



NORTH SAN JUAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Post Office Box 299, North San Juan, CA 95960

(530) 292-9159 • Fax: (530) 292-1417

e-mail: info911@nsjfire.org • www.nsjfire.org

Serving Since 1862

February 23, 2024

To: Desiree Belding, Deputy Purchasing Agent

Re: Forest Reserve Fund Grants

Dear Ms. Belding,

Enclosed, please find an application for the Forest Reserve Fund Grant for North San Juan Fire Protection District.

Applicant: North San Juan Fire Protection District

Physical Address: 13200 Tyler Foote Road
Nevada City, CA 95959

Mailing Address: PO Box 299
North San Juan, CA 95960

Contact: Lynn McGarva, Finance and Facilities Manager
530-292-9159, 530-292-1417 (fax)
districtmanager@nsjfire.org

Heidi Ryan, Operations and Personnel Manager
530-292-9159, 530-292-1417 (fax)
districtsecretary@nsjfire.org

Sincerely,

Jason Flores, Fire Chief
North San Juan Fire Protection District

8.5.TAB A: ENTITY DESCRIPTION (Maximum of 250 words):

8.5.1. In 1862 the North San Juan Fire Department was founded; it is the oldest volunteer fire department in Nevada County. In 1986, the Department was incorporated as the North San Juan Fire Protection District (NSJFPD or District), authorized and charged to provide emergency response and fire protection services (its mission) in a service area considered by CAL FIRE to be a very high fire hazard zone. The District covers some 87 square miles of often difficult to reach terrain that includes the San Juan Ridge, French Corral, North Columbia, North San Juan, and all territory between the South and Middle Yuba Rivers, from Bridgeport to Malakoff Diggins.

8.5.2. Two District Managers operate under the direction of Fire Chief Jason Flores. Lynn McGarva, District Manager of Finance and Facilities, is responsible for conducting District financial and business operations. Heidi Ryan, District Manager of Operations and Personnel, interfaces with District personnel, local and state agencies and the public in handling Board and Department duties.

8.5.3. The San Juan Ridge region is a rural community with an estimated permanent population of 3,000 people. In a 2018 Nevada County Transit Commission survey, 14.8% of respondents identified as single parent, 5.3% as veterans, 17.43% as individuals with a disability, 12.8% as students, 25.33% as economically disadvantaged, and 1.3% as homeless. The region also provides services to approximately 500,000 summer visitors annually.

8.5.4. Partners include the Montezuma Ridge Firewise Community (MRFWC), local residents, and other fire districts assisting in the region.

8.6.TAB B: PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Maximum of 500 words):

8.6.1. The District anticipates increased activity within District boundaries and outlying areas, in part due to increasing population growth and recreational use. It determined a need for additional water supply for use in remote areas based on an assessment of monthly District data and from concerns of individual property owners about time delays for firefighting efforts in outlying properties of the District. The time delay (including turnarounds) for one water tender to fill a 10,000 gallon tank at 3000 gallons at a time can, depending on location, result in a 5 hour delay in fire protection activities! In response, the District passed "Resolution to Enhance Strategic Water Storage Throughout the NSJFPD (Resolution 22-04)" which increases the ability of the District to protect the community by the installation of water tanks at strategic locations with the District. To date, the District has successfully installed one 10,000 gallon water treatment system on Cruzon Grade and now has a commitment from private property owners in the Montezuma Ridge Firewise Community to provide and clear property with an easement to the District for a second 10,000 gallon water storage system. The proposed location is near the intersection of Murphy and Purdon Roads, which serve as an evacuation route for the Ridge community in the Southwest precinct of the District and for visitors to the South Yuba River. If funded, the District will purchase all required parts, install, and maintain, fill and record data on the system. This system will provide water for protecting property and lives, will meet FWC criteria for required activities, provide the purchase of equipment directly related to emergency services, and may be integrated into wildfire protection plans.

8.6.2 If funded, the below schedule to prepare land, construct, and put into service a 10,000 gallon water supply system for use in firefighting activities will be followed:

September 16, 2024. The property easement will be finalized.
October 20, 2024. The land will be cleared and prepared for the water supply system.
December 2, 2024. All materials will be purchased.
April 30, 2025. Installation and inspection of the water supply system will be completed. June 30, 2025. Final report will be submitted to the County.

8.6.3 The deliverable is a 10,000 gallon water storage system installed to meet Nevada County Fire Safe Standards for emergency water storage; measurable outcomes include 1) a signed easement agreement between the property owner and the NSJFPD, 2) preparation of the site for tank installation, 3) purchase of all required components for the water storage system, 4) installation and testing of the completed water storage system, 5) inspection of the system by the District, 6) addition of the site to the District on-going maintenance schedule, 7) collection and reporting of tank filling and usage data along with flow test records, and 8) preparation of the Final Report to the County.

8.7.TAB C: BUDGET AND FINANCIALS (maximum of 250 words):

The proposed project cost is estimated at \$39,763 for materials and labor; \$18,000 would be provided by the Forest Reserve Fund, \$18,000 would be matched with committed funds from the NSJFPD, and \$3,763 would be provided by community members in in-kind support. Cash funds will be used in tank foundation preparation, pad installation, tanks (2) and fitting costs, installation, and the addition of security devices (e.g., locks, motion detection cameras, vehicle posts). Items to purchase include two 5,000 gallon polyethylene tanks with 4 inch outlet and overflow pipes and a lockable inspection hatch, flexible PVC piping, a quarter turn bronze valve in an underground utility box, schedule 40 PVC pipe manifolds and fittings, steel pipe risers, 4.5 inch hydrants, adaptors, paint, and bollards.

In-kind support will be provided by the Montezuma Ridge Firewise Community with approximately 100 hours of in-kind work in site clearing, grading, and easement development. Based on data from the Independent Sector (retrieved on February 21, 2024 from <https://independentsector.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Value-of-Volunteer-Time-by-State-2001-2022.pdf>), which reports the value of volunteer hours for tax preparation with the IRS, the value of a volunteer hour in California as of August of 2023 is \$37.63 per hour. This translates to in-kind support for this project of \$3,763 and does not include the in-kind use of tools and equipment. Preparation of the final “Project and Expenditure Report” will be prepared by District staff as a part of the District monthly and annual reporting to the Board and the public.