



SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE

May 4, 2022

Desiree Belding CPPO, CPPB
Nevada County Purchasing Division
950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund (RFA No. 154822)
Double Vault Toilet at Golden Quartz Picnic Area, TNF, Project

Dear Ms. Belding:

The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) is pleased to submit its application for its Double Vault Toilet at Golden Quartz Picnic Area, TNF, Project.

Enclosed are the following materials:

- The Application
- Budget Template
- Letter of Support from the US Forest Service
- SYRCL's Financial Documents -- CONFIDENTIAL
 - 990 Tax Returns FY20-21
 - SYRCL's FY20-21 audited financial statement

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to reach out to me or Julie Pokrandt, Development Director at julie@yubariver.org.

Sincerely,

Melinda Booth
Executive Director
Office: 530-265-5961 x 202
melinda@yubariver.org

8.4 TAB A: ENTITY DESCRIPTION (approximately 500 words):

a. Provide a brief description of your entity including mission, goals, and history in Nevada County.

Headquartered in Nevada City, the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) is the leading advocate for water quality protection, river health, and watershed restoration within the Yuba Watershed. We formed in 1983 to prevent new dams being built on the South Yuba, a goal we reached in 1999. Nearly 40 years later, we are widely recognized as one of the most effective watershed groups in the United States.

SYRCL's MISSION is to unite the community to protect and restore the Yuba River watershed. Our award-winning watershed science program safeguards water quality and restores imperiled headwater meadows and riverbanks impacted by hydraulic mining. Our robust "River People program" mobilizes thousands of volunteers to protect our public lands and advocate for clean water and forest health. Our world-class environmental film festival – the Wild & Scenic Film Festival – reaches more than 100,000 audience members annually around the world, inspiring them to take action for a sustainable future.

b. Provide the name(s) of the principal(s) responsible for the entities' organizational operations. Be sure to include their qualifications.

Melinda Booth Executive Director, South Yuba River Citizens League, will administer this grant and oversee the work to ensure grant deliverables are met. Ms. Booth has served as SYRCL's executive director since 2017 and has worked for the organization since 2011. Under her tenure, the organization has grown to have a \$5 million annual operating budget that includes landscape-level conservation work in the Lower Yuba River, the Yuba Headwaters, and the Yuba's Forests.

c. Describe the community served by your entity.

SYRCL strives to serve the Yuba watershed, which encompasses portions of Nevada, Yuba, Sierra and Placer counties. The preponderance of our work—restoration, forest health, education, community engagement—takes place in Nevada, Sierra, and Yuba counties.

8.5 TAB B: COVID-19 IMPACTS (approximately 500 words): *Note: Assessing whether a program or service “responds to” the COVID–19 public health emergency requires the recipient to, first, identify a need or negative impact of the COVID–19 public health emergency and, second, identify how the program, service, or other intervention addresses the identified need or impact.*

a. Describe the economic harm your organization experienced because of the pandemic as it relates to the ARPA guidelines (see 6.0).

Due to COVID-19, SYRCL cancelled fundraising events that supported education and public safety outreach in 2020, 2021, and 2022. Major funders withdrew education grants and national-level sponsors cancelled pledges for the Wild & Scenic Film Festival (WSFF). Fee-for-service revenue dropped, as dozens of organizations who franchise the WSFF cancelled contracts. Ticket sales dropped too. We lost hundreds of volunteer hours for critical tasks that staff were then required to perform. SYRCL had to adapt to the social distancing and stay-at-home advisories. This required investing in the following: laptops for telework; an online platform for the WSFF; staff time to develop safety protocols, monitor water quality, post safety signage at the river, and produce content for e-learning; vehicle expenses to ensure social distancing among field staff.

For our fiscal year 2021-2022, we continue seeing reduced income due to COVID-19 from special events, ticket sales, and fee-for-service revenue, which impacts our ability to fund education, our college scholarship, outreach, volunteer, water quality, and fire safety programs.

b. Described the impact of COVID-19 on your industry.

SYRCL’s industry or “line of work” is protecting and restoring the Yuba River watershed which includes dealing with visitor impacts and safety issues surrounding the watershed. We are taking the lead in requesting resources for a much-needed COVID response for improved infrastructure along the Yuba that will aid visitor health and safety.

Public land managers estimate that the Yuba River visitation has increased by 40% as a result of COVID-19. This situation is over-taxing safety personnel from county, state, and federal agencies, like the USFS staff at the Tahoe National Forest. Local infrastructure is impacted, too: roads, parking, trails, waterways, bridges, etc. Data shows that most visitors are from out of the region and are often first-time visitors. This surge has highlighted the need to address the lack of infrastructure services, which exacerbates the negative social, environmental, safety, and community impacts from COVID-driven visitation. Additionally, it is anticipated visitation will continue to increase now that more people have experienced the magic and beauty of the Yuba River.

Seeing more human waste, pet waste and litter, especially at remotes site, community members are distressed about this public health and safety situation and are coming to SYRCL. We are a focal point for this public outcry that something needs to be done.

c. Described impact of COVID-19 related to your proposed project site(s).

Golden Quartz Picnic Area, part of the Tahoe National Forest, is located along the South Yuba River approximately 5 miles upstream of the Town of Washington (23717 Maybert Rd, Nevada City, CA 95959). Per USFS staff, visitation has grown nearly four-fold, especially during the summer. The one existing vault toilet needs replacing: it is old and not wheelchair accessible. In addition, human waste and litter problems have increased. This is especially problematic because of its proximity to the river; COVID-19 virus is detected in human feces, as well as other diseases that endanger public health. A new double vault toilet for the developed parking area has been identified by TNF staff has a high priority health and safety need.

8.6 TAB C: PROJECT DESCRIPTION (approximately 500-1500 words):

a. Describe your project in detail including where it is located, and how it will promote community health, safety, and economy, protect the environment, and enhance resilience.

Double Vault Toilet at Golden Quartz Picnic Area, TNF

The USFS has identified the Golden Quartz Day Picnic Area as a high priority site for the installation of new public restrooms. This beautiful and ecologically sensitive site is extremely vulnerable to human impacts, including dog and human waste. Replacing the existing single restroom with a new double vault toilet will prevent leakage, increase capacity, and make services wheelchair accessible. Ultimately it will help with public health sanitation, improve visitor experience, and reduce the ongoing problem of human waste impacts on the watershed.

This project proposes to work with the USFS to install a double vault toilet at the developed parking area. USFS will dedicate staff time to remove the existing single restroom, which is in disrepair, conduct the site preparation, oversee the installation and delivery, and perform ongoing long-term maintenance and repair.

SYRCL will work with the USFS to order the appropriate double vault toilet that complies with USFS standards and coordinate with the vendor to schedule delivery as well as manage the overall project timeline and progress.

USFS and SYRCL carried out a similar vault toilet installation at Langs Crossing, near the Yuba River within the Tahoe National Forest, which shows this project can be completed successfully with a similar budget and timeline (see below). There was no National Environmental Protection Act permitting requirement at the Langs project site. It is anticipated no permits will be required for Golden Quartz vault toilet since it is replacing existing facilities.

b. Please include basic timeline for project, including key milestones. Note: Funds must be obligated (i.e. under contract) by 12/31/24 and funds must be expended with all work performed and completed by 12/31/26.

- July – Sept 2022 Project planning
- September 2022 Equipment ordered and delivery scheduled
- March – April 2023 Site preparation
- April– May 2023 Delivery and installation
- June 2023 Open for operation

c. Describe how this proposal directly responds to the negative impacts of the COVID-19 (described in 8.4(a) above) pandemic consistent with ARPA guidelines (include relevant citations from the Interim Final Rule and/or the FAQs as needed).

This proposal to install a double vault toilet responds to the COVID-19-driven surge in outdoor recreation along the Yuba River and the subsequent call for improved amenities and infrastructure. Specifically, the objective is to address the impact of human waste at a sensitive site.

Per the FAQs section 1.8, SYRCL, as a nonprofit organization, is eligible to receive ARPA funding from Nevada County, especially as this proposal is seeking assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention (through the safe containment of human waste) and mitigation measures (FAQ 2.5, 2nd bullet).

8.7 TAB D: COMMUNITY BENEFIT (approximately 250-500 words):

a. Describe how this project/program will promote equitable access to recreation, enhance public health and safety, promote economic development, preserve environmental assets, and promote resilience with impactful, measurable outcomes.

Human waste plagues popular recreational sites along the Yuba River, especially along the south fork's Wild & Scenic stretch. Further, this situation cannot be remedied easily through site improvements at remotes areas due to road conditions, access, and permitting issues (on State land). However, SYRCL and USFS have been able to install a public restroom at Langs Crossing (South Yuba River, Tahoe National Forest) within a 9–12-month project timeline. We propose to do it again at Golden Quartz Picnic Area, a similar USFS site.

This new double vault toilet will generally improve visitor services (and health & safety) and reduce human impacts on the Yuba River, one our region's most precious environmental assets. It will help the community and land managers to provide wheelchair accessible services and accommodate visitation growth, which is an economic & public safety benefit.

8.8 TAB E: LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES (approximately 250-500 words):
a. Describe how your entity will leverage additional partnerships, funding and other resources as part of this proposal.

This project at the Golden Quartz site within the Tahoe National Forest will rely on the collaboration of SYRCL and the US Forest Service (USFS).

USFS is contributing staff time to oversee the environmental compliance process, secure a categorical exemption for NEPA (if required), conduct the site preparation and removal of old restroom, oversee the installation and delivery, and perform ongoing maintenance and repair.

SYRCL has donated staff time to developing the project concept. It will also contribute matching dollars to cover its overhead costs. It will also dedicate volunteer time to assess the site after the vault toilet is installed.

8.9 TAB F: MANAGEMENT CAPACITY AND MEASURABLE OUTCOMES (approximately 250-500 words):

a. Describe how your entity will manage, implement, measure and report as part of this proposal.

SYRCL will serve as the lead entity for this project, which will include managing the overall contract, paying vendors, procuring the related infrastructure from Boom Concrete, Inc., scheduling delivery, deploying field staff and volunteers after project completion for site assessment, and coordinating with the USFS. Additionally, SYRCL will handle communications and social media to build awareness and public support for this project.

The USFS will seek internal agency approvals and manage the overall site preparation, old restroom removal, and new restroom construction. It also will be responsible for ongoing maintenance and repair of the toilets.

As a primary outcome, the new double vault toilet will generally improve accessibility and visitor services (and health & safety) and reduce human impacts on the Yuba River. It will be a marketable eco-tourism benefit and help the community and land managers accommodate visitation growth, an economic & public safety benefit.

We will measure the success of this project by monitoring site conditions and surveying USFS staff observations on use and reduction of human waste.

We will report on the progress and benefits of this project through SYRCL's annual impact report, website, and social media. Of course, we will comply with all grant reporting requirements outlined in the final grant contract.

8.10 TAB G: BUDGET AND FINANCIALS (approximately 500 words for items “a” and “b” below; items “c” and “d” below are separate attachments):

a. What is your total funding request for this grant? (Maximum grant request capped at \$200,000. Applicants should request a grant amount that reflects what is necessary to accomplish project goals. The County reserves the right to recommend an amount more or less than the total requested.)

\$46,371

b. Provide a brief budget narrative to accompany “Attachment B: Line-Item Budget,” summarizing major expenses and other sources of revenue including matching funds. Be sure to list sources and amounts of matching funds in your budget. (Note: Matching funds are not required but are strongly encouraged, and demonstration of leveraged resources and matching funds will affect score.)

\$41,000	Double vault toilet, delivery, installation, and sales tax Estimate from Boom Concrete – updated April 2022
\$13,217	Staff time for project management and communications + Administration Project management, administration, procurement, site assessment, social media and communications
\$500	Mileage/Travel
<u>\$54,717</u>	<u>Total Cost of Project</u>
\$46,371	Request from Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund
\$8,356	Contribution from SYRCL

Vault toilet pricing increased since the budget estimate made on the concept proposal, which is why this request is \$6,371 more. SYRCL will provide matching funds to cover \$8,346 of administrative/overhead costs of the project. It is estimated SYRCL volunteers will contribute 40 hours of labor for site assessment, a \$1,198 in-kind contribution.

The USFS will donate staff time for site preparation and construction as well as ongoing maintenance and repair. The amount is TBD.

c. Complete Attachment B: Line-Item Budget Provide an itemized funding request.

d. Attach the following financial documents (be sure to label your information as “Confidential” to allow redaction):

- i. For Nonprofits: Audited Financial Statement and 990 (most recent year)**
- ii. For Businesses: State and Federal Tax Returns (most recent year) and Annual Financial Reports, including income statement and balance sheet (most recent year)**
- iii. For Special Purpose Districts and State or Federal agencies: Audited Financial Reports (most recent year)**