

[Put on Letterhead]

RE: Inflation Reduction Act – Urban and Community Forestry Application for “Our Napa Forests: Growing an Equitable Tree Canopy Through Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration”

To Whom It May Concern:

[Organization Name] is pleased to express our support for the Napa County Resource Conservation District’s (NCRCD’s) “Our Napa Forests: Growing an Equitable Tree Canopy Through Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration” project proposal for the Inflation Reduction Act - Urban and Community Forest funding opportunity.

[State organization’s mission and its connection to and/or reason for supporting the proposed project]

Despite being home to an unusually diverse array of forest habitats, California’s Napa County has lost much of its historic tree coverage due to residential and urban development, agriculture and, increasingly, climate stressors. The County has lost 98% of its mature valley oaks since the 1800s along the valley floor, where urban development is concentrated. Municipalities have insufficient tree canopy, particularly in disadvantaged neighborhoods, as evidenced by Tree Equity scores and analyses of historic ecology. As a result, not all community members experience the benefits of urban tree canopy, such as cooler temperatures and lower utility costs, increased health and well-being, and more favorable economic conditions. With the compounding effects of extreme heat, drought, and flood events, catastrophic wildfires, and disease and insect infestations, it is of the utmost importance that we invest in expanding and enhancing our urban and community forests.

The present project will focus on growing equitable tree canopy across Napa County’s urban forests by: (1) increasing healthy tree canopy in urban and community spaces through strategic planting and active stewardship, (2) educating and empowering community members to become urban forest stewards, and (3) facilitating workforce development and career pathways in urban forestry.

Importantly, this project will prioritize activities that benefit disadvantaged communities, such as planting and stewardship in disadvantaged neighborhoods or publicly accessible parks and green spaces, plant giveaways, and inclusive community education and workforce development. This project seeks to maximize community benefit by collaborating across jurisdictional boundaries, facilitating the sharing of resources and existing expertise as well as laying the foundation for sustained longer-term collaboration at a landscape scale.

[Organization Name] supports this project proposal and the benefits it will bring to Napa County, disadvantaged neighborhoods, and all community members, if funded, and we encourage you to give it your full consideration.

Sincerely,

INSERT NAME HERE

Title

Organization