

Rural Community Development Initiative Capacity Building and Wood Utilization Workshop
Location: Rural County Representatives of California, 1215 K Street, Sacramento, California
April 5th and 6th, 2016

This workshop was made possible by a Rural Community Development Initiative Grant from USDA Rural Development.

Day 1

Tuesday, April 5th, 9:00am to 5:00pm

9:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:30 Welcome, logistics
Jonathan Kusel and Allison Reeves Jolley

An overview of the workshop's purpose, objectives, intended outcomes, and implications for the participants' forest biomass utilization and wood-related projects.

9:35 Participant Introductions

10:00 Project Presentations, Group Discussion and Q & A, Session 1
Moderator: Allison Reeves Jolley
Groups: Yosemite-Sequoia RCDC, Fall River RCD, Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions

1. Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council—Steve Haze,
[PowerPoint](#)

North Fork Bioenergy Project

- This is a community-driven project on the former North Fork Mill site, which was then a brownfield site.
- They are building a 2 megawatt facility. Phoenix Energy is the developer, and they've decided to use a GE Jenbacher gasifier.
- The group has received an award from CAL FIRE to establish a log deck.
- Elissa Brown has been "the glue holding things together" and SNC has minimized the risk of exposure for the project.
- North Fork Community Development Council and others have established the North Fork Community Power, LLC.
- Project Timeline

- Pre-construction is slotted to begin in April; an engineering firm is involved with site preparation. They will have to interconnect around May of 2018.
- The group has completed a system impact study with support from the watershed center.
- The group needs to secure a power purchase agreement.
- The group has had issues securing “authority to construct” from San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution.
- Major accomplishments
 - They’ve secured over a million dollars for Brownfields cleanup, and another million (mostly Housing and Urban Development).
 - California Energy Commission (CEC) has provided almost \$5,000,000 for research and construction. They’re calculating \$900,000 in match funding.
 - The group has developed a profitable business model

2. Fall River Resource Conservation District—Todd Sloat, [PowerPoint](#)

- The Pit-McCloud watershed is considered a “critical watershed” with expected high tree mortality and risk to infrastructure.
- Agricultural is important to the area. The area also contains two sawmills, one of which will purchase biomass.
- Planning under the QLG was \$7 million, now closer to \$1 million.
- Burney Hat-Creek Community Forest and Watershed group is one of three CFLRs in California.
- Key issues: regional feedstock issues, there is no biomass component to timber operations these days because there hasn’t been a market.
- The group is exploring three sites; one of the sites on private land has advanced fairly quickly, the two other sites are in the exploratory phase.
- The group’s approach:
 - Identify a private entity committed to the community and assist them in identifying partners.
 - Help launch and then give the project away, letting the private entity run with it.
 - Private entities can make quick decisions, but can move too fast and exclude people from decision making. “With capital, they can get to the finish line, but they can also lose.”
 - Private entities can help advance the triple bottom line, but with private, there is no guarantee that there will be reinvestment in the region.
- Status of Burney-Hat Creek
 - Develop suitable site with ownership model with West Biofuels.
 - System Impact Study will be completed this summer.
 - Trying to manage risk and understand the “game”
- Barriers
 - Interconnection costs
 - CEQA issues
 - Deciding which type of technology is the best fit

- Developing an ownership model or financing
- Having enough time to learn and make informed decisions is another key challenge.

3. Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions—Steve Wilensky

11:15 **Reflections from the Governor’s Office**
Martha Guzman-Aceves

11:45 **Lunch**

12:30 **Project Presentations and Group Discussion, Session 2**
Moderator: Allison Reeves Jolley
Groups: Foresthill Community Development Council, Camptonville Community Partnership, Northern California Resource Center

4. Foresthill Community Development Council--

5. Camptonville Community Partnership—Regine Miller, [PowerPoint](#)

6. Northern California Resource Center—Patrick Desmond, [PowerPoint](#)

1:45 **Break**

2:00 **New Market Tax Credits and Direct Public Offerings, PowerPoint**
David Wilkinson and Seth Wilson

2:45 **Project Presentations and Group Discussion Continued, Session 3**
Moderator: Jonathan Kusel
Groups: Round Valley Indian Tribe Biomass, the Watershed Research and Training Center, the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

7. Round Valley Indian Tribe Biomass—Bruce Hilbach-Barger

8. The Watershed Research and Training Center—Angie Lottes, [PowerPoint](#)

9. The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment—Camille Swezy, [PowerPoint](#)

4:15 –4:45 **Reflections on Day 1**
Moderators: Angie Lottes and Elissa Brown

4:45- 5:00 **1st Day wrap-up, Day 2 logistics**

Day 2

Wednesday, April 6th, 8:15am to 3:00pm

8:15 **Breakfast**

8:45 **Introductions from projects and individuals not present on Day 1**
New faces and Mariposa Biomass Project

Mariposa Biomass Project—Jay Johnson, [PowerPoint](#)

9:10 **Panel on Pertinent Challenges and Opportunities**
Moderator: Nick Goulette
Speakers: CALFIRE (Kim Carr)- presentation, the Resources Agency (Claire Jahns), CEC (invited) and Angie Lottes (SWET)

10:10 **Break: Group Photo!**

10:25 **Legal Lessons Learned Regarding Biomass Projects, [PowerPoint](#)**
Christa Darlington

11:25 **Break**

11:45 **Critical Issues and Moving Forward**
Small group discussions and report backs

12:25 **Lunchtime Speaker re: Biomass-Related Public Policy**
Assemblyman Brian Dahle

1:00 **Workshop Wrap-up, Turn in Evaluations**
Jonathan and Allison

Workshop Reflections

Workshop Evaluation

1:15 **Biomass Utilization Technology Providers Vendor Fair**
*Confirmed Vendors: All Power Labs, Brad Thompson Company, Cortus Energy,
and West Biofuels*

3:00 **Adjourn**