

# **SDG&E's Hazard Fuels Management Program Request for Proposals**

Application Availability  
September 18, 2019

Deadline for Submission  
October 11, 2019

## **I. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) is an innovative San Diego-based energy infrastructure company that provides clean, safe and reliable energy to better the lives of people it serves in San Diego and southern Orange counties. The company is committed to creating a sustainable future by providing around 45 percent of its electricity from renewable sources; modernizing natural gas pipelines, accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles; supporting numerous nonprofit partners; and, investing in innovative technologies to ensure the reliable operation of the region's infrastructure for generations to come. SDG&E is a subsidiary of Sempra Energy (NYSE: SRE), an energy services holding company based in San Diego.

On September 18, 2019, SDG&E will begin accepting project proposals from non-profit organizations who are working to reduce hazard fuels in the SDG&E service territory, with specific focus on projects occurring in the wildland-urban interface. The purpose of this solicitation is to identify and support wildland fuel treatment which modifies wildland fire behavior with the goal of reducing burn intensity, limit spread and aiding in suppression.

Through this Request for Proposals (RFP), SDG&E invites 501(c)(3) organizations to apply for project funding that specifically supports one or more of the following:

- Defensible space at the landscape and community level
- Fuel breaks
- Roadside brushing

Individual 501(c) (3) organizations may apply for grant awards ranging from \$25,000 - \$100,000.

## II. ELIGIBILITY

Organizations that meet all the following criteria are eligible to apply:

1. The organization must be a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service.
2. The organization must have proven experience in delivering similar programs successfully to the community.
3. The organization and its associated sub-awardees must carry the minimum insurance coverage as defined by SDG&E.

## III. EVALUATION/SELECTION PARAMETERS

All submitted grant applications that meet the eligibility criteria, program criteria, and the exclusions and restrictions as described in this RFP will be evaluated by an SDG&E review committee. Grant applicants will be notified of grant awards no later than the week of November 4, 2019, via electronic mail or telephone.

The following criteria will be used to determine program eligibility:

1. The proposal addresses one or more of the following program areas:
  - **Fuel Breaks** - Fuel breaks are placed at strategic locations along ridges, roadways or powerline corridors. The width of the fuel break is usually 100 to 300 feet depending on fuels, terrain, and other factors. The amount of vegetation treated may be either total removal or selected cut. A shaded fuel break removes ground fuels but leaves trees and larger plants/bushes. A selective cut seeks to break up the horizontal continuity into smaller isolated pockets of fuel. [CalFire case study](#), [Fact Sheet](#).
  - **Roadside Brushing** - Roadside brushing follows roadways, usually involving the removal of flammable vegetation along both sides of the road, at a depth from the curb or berm of 10' and greater. Roadside brushing reduces the potential of ignition, works like a fuel break, and increases safety for both firefighters and evacuees.

- **Defensible Space** - Defensible space is a fuel break, but placed in proximity to homes, infrastructure, and other values for the purpose reducing heat and or direct flame impingement, and to provide a safer location for firefighters to fight the fire. Defensible space follows basically the same guidelines as a fuel break with the exception that they can be tiered zones. [Overview](#)
2. Project Proposal Criteria Must Include:
- Community/neighborhood-based project.
  - Has wildland-urban interface component.
  - Supported by local fire agency or other jurisdictional authority.
  - Managed by fire safe council, CERT or other nonprofit entity who can receive grant funds, plan and implement the project.
  - A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) has been prepared and approved.
  - Proposed project budget and schedule.
3. SDG&E strongly encourages proposals to have the following components:
- Innovative, creative, and demonstrates transformation potential.
  - Collaborative and demonstrates partnership with other community groups (i.e. other non-profit, private, and educational organizations)
  - Projects located in or near the High Fire Threat District Tier 2 and Tier 3 areas ([map](#))
  - Able to be replicated as a successful model program in other geographic areas, regionally and nationally

#### **IV. EXCLUSIONS AND RESTRICTIONS**

The following exclusions and restrictions apply. Applications made by the following are ineligible to receive grant funding from SDG&E:

1. Individuals

2. Groups that practice discrimination based on age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disabilities, race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry
3. Sectarian or denominational religious groups, except for programs that are broadly promoted, available to anyone and free from religious preference

Awarded funds are prohibited from being used for the following:

1. General operating expenses that are unrelated to the execution of the proposed program or project
2. Equipment purchases not primarily related to the intended purpose of the specified program
3. Advocacy initiatives/programs that are political in nature
4. Land acquisitions
5. Research-related projects
6. Capital campaigns
7. Travel expenses
8. Loans or loan guarantees
9. Debt reduction or to satisfy past operating deficits

## **V. HOW TO APPLY**

Interested applicants must submit a project proposal and budget via email by Friday October 11, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. PST. Late submissions will not be accepted. Applicants should submit grant proposals to [SDGE\\_Community@semprautilities.com](mailto:SDGE_Community@semprautilities.com).