RINCON CONSULTANTS

Proposal for Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study

RFP No. PLN2026-01
May 14, 2026

Humboldt County Department of Planning & Building
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Eureka, California 95501

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May 15, 2026

Rodney Yandell, Planning Manager
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department
3015 H Street, Eureka, California 95501

Subject: Proposal for Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study

Dear Mr. Yandell:

Rincon Consultants (Rincon) submits this proposal to support Humboldt County in developing the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study (NWL CSM Study). We understand this effort is more than a technical inventory; it is an opportunity to create a scientifically accurate, transparent, and repeatable framework to quantify carbon sequestration capacity, support Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) implementation, inform land use and conservation decisions, and strengthen regional collaboration.

Humboldt County's forests, wetlands, grasslands, agricultural lands, Tribal lands, and working landscapes make it one of California's most important natural carbon sinks. The NWL CSM Study will help quantify and demonstrate this sequestration capacity while identifying practical, locally supported strategies to maintain and strengthen it amid wildfire, climate change, and evolving land management challenges. Rincon is uniquely qualified to support the County, because our team brings:

- **General company and individual experience; demonstrated understanding of objectives and requirements:** Rincon has led more Natural and Working Lands carbon stock inventories and sequestration analyses for California counties than any other firm, including Sonoma, Calaveras, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Contra Costa, and Ventura counties, and has supported Humboldt County's climate planning efforts since 2019 through the RCAP.
- **Knowledge of applicable laws, rules, and regulations:** Rincon connects sequestration analysis with climate action planning, wildfire resilience, conservation planning, General Plan guidance, open space and Natural and Working Lands requirements, and implementation strategies for timber, agricultural, and other working landscapes.
- **Clearly identified scope of work; high-quality, cost-effective services:** Rincon's proven methods, countywide experience, and established carbon stock inventory tools support accurate, efficient, and cost-effective completion of the NWL CSM Study.
- **Iterative and flexible process:** The same core team that supported Humboldt County's RCAP, including Senior Principal Erik Feldman, Director Kelsey Bennett, Technical Lead Erica Linard, and NWL CSM Project Manager Lexi Journey, offers continuity, responsiveness, and a demonstrated track record working collaboratively with the County and community.
- **Local engagement and implementation success:** Rincon's partnership with LACO Associates will connect the study and resulting strategies with local landowner and resource manager input, while supporting long-term implementation success and meeting applicable insurance requirements.

Rincon understands the objectives and requirements for this effort through our work with the County and local jurisdictions on the RCAP, our role helping develop the carbon sequestration measures that call for this Natural and Working Lands analysis, and our experience completing similar NWL studies throughout California. This background positions our team to deliver a high-quality study that is practical, regionally grounded, and aligned with Humboldt County's climate resilience and implementation goals.

Thank you for considering Rincon for this important assignment. We welcome the opportunity to continue supporting Humboldt County's climate leadership and help turn its natural and working lands carbon potential into a transparent, defensible, and implementable management framework. Please contact Lexi Journey at 805-947-4822 or ljourney@rinconconsultants.com, or Kelsey Bennett with questions regarding this proposal.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Bennett, Project Director
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Erik Feldman, Principal-in-Charge
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SIGNATURE AFFIDAVIT

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Government Code Section 6250 *et.seq*., the "Public Records Act", define a public record as any writing containing information relating to the conduct of public business. The Public Records Act provides that public records shall be disclosed upon written request, and that any citizen has a right to inspect any public record, unless the document is exempted from disclosure.

In signing this proposal, I certify that this firm has not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a proposal; that this proposal has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this proposal has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of proposals to any other proposer or competitor; that the above statement is accurate under penalty of perjury.

The undersigned is an authorized representative of the above named firm and hereby agrees to all the terms, conditions, and specifications required by the County in this Invitation to Bid and declares that the attached proposal and pricing are in conformity therewith.

Signature	Senior Principal **Title**
Erik Feldman **Name (type or print)**	05/15/2026 **Date**

This firm herby acknowledges receipt / review of the following addendum(s) (If any)
Addendum # Addendum # Addendum # Addendum #

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Executive Summary

From RCAP Commitment to Implementable Carbon Sink Strategy

Rincon and LACO will help Humboldt County turn its natural and working lands carbon potential into a transparent and implementation-ready framework for RCAP tracking, CEQA use, conservation planning, wildfire resilience, and funding pursuits. By combining Rincon's experience working with the County on the RCAP with our extensive NWL carbon stock and sequestration experience across California, our team can help Humboldt County advance its climate goals through a practical, locally grounded study. The graphics below summarize the County's natural and working lands context, the team strengths that support successful delivery, and the key study components that will translate technical analysis into implementation-ready strategies.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY'S NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS AT A GLANCE

2.3M acres countywide

93% natural and working lands

80% forested

634,000 acres agricultural

WHY RINCON + LACO ARE POSITIONED TO DELIVER

RCAP-Ready Implementation

Directly supports Measure CS-3, the 2030 RCAP update, future GHG inventory credit, CEQA threshold development, and carbon neutrality planning.

Proven NWL Carbon Team

Rincon brings direct experience preparing natural and working lands carbon inventories, sequestration feasibility studies for counties throughout California.

Humboldt-Grounded Delivery

LACO provides local planning fluency, County process knowledge, and engagement support to help ground the Study in Humboldt's land base, landowners, and implementation realities.

Accurate and Efficient

The Study will be grounded in Rincon's custom tools, and rigorous QA/QC processes developed through extensive natural and working lands carbon studies across California.

WHAT THE STUDY DELIVERS

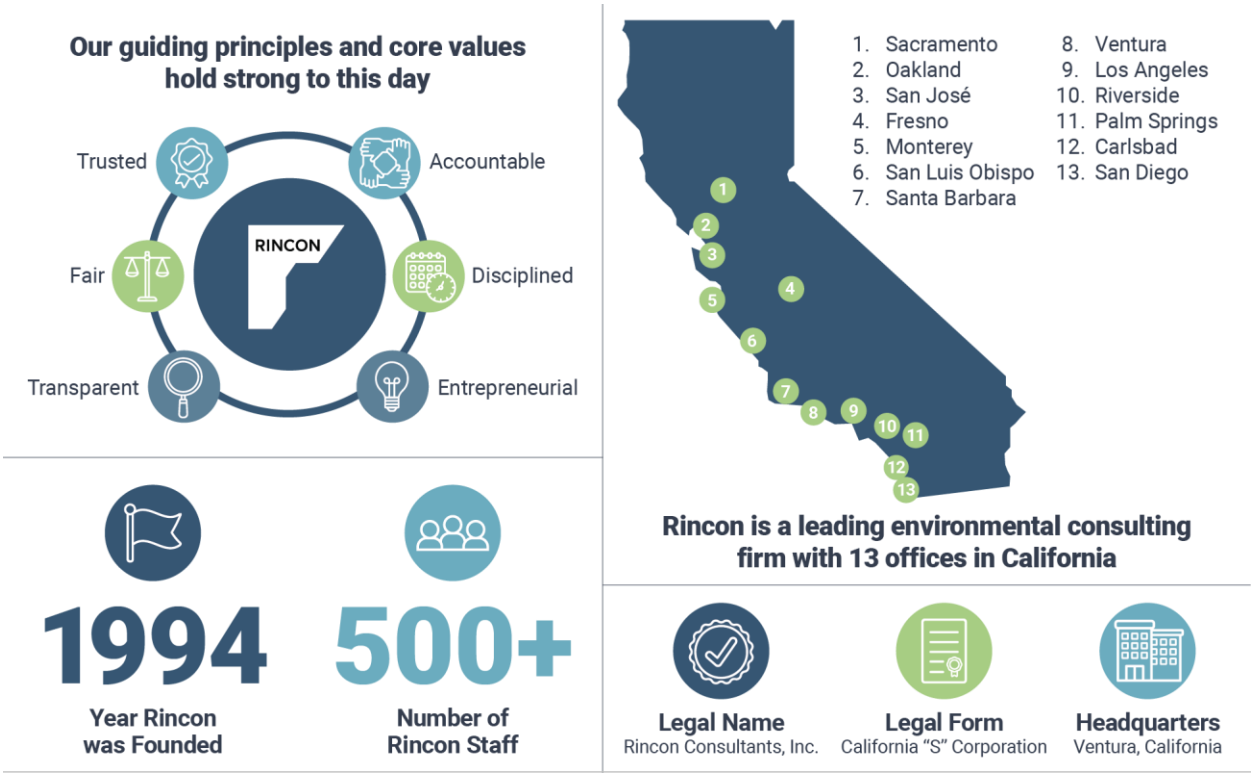
Carbon Stock Inventory → 10-Year Change + Stability Analysis → Sequestration Feasibility Study → Beneficial Land Use Strategies → Support for RCAP, CEQA and Funding

With Rincon's statewide natural and working lands carbon expertise and LACO's Humboldt-local planning presence, the County receives a team that will deliver accurate science, locally informed policies, and a practical framework for long-term implementation.

1 Company Experience

About Rincon

This section provides a general description of Rincon's services and experience in California with climate and natural working lands projects. Rincon Consultants is a multidisciplinary environmental and sustainability consulting firm with deep expertise in climate planning, carbon sequestration, CEQA compliance, and natural resource management. We support public agencies across California in developing actionable climate strategies that integrate greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, climate resilience, and natural and working lands carbon solutions.



Climate Planning and CEQA Expertise

Our climate services span the full lifecycle of planning and implementation, including:

- Greenhouse gas inventories, forecasts, and reduction strategies
- Natural and working lands, forestry and wildfire mitigation
- Climate Action Plans (CAPs) and climate adaptation frameworks
- CEQA thresholds, guidance documents, and compliance tools
- Implementation planning, monitoring, and tracking framework

For more than 30 years, Rincon has worked across climate, resilience, environmental planning, and CEQA sectors throughout California, helping jurisdictions align with State climate targets while developing practical and legally defensible implementation pathways.

Natural and Working Lands Carbon Sequestration

A core strength of Rincon's practice is working at the interface of land management and carbon sequestration to develop strategies that both quantify and enhance natural and working lands carbon benefits. Rincon has extensive experience conducting sequestration analyses, evaluating land management practices, supporting forestry planning, and advancing wildfire mitigation and resilience strategies. Our team includes professional foresters, arborists, carbon modelers, and certified wildfire experts who understand how land-based climate strategies can be designed to reflect on-the-ground management realities.

We combine ecological expertise with spatial analysis to evaluate existing carbon stocks, model sequestration potential, and identify priority conservation, restoration, and management actions. Our team integrates forestry, rangeland, wetland, and agricultural systems into climate planning to ensure that land-based solutions are measurable, policy-aligned, and implementation-ready.

GIS and data visualization are central to our approach. We develop interactive web-based mapping tools, dashboards, and decision-support systems that translate complex datasets into accessible, actionable insights for staff, stakeholders, and the public. These tools support everything from GHG inventory mapping and carbon stock assessments to tracking CAP implementation and monitoring progress over time.

Funding and Implementation Support

Rincon also brings extensive experience securing and administering funding to advance climate and conservation initiatives. We support grant strategy, application development, and technical documentation for programs such as the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) and other State and federal funding sources. Our team pairs this with implementation support, including ordinance development, capital improvement alignment, monitoring frameworks, and ongoing program management to allow plans to translate into measurable outcomes.

By integrating climate science, GIS technology, CEQA expertise, and on-the-ground natural resource knowledge, Rincon delivers practical, data-driven solutions that help agencies move from planning to implementation while maximizing climate, environmental, and community benefits.

Services

We have categorized our environmental consulting services into seven core areas:

This comprehensive categorization provides a focused and expert approach to addressing a wide range of environmental needs, which brings swift access to specialized knowledge for timely and effective problem-solving when needed.

Relevant Project Experience

Rincon has been at the forefront of California's Natural and Working Lands (NWL) climate planning work since helping lead Merced County's Natural and Working Lands Climate Action effort in 2018, one of the State's first countywide NWL carbon planning efforts and an early foundation for the development of California's broader NWL climate planning guidance and methodologies.

Since then, Rincon has completed many of the subsequent countywide NWL carbon analyses across California, helping local and regional agencies better understand existing carbon stocks, future sequestration potential, and implementation pathways to support climate resilience and carbon neutrality goals. Figure 1 highlights Rincon's experience supporting NWL climate planning projects throughout California.

Through this work, our team has developed extensive knowledge of the evolving laws, regulations, technical guidance, and policy frameworks governing NWL climate planning, including CARB Scoping Plan guidance, CEQA requirements, greenhouse gas accounting methodologies, climate adaptation and resilience policies, conservation and working lands regulations, and implementation considerations related to wildfire resilience, ecosystem management, and long-term carbon durability.

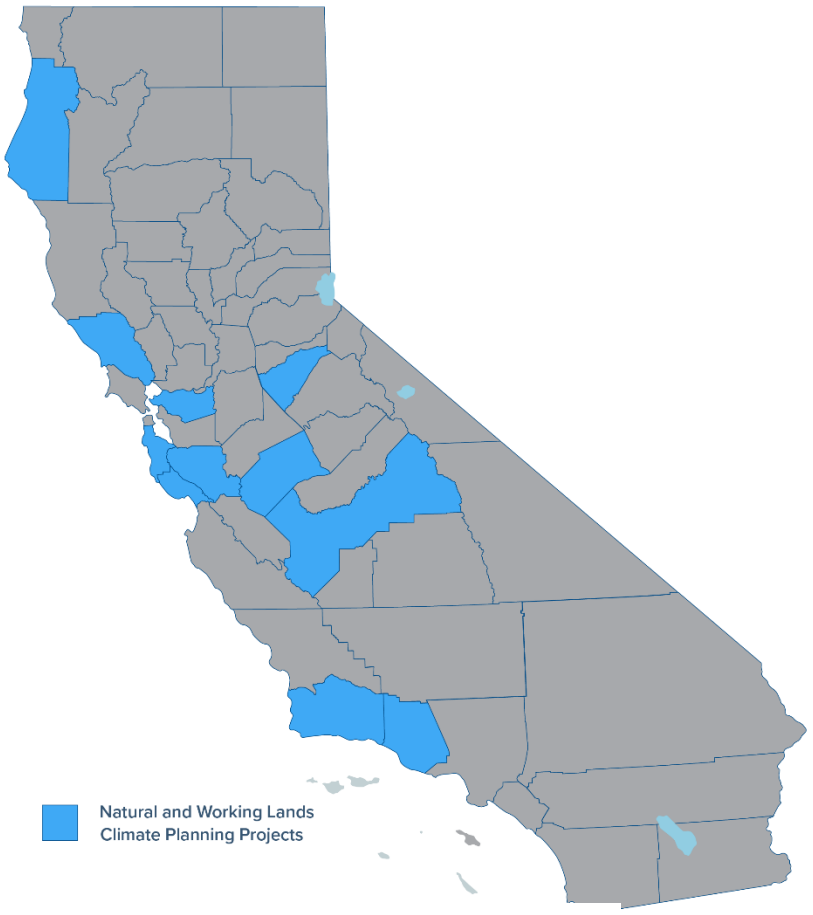


Figure 1. Counties Rincon has conducted NWL analyses and plans

This experience has allowed Rincon to develop refined methodologies, QA/QC procedures, GIS workflows, and implementation-focused tools that support efficient project delivery while maintaining technical rigor, transparency, stakeholder coordination, and long-term usability across diverse landscapes, industries, and communities. Rincon is now helping inform evolving State best practices for NWL planning through participation in development of the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation General Plan Guidelines updates and related climate resilience guidance.

Selected Project Examples

The following project descriptions highlight Rincon's experience developing countywide carbon stock inventories, sequestration analyses, and management strategies that balance climate objectives with the realities of wildfire risk, working landscapes, and long-term land stewardship.

> "Two things stand out in this experience. One is the leadership of the company and its commitment to meeting the needs of their client. Second is their technical prowess. This is an unbeatable combination.
>
> **John H. Ford** *Director of Planning and Building County of Humboldt, Planning and Building Department*

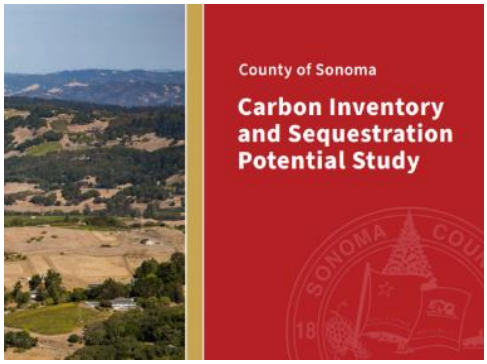
County of Sonoma – Carbon Inventory and Sequestration Potential Study

Sonoma County, California

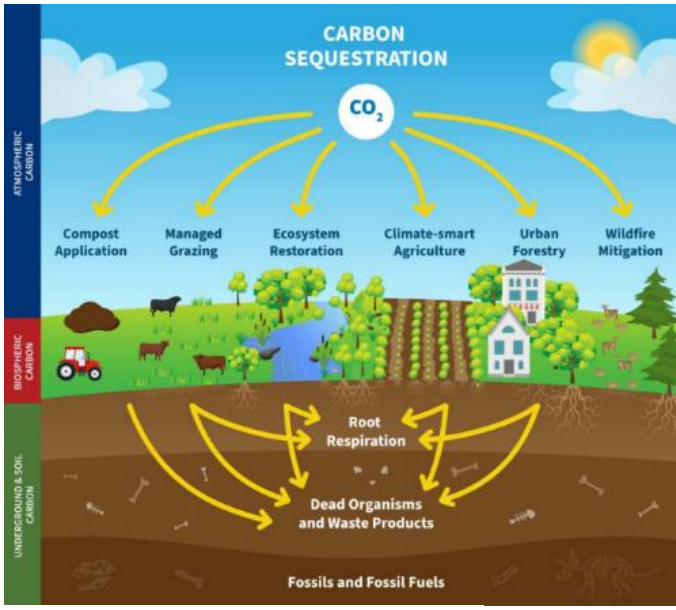
Rincon supported Sonoma County in developing the Countywide Carbon Inventory and Sequestration Potential Study (CISP) to establish a comprehensive baseline of natural and working lands carbon stocks and evaluate opportunities to increase long-term carbon sequestration across forests, grasslands, wetlands, agricultural lands, and urban landscapes. The Study quantified existing carbon stocks, evaluated changes over time, and identified practical land management and restoration strategies to help maintain and enhance long-term sequestration capacity while supporting climate resilience goals.

Rincon developed the countywide carbon inventories and GIS-based analyses using methodologies aligned with State Natural and Working Lands frameworks and integrated vegetation mapping, soils datasets, wildfire analyses, and land cover change modeling to evaluate carbon stock stability and sequestration potential across diverse landscapes and ownership types. The project also evaluated the influence of wildfire, drought, restoration activities, and land management practices on long-term carbon storage.

Working closely with Sonoma County departments, Resource Conservation Districts, Carbon Cycle Institute, conservation organizations, and regional partners, Rincon developed implementation-focused strategies for nature-based climate solutions including forest management, riparian restoration, grassland restoration, urban forestry, compost application, and agricultural stewardship practices. The Study emphasized transparent and repeatable methodologies, GIS-based mapping tools, and technical documentation to support future inventory updates, conservation planning, climate action implementation, and long-term monitoring efforts.



County of Sonoma CISP Study Cover



Graphic from County of Sonoma CISP Study explaining how natural and working lands support carbon sequestration

Relevant Project Scope

- Countywide carbon stock inventory
- Biomass and soil carbon quantification
- Carbon stock change analysis
- GIS-based carbon mapping
- Land cover and vegetation analysis
- Soil carbon and sequestration modeling
- Wildfire and drought impact evaluation
- Carbon stock stability assessment
- Restoration and land management scenarios
- Forest, grassland, wetland, and agricultural lands analysis
- Nature-based climate solution strategies
- Repeatable methods for future inventory updates

County of Contra Costa – Healthy Lands, Healthy People: Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study

Contra Costa County, California

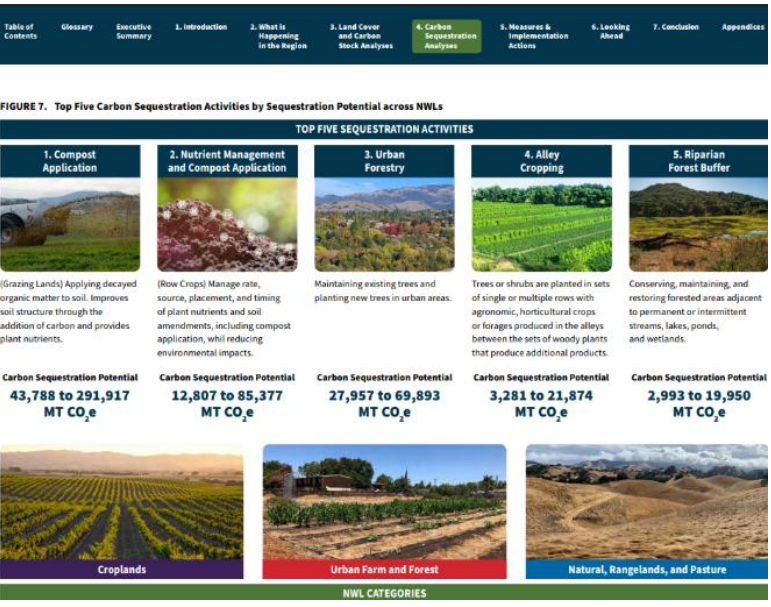
Rincon worked with the County to establish a baseline inventory of carbon emissions and carbon stock to better understand existing carbon sequestration capacity and opportunities to increase sequestration through natural and working lands strategies.

The project evaluated the co-benefits of carbon sequestration activities, including habitat restoration, wildfire resilience, groundwater infiltration, local food production, and access to open space. Rincon managed extensive coordination with County staff and regional partners, including the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, University of California Cooperative Extension, and CCI, to support development of feasible and locally supported implementation strategies.

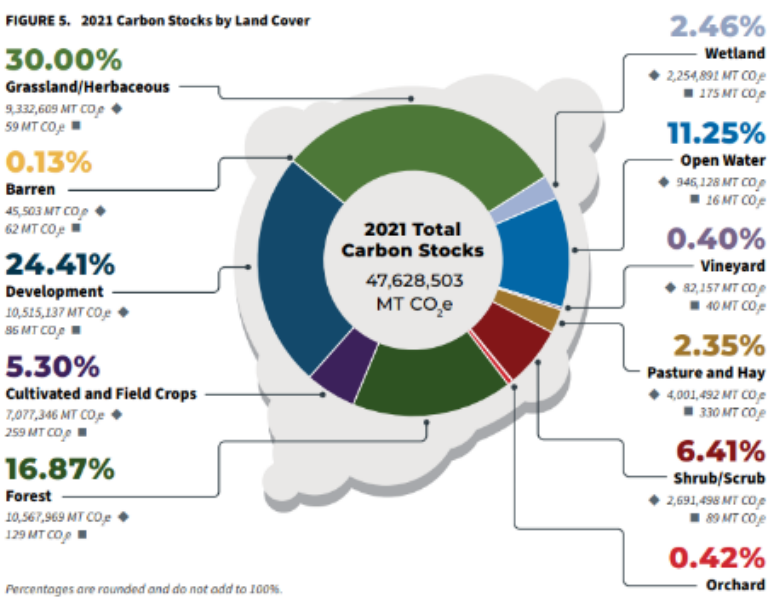
Relevant Project Scope

- Carbon emissions and stock inventories
- NWL sequestration analysis
- Sequestration opportunities and co-benefits
- Habitat, wildfire, groundwater, food, and open space benefits
- Stakeholder and public engagement
- Scenario modeling
- Feasibility and barriers analysis
- Locally supported implementation strategies

Following completion of the inventories and forecasts, Rincon collaborated with stakeholders and the public to evaluate and model various carbon sequestration and land management scenarios, assess implementation feasibility, and identify barriers and opportunities associated with expanding long-term carbon sequestration efforts.



Graphics from County of Contra Costa – Healthy Lands, Healthy People: Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study showcasing carbon sequestration potential in the County



Graphics from County of Contra Costa – Healthy Lands, Healthy People: Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study showcasing County carbon stocks

Calaveras Council of Governments – Natural and Working Lands Carbon Inventory, Wildfire GHG Emissions Analysis, and GHG Reduction Plan

Calaveras County, California

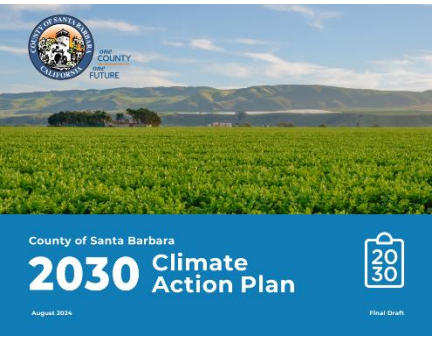
Rincon teamed with Sierra Business Council to support Calaveras County and its incorporated city, City of Angels Camp, in developing community-wide greenhouse gas reduction plans that, in addition to the typical transportation, energy, water, and waste sectors, included analysis of agricultural emissions, land-based carbon stock, and potential wildfire-related carbon losses.

The planning effort included development of a countywide carbon inventory using State-recommended GIS methodologies to identify areas of high carbon storage and evaluate how wildfire and forest management practices could affect long-term carbon stability. Rincon conducted scenario analyses and developed nature-based climate and wildfire resilience strategies focused on reducing carbon stock loss, supporting forest management, and leveraging funding and economic opportunities to maintain long-term sequestration capacity across natural and working lands.

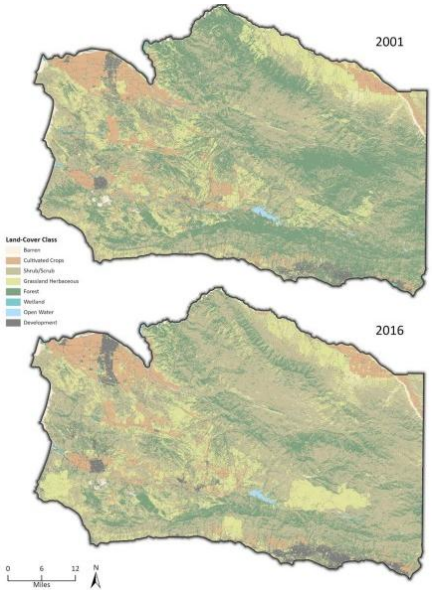
Grazing sheep in Calaveras County vineyard.

Relevant Project Scope

- Community-wide GHG reduction planning
- Agricultural emissions analysis
- Land-based carbon stock inventory
- Wildfire GHG emissions analysis
- Countywide carbon inventory
- State-recommended GIS methodology
- High-carbon storage area mapping
- Wildfire-related carbon loss assessment
- Forest management impact analysis
- Carbon stock stability evaluation
- Carbon sequestration scenario analysis
- Nature-based climate strategies
- Wildfire resilience strategies
- Forest carbon loss reduction measures
- Long-term sequestration capacity planning
- Funding and economic opportunity evaluation



County of Santa Barbara Climate Action Plan Cover



Landcover classification map from the County of Santa Barbara Natural and Working Lands Land Based Carbon Inventory

County of Santa Barbara – Natural and Working Lands Land Based Carbon Inventory, Community Inventory & 2030 Climate Action Plan

Santa Barbara County, California

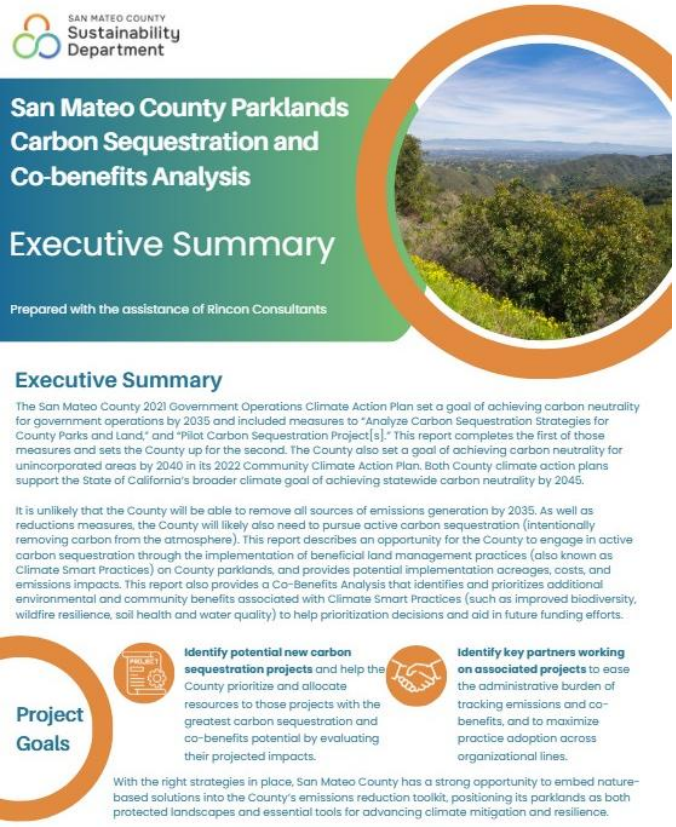
Rincon prepared a Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Natural and Working Lands (NWL) analysis for Santa Barbara County as part of the Countywide One Climate Initiative. Completed in 2020, this effort represented one of the first countywide Natural and Working Lands analyses in California and helped establish methodologies that have since informed similar efforts throughout the state.

The project included development of a countywide NWL carbon inventory and analysis of carbon stock changes and greenhouse gas flux associated with wildfire, land use conversion, and land management activities across natural and working landscapes. Rincon collaborated with the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and other technical experts to develop scientifically defensible methodologies for quantifying carbon sequestration and evaluating future land management scenarios.

Using tools such as TerraCount, the project assessed baseline carbon stocks, future sequestration potential, and complementary environmental and community benefits to support long-term climate resilience, land stewardship, and implementation planning.

Relevant Project Scope

- Countywide NWL carbon inventory
- Land-based carbon analysis
- Carbon stock change assessment
- Wildfire GHG flux analysis
- Land use and management impacts
- Carbon sequestration methods
- Future scenario modeling
- Baseline and future sequestration analysis
- TerraCount modeling
- Environmental and community co-benefits
- Climate resilience and stewardship planning
- Implementation planning support


SAN MATEO COUNTY Sustainability Department

San Mateo County Parklands Carbon Sequestration and Co-benefits Analysis

Executive Summary

Prepared with the assistance of Rincon Consultants

Executive Summary

The San Mateo County 2021 Government Operations Climate Action Plan set a goal of achieving carbon neutrality for government operations by 2035 and included measures to "Analyze Carbon Sequestration Strategies for County Parks and Land," and "Pilot Carbon Sequestration Project(s)." This report completes the first of those measures and sets the County up for the second. The County also set a goal of achieving carbon neutrality for unincorporated areas by 2040 in its 2022 Community Climate Action Plan. Both County climate action plans support the State of California's broader climate goal of achieving statewide carbon neutrality by 2045.

It is unlikely that the County will be able to remove all sources of emissions generation by 2035. As well as reductions measures, the County will likely also need to pursue active carbon sequestration (intentionally removing carbon from the atmosphere). This report describes an opportunity for the County to engage in active carbon sequestration through the implementation of beneficial land management practices (also known as Climate Smart Practices) on County parklands, and provides potential implementation acreages, costs, and emissions impacts. This report also provides a Co-Benefits Analysis that identifies and prioritizes additional environmental and community benefits associated with Climate Smart Practices (such as improved biodiversity, wildfire resilience, soil health and water quality) to help prioritization decisions and aid in future funding efforts.

Project Goals

Identify potential new carbon sequestration projects and help the County prioritize and allocate resources to those projects with the greatest carbon sequestration and co-benefits potential by evaluating their projected impacts.

Identify key partners working on associated projects to ease the administrative burden of tracking emissions and co-benefits, and to maximize practice adoption across organizational lines.

With the right strategies in place, San Mateo County has a strong opportunity to embed nature-based solutions into the County's emissions reduction toolkit, positioning its parklands as both protected landscapes and essential tools for advancing climate mitigation and resilience.

Executive Summary of the San Mateo County Parklands Carbon Sequestration and co-benefits analysis

Relevant Project Scope

- Countywide NWL carbon analysis
- Ecosystem carbon storage and sequestration assessment
- CARB/CAL FIRE GIS data integration
- Forest, wetland, grassland, and agricultural lands analysis
- Priority sequestration and nature-based strategies
- Parklands carbon sequestration assessment
- Stewardship, restoration, and vegetation management opportunities
- Wildfire, habitat, and ecosystem co-benefits
- Implementation tracking, monitoring, and reporting
- GHG inventory, forecasting, and scenario modeling
- Climate action implementation support

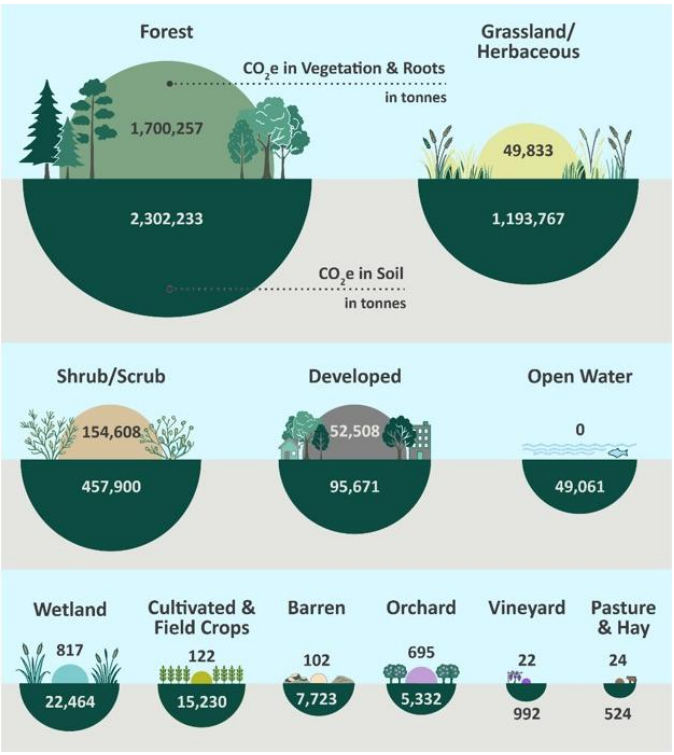
San Mateo County – Natural and Working Plan and Parklands Carbon Sequestration Assessment

San Mateo County, California

Rincon provided planning services for the San Mateo County Climate Action Plan, Natural and Working Lands Plan, and Parklands Carbon Sequestration Assessment. Rincon supported development of a countywide Natural and Working Lands (NWL) analysis to evaluate existing ecosystem carbon storage and sequestration potential across the County using GIS datasets from the California Air Resources Board, CAL FIRE, and other State and regional sources. The analysis identified priority carbon sequestration strategies and nature-based climate solutions associated with forests, wetlands, grasslands, agricultural lands, and other natural and working landscapes to support long-term climate resilience and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Building on the countywide NWL analysis, Rincon completed a separate Parklands Carbon Sequestration Assessment focused specifically on implementation within County parklands. This effort evaluated opportunities to increase and maintain long-term carbon sequestration through land stewardship, restoration, and vegetation management practices while also supporting co-benefits such as wildfire resilience, habitat enhancement, and ecosystem health. Rincon developed an implementation tracking tool for the Parks Department to support long-term monitoring of carbon sequestration activities, implementation progress, and future reporting needs.

As an extension of this work, Rincon continues to support the County through its regional climate implementation and coordination efforts, helping advance countywide and city-level climate action planning, implementation strategies, technical analyses, and tracking tools. Through ongoing collaboration with the County, 20 member cities, and regional partners, Rincon provides technical support related to greenhouse gas inventories, forecasting, measure development and quantification, implementation planning, and scenario modeling tools to support long-term climate resilience and implementation of County and regional climate goals.



Biomass Carbon and Soil Stock in County Parklands Figure from the County of Santa Clara – Parklands Carbon Sequestration Study

County of Santa Clara – Parklands Carbon Sequestration Study

Santa Clara County, California

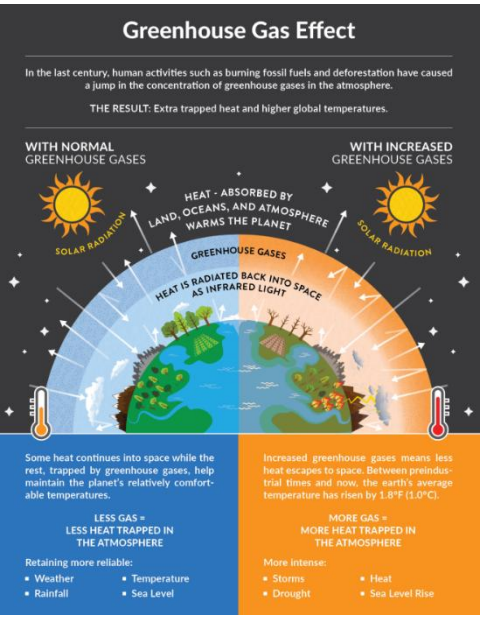
Rincon has supported the County of Santa Clara with greenhouse gas inventories, climate planning, and carbon sequestration analyses across a variety of scales and operational units. Rincon initially developed both countywide and unincorporated greenhouse gas inventories in support of the County's Climate Roadmap, establishing baseline emissions inventories, forecasts, and greenhouse gas reduction targets that exceeded State goals. Since completion of the baseline assessment, Rincon has continued supporting updated inventories for Santa Clara County and San Benito County as part of the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, as well as updated municipal and operational inventories for the County.

In addition to greenhouse gas inventory work, Rincon is currently supporting the County on a countywide parklands carbon sequestration analysis focused on understanding existing carbon storage and sequestration potential across more than 59,000 acres of County parklands. The project evaluates carbon stocks across various land cover types and identifies opportunities to maintain and enhance long-term sequestration through restoration, vegetation management, and other land stewardship practices while supporting co-benefits such as wildfire resilience, habitat enhancement, and ecosystem health. Similar to the proposed Humboldt County effort, the analysis includes development of transparent methodologies, GIS-based mapping and data tools, and implementation-focused strategies to support long-term planning and future updates.

Relevant Project Scope

- Countywide and unincorporated GHG inventories
- Emissions forecasting and reduction targets
- Municipal and operational inventory updates
- Parklands carbon sequestration analysis
- Carbon storage and sequestration potential assessment
- Land cover-based carbon stock evaluation
- Restoration, vegetation management, and stewardship strategies
- Wildfire, habitat, and ecosystem co-benefits
- GIS-based carbon mapping and data tools
- Transparent methods and future update support

Humboldt RCAP Development Process figure



Greenhouse Gas Effect figure from the Humboldt RCAP

Humboldt County – Regional Climate Action Plan and EIR

Humboldt County, California

Rincon teamed with LACO Associates to support Humboldt County prepare the programmatic EIR for the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan, a Countywide plan covering unincorporated County and its seven incorporated cities. The EIR was designed to support CAP adoption, evaluate programmatic-level environmental impacts, and provide a defensible basis for future CEQA tiering and GHG emissions streamlining under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15168 and 15183.5. During EIR project description development, Rincon discussed CAP and interagency coordination recommendations with the County.

Rincon provided integrated environmental planning, climate planning, GHG technical analysis, and public engagement support. Services included the EIR project description, EIR scoping support, Administrative Draft EIR, Screencheck Draft EIR, Draft EIR, Final EIR support, updated GHG inventory, forecast, and target analyses, CAP strategy review, refinement of measures for rural and urban contexts, GHG reduction measures quantification, substantial evidence documentation, and preparation of CEQA GHG Thresholds. Rincon also supported interagency coordination, public outreach, regional partner meetings, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors presentations, and preparation of a CEQA GHG Checklist to help future projects demonstrate consistency with the Regional CAP and streamline project-level GHG emissions analysis. The Humboldt Regional CAP was successfully adopted in December 2025.

> **"The Board of Supervisors Certified the EIR and approved the RCAP and GHG Thresholds with a vote of 5-0. …This speaks to the quality of the work. I have vivid memories of each of your participation in this process and the difference you have made. Today's result would not have happened without all that each of you have done.**
>
> **John H. Ford** *Director of Planning and Building County of Humboldt, Planning and Building Department*

Relevant Project Scope

- Regional CAP EIR
- Programmatic CEQA analysis
- CEQA tiering and streamlining
- GHG inventory, forecast, and targets
- CAP strategy and measure refinement
- GHG measure quantification
- Substantial evidence documentation
- CEQA GHG thresholds and checklist
- Interagency and regional coordination
- Public outreach and engagement
- Planning Commission and Board presentations
- Climate action implementation support

Subconsultant | LACO Associates

LACO Associates (LACO) is a Native-owned, multi-disciplinary consulting firm based in Humboldt County with an expertise in serving the Northern California region providing land surveying, civil engineering, environmental and land use planning, and grant writing services for our clients across a wide variety of project types and levels of complexity. LACO has a long track record of providing high quality service for our clients, and we have assembled a dedicated and passionate team of professional staff who work tirelessly to identify and implement solutions for our clients. Since our start in 1954, we have supported local communities in California. While our physical offices are still located across the northern portions of the state, LACO has fully embraced remote work and new technology, understanding that our impact and capabilities are enhanced by connecting with talented professionals and offering our services across the country. Our professional ranks are supported by staff in training for professional licensure as planners, engineers, and designers, as well as administrative professionals. In total, LACO's team consists of approximately 30 full-time staff. LACO is also certified as a Small Business Enterprise (SBE).

For 70 years, LACO has been building a personal connection to our clients, becoming trusted advisors in the areas we serve, advancing the quality of life for generations to come. Our business is built on a foundation of local expertise and trust. We are deeply familiar with the area and personally invested in its success, as several of our staff live and work in Humboldt County. We understand the challenges rural communities and tribes face in securing well-qualified technical experts due to both financial constraints and limited availability in remote areas. Throughout our history, LACO has served predominantly rural and tribal clientele. Since we opened our doors in Eureka, we have observed the issues faced by under-resourced communities and leveraged our technical skillsets to support safe, sustainable development of infrastructure, housing, and community programs.

Relevant Experience

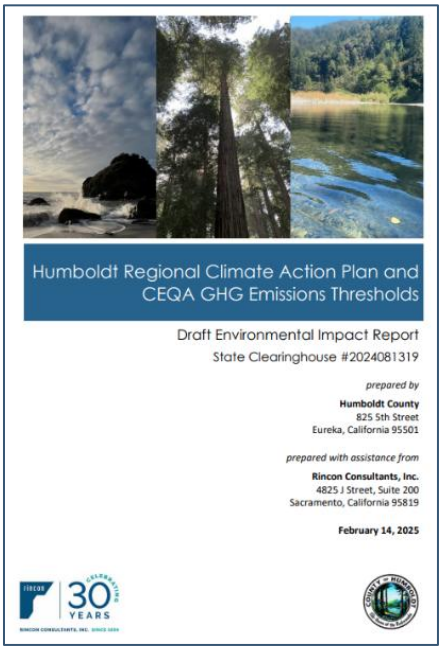
Humboldt County Planning & Building Department On-Call Planning Services

Humboldt County, California

For over seven years, LACO provided on-call planning and project management services to the County of Humboldt, serving as an extension of County staff. Our services have included permit processing, coordination with applicants and outside agencies, staff report preparation, CEQA compliance (IS or NOE), noticing, and presenting projects to the Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission, and Board of Supervisors for decision.

LACO has also provided planning and project management services for several large-scale and notable projects, including the Humboldt Wind Energy project (large-scale project involving up to 60 wind turbines atop Monument and Bear River ridges) and Nordic Aquafarms project (a large, land-based finfish recirculating aquaculture system facility on the Samoa Peninsula). Related services included coordination with the applicant and outside agencies, review of the Draft CEQA EIR and preparation of responses to comments for the Final EIR, staff report preparation, meeting public noticing requirements, and public hearing presentations to the Humboldt County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Other notable projects have included the Humboldt Bay Area Plan Update and the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan (CAP) EIR. Regarding the



Cover of the Humboldt RCAP and CEQA GHG Thresholds EIR

Humboldt Bay Area Plan Update, LACO was responsible for reviewing the existing area plan for consistency related to State law, preparing recommended language to address deficiencies, and drafting new sections, including goals, policies, and implementation measures related to topics such as sea level rise, tsunami hazards, coastal dependent infrastructure, and biological resources.

For the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) project, LACO served as a subconsultant to Rincon Consultants, Inc. for the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan EIR (SCH No. 2024081319). LACO's primary responsibility was to contribute to the Draft EIR by preparing the environmental review analyses associated with utilities, public services, hydrology and water quality, hazards, wildfire, and geology and soils. LACO's local and regional expertise in these specific fields was instrumental in supporting Rincon in the overall preparation of the EIR. The RCAP was adopted by the County on December 16, 2025.

Mendocino County On-Call Planning Services

Mendocino County, California

LACO’s planning team provided on-call planning support to the Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services from 2014 to 2019 and 2023 to 2025. Over the years we have assisted with a wide array of project types, including coastal development permits, major use permits, and cannabis permits. Our team has assisted with environmental compliance and the preparation of Initial Studies, staff reports, and resolutions for more than 80 projects. Most recently, between August 2023 and February 2025, LACO assisted the Cannabis Department with development of User Guides to assist the public with navigating the County’s Accela application portal and a variety of standard operating procedures for Cannabis Department staff.

In addition, our planning team has assisted the County with preparation of its Coastal Cannabis Ordinance. LACO took the lead in authoring the draft ordinance, working closely with County staff. LACO was also responsible for the preparation of staff reports and presentations for hearings before the Planning Commission and County Board of Supervisors, and submission of a Local Coastal Program (LCP) Amendment application to the California Coastal Commission.

Furthermore, LACO completed the environmental review for the County’s Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance, which included preparation of an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and a robust Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for county-wide cannabis cultivation activities. In addition, LACO has assisted with updates to the Inland Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance that require review pursuant to CEQA. This Ordinance was adopted in 2017 and was among the first in the state, pre-dating the adoption of a statewide licensing program. LACO additionally assisted with the development of the inland Cannabis Facilities Ordinance with the associated CEQA document and public hearings.

2 References

We invite you to contact the individuals listed below regarding our qualifications, skills, and project management.

Sonoma County, Carbon Inventory and Sequestration Potential Study	
Contact:	Barbara Lee, Climate Action and Resiliency Division Director
Address:	575 Administration Drive, Santa Rosa, California 95403
Phone:	707-565-2431
Email:	Barbara.lee@sonomacounty.org
Description of Services:	Rincon prepared a countywide carbon inventory and sequestration potential study using GIS-based natural and working lands analyses to quantify carbon stocks, evaluate change over time, and identify implementation-focused restoration and land management strategies to support long-term sequestration and climate resilience.
Contra Costa County, Healthy People: Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study	
Contact:	Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator
Address:	1025 Escobar Street, Martinez, California 94553
Phone:	925-655-2815
Email:	jody.london@dcd.cccounty.us
Description of Services:	Rincon prepared a carbon sequestration feasibility study that established baseline emissions and carbon stock inventories, evaluated natural and working lands sequestration opportunities and co-benefits, and identified feasible, locally supported land management strategies through stakeholder and public engagement.
Santa Clara County, County and Parklands Carbon Sequestration Study	
Contact:	Cassie Bednar, Natural Resource Program Supervisor
Address:	70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, California 95110
Phone:	669-800-9205
Email:	cassie.bednar@PRK.SCCGOV.ORG
Description of Services:	Rincon is preparing a countywide parklands carbon sequestration study that evaluates carbon storage and sequestration potential across County parklands, identifies restoration and land stewardship strategies, and develops GIS-based tools and transparent methods to support long-term planning, monitoring, and future updates.

> “Rincon brings a body of knowledge to the planning process that is critical. They reference state plans, priorities and methods. They facilitate local planning that aligns with larger systems and efforts. This supports alignment of plans for streamlined future coordination and access to funding.
>
> **Simone Albuquerque**, *City of Goleta Parks Analyst and previous Project Manager of Sonoma County Carbon Inventory and Sequestration Potential Study*

Attachment B

REFERENCE DATA SHEET

Provide a minimum of three (3) current references with name, address, contact person, and telephone number whose scope of business or services is similar to those of Humboldt County, preferably in California. Previous business with the County does not qualify.

NAME OF FIRM:	Sonoma County		
STREET ADDRESS:	575 Administration Drive		
CITY, STATE, ZIP	Santa Rosa, California 95403		
CONTACT PERSON:	Barbara Lee	**EMAIL:**	Barbara.lee@sonomacounty.org
PHONE #:	707-565-2431	**FAX #:**	
Product(s) and/or Service(s) Used:	Rincon prepared a countywide carbon inventory and sequestration potential study using GIS-based natural and working lands analyses to quantify carbon stocks, evaluate change over time, and identify implementation-focused restoration and land management strategies to support long-term sequestration and climate resilience.		
NAME OF FIRM:	Contra Costa County		
STREET ADDRESS:	1025 Escobar Street		
CITY, STATE, ZIP	Martinez, California 94553		
CONTACT PERSON:	Jody London	**EMAIL:**	jody.london@dcd.cccounty.us
PHONE #:	925-655-2815	**FAX #:**	
Product(s) and/or Service(s) Used:	Rincon prepared a carbon sequestration feasibility study that established baseline emissions and carbon stock inventories, evaluated natural and working lands sequestration opportunities and co-benefits, and identified feasible, locally supported land management strategies through stakeholder and public engagement.		
NAME OF FIRM:	County of Santa Clara		
STREET ADDRESS:	70 West Hedding Street		
CITY, STATE, ZIP	San Jose, California 95110		
CONTACT PERSON:	Cassie Bednar	**EMAIL:**	cassie.bednar@prk.sccgov.org
PHONE #:	669-800-9205	**FAX #:**	
Product(s) and/or Service(s) Used:	Rincon is preparing a countywide parklands carbon sequestration study that evaluates carbon storage and sequestration potential across County parklands, identifies restoration and land stewardship strategies, and develops GIS-based tools and transparent methods to support long-term planning, monitoring, and future updates.		

3 Staff Experience and Organization

This section details the individual experience of the team members that are proposed to execute this project. Humboldt County's Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study requires a team with the technical expertise to quantify biomass and soil carbon, the planning experience to translate findings into practical carbon sequestration strategies, and the local knowledge to ensure the Study is useful for County departments, RCAP partners, landowners, and decision-makers. Rincon has assembled a senior-led, project-specific team that directly reflects these needs, including natural and working lands carbon inventory specialists, CEQA and climate policy experts, GIS and data analysts, public engagement professionals, and Humboldt-based planning support from LACO.

Why Rincon + LACO?

Rincon brings Humboldt County planning experience and the carbon inventory, natural and working lands, GIS, CEQA, and climate planning expertise needed to deliver a technically defensible study. LACO brings Humboldt-local planning experience, County process knowledge, and local engagement support. Together, we offer the County a rare combination of statewide carbon methodology experience and on-the-ground Humboldt planning fluency.

The County's RFP emphasizes the need for experienced personnel who can prepare a countywide Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock Inventory and Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study, clearly document methods and assumptions, provide repeatable analytical workflows, and produce outputs that support the 2030 RCAP update, CEQA thresholds, conservation planning, wildfire planning, and land management decisions. Our team was selected around those exact needs.

Rincon will serve as the prime consultant and technical lead. The team will be managed by Lexi Journey, whose work focuses on natural and working lands planning, carbon sequestration studies, wildfire planning, and implementation-ready climate strategies. Erik Feldman will provide Principal-in-Charge oversight, experience working with the county, and senior greenhouse gas and carbon strategy review, while Kelsey Bennett will provide contract management, climate planning, and regulatory defensibility. Anna Yip will support project management, implementation strategy, and agency coordination, bringing the perspective of a former County climate program lead who served as the agency lead for Sonoma County's Carbon Inventory and Sequestration Potential Study.

Rincon's technical team brings direct experience preparing carbon stock inventories, carbon sequestration feasibility studies, natural and working lands analyses, wildfire stability analyses, and public-facing GIS products. Camila Bobroff will support the carbon inventory and feasibility study, drawing from her work on Sonoma County's Carbon Inventory and Sequestration Potential Study and Contra Costa County's Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study. Nikole Espinoza will lead data architecture, scripted workflows, repeatability, and QA/QC, while Gina Gerlich will support GIS analysis, mapping, LANDFIRE QA/QC, carbon stock visualization, and accessible spatial products.

To ensure the Study is grounded in local stewardship practices and Humboldt County's planning context, Rincon has paired its statewide carbon and climate planning experience with LACO's Humboldt-based planning expertise. Kassandra Gale will lead engagement design and facilitation, supported by Meghan Ryan and Megan Marruffo of LACO, who bring extensive experience supporting Humboldt County planning, environmental review, climate planning, and Board-level coordination.

This staffing approach gives the County a team that is both technically rigorous and practical. Rincon's carbon, GIS, and climate policy specialists will prepare the inventory, feasibility analyses, maps, tables, and methodology documentation, while LACO's local planners will help ground engagement, policy interpretation, and deliverable review in Humboldt County's planning context.

Purpose-Built for Humboldt: Carbon Science, Local Insight, and Implementation-Ready Results

Rincon and LACO have assembled a team that matches the County's need for defensible carbon inventory methods, repeatable data workflows, locally grounded engagement, and management strategies that can support RCAP implementation, CEQA use, conservation planning, and long-term land stewardship.

Direct natural and working lands carbon experience. Rincon staff have completed closely related carbon inventory, sequestration feasibility, and implementation-focused planning efforts for counties and regional agencies throughout California, including Sonoma County, Contra Costa County, San Mateo County, Santa Barbara County, San Benito/Santa Clara Counties, and Ramona-Barona. Through this work, Rincon has developed internal tools, QA/QC procedures, and standardized GIS and carbon accounting workflows tailored specifically to countywide NWL analyses. These established methods allow our team to complete technically complex analyses efficiently, accurately, and cost-effectively.

Demonstrated understanding of project objectives and regulatory requirements. Rincon understands that Humboldt County's effort is intended to support RCAP implementation, climate resilience planning, CEQA analysis, wildfire resilience, conservation planning, and future policy development. Our team has extensive experience integrating NWL carbon analyses with California climate policy, CEQA, CARB Scoping Plan guidance, and implementation-focused land management strategies to produce practical and defensible planning tools.

Transparent, defensible, and repeatable technical approach. Rincon's data and GIS team has extensive experience processing large statewide datasets such as LANDFIRE, developing scripted data pipelines, conducting rigorous QA/QC reviews, and producing reproducible GIS and carbon accounting workflows. These tools improve efficiency, technical defensibility, and the County's ability to update the inventory in the future.

Ability to provide high-quality, cost-effective services. Because Rincon has completed multiple countywide NWL carbon studies across California, our team can build from tested analytical methods, workflows, and mapping tools rather than developing new methodologies for each project. This reduces startup time, improves consistency and accuracy, minimizes risk, and allows more project resources to focus on Humboldt-specific analysis and implementation planning. Senior technical staff will remain actively involved throughout the project to ensure high-quality deliverables and responsive project management.

Regulatory, CEQA, and policy integration expertise. Erik Feldman and Kelsey Bennett provide senior expertise in CEQA, greenhouse gas analysis, climate action planning, and threshold development, helping ensure the work is technically sound, practical for County staff, and defensible for future planning applications.

Humboldt-local planning and engagement support. LACO's Humboldt-based planners will help the team translate the carbon inventory and feasibility findings into locally relevant, implementable strategies. Meghan Ryan and Megan Marruffo bring direct experience supporting the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department through on-call planning, environmental review, Planning Commission and Board coordination, and RCAP EIR support. Their knowledge of local land use, rural and Tribal community context, resource agency coordination, and County review processes will strengthen stakeholder and land manager engagement, ground recommended strategies in Humboldt's working landscapes, and help ensure final deliverables are practical for County staff, landowners, RCAP partners, and decision-makers.

Clearly defined and flexible project delivery approach. Rincon's scope of work is organized around clear technical tasks, defined deliverables, and iterative review opportunities to support efficient project management and responsive coordination. Lexi Journey will serve as the single point of accountability, with senior reviewers engaged at key milestones to maintain quality control and alignment with County objectives.

Team Organization

Rincon's team structure provides clear project accountability, senior technical oversight, integrated carbon/GIS analysis, and Humboldt-local engagement support. Our team has recent Humboldt County experience working with County of Humboldt Planning & Building Department on the RCAP. Lexi Journey will serve as the County's Project Manager, supported by Anna Yip as Assistant Project Manager. Erik Feldman and Kelsey Bennett will provide senior review for GHG/carbon methodology, CEQA defensibility, and climate policy integration. Camila Bobroff, Nikole Espinoza, and Gina Gerlich will deliver the carbon inventory, feasibility analysis, data workflows, GIS layers, maps, and graphics. Kassandra Gale will lead engagement, supported by Meghan Ryan and Megan Marruffo of LACO for Humboldt-local planning and community context.

COUNTY COORDINATION

Erik Feldman
Principal-in-Charge / Senior Carbon-GHG QA/QC

Lexi Journey
Project Manager

Kelsey Bennett
Project Director / CEQA-Regulatory QA/QC

Erica Linard
RCAP / GHG Integration Advisor

Anna Yip
Assistant Project Manager

Scott Eckardt
Registered Professional Forester/ Wildfire Policy Lead

CARBON INVENTORY, FEASIBILITY STUDY, DATA, and GIS

Nikole Espinoza
GIS Data Lead

Camila Bobroff
Carbon Stock Analyst

Gina Gerlich
GIS Data Analyst

Kassandra Gale
Engagement Strategy Lead

Brooke Emmett
Graphic Designer

HUMBOLDT-LOCAL ENGAGEMENT AND PLANNING SUPPORT

Meghan Ryan
Local Engagement Support
LACO

Megan Marruffo
Local Engagement Support
LACO

LACO Role

LACO will provide local presence, stakeholder coordination support, and review of management strategies for local feasibility. Rincon will lead all technical carbon analysis, modeling, and reporting.

Resumes

Education

MS, Environmental Science and Management, University of Sydney; Sydney, Australia

BS, Business and Administration, University of Colorado

Certifications/ Registrations

Accredited Lead Greenhouse Gas Verifier, California Air Resource Board (EO #H-10-043)

Accredited Low Carbon Fuel Standard Verifier, California Air Resource Board (EO #H3-20-054)

LEED Accredited Professional

Licensed General Engineering Contractor (#921378)

Erik Feldman, LEED AP

Principal-in-Charge | Senior Carbon and GHG Strategy

Erik Feldman will provide executive oversight and senior technical review for the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study. Erik brings his statewide leadership in GHG reporting, climate action planning, carbon verification, GHG analytical methods, and qualified GHG reduction plans. He oversees Rincon's GHG reporting, climate action planning, climate investment grant, carbon verification, and LCFS verification services, and he has helped local agencies with climate action and natural and working lands management throughout California. For the NWL CSM Study, Erik will review the carbon inventory framework, GHG assumptions, RCAP integration, and final recommendations to confirm that the study is technically sound, policy-relevant, and defensible for future climate planning applications.

Relevant Projects

Humboldt County – Regional Climate Action Plan / *Principal-in-Charge*

- Provided principal-level oversight for the regional CAP for Humboldt County, including the unincorporated County and incorporated cities.
- Guided GHG technical analysis, substantial evidence documentation, and CEQA streamlining strategy to support adoption and implementation.

Sonoma County Carbon Inventory and Sequestration Potential Study / *Principal-in-Charge*

- Provided executive oversight for Sonoma County's natural and working lands carbon inventory and sequestration analysis.
- Advised on technical methodologies, QA/QC, and integration of wildfire resilience and land management strategies.

Contra Costa County Healthy People: Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study / *Principal-in-Charge*

- Provided senior oversight for development of a natural and working lands carbon inventory and sequestration analysis.
- Advised on implementation strategies and associated resilience and habitat co-benefits.

County of Santa Clara Community Climate Action Roadmap and Parklands Carbon Sequestration Study / *Principal-in-Charge*

- Provided executive oversight for greenhouse gas inventories, forecasts, and reduction targets.
- Directed strategic oversight for the County parklands carbon sequestration analysis.

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) – General Plan Guidelines Update / *Principal-in-Charge*

- Leads the incorporation of climate resilience as a foundational principle across all required and optional elements of the General Plan.
- Convenes the climate advisory group in partnership with LCI.

Kelsey Bennett, LEED-AP

Project Director | CEQA and Regulatory Defensibility, QA/QC

Kelsey Bennett will serve as Project Director and senior reviewer for CEQA, climate policy, GHG thresholds, and regulatory defensibility. Kelsey is an active member of the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) Climate Change Committee and brings over 24 years of experience preparing and overseeing Climate Action Plans, Environmental Impact Reports, General Plans, Environmental Impact Statements, Initial Studies, Climate Vulnerability Assessments, and CEQA GHG Threshold/Checklist documents. Her expertise is especially valuable because Humboldt intends to use this study to inform the RCAP, future CEQA thresholds, conservation planning, wildfire planning, and policy decisions. For the NWL CSM Study, Kelsey will help confirm that the methods, assumptions, findings, and recommendations are framed in a way that are defensible and support future public agency decision-making.

Education

MPA, Environmental Science and Policy, Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs

BS, Biology (with minors in Environmental Studies and Psychology), University of California at San Diego

Certifications/ Registrations

LEED-AP

California Water Management and Ecosystem Restoration Certificate, University of California at Berkeley

Affiliations

Member, American Planning Association

Member, Association of Environmental Professionals, Climate Change Committee

Member, US Green Building Council

Relevant Projects

Humboldt County – Regional Climate Action Plan and EIR / *Project Director*

- Directed preparation of the Regional CAP, CAP EIR, CEQA GHG Thresholds, and CEQA GHG Checklist for the unincorporated County and incorporated cities.
- Oversaw measures addressing carbon sequestration, transportation, energy, solid waste, wastewater, and water, with a clear roadmap for implementation and future CEQA tiering.

Calaveras County – GHG Reduction Plan and Wildfire Report / *Project Director*

- Directed preparation of a GHG Reduction Plan, emissions inventory, wildfire-related GHG inventory, carbon sink assessment, and wildfire adaptation measures.
- Oversaw development of a GIS-based methodology using CARB guidance to evaluate potential wildfire emissions and identify wildfire prevention best practices.

Santa Clara County – Regional Climate Action Plan / *CEQA Framework Lead*

- Led the CEQA framework for a regional Climate Action Plan involving the County and six cities, supporting a coordinated approach to local GHG emissions reduction.
- Helped establish a CEQA pathway for implementation of regional GHG strategies, decision-support tools, and a roadmap for local jurisdictions.

San Mateo County – Climate Action Plan CEQA / *Project Manager*

- Managed CEQA review for the Countywide Climate Action Plan, which addressed communitywide and municipal GHG emissions reduction.
- Led preparation of the Initial Study-Negative Declaration for a qualified GHG reduction plan consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5.

Lexi Journey

Project Manager

Lexi Journey will serve as Project Manager and the County's primary contact. Lexi's experience directly aligns with the County's need for an experienced manager who understands natural and working lands carbon inventories, carbon sequestration feasibility studies, wildfire and resilience planning, and implementation-ready climate strategies. She manages projects and teams focused on improving community and ecosystem resilience through nature-based solutions on natural and working lands, including climate action plans, wildfire plans, natural and working lands plans, and carbon sequestration studies. For the NWL CSM Study, Lexi will manage scope, schedule, budget, staff coordination, County communication, technical integration, and quality control so that the final study is clear, timely, responsive, and useful for implementation.

Education

MESM, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, University of California, Santa Barbara

BS, Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, University of California, Los Angeles

Instructor

ESM 275 Principles and Practice of Environmental Planning, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, University of California, Santa Barbara

Relevant Projects

Sonoma County Carbon Inventory and Sequestration Potential Study / *Project Manager*

- Developed Sonoma County's baseline natural and working lands carbon inventory and sequestration analysis.
- Evaluated wildfire, restoration, and land management impacts on long-term carbon stability and sequestration potential.

Contra Costa County Healthy People: Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study / *Project Manager*

- Developed a baseline inventory of carbon emissions and carbon sequestration capacity across natural and working lands.
- Evaluated feasible implementation strategies and associated co-benefits such as wildfire resilience and habitat restoration.

County of Santa Clara Community Climate Action Roadmap and Parklands Carbon Sequestration Study / *Project Manager*

- Developed countywide and unincorporated greenhouse gas inventories, forecasts, and reduction targets.
- Conducted a countywide parklands carbon sequestration analysis across more than 59,000 acres of County parklands.

San Mateo County Regionally Integrated Climate Action Planning Support (RICAPS) Program, Natural and Working Lands Plan, and Parklands Carbon Sequestration Assessment / *Project Manager*

- Developed a countywide Natural and Working Lands analysis evaluating carbon storage and sequestration potential across diverse landscapes.
- Completed a Parklands Carbon Sequestration Assessment and implementation tracking tool for the County Parks Department.

County of Santa Barbara Natural and Working Lands Land-Based Carbon Inventory, Community Inventory, and 2030 Climate Action Plan / *Project Manager*

- Prepared one of California's first countywide Natural and Working Lands analyses as part of the One Climate Initiative.
- Developed a land-based carbon inventory.

Education

PhD, Environmental Toxicology, Clemson University

MS, Environmental Toxicology, Clemson University

BS, Aquatic Biology, University of California Santa Barbara

Instructor

Accredited Lead Greenhouse Gas Verifier, California Air Resource Board Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) Regulation (EO# H3-20-088)

Accredited Lead Greenhouse Gas Verifier, California Air Resource Board Regulation for the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MRR) (EO# H-20-062)

Erica Linard

RCAP / GHG Integration Advisor

Erica Linard will serve as RCAP / GHG Integration Advisor for the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study, helping ensure the study's carbon accounting outputs are structured for future RCAP updates, GHG inventory integration, CEQA use, and implementation tracking. Erica brings 14 years of experience in greenhouse gas analysis, climate action planning, carbon accounting, environmental data review, and sustainability strategy, including direct experience managing the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan. As Program Manager of Rincon's Carbon Accounting & Management team, she specializes in translating technical GHG data into defensible, policy-ready tools that support climate planning, implementation, and progress tracking. For Humboldt, Erica will advise on how the natural and working lands inventory, sequestration estimates, assumptions, and documentation can align with RCAP Measure CS-3, future 2030 RCAP updates, and the County's long-term carbon neutrality objectives.

Relevant Projects

Humboldt County – Regional Climate Action Plan / *Project Manager*

- Managed development of the regional CAP for Humboldt County, including the unincorporated County and incorporated cities.
- Led GHG inventory, forecast, target development, mitigation measures, substantial evidence documentation, and CEQA streamlining strategy.

Montecito Water District (MWD) – Climate Action and Adaptation Plan / *Project Manager*

- Managed preparation of a CAAP with GHG inventory, emissions forecast, climate vulnerability assessment, and mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- Developed an implementation strategy with value-based criteria to prioritize actions, track progress, and support funding competitiveness.

Santa Barbara County – Climate Action Plan / *Senior Technical Advisor*

- Provided senior technical guidance for a CEQA-qualified 2030 CAP developed through the County's One Climate initiative.
- Advised on GHG analysis, climate action tools, implementation tracking, updated inventories, and specialized emissions analyses.

City of Healdsburg – Climate Mobilization Strategy and Implementation / *Project Manager*

- Managed a Climate Mobilization Strategy with GHG analysis, targets, mitigation strategies, cost assessment, and implementation planning.
- Oversees implementation support, including evaluation of future energy demand under climate scenarios for utility planning.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) – Climate Action and Adaptation Plan / *Senior Technical Advisor*

- Provided senior technical oversight for GHG analysis, mitigation strategy development, Board engagement, and final CAAP documentation.
- Supported climate vulnerability analysis for watersheds, imported water supply, infrastructure, water demand, and extreme climate hazards.

Scott Eckardt

Professional Forester and Wildfire Policy Lead

Scott Eckardt will serve as Professional Forester and Wildfire Policy Lead for the NWL CSM Study. Scott's experience directly aligns with the County's need to evaluate carbon stock stability, wildfire risk, beneficial fire, and forest management practices across Humboldt's forested, timber, public, private, and working landscapes. He leads Rincon's wildfire planning and forestry practice and brings 27 years of experience in natural resource management, forest stewardship, wildfire hazard and risk assessment, fuel hazard evaluation, and community wildfire protection planning throughout California. For the NWL CSM Study, Scott will provide senior forestry and wildfire policy guidance to help the team evaluate how wildfire, prescribed fire, fuel conditions, and land management strategies may affect long-term carbon sequestration capacity, carbon durability, and implementation feasibility.

Education

MA, Geography, California State University, Long Beach

BS, Forestry and Natural Resources Management, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Certifications/ Registrations

State of California Registered Professional Forester (RPF #2835)

International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist (#WE-5914A)

Association for Fire Ecology Certified Wildland Fire Manager

Relevant Projects

Nevada County Office of Emergency Services – Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) / *Lead Wildfire Planner and Project Manager*

- Led development of Nevada County's countywide CWPP covering 620,000 acres and integrating detailed hazard and risk assessments across diverse fire environments.
- Guided collaboration with CAL FIRE, local fire districts, federal partners, nonprofits, and the public through surveys, workshops, and meetings.
- Developed prioritized strategies for fuels treatment, home hardening, evacuation planning, and community resilience, positioning the county for state and federal funding.

Nevada County Office of Emergency Services – Land Management Plan / *Lead Forester and Project Manager*

- Developed vegetation treatment strategies and techniques across major vegetation types, consistent with Community Wildfire Protection Plan priorities.
- Produced a scalable implementation toolbox that integrated ecological, operational, and regulatory considerations to support fuels-reduction and resilience projects.

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority – Regional Priority Plan / *Lead Wildfire Planner and Project Manager*

- Coordinated with agencies and partners across 887,000 acres in the Santa Monica, San Gabriel, and Santa Susana Mountains.
- Compiled research, evaluated vegetation, carbon stock, and hazard data, and developed wildfire risk mitigation strategies.
- Led development of an interactive platform to communicate findings and gather community input.

County of Fresno – Tree Mortality Project / *Lead Forester*

- Managed large-scale tree mortality project involving evaluating, marking, and documenting dead or dying trees threatening public rights-of-way and infrastructure. Project supported the County's emergency-response efforts under a proclaimed State of Emergency.

Anna Yip

Assistant Project Manager | Implementation Strategy and Agency Coordination

Anna Yip will serve as Assistant Project Manager, supporting County coordination, implementation strategy, funding and partnership considerations, and integration of the study into future climate action work. Anna brings both consultant expertise and direct public agency experience, including service as Principal Analyst in the County of Sonoma's Climate Action and Resiliency Division. She served as the in-house lead with Rincon on Sonoma County's Carbon Inventory and Sequestration Potential Study, which included carbon stock inventories using SonomaVeg and LANDFIRE data, carbon stock stability analysis for wildfire and drought, quantification of climate-smart practices, and measures to optimize carbon sequestration. For the NWL CSM Study, Anna will help ensure the study is practical for County staff, aligned with RCAP implementation needs, and useful for future funding, partnerships, and action planning.

Education

MS, Energy and Resources, University of California, Berkeley

BS, Environmental Science, University of California, Berkeley

BS, Environmental Economics and Policy, University of California, Berkeley

Relevant Projects

County of San Mateo – Regionally Integrated Climate Action Planning Support / *Project Manager*

- Manages countywide climate planning support for multiple jurisdictions, including GHG inventories, forecasts, measure development, and technical analyses.
- Oversees model ordinance language, outreach materials, workshops, trainings, and interagency coordination to support consistent CAP implementation.

County of Sonoma – Carbon Inventory and Sequestration / *Project Manager*

- Led a carbon inventory and sequestration study quantifying aboveground, belowground, and soil carbon using SonomaVeg and LANDFIRE datasets.
- Evaluated wildfire and drought-related carbon stability, climate-smart land management practices, and priority sequestration strategies.

Blue Forest – Southern California Ignitions Reduction Project / *Project Manager*

- Supported USDA Forest Service wildfire risk reduction efforts across fire-prone Southern California landscapes.
- Identified conservation finance pathways and translated forest restoration benefits into cost-benefit analyses for utility partners.

County of Nevada – Climate Action and Adaptation Plan/ *Project Manager*

- Manages a countywide climate action and adaptation planning effort.
- Oversees vulnerability assessment, equity integration, and development of prioritized adaptation strategies.

Nikole Espinoza

GIS Data Lead | Repeatable Workflows, QA/QC, and Documentation

Nikole Espinoza will lead data architecture, scripted analysis workflows, QA/QC, documentation, and reproducibility for the carbon inventory and feasibility study. She was selected because the County's study must be transparent, updateable, and supported by complete documentation of data sources, assumptions, calculations, uncertainty, methods, software tools, and quality control. Nikole specializes in GIS, data management, visualization, R scripting, and automated data pipelines. She has supported carbon stock analyses using large datasets, including LANDFIRE-based workflows exceeding four million points, and has developed repeatable pipelines for carbon analysis, graphics, and report-ready outputs. For the NWL CSM Study, Nikole will help ensure that the final inventory is not a one-time static product, but a documented analytical framework that can be updated for future RCAP cycles.

Education

MESM, Environmental Science and Management, Specializing in Conservation Planning & Data Science, University of California – Santa Barbara

BS, Plant Biology, Specializing in Environmental Sciences, Michigan State University

Relevant Projects

County of Santa Clara Parks - Santa Clara County Regional Climate Action Plan / *Lead GIS and Data Analyst*

- Developed scripted data pipelines and graphics to support carbon analysis for Santa Clara County parks.
- Created a data viewer to help the client review land cover, past management actions, and future implementation opportunities.

Ramona Barona – Ramona Barona Climate Adaptation and Action Plan, Ramona Community Planning Area / *GIS and Data Analyst*

- Supported carbon stock analysis by processing multiple data sources through a repeatable data pipeline.
- Conducted LANDFIRE QA/QC and mapped carbon stock results to inform adaptation strategies.

Ventura County – Ventura County Climate Action Plan / *GIS and Data Analyst*

- Built data pipelines and scripted graphics for carbon analysis using datasets exceeding four million points.
- Streamlined LANDFIRE data acquisition, cleaning, and spatial processing to support accurate analysis.

County of San Benito & County of Santa Clara - San Benito and Santa Clara County Regional Climate Action Plan / *GIS and Data Analyst*

- Created data pipelines and graphics to support regional carbon analysis across two counties.
- Processed large LANDFIRE datasets to improve data consistency, efficiency, and decision-making.

County of San Mateo Parks – San Mateo County CAP Technical Support / *GIS and Data Analyst*

- Developed data pipelines and scripted graphics for carbon analysis within County parklands.
- Processed large LANDFIRE datasets to support accurate spatial analysis and climate planning.

Camila Bobroff

Carbon Stock Analyst

Camila Bobroff will support the carbon stock inventory, carbon sequestration feasibility analysis, management strategy development, and report preparation. Camila brings direct experience preparing carbon inventories, natural and working lands analyses, climate action plans, adaptation plans, and carbon sequestration feasibility studies. She served as Assistant Project Manager for Sonoma County's Carbon Inventory and Sequestration Potential Study and led technical analysis for Contra Costa County's Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study, including carbon stock analysis and scenario planning. For the NWL CSM Study, Camila will help translate complex carbon stock data into practical findings about sequestration potential, management practices, feasibility considerations, and implementation pathways.

Education

MESM, Climate and Energy, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, University of California, Santa Barbara

BA, Environmental Studies, BS, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Santa Cruz

Relevant Projects

Sonoma County Carbon Inventory and Sequestration Potential Study / *Climate Analyst*

- Assisted with development of countywide carbon stock inventories and sequestration potential analyses.
- Evaluated wildfire, restoration, and land management influences on carbon storage and stability.

Contra Costa County Healthy People: Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study / *Climate Analyst*

- Supported carbon stock and sequestration analyses for natural and working lands throughout the County.
- Assisted in evaluating implementation opportunities and associated environmental co-benefits.

County of Santa Clara Community Climate Action Roadmap and Parklands Carbon Sequestration Study / *Climate Analyst*

- Supported preparation of countywide and unincorporated greenhouse gas inventories and forecasts.
- Conducted GIS and technical analysis for the County's parklands carbon sequestration assessment.

San Mateo County, Natural and Working Lands Plan, and Parklands Carbon Sequestration Assessment / *Climate Analyst*

- Supported development of countywide Natural and Working Lands carbon analyses and sequestration mapping.
- Assisted with parklands carbon sequestration assessments, implementation tracking tools, and GIS-based analyses.

County of Santa Barbara Natural and Working Lands Land-Based Carbon Inventory, Community Inventory, and 2030 Climate Action Plan / *Climate Analyst*

- Supported one of California's first countywide Natural and Working Lands carbon inventories.
- Assisted with analysis of land-based carbon flux associated with wildfire, land use change, and management practices.

Gina Gerlich

GIS Data Analyst

Gina Gerlich will support GIS analysis, spatial QA/QC, LANDFIRE data review, mapping, and development of public-facing spatial products. Gina brings experience translating large geospatial datasets into clear maps, dashboards, web viewers, and graphics that support decision-making. She has performed QA/QC on LANDFIRE data, managed datasets with millions of points, calculated and visualized carbon stocks, and developed interactive platforms for climate, carbon, and wildfire planning projects. For the NWL CSM Study, Gina will help produce the maps, GIS data layers, charts, and graphics needed to communicate carbon stock, 10-year change, stability, and sequestration opportunity findings to County staff, landowners, the public, and decision-makers.

Education

MSc, Geographic Information Science, California State University, Northridge, Northridge, California

BA, Psychology, California State University, Northridge, Northridge, California

Certifications/ Registrations

FAA Remote Pilot Certificate – Part 107 (Drone License) - 2023

Relevant Projects

Sonoma County Carbon Inventory and Sequestration Potential Study / *GIS Data Analyst*

- Baseline natural and working lands carbon inventory and sequestration analysis through GIS analysis, spatial data management, and mapping.
- Spatial analysis evaluating wildfire, restoration, and land management impacts on long-term carbon stability and sequestration potential.

Contra Costa County Healthy People: Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study / *GIS Data Analyst*

- Supported development of a baseline inventory of carbon emissions and carbon sequestration capacity across natural and working lands
- Prepared GIS datasets, maps, and spatial analyses evaluating feasible implementation strategies and associated co-benefits

County of Santa Clara Community Climate Action Roadmap and Parklands Carbon Sequestration Study / *GIS Data Analyst*

- Countywide and unincorporated greenhouse gas inventories, forecasts, and reduction targets through GIS analysis and spatial data
- GIS-based carbon sequestration analysis for more than 59,000 acres parklands and prepared technical maps and data visualizations.

San Mateo County, Natural and Working Lands Plan, and Parklands Carbon Sequestration Assessment / *GIS Data Analyst*

- GIS analysis supporting a countywide Natural and Working Lands assessment evaluating carbon storage and sequestration potential.
- Development of a Parklands Carbon Sequestration Assessment and implementation tracking tool for the County Parks Department.

County of Santa Barbara Natural and Working Lands Land-Based Carbon Inventory, Community Inventory, and 2030 Climate Action Plan / *GIS Data Analyst*

- Supported preparation of one of California's first countywide Natural and Working Lands analyses as part of the One Climate Initiative.
- Conducted GIS analysis and spatial data management supporting development of a land-based carbon inventory.

Kassandra Gale, EdD, AICP

Engagement Lead

Kassandra Gale will lead stakeholder and landowner engagement for the study. She was selected for her experience designing inclusive, adaptive, and practical engagement programs for complex planning, environmental, resilience, watershed, and land use projects. Kassandra brings 13 years of public- and private-sector experience in land use planning, environmental resource management, community engagement, public agency leadership, and stakeholder facilitation. Her experience includes watershed resilience planning, local coastal planning, environmental justice outreach, advisory group facilitation, community-based organization partnerships, and prior Tribal liaison work with 18 tribal governments. For the NWL CSM Study, Kassandra will design an engagement approach that helps the County gather useful information about existing land management practices and build understanding of the study's purpose, methods, and implementation relevance.

Education

EdD, Change Management, University of Southern California

MA, Applied Anthropology, San Diego State University

BA, Art History, Minor in Chemistry, California State University, Bakersfield

Certifications/ Registrations

AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners) Certification No. 33473

Relevant Projects

City of Carpinteria – Carpinteria Living Shoreline Project / *Engagement Project Manager*

- Leads public engagement for a coastal resilience project focused on dune restoration, sediment management, and sea level rise adaptation.
- Implements an inclusive, multilingual strategy that translates technical concepts into accessible community decision-making.

City of Ventura – Ventura Local Coastal Program Update / *Engagement Lead*

- Leads engagement for a Local Coastal Program Update addressing sea level rise, coastal resilience, and frontline community needs.
- Facilitates workshops, focus groups, technical advisory coordination, and CBO partnerships to support meaningful participation.

County of San Diego – Planning & Development Services / *Tribal Liaison, Advance and Current Planning*

- Served as Tribal liaison for planning projects, coordinating consultation with 18 Tribal governments.
- Facilitated culturally relevant conversations to support relationship-building, sensitive resource management, and practical project solutions.

City of Menlo Park – Menlo Park SAFER Bay Project (Strategy to Advance Flood Protection, Ecosystems, and Recreation along San Francisco Bay) / *Engagement Project Manager*

- Designed an equity-centered engagement plan for flood protection, shoreline resilience, ecosystem, and recreation improvements.
- Guided advisory group facilitation, public workshops, mobile engagement, and metrics to support adaptive outreach.

City of Bakersfield – General Plan Update Community Outreach Program / *Engagement Lead*

- Led equity-focused outreach for the 2045 General Plan Update, including advisory group coordination, CBO partnerships, multilingual surveys, workshops, pop-ups, interviews, mapping tools, and study sessions

Brooke Emmett

Graphic Designer

Brooke is highly skilled in the Adobe Creative Suite, with advanced experience designing long, public-facing documents. Her work includes Climate Action and Adaptation Plans (CAAPs), Natural and Working Land Plans, Wildfire Plans, General Plans and updates, and more. She has a strong ability to take complex, technical information and turn it into clear, visually engaging, and easy-to-understand materials for a wide range of audiences.

Education

BA, Graphic Design, Minor in Marketing, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Relevant Projects

Sonoma County Carbon Inventory and Sequestration Potential Study / *Graphic Designer*

- Designed a visually cohesive countywide climate resilience and implementation planning document that translated complex technical and policy content into an accessible public-facing resource.
- Developed custom infographics, maps, charts, and layout elements to clearly communicate climate strategies, implementation priorities, and resilience concepts across diverse topic areas.

San Luis Obispo Fire Safe Council Countywide Fireshed Report / *Graphic Designer*

- Designed an award-winning countywide wildfire resilience and fireshed planning document.
- Developed custom graphics, maps, diagrams, and data visualizations to illustrate fireshed concepts, and wildfire behavior.

San Bernadino Valley Municipal Water District – Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, San Bernadino / *Graphic Designer*

- Successfully communicated the SBVMWD's message and branding in a 98 page CARP document meant for public viewing.

Graphic Designer, Moreno Valley Climate Action Plan / *Graphic Designer*

- Designed a vibrant 121 page CAP for Moreno Valley that was adopted, including custom graphics.

Graphic Designer, Pajaro Valley – Pajaro River Watershed Resilience Program / *Graphic Designer*

- Designed a 120+ page Watershed Resilience Plan for Pajaro Valley, creating a polished, easy-to-navigate document for a broad public audience.
- Developed custom infographics, tables, and charts to clearly communicate complex data and key strategies in a visually engaging way.

Graphic Designer, City of Bakersfield – General Plan Update / *Graphic Designer*

- Design of a 400+ page publication, including original infographics, selected and integrated photography
- Established a cohesive visual identity that carried consistently throughout the document, resulting in a refined and highly readable final piece.

Meghan Ryan

Local Engagement Support

Meghan Ryan will provide Humboldt-local planning support, engagement support, and QA/QC review. Meghan brings more than 20 years of professional planning experience and direct knowledge of Humboldt County planning processes, local decision-making, rural community planning, and environmental compliance. She currently serves as LACO's Planning Director and Senior Technical Advisor, manages the daily operations of LACO's Planning team, and performs QA/QC of outgoing deliverables. Meghan supported the Humboldt County Planning Department from 2017 through 2024, including cannabis application processing, current planning application review, Coastal Development Permits, Special Permits, Conditional Use Permits, and presentations to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. For the NWL CSM Study, Meghan will help the team understand local planning context, anticipate County review needs, and communicate findings in a way that is useful to staff and decision-makers.

Education

BS, Natural Resources Planning, Humboldt State University, Arcata

Affiliations

American Planning Association- Member

Association of Environmental Professionals- Member

Relevant Projects

Humboldt County Planning and Building Department Contract Planner / *Contract Planner / Planning Team Lead*

- From 2017 – 2023, supported the Humboldt County Planning Department with processing of over 2,300 cannabis applications submitted in 2016.
- From 2023 to 2024, lead the Planning team in reviewing current planning applications (Coastal Development Permits, Special Permits, and Conditional Use Permits).
- Extensively presented to the Humboldt County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Humboldt County Planning Division/ *Senior Planner*

- Managed permit compliance for a diverse workload of both short- and long-term development projects both as a Planner I (2005 – 2011) and Senior Planner (2018 -2021).
- Evaluated development proposals for compliance with General Plan, Local Coastal Plans, and Zoning Ordinances. Meghan researched property history and constraints.
- Analyzed and summarized results and recommendations of technical studies, prepared environmental documents, developed conditions of approval and mitigation measures to reduce project impacts.
- Presented project recommendations to decision-making bodies and the public.

Megan Marruffo

Local Engagement Support

LACO

Megan Marruffo will provide Humboldt-local engagement support, environmental planning support, and technical writing. Megan brings her experience supporting Humboldt County planning efforts, preparing CEQA and NEPA documents, managing multidisciplinary planning projects, and coordinating with local, State, and federal agencies. She has provided on-call planning services to the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department, including project management, permit review, project tracking, staff reports, agency coordination, and presentations to decision-makers. She also supported the Humboldt Bay Area Plan Update and prepared sections of the Environmental Impact Report for the Countywide Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan. For the NWL CSM Study, Megan will help connect the carbon inventory and feasibility study to Humboldt's existing planning framework and support clear, locally relevant deliverables.

Education

BA, Environmental Studies and Planning (Concentration in Planning), Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California

Certifications/ Registrations

Certified Planner, American Institute of Certified Planners (no. 023226)

Affiliations

American Planning Association

Association of Environmental Professionals

Relevant Projects

Humboldt County – On-Call Planning Support/ *Senior Planner / Project Manager*

- Provided on-call planning support to the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department, including project management, permit review, and application processing.
- Coordinated with applicants, County staff, and resource agencies; prepared staff reports; tracked projects; and presented items to decision-makers.

Burns Paiute Tribe Sustainable Comprehensive Community Plan / *Senior Planner / Project Manager*

- Supports development of a Sustainable Comprehensive Community Plan to guide future Tribal community development and strategic priorities.
- Assists with implementation documents, including design guidelines, zoning ordinance updates, and a capital improvement plan.

Humboldt County – Humboldt Bay Area Plan Update / *Senior Planner / Project Manager*

- Assisted the County with a comprehensive update to the Humboldt Bay Area local coastal plan.
- Helped develop updated goals, policies, and implementation measures related to sea level rise, tsunami hazards, and coastal planning.

Humboldt County – Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan EIR / *Environmental Planner*

- Served on the project team for the Environmental Impact Report supporting the countywide Regional Climate Action Plan.
- Prepared EIR sections to support environmental review, climate planning, and County decision-making.

4 Technical Approach and Scope of Work

Project Understanding and Approach

Rincon understands that the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study is more than a technical carbon inventory. The Study will establish Humboldt County's first comprehensive baseline of natural and working lands carbon stocks, evaluate how those stocks are changing over time, identify practical strategies to maintain and enhance long-term sequestration capacity, and provide a transparent and repeatable framework to support future RCAP updates, conservation planning, land management decisions, and implementation efforts.

Why This Study Matters

This analysis will serve as a foundational implementation tool for the sequestration and natural and working lands strategies identified in Humboldt County's RCAP. Beyond developing a countywide carbon stock inventory, the study will help the County better understand the critical role Humboldt's forests, working lands, wetlands, grasslands, and other natural systems play in supporting regional and statewide carbon neutrality goals. Given the scale and ecological importance of these landscapes, Humboldt County plays a disproportionate role in California's overall carbon sequestration capacity and long-term climate resilience.

Supporting RCAP Implementation

- Provides the technical foundation needed to support implementation of the RCAP's sequestration and resilience policies and actions
- Supports future climate planning, CEQA analysis, wildfire resilience, and implementation tracking
- Establishes a transparent and repeatable framework that can be updated over time as new data and methodologies become available

Understanding Humboldt County's Statewide Importance

- Quantifies and communicates the County's contribution to statewide climate resilience goals
- Highlights the value of forests, wetlands, working lands, and other natural systems
- Helps demonstrate the importance of continued State partnership and investment in the region

Advancing Resilience and Economic Opportunity

- Identifies land management needs that can help maintain and enhance long-term carbon storage
- Supports strategies that protect ecological functions while also supporting working lands and local economies
- Helps inform future carbon market opportunities, resilience investments, restoration funding, and emerging green job opportunities

Supporting Long-Term Partnerships and Funding

- Helps identify implementation needs and technical assistance opportunities for local partners
- Provides a defensible technical foundation for future grant pursuits and funding programs
- Supports coordination between local governments, Tribes, agencies, landowners, conservation organizations, and regional stakeholders to advance long-term implementation efforts

Guiding Principles

Rincon's proposed approach is guided by a set of core principles developed through our experience leading countywide natural and working lands carbon analyses across California. These principles reflect our commitment to providing technically rigorous, implementation-focused, cost-effective, and locally informed services that support both Humboldt County's immediate project objectives and long-term resilience, sequestration, and planning goals.

Guided Principles	Rincon's Approach
State-Aligned, Humboldt-Specific	CARB-aligned methodologies informed by local land managers, industries, and landscape conditions
Engagement that Informs Analysis	Stakeholder input integrated directly into technical analysis and feasibility evaluation
Carbon Sequestration and Stability	Evaluation of both sequestration potential and long-term carbon durability under wildfire and climate stressors
Cost Effective and Efficient Implementation	Building from our work on the County RCAP and other County efforts, proven technical workflows to maximize value, reduce duplication, and support efficient project delivery
Transparent and Repeatable Deliverables	Clear documentation, GIS layers, calculation tools, and update protocols to support future County use

Scope of Work

The County's RFP organizes the project into three primary tasks:

1. Project Planning Framework
2. Humboldt Countywide Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock Inventory and Summary Report
3. Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report

A summary of the scope of work is provided below designed to clearly identifying our adherence to the program objectives and requirements and our ability to deliver high-quality and cost-effective services. A more detailed description of the proposed scope, technical methodology, assumptions, deliverables, and approach is included in the attached **Detailed Scope and Technical Approach** to provide reviewers with a comprehensive understanding of Rincon's implementation-focused approach, technical rigor, and full scope of services.

The following scope summarizes Rincon's proposed approach to each project task.

Task 1. Project Planning Framework

Task 1.1 Kickoff Meeting and Project Work Plan

Rincon and LACO Associates will initiate the project with a kickoff meeting and development of a Project Work Plan and Methodology Framework to confirm project goals, coordination procedures, technical methodologies, data needs, deliverables, and review milestones. The kickoff process will establish a shared understanding of the Study's intended uses, technical framework, and implementation priorities while ensuring alignment with related County planning efforts such as the RCAP, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, conservation planning initiatives, and future CEQA and greenhouse gas inventory updates.

Rincon will apply an adaptive management approach throughout the project, building on the collaborative and iterative process successfully used during development of the County's RCAP. This approach allows

the team to strategically incorporate new information, stakeholder feedback, evolving priorities, and technical findings as the Study progresses while maintaining schedule, budget, and overall project objectives. Through regular coordination, monitoring of project progress, and iterative refinement of methods and analyses, the team can respond to uncertainty and improve outcomes without disrupting project delivery. LACO will provide Humboldt-specific planning context and support coordination with local stakeholders, landowners, and resource managers throughout the project.

Key Task 1.1 activities and deliverables include:

- Kickoff meeting facilitation and coordination with County staff, stakeholders, and partner agencies;
- Development of the Project Work Plan, project schedule, communication protocols, and data request tracker;
- Compilation and review of relevant plans, studies, GIS datasets, and technical resources;
- Coordination of stakeholder and landowner engagement to inform technical analyses, feasibility considerations, and implementation strategies;
- Refinement of guiding questions, technical methodologies, assumptions, and land classification approaches;
- Development of the Updated General Approach Table and Methodology Framework; and
- Establishment of GIS, file-sharing, documentation, and quality control procedures to support transparent and repeatable project delivery.

Task 1.2 Stakeholder and Land Manager Engagement Framework

Rincon and LACO Associates will develop and implement a targeted stakeholder and land manager engagement framework focused on improving the technical accuracy, feasibility, and implementation value of the Study. Engagement will be integrated directly into the technical workflow to help inform land classification approaches, validation of datasets, understanding of existing stewardship practices, evaluation of implementation barriers, and development of practical carbon sequestration and land management strategies.

The engagement approach will prioritize coordination with County departments, RCAP partners, Resource Conservation Districts, agricultural and timberland representatives, Tribal representatives, public land managers, conservation organizations, wildfire and fuels management partners, and other stakeholders identified by the County. LACO will provide Humboldt-specific planning context, local coordination support, and assistance with stakeholder outreach and engagement logistics.

Effective Engagement

Rincon and LACO have a history of conducting planning and climate related engagement in Humboldt County and local jurisdiction and lessons learned will streamline our development of the engagement framework.

Key Task 1.2 activities and deliverables include:

- Development of a Stakeholder and Land Manager Engagement Framework;
- Coordination with land managers, agencies, technical partners, and implementation stakeholders;
- Development of stakeholder interview questions, surveys, and meeting materials;
- Integration of stakeholder input into technical analyses and feasibility evaluations; and
- Support for the public meeting required by the RFP.

Task 1.3 Literature, Data, Policy, and Regulatory Review

Rincon will efficiently build upon the plans, policies, studies, GIS datasets, technical resources, and State guidance documents previously reviewed through the RCAP process to refine and confirm the technical and policy foundation for the Study. The review will support development of scientifically defensible methodologies, identification of available datasets and data gaps, alignment with County and State climate and conservation goals, and integration with related planning efforts such as the RCAP, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, CEQA thresholds, and future greenhouse gas inventory updates.

The review will include evaluation of resources such as the CARB Natural and Working Lands Carbon Inventory, IPCC guidance, County GIS and LiDAR datasets, wildfire and vegetation datasets, land use and ownership information, conservation and restoration plans, and other relevant regional and State technical resources. Rincon will also assess the applicability and limitations of statewide datasets and methodologies relative to Humboldt County's unique landscape conditions, working lands, and management context.

Key Task 1.3 activities and deliverables include:

- Compilation and review of relevant technical studies, plans, policies, and GIS datasets;
- Identification of data gaps, technical limitations, and methodology considerations;
- Evaluation of land classification, carbon stock, wildfire, restoration, and land management data sources;
- Development of a Library of Resource Materials and Literature and Data Review Summary; and
- Recommendations to support development of the Inventory and Feasibility Study methodologies.

Task 1.4 Project Management and Coordination

Rincon will provide ongoing project management and coordination throughout the project duration to support efficient, transparent, and well-coordinated delivery of the Study. Rincon's Project Manager will serve as the County's primary point of contact and will oversee schedule and budget management, meeting coordination, internal team coordination, subconsultant management, quality control, and timely delivery of work products.

Project management activities will include regular coordination meetings with County staff to review progress, upcoming tasks, technical questions, and key decisions. Rincon will maintain a project schedule, action item list, decision log, and data request tracker to support clear communication and project transparency throughout the Study.

Because the Study involves multiple interconnected technical analyses, Rincon will utilize milestone-based decision checkpoints prior to advancing between major phases of work. This approach will help confirm methodologies, land classifications, and technical assumptions early in the process, reduce rework, and support consistent and defensible technical analyses.

Proven Relationship

Rincon has a collaborative working relationship with the County Planning and Building Department that will facilitate project management and coordination.

Key Task 1.4 activities and deliverables include:

- Ongoing project management and coordination with County staff and subconsultants;
- Regular project check-in meetings, meeting notes, and action item tracking;
- Schedule, budget, and decision tracking;
- Quality assurance and quality control management; and
- Coordination of technical reviews and milestone approvals throughout the project lifecycle.

Task 2. Humboldt Countywide Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock Inventory and Summary Report

Task 2.1 Carbon Inventory Methodology Confirmation

Building on the work completed in Task 1, Rincon will finalize the technical methodology, land classification framework, datasets, and carbon accounting approach for the Humboldt Countywide Natural and Working Lands Carbon Inventory. This task will establish the scientifically defensible and transparent analytical framework used to quantify existing carbon stocks, evaluate carbon stock changes over time, and support subsequent sequestration feasibility analyses and implementation scenario modeling.

Refining NWL Analysis

Rincon has completed 7 NWL analysis in California and have worked with Department of Conservation to develop refined approaches to managing the limitations associated with available datasets, increasing the efficiency and accuracy of our Carbon Inventories.

The methodology will be designed to support future greenhouse gas inventories, climate action planning, conservation planning, grant applications, RCAP updates, and substantial evidence under CEQA for future policy development and environmental review. Rincon anticipates utilizing methodologies generally aligned with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Natural and Working Lands Carbon Inventory and other State-recognized carbon accounting frameworks while refining the approach to reflect Humboldt County's unique landscape conditions, ownership patterns, working lands, and management practices.

Key Task 2.1 activities and deliverables include:

- Finalization of the carbon accounting methodology and analytical framework;
- Development of the land cover and land use classification framework;
- Identification and evaluation of datasets, GIS resources, and carbon pools to be analyzed;
- Evaluation of data suitability, limitations, and QA/QC considerations;
- Integration of wildfire, land use change, restoration activities, and land management considerations into the methodology framework;
- Coordination with County staff and technical partners to review methodology assumptions and analytical approaches; and
- Preparation of a Draft and Final Carbon Inventory Methodology Memorandum documenting methodologies, assumptions, QA/QC procedures, uncertainty considerations, and technical workflows.

Task 2.2 Land Cover Quality Assurance and Quality Control Engagement

Accurate land cover classification is the foundation of a scientifically defensible and transparent carbon inventory. Based on Rincon's experience preparing countywide Natural and Working Lands carbon inventories throughout California, early quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) of land cover datasets is critical to reducing uncertainty, avoiding costly rework, and ensuring resulting analyses can support future greenhouse gas inventories, CEQA substantial evidence, climate planning, and implementation efforts.

Landcover Editing Tool

A critical step in any land cover analysis is the refining of landcover classifications with land managers. Without this step, the inventory may contain large discrepancies in accurate landcover and will reduce public confidence in the program.

Rincon will develop and refine land cover classifications for two analysis years to support both the baseline inventory and approximately 10-year carbon stock change analysis. The classification framework will support carbon accounting, sequestration analyses, land cover change evaluation, ownership summaries, mapping, and future inventory updates.

To improve technical accuracy and incorporate local knowledge early in the process, Rincon will conduct a targeted stakeholder review and QA/QC process using our Landcover Editing Tool (a web-based ArcGIS Online review platform) prior to finalization of carbon stock calculations. The tool allows stakeholders and technical reviewers to efficiently identify, review, and refine land cover classifications directly within an interactive mapping environment, streamlining what is typically a time-intensive GIS QA/QC process. By centralizing edits, comments, and revision tracking in a transparent workflow, the tool improves consistency, reduces processing time, increases confidence in the final dataset, and helps ensure carbon stock calculations reflect the best available local knowledge and conditions.

LACO Associates will support local coordination, reviewer identification, meeting logistics, and stakeholder engagement efforts by leveraging its longstanding relationships with local organizations, landowners, and resource management partners. Rincon's GIS and carbon analysis team will lead the classification methodology, spatial analysis, QA/QC process, and final technical determinations.

Key Task 2.2 activities and deliverables include:

- Development of the Landcover Editing Tool (a web-based ArcGIS Online review platform) displaying draft land cover classifications and apparent land cover changes between analysis years;
- Preparation of stakeholder review instructions and a digital comment form to facilitate location-specific feedback;
- Coordination with County staff, land managers, Tribes, agencies, and technical stakeholders to review draft land cover classifications and identify potential misclassifications or areas requiring refinement;
- Facilitation of up to three targeted data review meetings/workshops to review draft classifications, discuss uncertainty areas, and refine datasets;
- Review and evaluation of stakeholder comments and incorporation of appropriate classification refinements;
- Targeted desktop validation and updates to land cover datasets, as needed; and
- Preparation of updated land cover classification datasets and associated metadata to support final carbon stock calculations and mapping.

Task 2.3 Carbon Sequestration of Land/Carbon Types Calculations

Following confirmation of the methodology framework and completion of land cover QA/QC activities, using our Landcover Editing Tool, Rincon will conduct countywide carbon stock and sequestration analyses for Humboldt County's natural and working lands. The analysis will quantify existing carbon stocks and sequestration potential across major land cover, land use, ownership, and management categories throughout the County and evaluate changes in carbon stocks over time.

Rincon will calculate carbon stocks for relevant carbon pools, anticipated to include aboveground biomass, belowground biomass, dead organic matter, litter, and soil carbon, as appropriate based on available datasets and accepted methodologies. Calculations will be completed for multiple analysis years, where feasible, to identify areas of carbon gain, loss, stability, and landscape transition and support future sequestration feasibility and implementation analyses.

The analysis will evaluate carbon sequestration and carbon stock characteristics across forests, timberlands, wetlands, riparian areas, grasslands, shrublands, agricultural lands, coastal resources, public lands, Tribal lands, and other relevant natural and working lands categories identified during the Study. Rincon will prepare GIS-based mapping products, summary tables, and spatial analyses to clearly communicate countywide carbon stock and sequestration patterns.

Key Task 2.3 activities and deliverables include:

- Countywide carbon stock and sequestration calculations across major land cover and ownership categories;
- Quantification of relevant carbon pools using State-aligned methodologies and available datasets;
- Evaluation of carbon stock changes across multiple analysis years, where feasible;
- Development of GIS-based carbon stock maps, summary tables, and spatial analysis outputs;
- Preparation of draft land cover and carbon stock maps and summary tables for County and stakeholder review;
- Refinement and finalization of carbon stock maps, figures, and summary tables based on review comments; and
- Preparation of final technical outputs to support development of the Draft and Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report.

Task 2.4 Draft and Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report

Rincon will prepare a Draft and Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report documenting the methodologies, analyses, findings, mapping, and technical conclusions associated with the Humboldt Countywide Natural and Working Lands Carbon Inventory. The report will establish Humboldt County's baseline natural and working lands carbon stock conditions, evaluate carbon stock changes over time, summarize carbon sequestration characteristics across land cover and ownership categories, and identify key trends influencing long-term carbon storage and stability.

Engaging Graphic Design

Rincon will leverage our inhouse graphic designers to graphically portray the analysis and results in a manner that is easy to interpret by the public.

Using the finalized methodology, land cover classifications, and carbon stock calculations developed through Tasks 2.1 through 2.3, Rincon will summarize existing carbon stocks, annual sequestration rates, and carbon stock changes across approximately a 10-year period to identify areas of carbon gain, loss, stability, and landscape transition. The report will summarize findings across major land cover, ownership, and management categories, including forests, timberlands, wetlands, riparian areas, grasslands, shrublands, agricultural lands, Tribal lands, public lands, and other relevant natural and working lands classifications identified during the Study.

Key Task 2.4 activities and deliverables include:

- Preparation of a Draft and Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report documenting methodologies, analyses, assumptions, and technical findings;
- Summary of countywide carbon stock and sequestration results across major land cover and ownership categories;
- Documentation of carbon stock changes over time and landscape transition trends;
- Development of narrative descriptions, maps, charts, graphics, tables, GIS-based visualizations, and technical summaries;
- Incorporation of finalized land cover and carbon stock maps, summary tables, and spatial analyses developed in Task 2.3;
- Documentation of assumptions, uncertainty considerations, data limitations, and QA/QC procedures to support transparency and future updateability;

- Preparation of technical outputs and supporting documentation suitable for future RCAP updates, greenhouse gas inventory updates, CEQA analyses, implementation tracking, and grant applications; and
- Coordination with County staff to review draft findings and finalize the report following receipt of one consolidated set of comments.

Task 2.5: Data Transfer, Documentation, and Future Update Protocol

To support long-term usability, transparency, and future updateability of the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study, Rincon can provide a comprehensive data transfer and documentation package designed to allow the Study methodologies, datasets, assumptions, and workflows to be understood, replicated, maintained, and updated by County staff or future consultants. This task is intended to support future RCAP updates, GHG inventory updates, implementation tracking, grant applications, CEQA analyses, and ongoing natural and working lands planning efforts.

This task is intended to provide the County with a well-organized and transferable technical resource package that supports long-term implementation and future updates to the Study.

Key Task 2.5 activities and deliverables include:

- Organization and transfer of final GIS layers, map files, metadata, and supporting datasets;
- Preparation of metadata, data dictionaries, source data inventories, and assumptions documentation;
- Delivery of carbon inventory calculation workbooks, scripts, models, and transferable technical tools, where appropriate;
- Documentation of QA/QC procedures, uncertainty considerations, technical workflows, and methodology references;
- Preparation of a Future Inventory Update Protocol outlining recommended update procedures, datasets, workflows, and quality control considerations;
- Documentation of known data gaps, limitations, and recommendations for future inventory refinement; and
- Technical handoff and staff training session to review datasets, workflows, calculation tools, and update procedures with County staff.

Task 3. Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report

Task 3.1 Land Management Activities Implementation Development

Building on the carbon inventory and baseline analyses completed in Task 2, Rincon will work with the County, LACO Associates, and project stakeholders to identify, evaluate, and prioritize land management activities and nature-based climate solutions that can help maintain and enhance long-term carbon sequestration capacity throughout Humboldt County. This task will focus on implementation-oriented strategies that support carbon sequestration, wildfire resilience, ecosystem health, working lands viability, and broader environmental and community co-benefits.

Connecting Priorities

Specific attention will be focused on developing policies that protect natural resources, develop green jobs, and connects with state funding priorities.

Using guidance from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Scoping Plan, State Natural and Working Lands guidance, scientific literature, and Rincon's prior countywide Natural and Working Lands studies, Rincon will develop a suite of potential land management strategies and carbon sequestration activities appropriate for Humboldt County's forests, timberlands, agricultural lands, wetlands, grasslands, riparian systems, coastal areas, and other working landscapes. Rincon will also develop a GIS-based ArcGIS Online implementation viewer to help compile, map, and track existing and proposed land management activities throughout the County. The viewer will support development of implementation maps and spatial analyses for the Study while also providing the County with a long-term resource to monitor and communicate implementation progress and associated carbon sequestration benefits over time.

LACO Associates will support local coordination and provide regional context regarding working lands, land management practices, stakeholder priorities, and implementation considerations. Rincon's climate, carbon, GIS, and planning team will lead the technical analyses, scenario evaluation, GIS viewer development, framework development, and documentation efforts.

Key Task 3.1 activities and deliverables include:

- Development of a land management activity framework to evaluate carbon sequestration and nature-based climate strategies;
- Review of existing County and regional policies, programs, plans, and initiatives related to carbon sequestration, wildfire resilience, conservation planning, and climate adaptation;
- Identification of implementation opportunities, policy gaps, funding needs, partnership opportunities, and implementation barriers;
- Evaluation of potential land management activities such as prescribed fire, fuels reduction, reforestation, wetland restoration, soil health practices, agricultural stewardship, and other regionally appropriate nature-based climate solutions;
- Development of planning-level carbon sequestration scenario analyses to estimate potential future carbon storage and sequestration outcomes under varying implementation pathways;
- Development of an ArcGIS Online implementation viewer and associated spatial datasets to support implementation tracking and mapping of land management activities;
- Evaluation of qualitative co-benefits associated with recommended strategies, including wildfire resilience, habitat enhancement, watershed health, agricultural viability, and ecosystem resilience; and
- Preparation of a Draft and Final land management activity framework to support subsequent feasibility analyses and implementation strategy development in Tasks 3.2 through 3.4.

Task 3.2 Land Management Activities Engagement

To support development of practical, locally informed, and implementation-ready carbon sequestration strategies, Rincon and LACO Associates will conduct targeted stakeholder and land manager engagement activities focused on land management practices, stewardship priorities, implementation feasibility, and partnership opportunities throughout Humboldt County.

Engagement activities will support development of the land management activity framework and carbon sequestration feasibility analyses by incorporating input from agencies, land managers, technical experts, and local stakeholders with direct knowledge of stewardship practices, restoration opportunities, implementation barriers, and regional priorities. The engagement process is intended to build consensus, strengthen long-term project buy-in, identify implementation constraints early, and ensure recommended strategies are technically feasible, locally supported, and aligned with ongoing stewardship and land management efforts throughout the County.

LACO Associates will support local coordination, stakeholder outreach, meeting logistics, and relationship-building efforts through its longstanding relationships with local organizations, landowners, agricultural representatives, and resource management partners. Rincon will lead preparation of

engagement materials, facilitation, technical coordination, documentation, and integration of stakeholder input into project analyses and deliverables.

Key Task 3.2 activities and deliverables include:

- Preparation of stakeholder interview questions, surveys, workshop materials, and coordination resources;
- Coordination with County departments, Resource Conservation Districts, Tribes, wildfire resilience organizations, land managers, agricultural and timber representatives, conservation organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders identified by the County;
- Facilitation of up to three stakeholder or agency interviews focused on land management activities, implementation feasibility, and partnership opportunities;
- Facilitation of one collaborative land management activities workshop to gather technical input and discuss stewardship priorities, carbon sequestration opportunities, implementation barriers, funding needs, and partnership opportunities;
- Documentation and synthesis of stakeholder input to inform feasibility analyses, implementation strategies, and scenario development;
- Preparation of stakeholder input summaries and workshop documentation; and
- Integration of engagement findings into subsequent carbon sequestration feasibility analyses and implementation strategy recommendations.

Task 3.3 Draft Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Carbon Study Report

Building on the carbon inventory and baseline analyses completed in Task 2, the land management activities and implementation framework developed in Task 3.1, and the stakeholder and land management coordination completed in Task 3.2, Rincon will prepare a Draft Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study for inclusion in the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report.

The carbon feasibility study report will evaluate science-based carbon sequestration practices, nature-based climate solutions, and land management strategies that could help Humboldt County maintain and enhance long-term carbon sequestration capacity while supporting wildfire resilience, ecosystem health, working lands viability, and broader environmental and community co-benefits. The analysis will focus on practical, implementation-oriented strategies aligned with Humboldt County's landscape conditions, conservation priorities, local industries, and community values.

The stakeholder and land management coordination completed in Task 3.2 will help ground the feasibility analysis in local knowledge, operational realities, and community priorities, improving the practicality, credibility, to ensure the long-term implementation of the recommended strategies.

Rincon's climate, carbon, GIS, and planning team will lead the feasibility analyses, scenario evaluation, mapping, technical documentation, and preparation of the draft feasibility study report. Findings from Tasks 3.1 and 3.2 will be integrated throughout the analysis to ensure recommended strategies are technically feasible, locally informed, and implementation oriented.

Key Task 3.3 activities and deliverables include:

- Evaluation of potential carbon sequestration and land management strategies informed by State guidance documents, scientific literature, prior natural and working lands studies, and stakeholder input;
- Assessment of regionally appropriate nature-based climate solutions, including forest management, prescribed fire, fuels reduction, wetland restoration, agricultural stewardship, grassland management, urban forestry, coastal resilience, and other relevant strategies;

- Development of a carbon sequestration and nature-based solutions matrix summarizing implementation considerations, sequestration benefits, co-benefits, feasibility factors, implementation readiness, funding opportunities, and known uncertainties;
- Conduct of planning-level carbon sequestration scenario analyses to evaluate the potential influence of varying implementation levels on future carbon storage and sequestration capacity;
- Evaluation of qualitative co-benefits associated with recommended strategies, including wildfire resilience, habitat enhancement, watershed health, agricultural viability, ecosystem resilience, and community-related benefits;
- Development of implementation assumptions, prioritization considerations, and future funding and partnership opportunities; and
- Preparation of the Draft Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study Report summarizing recommended strategies, scenario analysis findings, co-benefits, implementation opportunities, uncertainties, and recommendations for future implementation and monitoring.

Task 3.4 Draft and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report for Public Review

Rincon will prepare the Draft, Public Review Draft, and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report integrating the technical analyses, stakeholder engagement findings, land management activity development, implementation scenario analyses, and carbon sequestration feasibility evaluations completed throughout Tasks 1 through 3.3.

The report will serve as both a technical resource and an implementation-focused planning document intended to support future RCAP updates, greenhouse gas inventory updates, CEQA analyses, conservation planning, climate resilience initiatives, grant applications, land stewardship efforts, and long-term implementation tracking. The Study will establish Humboldt County's baseline natural and working lands carbon stock conditions, evaluate carbon stock changes over time, assess long-term carbon sequestration potential and carbon stability considerations, and identify practical land management and nature-based climate strategies that align with Humboldt County's working landscapes, local industries, and community priorities.

Rincon's climate, carbon, GIS, planning, and graphics teams will work collaboratively to prepare a technically rigorous, visually accessible, and implementation-oriented final product designed to support long-term climate resilience, conservation planning, and natural and working lands implementation efforts throughout Humboldt County.

Key Task 3.4 activities and deliverables include:

- Preparation of the Draft, Public Review Draft, and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report;
- Integration of technical analyses, mapping, implementation frameworks, feasibility findings, stakeholder input, and scenario analyses developed throughout Tasks 1 through 3.3;
- Documentation of carbon accounting methodologies, assumptions, uncertainty considerations, QA/QC procedures, and technical findings;
- Summary of existing carbon stocks, sequestration rates, land cover change trends, and implementation opportunities across Humboldt County's natural and working lands;
- Development of maps, charts, graphics, tables, infographics, dashboards, GIS-based visualizations, and technical summaries to communicate findings in a clear and accessible format;
- Documentation of recommended land management activities, implementation readiness considerations, co-benefits, funding opportunities, and future implementation strategies;

- Preparation of supporting GIS layers, metadata, technical appendices, calculation files, implementation matrices, assumptions logs, and update guidance materials;
- Coordination with County staff to prepare the Public Review Draft version of the Study for public circulation and stakeholder review;
- Compilation, review, and evaluation of public and stakeholder comments received during the public review period;
- Preparation of comment responses and incorporation of agreed-upon revisions into the Final Study; and
- Finalization of the Study for Board of Supervisors consideration and long-term County use.

Task 3.5 Board of Supervisors Meeting Support

Rincon will support County staff during presentation of the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study to the Board of Supervisors through preparation of staff report materials, presentation development, meeting coordination, and technical presentation support. The goal of this task is to clearly communicate the Study's findings, implementation recommendations, and policy relevance in a concise and accessible format appropriate for decision-makers and public audiences.

Key Task 3.5 activities and deliverables include:

- Preparation of a draft Board of Supervisors staff report summarizing the Study purpose, technical findings, implementation considerations, stakeholder engagement outcomes, and recommended actions;
- Coordination with County staff to align the staff report with County formatting requirements, agenda schedules, and decision-making processes;
- Development of concise and visually accessible presentation materials summarizing carbon inventory findings, sequestration opportunities, implementation strategies, co-benefits, and recommendations;
- Coordination meetings with County staff and LACO Associates to review presentation content, anticipated questions, and key messaging;
- Refinement of presentation materials and technical summaries based on County direction; and
- Attendance and presentation support at one Board of Supervisors meeting, including response to technical questions and discussion support.
- Rincon and LACO Associates will work collaboratively with County staff to ensure presentation materials effectively communicate the Study's technical findings, implementation opportunities, and long-term planning value.

5 Demonstrated Knowledge of Laws, Rules, and Regulations

Rincon understands that the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study must be more than a technical inventory. It must be a defensible planning and implementation tool grounded in applicable State climate law, CEQA requirements, natural and working lands policy, and Humboldt County's adopted planning framework. The RFP specifically requires that the selected consultant use a methodology that provides substantial evidence under CEQA, aligns with State GHG reduction and natural and working lands goals, and produces information that supports RCAP tracking, CEQA thresholds, conservation planning, land management, the General Plan, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and future County policy or regulatory review.

Rincon's team brings direct experience at the intersection of climate planning, CEQA, GHG thresholds, carbon sequestration, natural resources, wildfire resilience, GIS analysis, and implementation. We specialize in this work and clearly understand relevant objectives and requirements and the laws, rules and regulations concerning scope of work. We will use this experience to develop a Study that is technically credible, transparent, repeatable, and suitable for future County use in climate action planning, environmental review, conservation prioritization, and funding applications.

State Climate Policy and GHG Reduction Framework

Rincon will align the Study with California's current statutory GHG reduction framework, including AB 32, SB 32, AB 1279, and CARB's 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality. AB 1279 establishes State policy to achieve net zero GHG emissions as soon as possible, but no later than 2045, and to reduce statewide anthropogenic GHG emissions to at least 85 percent below 1990 levels by 2045. (Leginfo) CARB's 2022 Scoping Plan lays out the State's path to carbon neutrality and identifies increased action on natural and working lands to reduce emissions and sequester carbon as part of that pathway. (California Air Resources Board)

For Humboldt County, this State framework is directly relevant because the RCAP identifies natural and working lands carbon sequestration as a component of the County's carbon neutrality strategy. Rincon will structure the Study so that the inventory, sequestration scenarios, and feasibility recommendations can be integrated into the 2030 RCAP update and future GHG inventory cycles.

Natural and Working Lands Laws, Guidance, and Accounting Methods

Rincon will ground the Study in the evolving State framework for natural and working lands carbon accounting, including AB 1757, the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, CARB's Natural and Working Lands Carbon Inventory, and related State guidance. AB 1757 requires State agencies to determine targets for natural carbon sequestration and nature-based climate solutions, integrate those targets into the Scoping Plan and other State policies, and develop standard methods for tracking GHG emissions, reductions, carbon sequestration, and co-benefits from natural and working lands over time. (Leginfo)

The RFP specifically directs the consultant to take advantage of the 2025 update to CARB's Natural and Working Lands Carbon Inventory and be aware of the 2017 Carbon Inventory Estimates for the North Coast Resource Partnership. CARB's 2025 NWL Carbon Inventory provides quantitative estimates of organic carbon stored in California's landscapes, reflects conditions as of 2022, and captures the

influence of climate, wildfire, disturbances, land use change, and land management on biomass carbon, soil carbon, and harvested wood products. (California Air Resources Board)

Rincon will use these resources as a technical foundation, while recognizing that a countywide Humboldt study must be locally validated. Our methodology will crosswalk State datasets and methods with Humboldt-specific GIS data, land cover information, ownership patterns, land manager input, and quality control review. This will allow the County to maintain consistency with State accounting frameworks while producing results that reflect Humboldt's forests, timberlands, agricultural lands, wetlands, grasslands, public lands, private lands, County-owned lands, and Tribal lands, as appropriate.

CEQA, Substantial Evidence, and Future GHG Threshold Support

The RFP identifies CEQA as a key future use of the Study, including updating or developing CEQA thresholds for GHG emissions. Rincon understands the importance of preparing technical work that supports future substantial evidence needs. The CEQA Guidelines govern implementation of CEQA statewide and define how public agencies determine whether activities are subject to environmental review, what steps are involved in the review process, and the required contents of environmental documents. (Land Use and Climate Innovation) CARB's climate action planning guidance also identifies substantial evidence, alignment with State climate targets, monitoring, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5 as important elements of CEQA-qualified climate action planning. (California Air Resources Board)

Rincon will therefore develop the NWL CSM Study with a CEQA-ready documentation structure. The final report will clearly identify data sources, methodologies, assumptions, uncertainties, calculation steps, scientific references, GIS inputs, and quality control procedures. This approach will allow the County to understand the basis for the Study's conclusions and use the results appropriately in future CEQA GHG thresholds, CEQA guidance, RCAP updates, project-level review, and policy development.

Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan Alignment

Rincon understands that the Study is a direct implementation action for the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP). As the consultant team that prepared the Humboldt RCAP, Rincon brings intimate knowledge of the Plan's development, technical assumptions, greenhouse gas accounting framework, implementation measures, and long-term climate objectives. This familiarity allows our team to directly align the NWL Carbon Sequestration and Management (CSM) Study with the RCAP's carbon neutrality pathway, monitoring framework, and future update needs.

The RFP states that the NWL CSM Study will support RCAP Measure CS-3 by developing a Countywide Natural and Working Lands GHG Inventory to better understand sequestration capacity and help the County and RCAP partners achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. The Study is also intended to inform the 2030 RCAP update and GHG inventory so the County can account for carbon sequestration occurring within Humboldt County.

Rincon will align the Study with RCAP implementation needs by producing outputs that can support future RCAP updates, GHG inventory tracking, policy evaluation, and implementation planning. Deliverables will include dashboard-ready metrics, GIS layers, maps, charts, assumptions documentation, and a repeatable update protocol for ongoing County and regional partner use.

Local Planning, Land Use, Wildfire, and Conservation Framework

Rincon will also evaluate the NWL CSM Study within Humboldt County's broader local planning and regulatory context. The RFP identifies multiple future uses of the Study, including conservation planning, land management, General Plan implementation, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, RCAP updates, and review of current and proposed County policies or regulations that affect carbon sequestration.

This local context is especially important because Humboldt's natural and working lands are not managed for carbon alone. They also support timber production, agriculture, Tribal stewardship, habitat conservation, watershed protection, wildfire resilience, coastal and wetland functions, rural economic activity, and community resilience. Rincon will account for this by evaluating carbon sequestration strategies alongside feasibility considerations such as landowner adoption, cost, management barriers, wildfire risk, long-term carbon stability, co-benefits, and consistency with existing County plans and policies.

Wildfire, Prescribed Fire, and Carbon Stability

The RFP specifically asks the NWL CSM Study to evaluate carbon stock stability and wildfire and prescribed fire scenarios. Rincon understands that wildfire is both a risk to carbon stocks and a critical land management consideration. The NWL CSM Study will evaluate wildfire and prescribed fire at a countywide planning level, using available fire hazard, fire history, vegetation, ownership, and land management data. The goal will be to help the County identify where carbon stocks are most vulnerable, where management may improve durability, and how carbon sequestration strategies can be coordinated with resilience and wildfire planning objectives.

Funding, Implementation, and Grant Readiness

Rincon recognizes that laws and regulations are only useful if the resulting Study will support implementation. The feasibility analysis will therefore be structured to help the County and its partners compete for future climate, conservation, restoration, agricultural land protection, wildfire resilience, and natural and working lands funding. Where applicable, Rincon will identify connections to grant program objectives, eligible project types, co-benefits, monitoring needs, and implementation partners.

This implementation-oriented approach will help the County move from carbon accounting to action: identifying priority opportunities, understanding feasibility barriers, supporting grant applications, and creating a transparent basis for future investments in Humboldt's natural and working lands.

Application to the NWL CSM Study

Rincon will apply knowledge of laws, rules, regulations, and guidance through the following commitments:

Regulatory or Planning Requirement	Rincon's Application to the Study
AB 32, SB 32, AB 1279, and CARB Scoping Plan	Align carbon inventory and sequestration analysis with State GHG reduction and carbon neutrality objectives.
AB 1757 and State NWL guidance	Document natural carbon sequestration, co-benefits, implementation barriers, and tracking methods consistent with State natural and working lands policy.
CARB 2025 NWL Carbon Inventory	Use State-aligned data and methods as a foundation, with Humboldt-specific GIS refinement and land manager validation.

Regulatory or Planning Requirement	Rincon's Application to the Study
IPCC and accepted GHG accounting guidance	Apply transparent, documented, and repeatable methods for carbon stock and sequestration calculations.
CEQA and CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5	Prepare substantial-evidence-ready documentation that will support future CEQA GHG thresholds, RCAP updates, and project-level review.
Humboldt RCAP Measure CS-3	Develop a countywide NWL carbon baseline, future update protocol, and implementation-ready metrics for the 2030 RCAP update.
Humboldt General Plan and land use policies	Evaluate strategies in a way that supports working landscapes, agricultural viability, forest resources, conservation, and land use policy review.
Community Wildfire Protection Plan and wildfire planning	Evaluate carbon stock stability, wildfire risk, prescribed fire considerations, and resilience co-benefits.
Conservation, restoration, and funding programs	Identify strategies and priority opportunity areas that will support future grant applications and implementation partnerships.

Through this approach, Rincon will provide Humboldt County with a NWL CSM Study that is not only compliant with relevant laws and guidance but also useful for future decision-making, funding, monitoring, and implementation.

6 Cost Proposal

Rincon will prepare the NWL CSM Study in accordance with the scope of work described herein for the fee identified below. A detailed breakdown of costs by task, labor category, subcontractor support, and direct expenses is provided in the accompanying budget tables, along with Rincon's hourly billing rates.

Through our experience leading countywide natural and working lands carbon inventories and sequestration studies across California, Rincon has made significant investments in developing specialized NWL workflows, GIS tools, scripted analytical processes, QA/QC procedures, and standardized deliverable templates that streamline project execution while maintaining technical rigor and defensibility. These established processes reduce the level of effort and number of hours required to successfully complete complex countywide analyses, allowing Rincon to provide high-quality, efficient, and cost-effective services while still meeting the project's technical objectives, schedule, and long-term implementation goals.

Rincon and LACO Associates are committed to working collaboratively with Humboldt County throughout the project and are available to refine scope elements, coordination strategies, and deliverable priorities as needed to best align with County objectives, stakeholder needs, and available funding resources.

	Rate	Hours	Labor Budget	Direct Expenses	Total Budget
Task 1 Project Planning Framework		**365**	**$102,848**	**$14,610**	**$117,458**
Task 1.1 Kickoff Meeting and Project Work Plan		**46**	**$13,768**	**$3,145**	**$16,913**
Senior Principal	$342	2	$684		
Director	$329	16	$5,264		
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	12	$3,756		
Supervisor Planner I	$292	2	$584		
Senior Data Analyst I	$255	2	$510		
Senior Planner I	$255	10	$2,550		
Data Analyst III	$210	2	$420		
Travel (Airfare, Ground Transportation, Lodging)				$1,500	
Community Engagement				$1,645	
Task 1.2 Stakeholder and Land Manager Engagement Strategy		**19**	**$5,227**	**$3,240**	**$8,467**
Senior Principal	$342	1	$342		
Director	$329	3	$987		
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	4	$1,252		
Supervisor Planner I	$292	1	$292		
Senior Planner I	$255	8	$2,040		
Technical Editor	$157	2	$314		
Community Engagement				$3,240	
Task 1.3 Literature, Data, Policy, and Regulatory Review		**40**	**$8,953**	**$0**	**$8,953**
Senior Principal	$342	1	$342		
Director	$329	1	$329		
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	4	$1,252		

	Rate	Hours	Labor Budget	Direct Expenses	Total Budget
Supervisor Planner I	$292	2	$584		
Senior Planner I	$255	8	$2,040		
Planner II	$186	22	$4,092		
Technical Editor	$157	2	$314		
Task 1.4 Project Management and Coordination		**260**	**$74,900**	**$8,225**	**$83,125**
Senior Principal	$342	20	$6,840		
Director	$329	40	$13,160		
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	70	$21,910		
Supervisor Planner I	$292	20	$5,840		
Senior Data Analyst I	$255	20	$5,100		
Senior Planner I	$255	70	$17,850		
Data Analyst III	$210	20	$4,200		
Community Engagement				$8,225	
Task 2 Humboldt Countywide NWL Carbon Stock Inventory and Summary Report		**229**	**$59,221**	**$5,720**	**$64,941**
Task 2.1 Carbon Inventory Methodology Confirmation		**43**	**$9,663**	**$0**	**$9,663**
Director	$329	1	$329		
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	4	$1,252		
Supervisor Planner I	$292	4	$1,168		
Senior Planner I	$255	8	$2,040		
Data Analyst III	$210	4	$840		
Planner II	$186	20	$3,720		
Technical Editor	$157	2	$314		
Task 2.2 Landcover Quality Assurance and Quality Control Engagement		**86**	**$23,068**	**$5,720**	**$28,788**
Director	$329	10	$3,290		
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	16	$5,008		
Supervisor Planner I	$292	10	$2,920		
Senior Data Analyst I	$255	10	$2,550		
Senior Planner I	$255	20	$5,100		
Data Analyst III	$210	20	$4,200		
Community Engagement				$5,720	
Task 2.3 Carbon Sequestration of Land/Carbon Types Calculations		**34**	**$9,124**	**$0**	**$9,124**
Director	$329	2	$658		
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	4	$1,252		
Supervisor Planner I	$292	2	$584		
Senior Data Analyst I	$255	20	$5,100		
Senior Planner I	$255	6	$1,530		
Task 2.4 Draft and Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary		**44**	**$11,974**	**$0**	**$11,974**

	Rate	Hours	Labor Budget	Direct Expenses	Total Budget
Senior Principal	$342	2	$684		
Director	$329	2	$658		
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	8	$2,504		
Supervisor Planner I	$292	4	$1,168		
Senior Data Analyst I	$255	4	$1,020		
Senior Planner I	$255	20	$5,100		
Data Analyst III	$210	4	$840		
Task 2.5 Data Transfer, Documentation, and Future Update Protocol		**22**	**$5,392**	**$0**	**$5,392**
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	4	$1,252		
Senior Planner I	$255	8	$2,040		
Data Analyst III	$210	10	$2,100		
Task 3 Carbon Feasibility and Final NWL Study Report		**712**	**$169,212**	**$11,270**	**$180,482**
Task 3.1 Land Management Activities Development		**192**	**$48,400**	**$4,480**	**$52,880**
Senior Principal	$342	4	$1,368		
Director	$329	8	$2,632		
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	40	$12,520		
Supervisor Planner I	$292	20	$5,840		
Senior Planner I	$255	40	$10,200		
Data Analyst III	$210	40	$8,400		
Planner II	$186	40	$7,440		
Community Engagement				$4,480	
Task 3.2 Land Management Activities Engagement		**96**	**$26,078**	**$5,290**	**$31,368**
Director	$329	8	$2,632		
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	20	$6,260		
Supervisor Planner I	$292	8	$2,336		
Senior Data Analyst I	$255	10	$2,550		
Senior Planner I	$255	40	$10,200		
Data Analyst III	$210	10	$2,100		
Community Engagement				$5,290	
Task 3.3 Draft Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study Report		**84**	**$19,466**	**$0**	**$19,466**
Senior Principal	$342	2	$684		
Director	$329	4	$1,316		
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	10	$3,130		
Supervisor Planner I	$292	4	$1,168		
Senior Planner I	$255	20	$5,100		
Planner II	$186	40	$7,440		
Technical Editor	$157	4	$628		

	Rate	Hours	Labor Budget	Direct Expenses	Total Budget
Task 3.4 Draft and Final NWL Study Report for Public Review		**304**	**$64,504**	**$0**	**$64,504**
Senior Principal	$342	8	$2,736		
Director	$329	8	$2,632		
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	40	$12,520		
Supervisor Planner I	$292	20	$5,840		
Senior Planner I	$255	40	$10,200		
Data Analyst III	$210	20	$4,200		
Planner II	$186	80	$14,880		
Technical Editor	$157	8	$1,256		
Publishing Specialist	$128	80	$10,240		
Task 3.5 Board of Supervisors Meeting Support		**36**	**$10,764**	**$1,500**	**$12,264**
Director	$329	12	$3,948		
Senior Supervisor Planner II	$313	12	$3,756		
Senior Planner I	$255	12	$3,060		
Travel (Airfare, Ground Transportation, Lodging)				$1,500	
Project Total		**1,306**	**$331,281**	**$31,600**	**$362,881**

Direct Expenses Summary	Amount
Travel (Airfare, Ground Transportation, Lodging)	$3,000
Community Engagement	$28,600
Direct Expenses Subtotal	**$31,600**

7 Rates

Standard Fee Schedule for Environmental Sciences and Planning Services

Professional, Technical and Support Personnel*	January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026
Senior Principal	$342
Principal	$329
Director	$329
Senior Supervisor II	$313
Supervisor I	$292
Senior Professional II	$273
Senior Professional I	$255
Professional IV	$226
Professional III	$210
Professional II	$186
Professional I	$166
Associate III	$140
Associate II	$125
Associate I	$117
Field Technician	$100
Technical Editor	$157
Project Accountant	$134
Billing Specialist	$115
Publishing Specialist	$128
Clerical	$115

* Professional classifications include environmental scientists, urban planners, biologists, geologists, marine scientists, GHG verifiers, sustainability experts, cultural resources experts, and other professionals. Expert witness services consisting of depositions or in-court testimony are charged at the hourly rate of $400.

Reimbursable Expenses

Direct Cost	Rates (per day)
Equipment Package (covers field equipment)	$150
UAS Drone	$300
Boat (20-foot Boston Whaler or Similar)	$800
Light-Duty and Passenger Vehicles*	$90
4WD and Off-Road Vehicles*	$150

* Current IRS mileage rate for mileage over 50 and for all miles incurred in employee-owned vehicles.

Direct Costs. Other direct costs associated with the execution of a project, that are not included in the hourly rates above, are billed at cost plus 16%. These may include, but are not limited to, laboratory and drilling services, subcontractor services, authorized travel expenses, permit charges and filing fees, mailings and postage, performance bonds, sample handling and shipment, rental equipment, and vehicles other than covered by the above charges.

Budget Reallocation. Rincon reserves the right to reallocate the budget between tasks and staff classifications, while remaining within the approved contract amount.

Annual Escalation. Standard rates subject to 3.5% annual escalation, on January 1.

Payment Terms. All fees will be billed to Client monthly and shall be due and payable upon receipt or as indicated in the contract provisions for the assignment. Invoices are delinquent if not paid within 10 days from receipt or per the contractually required payment terms.

8 Timeline

The Rincon team is prepared to begin the work program described in this proposal immediately upon authorization to proceed. The proposed scope and budget assume completion of the NWL CSM Study within the schedule outlined below; substantial schedule extensions or delays beyond the assumed project duration may require adjustments to the project management scope and associated cost.

As depicted on the following chart, Rincon proposes to adhere to a schedule consistent with the RFP that allows the NWL CSM Study to be completed within approximately 32 months from the kickoff meeting, while also positioning the team to complete work earlier where feasible.

Tasks	2026					
	July	August	September	October	November	December
Task 1 Project Planning Framework						
Task 1.1 Kickoff Meeting and Project Work Plan						
Task 1.2 Stakeholder and Land Manager Engagement Strategy						
Task 1.3 Literature, Data, Policy, and Regulatory Review						
Task 1.4 Project Management and Coordination						
Task 2 Humboldt Countywide Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock Inventory and Summary Report						
Task 2.1 Carbon Inventory Methodology Confirmation						
Task 2.2 Land Cover Quality Assurance and Quality Control Engagement						
Task 2.3 Carbon Sequestration of Land/Carbon Types Calculations						
Task 2.4 Draft and Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report						
Task 2.5 Data Transfer, Documentation, and Future Update Protocol						
Task 3 Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report						
Task 3.1 Land Management Activities Implementation Development						
Task 3.2 Land Management Activities Engagement						
Task 3.3 Draft Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study Report						
Task 3.4 Draft and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report for Public Review						
Task 3.5 Board of Supervisors Meeting Support						

Key	
Stakeholder/Community Engagement	
Work in Progress	
City Review	
Final Deliverable	
Triweekly Meetings	

Tasks	2027											
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Task 1 Project Planning Framework												
Task 1.1 Kickoff Meeting and Project Work Plan												
Task 1.2 Stakeholder and Land Manager Engagement Strategy												
Task 1.3 Literature, Data, Policy, and Regulatory Review												
Task 1.4 Project Management and Coordination												
Task 2 Humboldt Countywide Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock Inventory and Summary Report												
Task 2.1 Carbon Inventory Methodology Confirmation												
Task 2.2 Land Cover Quality Assurance and Quality Control Engagement												
Task 2.3 Carbon Sequestration of Land/Carbon Types Calculations												
Task 2.4 Draft and Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report												
Task 2.5 Data Transfer, Documentation, and Future Update Protocol												
Task 3 Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report												
Task 3.1 Land Management Activities Implementation Development												
Task 3.2 Land Management Activities Engagement												
Task 3.3 Draft Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Section												
Task 3.4 Draft and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report for Public Review												
Task 3.5 Board of Supervisors Meeting Support												

Tasks	2028												2029
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January
Task 1 Project Planning Framework													
Task 1.1 Kickoff Meeting and Project Work Plan													
Task 1.2 Stakeholder and Land Manager Engagement Strategy													
Task 1.3 Literature, Data, Policy, and Regulatory Review													
Task 1.4 Project Management and Coordination													
Task 2 Humboldt Countywide Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock Inventory and Summary Report													
Task 2.1 Carbon Inventory Methodology Confirmation													
Task 2.2 Land Cover Quality Assurance and Quality Control Engagement													
Task 2.3 Carbon Sequestration of Land/Carbon Types Calculations													
Task 2.4 Draft and Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report													
Task 2.5 Data Transfer, Documentation, and Future Update Protocol													
Task 3 Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report													
Task 3.1 Land Management Activities Implementation Development													
Task 3.2 Land Management Activities Engagement													
Task 3.3 Draft Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study Report													
Task 3.4 Draft and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report for Public Review													
Task 3.5 Board of Supervisors Meeting Support													

9 Insurance Requirements

Rincon acknowledges the insurance requirements specified in Section 15 of the Professional Services Agreement. Rincon maintains insurance coverage consistent with the requirements for professional services contracts of this nature and will provide evidence of coverage as required by the County.

Evidence of Coverage is provided on the following pages for the County's review.

CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

2/1/2027

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY): 1/28/2026

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must have ADDITIONAL INSURED provisions or be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER Lockton Companies, LLC DBA Lockton Insurance Brokers, LLC in CA CA license #0F15767 8110 E Union Ave., Ste. 100 Denver CO 80237 denver-certs@lockton.com	**CONTACT NAME:** **PHONE (A/C, No, Ext):** **FAX (A/C, No):** **E-MAIL ADDRESS:**
INSURED 1462718 Rincon Consultants, Inc. 2060 Knoll Drive Ventura CA 93003	**INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE** — **NAIC #** **INSURER A :** Westchester Surplus Lines Insurance Co — 10172 **INSURER B :** Hartford Fire Insurance Company — 19682 **INSURER C :** Palomar Excess and Surplus Insurance Co. — 16754 **INSURER D :** Starstone National Insurance Company — 25496 **INSURER E :** --- SEE ATTACHMENT --- **INSURER F :**

COVERAGES **CERTIFICATE NUMBER:** 16100119 **REVISION NUMBER:** XXXXXXX

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL INSD	SUBR WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS	
A	X **COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY** [ ] CLAIMS-MADE [X] OCCUR X SIR: $50,000 X P&I GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: [ ] POLICY [X] PRO-JECT [ ] LOC [ ] OTHER:	N	N	G48968181 002	2/1/2026	2/1/2027	EACH OCCURRENCE DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) MED EXP (Any one person) PERSONAL & ADV INJURY GENERAL AGGREGATE PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG 	$ 4,000,000 $ 100,000 $ 10,000 $ 4,000,000 $ 4,000,000 $ 4,000,000 $
B	**AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY** X ANY AUTO [ ] OWNED AUTOS ONLY [ ] SCHEDULED AUTOS X HIRED AUTOS ONLY [X] NON-OWNED AUTOS ONLY [ ]	N	N	72UENOL5481	2/1/2026	2/1/2027	COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) BODILY INJURY (Per person) BODILY INJURY (Per accident) PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) Comp./Coll. Ded	$ 1,000,000 $ XXXXXXX $ XXXXXXX $ XXXXXXX $ 1,000
A C	[ ] **UMBRELLA LIAB** [X] OCCUR X **EXCESS LIAB** [ ] CLAIMS-MADE [ ] DED [X] RETENTION $ 10,000	N	N	G48968193 002 CEEXP-26-0000752-00	2/1/2026 2/1/2026	2/1/2027 2/1/2027	EACH OCCURRENCE AGGREGATE 	$ 10,000,000 $ 10,000,000 $ XXXXXXX
D D	**WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY** ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? Y / N: N **(Mandatory in NH)** If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below	N / A	N	T10260329 (AOS) T10261427 (FL)	2/1/2026 2/1/2026	2/1/2027 2/1/2027	X PER STATUTE [ ] OTH-ER E.L. EACH ACCIDENT E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT	 $ 1,000,000 $ 1,000,000 $ 1,000,000
A E	Contractors Pollution Liab E&O Liab. Cyber	N	N	G48968181 002 See Attachment	2/1/2026	2/1/2027	$4M/$4M $4M Ea. occ./$4M Agg. Retro Date: 12/9/1994 See Attachment	

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)

CERTIFICATE HOLDER

16100119
Evidence of Coverage

CANCELLATION See Attachments

SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Attachment Code: D683708 Master ID: 1462718, Certificate ID: 16100119

Type of Insurance	Policy Number	Insurer	Policy Term	Limits
Cyber Liability	H25NGP224923-02	Houston Casualty Company	8/1/2025 - 2/1/2027	Limit: $5,000,000 Deductible: $25,000
Excess Cyber	CXS-107946155-01	Travelers Excess and Surplus Lines Company	8/1/2025 - 2/1/2027	Limit: $5M x $5M

Evidence of Coverage

To whom it may concern:

In our continuing effort to provide timely certificate delivery, Lockton Companies is transitioning to *paperless delivery* of Certificates of Insurance, thus this is your final hard-copy delivery.

To ensure electronic delivery for future renewals of this certificate, we need your email address. Please contact us via one of the methods below, referencing Certificate ID 16100119.

- Email: mountainwestedelivery@lockton.com
- Phone: 303-728-8060

If you received this certificate through an internet link where the current certificate is viewable, we have your email and no further action is needed.

In the event your mailing address has changed, will change in the future, or you no longer require this certificate, please let us know using one of the methods above.

The above inbox and phone number is for automating electronic delivery of certificates only. Please do NOT send future certificate requests to this inbox or contact the phone number below with email updates.

Thank you for your cooperation and willingness in reducing our environmental footprint.

Lockton Companies

Lockton Companies
8110 E. Union Avenue, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80237

Appendix A

Detailed Scope and Technical Approach

Detailed Scope and Technical Approach

This attachment provides a more detailed description of Rincon's proposed scope of work, technical methodology, assumptions, deliverables, and project approach for the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study. The attachment is intended to supplement the high-level scope summary included in the main proposal by further illustrating the rigor, transparency, implementation-focused nature, and contractual scope framework of Rincon's approach. The proposed scope, schedule, and budget are based on the assumed project timeline and level of coordination identified herein; substantial schedule extensions, delays, or changes in review duration may require corresponding adjustments to project management scope, level of effort, and associated costs.

The following sections describe Rincon's proposed technical workflow, data management approach, stakeholder coordination strategy, carbon stock and sequestration methodologies, quality assurance and quality control procedures, assumptions, and anticipated deliverables for each task. These detailed task descriptions, assumptions, and deliverable components are intended to provide a clear framework for project execution and are anticipated to serve as the basis for refinement and incorporation into the final professional services agreement and project scope of work with Humboldt County. Unless otherwise requested by the County, all deliverables are assumed to be provided in electronic format only; hardcopy deliverables, printing, and large-format production are not included in the proposed scope or budget.

This additional detail is provided to support the County's review of the proposed approach, clarify how Study objectives will be achieved, and demonstrate how the project framework is designed to produce a scientifically defensible, transparent, repeatable, and implementation-ready planning resource for Humboldt County and its partner agencies.

Scope of Work

Task 1. Project Planning Framework

Task 1 will establish the project foundation, confirm roles and decision-making procedures, refine the County's guiding questions, identify available and missing datasets, initiate targeted stakeholder and land manager engagement, and develop the methodology framework that will guide the Carbon Stock Inventory and Feasibility Study.

Task 1.1 Kickoff Meeting and Project Work Plan

Rincon will organize and facilitate a kickoff meeting with County staff shortly after contract execution to confirm the project's technical, planning, schedule, and communication framework and establish a shared understanding of the Study's goals, methodology, deliverables, and intended uses. Rincon anticipates the kickoff meeting will be conducted virtually, although Rincon and LACO can support an in-person meeting in Eureka if preferred by the County (budget currently allows for the Principle/Director and Project manager to attend the kickoff meeting in person).

The kickoff meeting will include discussion of:

- Project goals, desired outcomes, and intended uses of the Study;
- County staff roles, consultant team roles, communication protocols, and decision-making procedures;
- Review of the scope, schedule, budget, deliverables, and assumptions;
- Key project stakeholders and preferred methods of coordination;
- Available datasets, GIS resources, known data gaps, and data management procedures;

- Initial methodology considerations for land classification, carbon stock calculations, sequestration analyses, and stability assessments;
- Coordination with related planning efforts including the RCAP, General Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, CEQA thresholds, conservation planning, and other County or partner agency initiatives;
- Public review, Board of Supervisors presentation, and final acceptance procedures; and
- File-sharing, GIS deliverable formats, calculation documentation, and long-term update expectations.

Following the kickoff meeting, Rincon will prepare a Project Work Plan and Updated Methodology Framework that confirms the final scope, schedule, review milestones, deliverables, communication protocols, assumptions, and decision points. As part of this effort, Rincon will update the RFP's General Approach Table to confirm the final guiding questions, proposed methodologies, data sources, geographic scales of analysis, expected outputs, and known limitations for each major technical component of the Study. The updated framework will serve as the bridge between the County's project goals and the detailed technical analyses completed in Tasks 2 and 3.

The methodology framework will identify:

- Primary datasets and technical methodologies;
- Land cover, land use, ownership, and jurisdictional classifications;
- Proposed maps, charts, GIS layers, and technical outputs;
- Known uncertainties and data limitations;
- Areas requiring stakeholder or land manager input; and
- How each analysis will support future RCAP updates, greenhouse gas inventories, CEQA thresholds, conservation planning, land management, and implementation efforts.

Rincon will also identify any recommended additional guiding questions, analyses, or outputs that could improve the long-term usefulness and implementation value of the Study, including considerations related to carbon durability, co-benefits, implementation readiness, and priority opportunity areas.

Rincon's Principal-in-charge, Director, Project Manager, and Assistant Project Manaher will attend the kick-off meeting if virtual. If in-person, Rincon Project Manager will attend in addition to either the Rincon Principal-in-Charge or Director. LACO will participate in the kickoff process (in-person or virtual), as appropriate, to provide Humboldt-specific planning context, identify local coordination considerations, and support early stakeholder and land manager mapping.

Deliverables

- Kickoff meeting agenda
- Kickoff meeting notes and action items
- Project Work Plan
- Data request and tracker
- Project schedule

Assumptions

- One kickoff meeting will be conducted for up to 2 hours, in-person or virtual as decided by the County.
- County staff will provide one consolidated set of comments on draft Task 1 materials.
- The Project Work Plan and Methodology Framework will be finalized within 30 business days following receipt of County comments.

- The County will provide available GIS datasets, plans, prior studies, and relevant background materials at the beginning of the project.
- Any substantive methodology changes after County approval may require schedule or budget adjustments.

Task 1.2 Stakeholder and Land Manager Engagement Strategy

Rincon and LACO Associates will develop a targeted stakeholder and land manager engagement framework focused on improving the technical accuracy, implementation value, and long-term usability of the Study. Consistent with the County's goals, the engagement approach will prioritize coordination with stakeholders and land managers who have direct knowledge of stewardship practices, land cover conditions, carbon sequestration opportunities, wildfire and restoration activities, and implementation barriers across Humboldt County's natural and working lands.

Rather than functioning as a standalone outreach effort, engagement will be integrated directly into the technical workflow at key decision points throughout the project. Stakeholder and land manager input will help inform refinement of guiding questions, validation of land cover classifications and datasets, understanding of existing management practices, evaluation of feasibility considerations, and development of practical implementation strategies and recommendations.

Rincon anticipates coordination with the following stakeholder groups, subject to County direction:

- County departments and RCAP partner agencies;
- Resource Conservation Districts;
- Agricultural operators and agricultural organizations;
- Timberland and forest land managers;
- Public land managers;
- Tribal representatives and Tribal land managers, through County-approved protocols;
- Conservation organizations and land trusts;
- CAL FIRE, Humboldt County Fire Safe Council, prescribed fire, and fuels management partners;
- Wetland, riparian, watershed, coastal, and restoration partners;
- Local agencies and regional planning partners; and
- Additional stakeholders identified by County staff.

The engagement strategy will be developed and identify when input is needed, why it is needed, who should participate, and how the input will inform technical analyses and final deliverables. Examples may include validating land cover assumptions prior to carbon stock calculations, understanding existing stewardship and restoration practices prior to scenario development, and reviewing implementation barriers and opportunities before finalization of management strategies and feasibility recommendations.

LACO Associates will support Rincon by providing local Humboldt County planning context, helping identify and coordinate with appropriate local stakeholders and land managers, advising on outreach sensitivities and regional considerations, supporting meeting logistics, and assisting with distribution of meeting invitations, surveys, or coordination materials. LACO will also help strengthen project buy-in and implementation support through its longstanding relationships with local organizations and landowners, including groups such as the Resource Conservation District, Farm Bureau, and regional land stewardship partners. Rincon will lead preparation of technical content, engagement materials, surveys, facilitation, analyses, and documentation.

Engagement activities are integrated throughout the scope of work and tied directly to key technical tasks to ensure stakeholder and land manager input informs project development at critical decision points. This approach ensures engagement is purposeful, technically relevant, and aligned with the specific

needs of each phase of the Study rather than functioning as a standalone outreach process. By involving project partners, agencies, land managers, and stakeholders throughout development of the Study, the project team can build consensus, strengthen long-term project support and implementation readiness, and identify potential concerns or feasibility issues early in the process. This iterative engagement structure also helps reduce the likelihood of significant revisions later in the project and supports successful adoption and implementation of the final Study.

Deliverables

- Draft Stakeholder and Land Manager Engagement Strategy, which will include:
  - Stakeholder/contact category matrix
  - Input-to-deliverable matrix identifying how engagement will inform technical products
- Final Draft Stakeholder and Land Manager Engagement Strategy

Assumptions

- Engagement will focus primarily on land managers, agencies, technical stakeholders, and implementation partners, in addition to the public meeting required by the RFP.
- The County will review and approve partner lists and outreach materials prior to distribution.
- Rincon will receive one consolidated set of comments on the Stakeholder and Land Manager Engagement Strategy.

Task 1.3 Literature, Data, Policy, and Regulatory Review

Rincon will collect and review existing plans, studies, policies, regulations, GIS datasets, and technical resources relevant to the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study. This effort will establish the technical and policy foundation for the Study, support development of scientifically defensible methodologies, identify available datasets and data gaps, avoid duplication of prior work, and ensure alignment with County, regional, and State climate, conservation, wildfire resilience, and land management objectives.

At a minimum, Rincon anticipates reviewing:

- The 2025 update to the California Air Resources Board Natural and Working Lands Carbon Inventory
- 2017 Carbon Inventory Estimates for the North Coast Resource Partnership
- The Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) developed by Rincon
- IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
- Humboldt County Web GIS layers and County-provided spatial datasets
- Relevant natural resource, wildfire hazard, vegetation, land use, ownership, wetland, agricultural, coastal, and LiDAR datasets
- AB 32, SB 32, AB 1279, AB 1757, and other applicable State guidance related to natural and working lands and greenhouse gas reduction
- Humboldt County General Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Relevant wildfire resilience, prescribed fire, forest health, agricultural conservation, wetland restoration, watershed, sea level rise, and coastal planning resources
- Applicable conservation, restoration, timberland, public lands, and watershed management plans
- Relevant grant program guidance and funding criteria associated with natural and working lands implementation efforts

Rincon anticipates utilizing datasets and technical resources such as LANDFIRE, CALVEG, National Land Cover Database (NLCD), National Wetlands Inventory, CAL FIRE FRAP data, MTBS fire perimeter data, LiDAR datasets, parcel and land ownership data, agricultural land use datasets, and other regional and County-specific GIS resources, as appropriate. The review will also evaluate the applicability, limitations, and potential refinement needs associated with the CARB 2025 NWL Inventory and other statewide datasets relative to Humboldt County's unique landscape conditions and management context.

Rincon will prepare a Library of Resource Materials and Literature and Data Review Summary Memorandum documenting the resources reviewed, their relevance to the Study, and how each resource will inform land classification, carbon stock calculations, change analyses, carbon stability evaluations, feasibility strategies, policy alignment, and implementation recommendations. The review will also identify key data gaps, uncertainties, and recommended approaches for addressing limitations during subsequent technical analyses.

Deliverables

- List of Related Plans, Studies, Policies, Laws and Regulations for review
- Draft and Final Resource Literature and Data Review Summary Memorandum
- Final Resource Literature and Data Review Summary Memorandum

Assumptions

- The County will provide available GIS files and relevant background materials in a timely manner.
- Rincon will review up to 16 documents that will be confirmed by the County before the review.
- The Literature and Data Review Summary will be limited to resources relevant to the Study's technical methods, policy alignment, and implementation strategy.
- Rincon will receive one consolidated set of comments on the draft Resource Literature and Data Review Summary Memorandum.

Task 1.4 Project Management and Coordination

Rincon will provide ongoing project management and coordination throughout the approximately 2-year project duration to support efficient, transparent, and well-coordinated delivery of the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study. Rincon's Project Manager will serve as the County's primary day-to-day point of contact and will be responsible for overall project administration, schedule and budget management, coordination with County staff and subconsultants, quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC), meeting facilitation, and timely delivery of work products.

Project management activities will include triweekly virtual 30-minute check-in meetings with County staff to review project progress, discuss upcoming tasks and milestones, resolve technical or data-related questions, and identify potential scope, schedule, or budget considerations early in the process. Rincon will maintain a running action item list, decision log, schedule tracker, and data request tracker to support clear communication, accountability, and project transparency throughout the Study. Monthly invoices will be accompanied by concise progress reports and formatted as needed to support compliance with Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) grant requirements.

Given the sequential and interconnected nature of the technical analyses, Rincon will utilize structured decision checkpoints prior to advancing between major project phases. For example, land cover classifications and methodological assumptions will be reviewed and confirmed prior to completion of carbon stock calculations, and preliminary inventory findings will be reviewed before development and quantification of carbon sequestration feasibility strategies. This phased review structure is intended to reduce rework, support technical consistency, and maintain flexibility while ensuring the Study remains aligned with County priorities and stakeholder input.

Rincon will utilize established project management and coordination systems, including cloud-based file-sharing and document management platforms, to facilitate efficient collaboration among the consultant team, County staff, and project partners. If desired by the County, Rincon can establish a SharePoint site to support document sharing, version control, meeting materials, schedules, data exchange, and ongoing coordination throughout the project. Coordination with LACO Associates and other technical team members will occur regularly to ensure local engagement, technical analyses, and deliverables remain integrated throughout the project lifecycle.

Deliverables

- Triweekly check-in meetings with County staff
- Meeting agendas, notes, and action item tracking
- Monthly progress summaries and invoice support documentation
- Updated project schedule, decision log, and data request tracker
- Ongoing subconsultant coordination and internal QA/QC management

Assumptions

- Rincon assumes triweekly virtual 30-minute coordination meetings throughout the project duration, with additional meetings during major milestone periods as needed.
- Monthly invoices will include concise progress reports formatted to support SALC grant compliance requirements.
- If requested by the County, Rincon will establish and maintain a SharePoint site for project coordination, file sharing, and document management.
- County comments on deliverables will be consolidated into one non-conflicting set of comments per review cycle.
- Unless otherwise noted, each major deliverable includes one County review round and one revision cycle.
- Additional meetings, expanded coordination efforts, or substantial scope changes beyond those assumed may require schedule or budget adjustments.

Task 2. Humboldt Countywide Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock Inventory and Summary Report

Task 2 will produce the Countywide Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock Inventory and Summary Report. Rincon will classify and categorize natural and working lands, estimate existing aboveground, root/belowground, and soil organic carbon stocks and annual sequestration rates, evaluate approximately 10-year carbon stock change, assess carbon stock stability, and prepare a report that clearly communicates the results to technical and non-technical audiences.

Task 2.1 Carbon Inventory Methodology Confirmation

Building on the work completed in Task 1, Rincon will finalize the technical methodology, land classification framework, datasets, and carbon accounting approach for the Humboldt Countywide Natural and Working Lands Carbon Inventory. This task will confirm the methodologies used to quantify existing carbon stocks, evaluate carbon stock changes over time, and support future sequestration and feasibility analyses. The methodology will be designed to provide a scientifically defensible and transparent analytical framework that can support future greenhouse gas inventories, climate action planning, grant applications, conservation planning, and substantial evidence under CEQA for future policy development and environmental review.

Rincon anticipates utilizing a methodology generally aligned with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Natural and Working Lands Carbon Inventory and other State-recognized carbon accounting frameworks while refining the approach to reflect Humboldt County's unique landscape conditions, ownership patterns, working lands, and management practices. Similar to previous countywide carbon inventory efforts completed by Rincon, the analysis will likely utilize datasets such as LANDFIRE Existing Vegetation Type (EVT), Existing Vegetation Cover (EVC), Existing Vegetation Height (EVH), National Land Cover Database (NLCD), CALVEG, National Wetlands Inventory, LiDAR, ownership datasets, wildfire datasets, and County-specific GIS resources.

Rincon will evaluate the suitability and limitations of available datasets and will conduct additional refinement and QA/QC where necessary to improve land cover classifications and carbon accounting accuracy. This may include comparison of statewide datasets with aerial imagery, local vegetation mapping, land manager input, and other regional data sources to identify and correct potential misclassifications. Stakeholder and land manager feedback will be incorporated into the methodology review process to help validate land cover assumptions, stewardship practices, and local landscape conditions prior to finalization of carbon calculations.

As part of this task, Rincon will establish the final land cover and land use classification framework, temporal analysis years, carbon pools to be evaluated (e.g., aboveground biomass, belowground biomass, dead organic matter, litter, and soil carbon), units of measurement, geographic analysis scales, and QA/QC procedures. Rincon will also identify how wildfire, land use change, restoration activities, and land management practices will be incorporated into subsequent carbon stock change and feasibility analyses.

Rincon will prepare a Carbon Inventory Methodology Memorandum documenting the final methodology, datasets, assumptions, classification approach, QA/QC procedures, known limitations, uncertainty considerations, and technical workflow for the carbon inventory analysis.

Additional Information Regarding LANDFIRE data: LANDFIRE is a collaborative program between the United States Forest Service and Department of the Interior that provides both current and historic vegetation and fuel mapping to aid wildfire management planning. LANDFIRE is regularly updated and is currently available for 2001, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025 (staggered release) is expected to be released on an annual basis. LANDFIRE data schema includes existing vegetation type, height, and cover which is required to estimate carbon stock. These parameters are used in combination with CARB's carbon estimates developed for the State's Natural and Working Lands Inventory, which are based off of LANDFIRE data descriptions. LANDFIRE is currently the only publicly-available data to conduct carbon stock inventories because: 1) it is provided regularly so changes in landcover can be assessed; 2) has a documented methodology; and 3) has existing vegetation type, height, and cover for all vegetation types. Limitations with LANDFIRE data are accuracy and resolution. Because LANDFIRE is a national modeled dataset it contains inaccuracies that differ between habitat types and years that the data is provided. Also, the data is provided at a 30-meter resolution and therefore, doesn't capture smaller scale differences in vegetation/land cover. Through Rincon's experience conducting carbon sequestration studies we have found that a robust QA/QC process with knowledge stakeholders can significantly increase the accuracy of the data.

Deliverables

- Draft Carbon Inventory Methodology Memorandum
- Final Carbon Inventory Methodology Memorandum
- Virtual methodology review meeting with County staff and technical partners

Assumptions

- The County will provide available GIS datasets and relevant background information in a timely manner.
- Rincon will receive one consolidated set of comments on the draft methodology memorandum.
- No analysis will be conducted until the final methodology memorandum is approved.
- Significant methodology revisions requested after methodology confirmation may require schedule or budget adjustments.

Task 2.2 Landcover Quality Assurance and Quality Control Engagement

Accurate land cover classification is the foundation of a scientifically defensible and transparent carbon inventory. Based on Rincon's experience preparing countywide Natural and Working Lands carbon inventories throughout California, early quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) of land cover datasets is one of the most important steps in reducing uncertainty, avoiding costly rework, and ensuring the resulting analyses can support future greenhouse gas inventories, CEQA substantial evidence, climate planning, and implementation efforts. Rincon's approach integrates stakeholder and land manager review early in the inventory process to validate assumptions and refine classifications before carbon calculations are finalized.

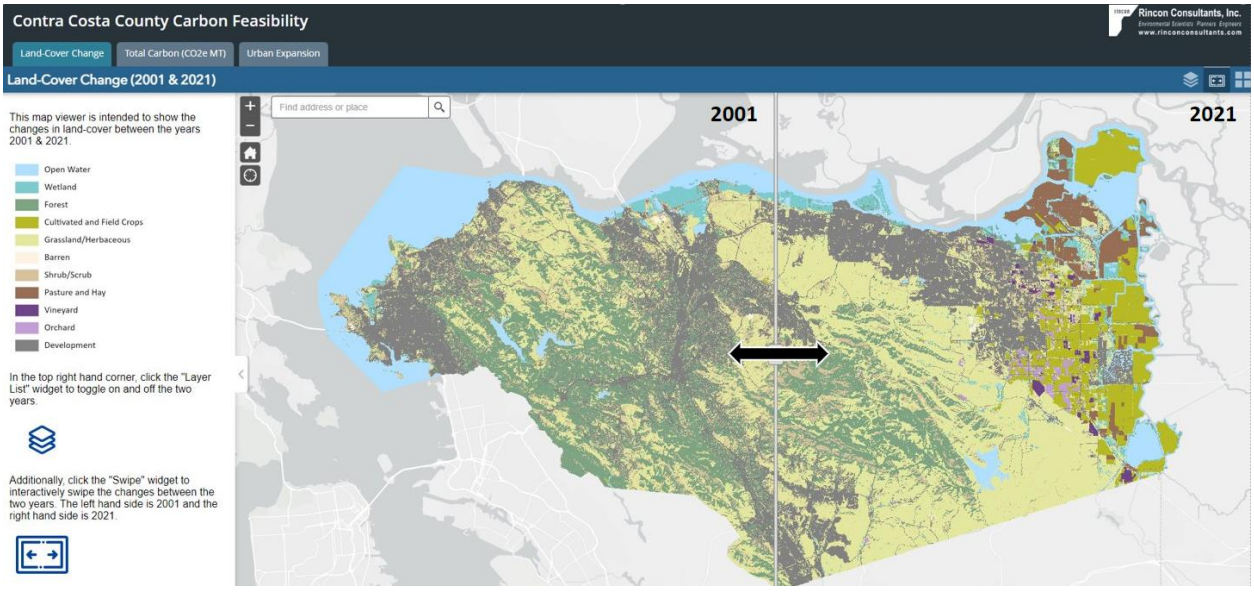
Rincon will develop and refine land cover classifications for two analysis years to support both the existing baseline inventory and approximately 10-year carbon stock change analysis. The classification framework will be designed to support carbon accounting, sequestration analyses, land cover change evaluation, ownership summaries, mapping, and future inventory updates.

Rincon anticipates the following major QA/QC and land cover refinement steps:

1. Develop an ArcGIS Online web-based review platform to display draft land cover classifications and apparent land cover changes between analysis years
2. Provide review instructions and a comment form to facilitate location-specific feedback from County staff, land managers, agencies, Tribes, and technical stakeholders
3. Review and evaluate stakeholder comments and determine appropriate classification refinements
4. Conduct targeted desktop validation and updates of the landcover data as needed

Rincon's Landcover Edit Tool (ArcGIS Online review platform) will allow reviewers to identify potential misclassifications, flag areas of concern, provide corrected classification information where known, and identify locations requiring additional review. Stakeholders will also be encouraged to provide contextual information regarding local land management practices, disturbance history, restoration activities, and ownership or land use conditions that may influence classification accuracy. See Contra Costa County's example Landcover Edit Tool below.

Example Contra Costa County Landcover Edit Tool Used for Landcover QA/QC



Rincon will facilitate up to three targeted data review meetings with County staff and selected stakeholders to review draft classifications, discuss areas of uncertainty, and refine the datasets prior to completion of carbon stock calculations. Based on Rincon's lessons learned from previous countywide carbon sequestration studies, incorporating local knowledge and anecdotal evidence early in the process is critical to improving technical defensibility, stakeholder confidence, and long-term implementation support.

LACO Associates will help identify appropriate local reviewers, support distribution of review instructions, assist with local meeting logistics, and provide local context regarding land use, ownership patterns, regional sensitivities, and stakeholder coordination. LACO's longstanding relationships with local organizations, landowners, and resource management partners will help strengthen participation and project buy-in throughout the review process. Rincon's GIS and carbon analysis team will lead the classification methodology, spatial analysis, QA/QC process, technical review, and final classification determinations.

Deliverables

- Draft and final Landcover Edit Tool (web-based ArcGIS Online platform)
- Stakeholder review instructions and digital comment form
- Up to three targeted data review meetings/workshops:
  - Initial platform orientation and review meeting;
  - Draft results and stakeholder feedback meeting; and
  - Final QA/QC and refinement review meeting
- Updated land cover classification datasets and associated metadata

Assumptions

- The County and LACO Associates will assist in identifying appropriate reviewers and supporting timely stakeholder participation.
- Stakeholder review comments will be provided within approximately three weeks of distribution of draft review materials to maintain the project schedule.

Task 2.3 Carbon Sequestration of Land/Carbon Types Calculations

Following confirmation of the methodology framework, Rincon will conduct the countywide carbon stock and sequestration analyses for Humboldt County's natural and working lands. The analysis will quantify existing carbon stocks and sequestration potential across major land cover, land use, ownership, and management categories throughout the County.

Rincon will calculate carbon stocks for relevant carbon pools, anticipated to include aboveground biomass, belowground biomass, dead organic matter, litter, and soil carbon, as appropriate based on available datasets and accepted methodologies. Calculations will be completed for multiple analysis years, where feasible, to evaluate changes in carbon stocks over time and identify areas of carbon gain, loss, stability, and transition. The analysis will evaluate carbon sequestration and carbon stock characteristics across forests, timberlands, wetlands, riparian areas, grasslands, shrublands, agricultural lands, coastal resources, public lands, Tribal lands, and other relevant land cover categories.

Draft land cover and carbon stock maps, spatial analyses, and summary tables will be provided for County and stakeholder review prior to finalization. Final land cover and carbon stock maps, summary tables, and associated figures will be refined and incorporated into the Draft and Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report.

Deliverables

- Countywide carbon stock and sequestration calculations
- GIS-based carbon stock mapping and spatial analysis outputs
- Draft land cover and carbon stock maps and summary tables
- Final land cover and carbon stock maps and summary tables

Assumptions

- Available datasets and methodologies will support countywide planning-level analyses rather than parcel-level carbon accounting.
- Rincon will receive one consolidated set of comments on the draft land cover and carbon stock maps and summary tables
- The Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report will not be developed until the final land cover and carbon stock maps and summary tables

Task 2.4 Draft and Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report

Rincon will prepare a Draft and Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report documenting the methodologies, analyses, findings, mapping, and technical conclusions associated with the Humboldt Countywide Natural and Working Lands Carbon Inventory. The report will establish Humboldt County's baseline natural and working lands carbon stock conditions, evaluate carbon stock changes over time, summarize carbon sequestration characteristics across land cover and ownership categories, and identify key trends influencing long-term carbon storage and stability.

Following completion of the final land cover and carbon stock maps and summary tables, Rincon will provide more of existing carbon stocks and annual sequestration rates for Humboldt County's natural and working lands using the finalized methodology developed in Task 2.1 through Task 2.3. The Inventory is anticipated to include aboveground biomass carbon, belowground/root biomass carbon, and soil organic carbon, as supported by available datasets and accepted methodologies. The analysis will also evaluate carbon stock changes across approximately a 10-year period to help identify areas of carbon gain, loss, stability, and landscape transition.

The analysis will summarize carbon stock and sequestration results countywide and across relevant categories, anticipated to include:

- Land cover and land use types;
- Public versus private lands;
- County-owned lands;
- Incorporated and unincorporated areas, as appropriate;
- Forestlands and timberlands;
- Wetlands and riparian areas;
- Grasslands and shrublands;
- Agricultural lands and working landscapes;
- Tribal lands or other special ownership categories, subject to County direction, data availability, and appropriate protocols; and
- Other relevant natural and working lands classifications identified during the Study.

Rincon will prepare narrative descriptions, maps, charts, graphics, tables, GIS-based visualizations, and technical summaries designed to clearly communicate findings to County staff, partner agencies, stakeholders, decision-makers, and the public. Draft land cover and carbon stock maps, spatial analyses, and summary tables will be provided for County and stakeholder review prior to finalization. Final land cover and carbon stock maps, summary tables, figures, and supporting analyses will be refined and incorporated into the Draft and Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report.

The report will document key assumptions, methodologies, uncertainty considerations, limitations, and QA/QC procedures to support transparency, repeatability, and future updateability of the inventory. Rincon will also prepare GIS layers, technical documentation, and calculation outputs in formats that can support future RCAP updates, greenhouse gas inventory updates, dashboard metrics, CEQA analyses, grant applications, implementation tracking, and future natural and working lands planning efforts.

The Draft Report will be provided for County review and comment prior to preparation of the Final Report. Rincon will incorporate one consolidated set of County comments into the Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report.

Deliverables

- Draft Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report
- Final Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report

Assumptions

- Carbon estimates will be reported in units coordinated with County staff, anticipated to include metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e).
- The County will provide one consolidated set of comments on the Draft Carbon Stock Inventory Summary Report.
- The report will present planning-level technical analyses appropriate for countywide planning, implementation, and policy development purposes.

Task 2.5: Data Transfer, Documentation, and Future Update Protocol

To support long-term usability, transparency, and future updateability of the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study, Rincon can provide a comprehensive data transfer and documentation package designed to allow the Study methodologies, datasets, assumptions, and workflows to be understood, replicated, maintained, and updated by County staff or future consultants.

This task is intended to support future RCAP updates, greenhouse gas inventory updates, implementation tracking, grant applications, CEQA analyses, and ongoing natural and working lands planning efforts by providing organized technical documentation and supporting datasets in a clear and accessible format.

The final data package may include, as applicable:

- Final GIS layers, map files, and metadata;
- Carbon inventory calculation workbooks, supporting datasets, and transferable calculation tools/scripts;
- Methodology documentation, assumptions logs, uncertainty documentation, and scientific references;
- QA/QC procedures, technical review documentation, and processing notes;
- Instructions and recommendations for future inventory updates, data inputs, and update intervals; and
- Documentation of known data gaps, technical limitations, and recommended future improvements.

As part of this task, Rincon can also prepare a Future Inventory Update Protocol describing recommended procedures for updating the carbon inventory and feasibility analyses over time, including suggested datasets, update workflows, quality control considerations, and opportunities to improve technical accuracy in future study iterations.

If desired by the County, Rincon can also provide a technical handoff and training session to walk County staff through the organization of datasets, GIS layers, calculation files, update procedures, and technical workflows associated with the Study.

Deliverables

- Final electronic data transfer package
- GIS layers, map files, metadata, and data dictionary
- Final calculation files, scripts, and supporting datasets, as applicable
- Final methodology, QA/QC, assumptions, and uncertainty documentation
- Future Inventory Update Protocol
- Staff training and technical handoff session materials, if requested

Assumptions

- Rincon will provide electronic files only.
- Proprietary tools, licensed datasets, or third-party software may be subject to licensing restrictions and may not be transferable.
- Rincon will document any known restrictions on data use, transfer, or licensing.
- County staff will provide a preferred file organization structure and data transfer method, if applicable.
- Staff training or technical handoff sessions, if requested, will be limited to one session unless otherwise scoped.

Task 3. Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report

Task 3 will use the Inventory results to identify feasible land management strategies and best management practices that can maintain, enhance, or protect carbon sequestration in Humboldt County. The Feasibility Study will evaluate where and through what activities the County and its partners may have the greatest opportunity to optimize carbon sequestration while maintaining long-term carbon stability and supporting broader County goals.

Task 3.1 Land Management Activities Implementation Development

Building on the carbon inventory and baseline analyses completed in Task 2, Rincon will work with the County, LACO Associates, and project stakeholders to identify, evaluate, and prioritize land management activities and nature-based climate solutions that can help maintain and enhance long-term carbon sequestration capacity throughout Humboldt County. This task will focus on implementation-oriented strategies that support carbon sequestration, wildfire resilience, ecosystem health, working lands viability, and broader environmental and community co-benefits.

Using guidance from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Scoping Plan, State Natural and Working Lands guidance, scientific literature, and Rincon's prior countywide Natural and Working Lands studies, Rincon will develop a suite of potential land management strategies and carbon sequestration activities appropriate for Humboldt County's forests, timberlands, agricultural lands, wetlands, grasslands, riparian systems, coastal areas, and other working landscapes.

Potential strategies anticipated to be evaluated may include:

- Prescribed grazing
- Fuel reduction and vegetation management
- Prescribed fire
- Forest health and reforestation activities
- Urban forestry
- Native grassland and oak woodland restoration
- Riparian and wetland restoration
- Compost application and soil health practices
- Agricultural stewardship and range planting
- Other regionally appropriate nature-based climate solutions identified through stakeholder coordination.

Rincon will develop and utilize a land management activity framework to review existing County and regional policies, programs, plans, and initiatives relevant to carbon sequestration, land stewardship, climate adaptation, wildfire resilience, and conservation planning. This effort will help identify existing implementation efforts, policy gaps, barriers, funding needs, partnership opportunities, and implementation readiness considerations.

To support implementation tracking and long-term County use, Rincon will also develop a GIS-based ArcGIS Online implementation viewer to compile and visualize spatial information regarding existing and proposed land management activities occurring throughout Humboldt County. The viewer will support identification and mapping of carbon sequestration and land stewardship activities such as fuels reduction, prescribed fire, restoration projects, agricultural stewardship practices, wetland enhancement, and other nature-based climate solutions. The GIS viewer will support development of implementation maps and spatial analyses for inclusion in the Study while also providing the County with a long-term resource to help monitor, track, and communicate implementation progress and associated carbon sequestration benefits over time. The viewer may also support future RCAP updates, grant applications, implementation coordination, and broader County climate and resilience initiatives.

Following identification of priority land management activities, Rincon will conduct planning-level carbon sequestration scenario analyses to estimate the potential influence of varying implementation levels on future carbon storage and sequestration capacity.

Rincon will also evaluate qualitative co-benefits associated with recommended strategies, which may include:

- Wildfire resilience

- Habitat and biodiversity enhancement
- Watershed and water quality benefits
- Soil health improvements
- Coastal and ecosystem resilience
- Air quality improvements
- Agricultural productivity and working lands viability
- Community and equity-related benefits

The results of the land management activities analyses will be documented in a Draft and Final Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study that summarizes implementation strategies, estimated implementation acreage assumptions, co-benefits, feasibility considerations, scenario results, uncertainties, and recommendations for future implementation and funding coordination.

Deliverables

- Draft land management activity framework
- Final land management activity framework

Assumptions

- Scenario analyses will be conducted at a countywide planning scale using available datasets and planning-level assumptions and will not constitute parcel-specific implementation modeling.
- The County will provide one consolidated set of comments on land management activity framework.

Task 3.2 Land Management Activities Engagement

To support development of practical, locally informed, and implementation-ready carbon sequestration strategies, Rincon and LACO Associates will conduct targeted stakeholder and land manager engagement activities focused on land management practices, stewardship priorities, implementation feasibility, and partnership opportunities throughout Humboldt County.

Engagement activities will include stakeholder interviews, land manager coordination, surveys, and a collaborative land management activities workshop designed to gather technical input and build consensus around potential carbon sequestration and nature-based climate solutions. The workshop will convene County departments, Resource Conservation Districts, Tribes, wildfire resilience organizations, land managers, agricultural and timber representatives, conservation organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders identified by the County. The workshop and engagement activities will focus on:

- Existing land management activities and stewardship efforts
- Opportunities to increase carbon sequestration and landscape resilience
- Feasibility considerations and implementation barriers
- Funding opportunities, partnerships, and coordination needs
- Prioritization criteria and implementation opportunities

Rincon will prepare engagement materials, facilitate discussions, document stakeholder input, and integrate findings directly into development of the Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study and implementation scenario analyses. LACO Associates will support local coordination, stakeholder outreach, meeting logistics, and relationship-building efforts through its longstanding relationships with local organizations, landowners, and resource management partners.

This iterative engagement process is intended to build consensus, strengthen long-term project buy-in, identify implementation constraints early, and ensure recommended strategies are technically feasible,

locally supported, and aligned with ongoing stewardship and land management efforts throughout the County.

Deliverables

- Stakeholder interview and survey materials
- Up to three stakeholder or agency interviews
- One land management activities workshop and supporting materials
- Workshop summary memorandum documenting key findings and recommendations

Assumptions

- Stakeholder engagement activities will focus on targeted technical and implementation coordination rather than broad public outreach.
- The County and LACO Associates will assist in identifying appropriate workshop participants and stakeholders.
- Rincon assumes one land management activities workshop.
- Workshop format (virtual or in-person) will be finalized in coordination with the County.
- The County will be responsible for costs associated with meeting venues, facility rentals, catering, audio/visual equipment, and other in-person meeting logistics, if applicable.
- The County will provide one consolidated set of comments on workshop summaries and engagement-related deliverables.

Task 3.3 Draft Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study Report

Building on the carbon inventory and baseline analyses completed in Task 2, the land management activities and implementation framework developed in Task 3.1, and the stakeholder and land management coordination completed in Task 3.2, Rincon will prepare a Draft Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study evaluating science-based carbon sequestration practices, nature-based climate solutions, and land management strategies that could help Humboldt County maintain and enhance long-term carbon sequestration capacity.

The carbon feasibility study report will focus on practical, implementation-oriented strategies that align with Humboldt County's landscape conditions, working lands, wildfire resilience needs, conservation priorities, and community values. Rincon will evaluate carbon sequestration and land management practices identified through State guidance documents, scientific literature, prior natural and working lands studies, the implementation strategy development process completed in Task 3.1, and stakeholder input gathered throughout the project.

Potential strategies anticipated to be evaluated may include:

- Forest management and reforestation;
- Prescribed fire and fuels reduction;
- Wetland and riparian restoration;
- Grassland and rangeland management;
- Agricultural stewardship practices;
- Urban forestry and habitat enhancement;
- Coastal resilience strategies; and
- Other regionally appropriate nature-based climate solutions.

Rincon will develop a carbon sequestration and nature-based solutions matrix summarizing potential strategies, implementation considerations, sequestration benefits, co-benefits, feasibility factors, implementation readiness, funding opportunities, and known uncertainties. The matrix will evaluate considerations such as wildfire resilience benefits, habitat enhancement, watershed and coastal resilience, operational feasibility, compatibility with working landscapes and local industries, and opportunities for partnership development and future implementation funding.

Using the finalized land management activities, implementation assumptions, and prioritization criteria developed through Task 3.1 and refined through Task 3.2, Rincon will conduct planning-level carbon sequestration scenario analyses to estimate the potential influence of varying implementation levels on future carbon storage and sequestration capacity.

Rincon will also prepare a qualitative assessment of co-benefits associated with recommended strategies, which may include:

- Wildfire resilience;
- Habitat and biodiversity enhancement;
- Watershed and water quality benefits;
- Soil health improvements;
- Coastal and ecosystem resilience;
- Air quality improvements;
- Agricultural productivity and working lands viability; and
- Community and equity-related benefits.

The draft carbon sequestration feasibility study report of the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study will summarize recommended strategies, implementation opportunities, estimated implementation acreage assumptions, scenario analysis results, co-benefits, uncertainties, and considerations for future implementation, monitoring, funding, and partnership development.

Deliverables

- Draft Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study of the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study

Assumptions

- Feasibility analyses and scenario modeling will be conducted at a countywide planning scale and will not constitute parcel-specific implementation plans or engineering analyses.
- The County will provide one consolidated set of comments on the draft feasibility study report and associated technical deliverables.
- Final of the draft feasibility study report will be included as part of the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study.

Task 3.4 Draft and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report for Public Review

Rincon will prepare the Draft and Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report integrating the technical analyses, stakeholder engagement findings, land management activity development, implementation scenario analyses, and carbon sequestration feasibility evaluations completed throughout Tasks 1 through 3.3.

The report will serve as both a technical resource and an implementation-focused planning document intended to support future RCAP updates, greenhouse gas inventory updates, CEQA analyses, conservation planning, climate resilience initiatives, grant applications, land stewardship efforts, and long-term implementation tracking. The Study will establish Humboldt County's baseline natural and working lands carbon stock conditions, evaluate carbon stock changes over time, assess long-term carbon sequestration potential and carbon stability considerations, and identify practical land management and nature-based climate strategies that align with Humboldt County's working landscapes, local industries, and community priorities.

The report will summarize:

- Existing carbon stocks and sequestration rates across Humboldt County's natural and working lands;
- Carbon stock changes over time and landscape transition trends;
- Land cover classifications, carbon accounting methodologies, assumptions, and QA/QC procedures;
- Carbon sequestration feasibility findings and implementation scenario analyses;
- Recommended land management activities and nature-based climate solutions;
- Estimated implementation acreage assumptions and implementation readiness considerations;
- Wildfire resilience, habitat, watershed, agricultural, and other qualitative co-benefits;
- Funding, partnership, and implementation opportunities; and
- Recommendations for future inventory updates, implementation tracking, and long-term stewardship coordination.

Rincon will prepare maps, charts, graphics, tables, infographics, dashboards, and GIS-based visualizations to communicate technical findings in a clear, visually accessible, and implementation-oriented format for County staff, partner agencies, stakeholders, decision-makers, and the public. The report will also document key methodological assumptions, uncertainties, data limitations, and technical workflows to support transparency, repeatability, and defensibility of the Study and provide substantial evidence for future CEQA-related planning and policy efforts.

Draft land cover maps, carbon stock maps, feasibility analyses, implementation scenario outputs, and summary tables developed throughout Tasks 2 and 3 will be incorporated into the Draft Report for County review. Following County review and incorporation of initial comments, Rincon will prepare a Public Review Draft version of the Study for public circulation and stakeholder review. Rincon will coordinate with the County to support the public review process, including preparation of review materials and compilation of comments received during the public review period.

Following completion of the public review period, Rincon will review and evaluate public and stakeholder comments and prepare revisions to the Study, as appropriate. Rincon will work with the County to develop responses to comments and incorporate agreed-upon revisions into the Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report for Board of Supervisors consideration and final public distribution.

The final deliverable package will include supporting GIS layers, metadata, technical appendices, calculation files, implementation matrices, assumptions logs, and update guidance intended to support future County use, long-term monitoring, implementation tracking, and future updates to the Study.

Deliverables

- Draft Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report
- Public Review Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report
- Final Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study Report

Assumptions

- The County will provide one consolidated set of comments on the Draft Report prior to release of the Public Review Draft.
- Rincon assumes one public review period and one round of revisions following receipt of public and stakeholder comments.
- The report will be designed to meet accessibility requirements and public distribution needs, consistent with applicable ADA accessibility standards.
- Public review coordination and response to comments will be conducted in collaboration with County staff.
- Additional design iterations, expanded outreach materials, substantial report restructuring, or additional review cycles beyond those assumed may require schedule or budget adjustments.

Task 3.5 Board of Supervisors Meeting Support

Rincon will support County staff during presentation of the Humboldt Natural and Working Lands Carbon Stock and Management Study to the Board of Supervisors. Support activities will include preparation of a draft staff report, development of presentation materials, coordination with County staff regarding key messages and presentation structure, and participation in the Board meeting to present technical findings and respond to questions.

Rincon will prepare a draft staff report summarizing the purpose of the Study, key findings, recommended actions, implementation considerations, stakeholder engagement outcomes, and requested Board actions, as directed by County staff. Rincon will coordinate closely with County staff to ensure the staff report aligns with County formatting requirements, decision-making processes, and agenda timelines. Rincon will also prepare concise and visually accessible presentation materials summarizing the Study's major findings, carbon inventory results, sequestration opportunities, implementation strategies, co-benefits, and recommendations. Presentation content will be tailored to communicate complex technical information in a clear and actionable format appropriate for decision-makers and public audiences.

Rincon and LACO Associates will coordinate with County staff in advance of the meeting to review presentation materials, discuss anticipated questions or areas of interest, and refine messaging related to implementation opportunities, stakeholder coordination outcomes, and future planning considerations.

Deliverables

- Draft Board of Supervisors staff report
- Board of Supervisors presentation materials
- Coordination meeting(s) with County staff prior to Board presentation
- Attendance and presentation support at one Board of Supervisors meeting

Assumptions

- Rincon assumes attendance at one Board of Supervisors meeting.
- The Board meeting will be held in person or virtually based on County preference.
- County staff will provide direction regarding staff report formatting requirements, presentation format, agenda timing, and key messaging priorities.
- The County will provide one consolidated set of comments on the draft staff report and presentation materials.
- Additional hearings, workshops, or substantial revisions to presentation materials or staff reports beyond the assumed scope may require schedule or budget adjustments.

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