and

WHEREAS, there exists a need to reach out to communities and schools to teach the value of natural resources and encourage conservation efforts, and

WHEREAS, prior to the enactment of Proposition 13, State legislation, through Division 9 of the Public Resources Code, gave Resource Conservation Districts the option of placing regular assessments limited to two-cents (\$0.02) on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of land within the District boundaries to support District programs. During the 1960’s the District was requested by the County Board of Supervisors to relinquish this capacity and be funded annually or through multi-year Agreements equal to annual assessment schedules, and

WHEREAS, the objectives and interests of the District and County are mutual and compatible, these two (2) parties hereby establish a basis for cooperation and assistance as hereinafter set forth.

NOWHEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

I. Within the limits of its authority and resources, the District will:

A. Assist the County's Planning and Building Department and Department of Transportation with the monitoring requirements of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act for all existing and proposed developments in County.

B. Maintain District programs to include:

1. Contribute to the County's Wildfire Strategy.

a. As part of the establishment of the Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR), the County will partner with the District on multiple programs related to wildfire preparedness and resilience as follows:

- i. The District will be a charter member to the El Dorado County Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience Coordination Group to collaborate on lessons learned, define funding streams, and initiate a robust, community-based resiliency and vegetation management program that would accelerate current efforts in El Dorado County on both public and private land.
- ii. Contribute to implementing the County's adopted Wildfire Strategy and wildfire resiliency efforts contained within, and work with the County to develop updates as needed.
- iii. The District shall cooperate with the County to identify opportunities for fuel breaks in zones of high and very high fire hazard either prior to or as a component of project review and seek grant money to fund fire breaks and their long-term maintenance.
- iv. Coordinate grant funding efforts to ensure multi-faceted and proactive approaches to wildfire preparedness and resilience strategies are realized.
- v. Contribute to collaborative communications strategy to ensure consistent messaging and outreach materials compliment the County's Wildfire Strategy.
- vi. The District shall cooperate with the County, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, local fire districts, and Fire Safe Councils in fire prevention education programs.
- vii. Assist in the development of the Western El Dorado County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).
- viii. Assist in seeking funding to support implementation of projects identified in the Western El Dorado County CWPP.

2. Post-Fire Restoration

- a. Provide timely assessment of wildfire damage on non-industrial privately owned forestland in the County by teams of pre-designated forestry and environmental experts.
- b. Support landowner(s) actions to address emergency stabilization of their property and help prevent further damage to life, property, and natural resources.
- c. Work with landowners on long-term forestland rehabilitation where forests are unlikely to regenerate naturally after wildland fire damage.
- d. Work with landowner(s) to develop plans and actions for areas suitable for reforestation and prevent further degradation of private land and natural resources.
- e. Provide assistance with information on services, materials needed, and working with permitting agencies.
- f. Provide educational programs and outreach to private landowners and other interested parties on forest restoration, fuels reduction project development, and permitting.
- g. The District shall establish a Reforestation Learning Network (concept stage; partnership of Federal, State, Academic, UC Cooperative Extension, other partners.) Determine reforestation needs of major impacted plant communities with the County by region, assist with coordination of seed/plant material collection efforts, support existing efforts by federal, state, private nurseries to produce seedlings and make available to NIPFs for purchase.

3. Watershed Management

- a. Contribute to a watershed-level forest management strategy that promotes common management practices for long-term forest health and public safety and cross-connects lands managed by federal, State and local agencies, and private entities.
- b. Contribute to the County's biomass utilization strategy to explore options for using and disposing of woody biomass.
- c. Collaborate with resource management agencies, power utilities, water purveyors, and stakeholders to promote sustainable forest management strategies that provide long-term benefits to water supply, infrastructure, recreation, biodiversity, and ecosystem functions.
- d. Explore ways to improve vegetation management through livestock management.

4. Technical Assistance
 - a. Provide resource planning assistance to County residents when requested as staffing permits.
 - b. Make conservation and erosion control recommendations on County owned land.
 - c. Furnish general guidance on vegetative stabilization of cuts and fills.
 - d. Furnish County with needed leaflets, handouts, and other information relating to Erosion Control Information program for distribution to developers, contractors, and homeowners.
 - e. Provide technical assistance to County on land use decisions.
 - f. Continue to provide erosion control training workshops to County's Planning and Building Department and Department of Transportation to assist these departments in the administration of the Grading/Erosion Control Ordinance.
 - g. Provide technical assistance to private consultants and landowners involved in agricultural, environmental, development and forestry projects on leased and private lands.
 - h. Provide County technical information on site selection for public facilities.
5. Education
 - a. Continue with the District education program in County public school system and community activities.
 - b. Continue cooperative Ag-Education with local organizations and agencies throughout the County.
 - c. Conduct public workshops and community events.
6. Continue to provide monitoring and identification of best management practices to solve non-point pollution problems with sediment and provide this information to County.
7. Explore and actively pursue funding or grant sources to provide or assist the District in providing programs and projects that benefit the District's residents.
8. Provide any related resource information requested by County.
9. Support District programs as identified in the "Resource Conservation District Annual Strategic Plan."
10. Provide an annual informational presentation to County Board of Supervisors demonstrating program accomplishments.

II. Within the limits of its authority, resources and policies, County will:

Support District’s programs through an annual allocation of funding based on the County’s assessed valuation of land within the District’s boundaries. The allocation for fiscal year 2024-25 (hereinafter referred to as “Base Amount”) shall be \$248,508 and shall be remitted to District within forty-five days following the effective date of this Agreement. Amounts for any subsequent years for the term of this Agreement shall be determined by the County’s Contract Administrator, by adjusting the Base Amount by the change in the assessed value of land within the District. Amounts for any subsequent years shall be remitted to District no later than December 31st of the fiscal year.

Term: This Agreement shall become effective when fully executed by the parties hereto and shall cover the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026.

Contract Administrator: The County Officer or employee with responsibility for administration of this Agreement is the Chief Administrative Officer.

ATTEST:

Kim Dawson
Clerk of the Board

COUNTY of EL DORADO

By: _____
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Date: _____

EL DORADO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____
President, Board of Directors

Date: _____