

Yuba IRWMP – YWP-01

This project consists of the Project Short Form¹

Please fill out the following information to the best of your ability/knowledge. Once the project has been received, and a preliminary review completed, the project team will work with you to develop additional information.

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Lead Agency/Organization	Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council
Name of Primary Contact(s)	Steve Andrews
Mailing Address	PO Box 966, Marysville, CA 95901
Email Address	sandrews@yubafiresafe.org
Phone (###) ###-####	530-913-6455
Project Partners/Collaborators	Yuba County Public Works
YWA Liaison	JoAnna Lessard

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title	Yuba Foothills Roadside Fuel Reduction: Project Specific Analysis
Project Total Budget (Attach detailed budget, if available)	\$75,000
Budget Breakdown	Planning/Design Budget: \$75,000 Implementation Budget: n/a
Project Funding Match , if any	None. Very likely leveraged future implementation grant funds.
Total Project Funding Request	\$75,000
Project Location (Attach map if available)	Eastern Yuba County (within five rural fire districts; see attached map)
City/Community	Browns Valley, Brownsville, Camptonville, Challenge, Dobbins, Forbestown, Loma Rica, Oregon House, Rackerby, Smartsville
Watershed/subwatershed	Yuba (90%) and Feather River (10%) watersheds:
Groundwater Basin	none
Funding Area	SRFA or MC
Project Priority (Select one)	High/Medium/Low
Project Type (highlight in gray <i>all</i> that apply)	Conceptual Feasibility Study Study/Assessment Planning Engineering/Design Permitting CEQA/NEPA Facility Construction Restoration Monitoring Best Management Practices Acquisition Demonstration/Pilot Project

¹ Completed Project Short Forms should be sent via email to Katie Burdick at admin@burdico.net **and** Elizabeth Herrera at Elizabeth.herrera@fishsciences.net

Please select the *status* of the CEQA/NEPA/Permitting for this project:

CEQA (Select one)	Exempt - Not Started - Initial Study - EIR – Determination - Unknown if Required Other: The purpose of this grant is to fund the CEQA document preparation for future roadside fuel reduction projects.
NEPA (Select one)	Exempt - Not Started - Environmental Assessment - EIS – Record of Decision - Unknown if Required
Permitting (Select one)	Not Required - Not started – Identified – Consultations Complete – Application Submitted – Complete – Unknown if Required

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Write a narrative briefly describing the project components and/or characteristics (maximum of 300 words).

Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council proposes this project to prepare and file a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document for the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project. The document will be a Project-specific Analysis and Addendum to the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Environmental Impact Report. Ascent Environmental has submitted a proposed Scope of Work and Price Proposal to perform this work (see attached). An estimated timeline for completion of this work is 16 weeks following final execution of a contract. It should be noted that Ascent recently prepared a similar document for Yuba Water Agency in support of their Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project.

The Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project includes potential fuel treatments along all county, county service area (CSA), and private roads within the five eastern Yuba County Fire Districts. Treatments are not limited to simply the rights-of-way but include buffer areas of up to 150 feet on either side of county roads and 30 feet on either side of CSA and private roads. Treatments may include hand-cut and chip, mastication, pile and burn, and herbicide application. Having this CEQA document in place will highly leverage this investment by significantly improving the likelihood of subsequent funding of implementation grants.

PROJECT RATIONALE/ISSUES STATEMENT

Briefly describe the need for the project and the desired outcomes/deliverables (maximum of 200 words).

As we all know, rural areas of California have been subject to numerous catastrophic fires in recent years. Roadways are a critical component of our Wildland Urban Interfaces (WUIs) as escape routes, to allow for access by first responders and equipment, and as a logical anchor for fuel breaks. Our roads are also a likely source for ignition starts. Fuel reduction efforts along our roads, both public and private, are necessary to allow for safe evacuations, access for emergency response, provide a network of fuel breaks, and can increase the likelihood of initial attack suppression of roadside starts. The direct desired outcomes, or deliverables, for this project include: a Project-specific Analysis and Addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR (CEQA) and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program to support this document. Secondary desired outcomes, include successful implementation grant applications from various funding sources including CalFire and the US Forest Service.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Task based budget
- Map of project location
- Ascent Scope of Work and Price Proposal

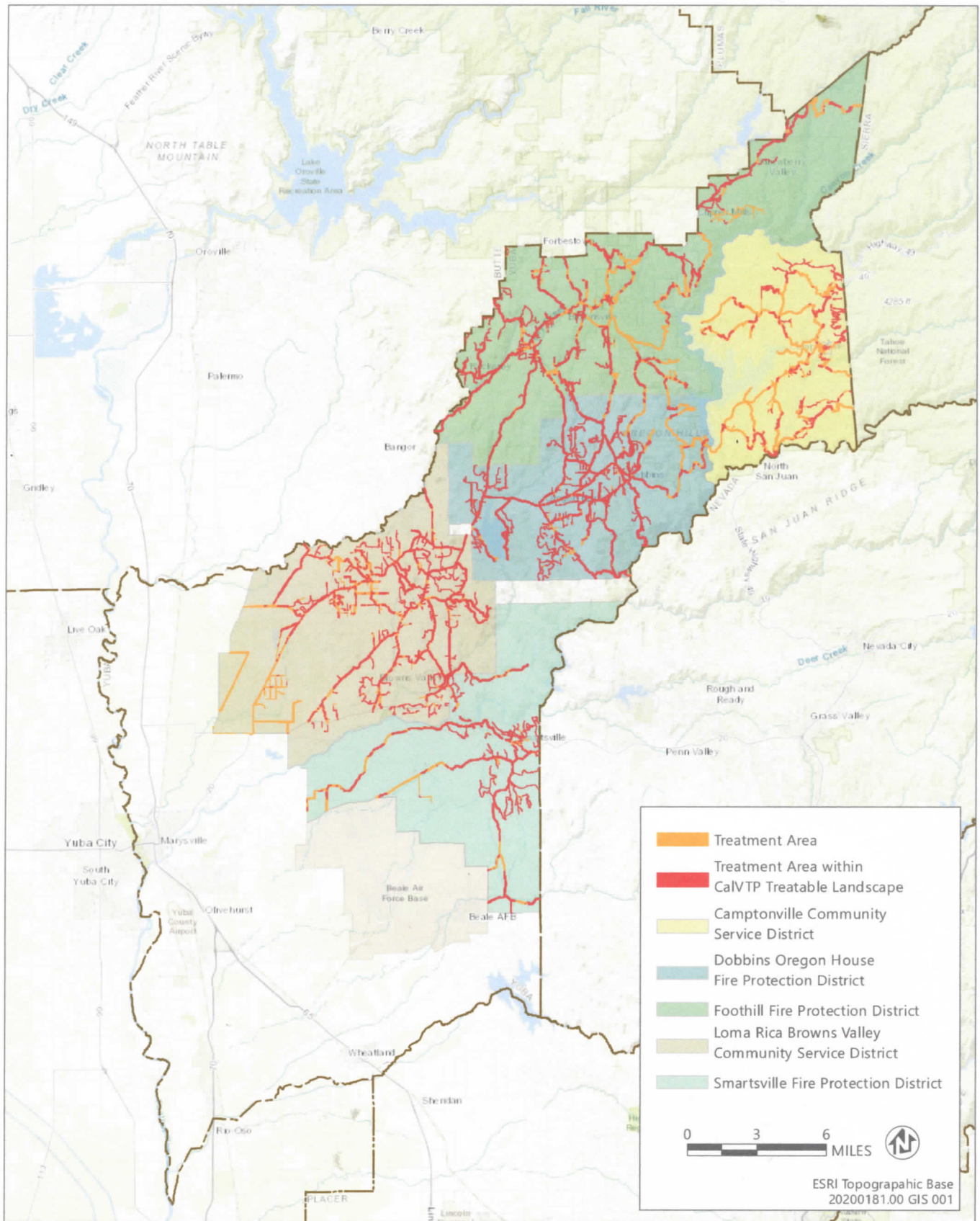
Yuba Foothills Roadside Fuel Reduction: Project-specific Analysis

Proposed Budget

10-Mar-21

Task	By	Description	Budget
CEQA Document	Ascent Environmental	Preparation and filing of Project-specific Analysis. Preparation of Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program	\$71,940.00
Project Support	YWP&FSC	Provide specific information in support of the PSA including, proposed treatments, GIS, site visits, document review/edits	\$3,060.00
			\$75,000.00





Sources: Data provided by Yuba County in 2020; adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2020

12/19/2020

Figure 1: Project Area

ATTACHMENT A

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK CEQA COMPLIANCE FOR THE YUBA ROADSIDE FUEL TREATMENT PROJECT YUBA COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

Yuba FSC, in partnership with Yuba County and five local fire districts is proposing fuel reduction treatments along public and private roadways in Yuba County. The proposed project would involve fuels reduction treatments within a 150-foot buffer along County-maintained roads and within a 30-foot buffer along private and County Service Area (CSA)-maintained roads. The total project area encompasses approximately 15,338 acres, approximately 8,779 acres of which is within the CalVTP Treatable Landscape (see Figure 1). The treatments would occur generally in the eastern portions of Yuba County within the jurisdictions of the following fire districts: Dobbins Oregon House Fire Protection District, Foothill Forest Protection District, Loma Rica Browns Valley Community Service District, Smartsville Fire Protection District, and Camptonville Community Service District. Proposed treatment activities include manual and mechanical treatment methods, pile burning, and herbicide application to reduce wildfire risk.

Ascent recommends using the Program EIR for the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) to streamline California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for the proposed project. Streamlining CEQA review using the CalVTP Program EIR entails completing a Project-specific Analysis (PSA) checklist. It is assumed that Yuba County would serve as a responsible agency using the CalVTP Program EIR for the proposed project's CEQA compliance. Because portions of the project area extend outside of the CalVTP treatable landscape, preparation of an Addendum to the Program EIR is also recommended.

The Addendum and PSA will not consider actions on federal lands or commercial treatments. These are outside the scope of the Program EIR, and it is likely their consideration would not meet the criteria for preparation of an Addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15164.

The following sections describe Ascent's proposed scope of work to prepare CEQA documentation for the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project.

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1: Project Management and Meetings

Ascent's project manager will devote effort each month (6-month schedule assumed) to ensure an efficient and timely process for project execution. Ascent will maintain close communication with Yuba FSC to ensure the objectives are met, the schedule is maintained, and the project is implemented within established budget parameters. To this end, Ascent's project manager and one other Ascent staff member, as needed, will prepare for and participate in 6 conference calls (e.g., 1 call per month) to discuss the status of the project, upcoming deliverables/milestones, and any technical/schedule/budget issues, as needed.

Ascent will prepare monthly invoices and progress reports regarding status of the contract.

Deliverables

- ▲ Monthly invoices and progress reports

Task 2: Addendum and PSA Preparation

Ascent will prepare one document comprising the PSA and CEQA Addendum to the Program EIR. An addendum to an EIR is appropriate where a previously certified EIR has been prepared and some changes or revisions to the project are proposed, or the circumstances surrounding the project have changed, but none of the changes or revisions would result in new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts, consistent with CEQA Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162, 15163, 15164, and 15168. In this case, the difference in the treatment project is the inclusion of areas outside of the treatable landscape analyzed in the CalVTP Program EIR in a proposed later activity (i.e., the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project).

The PSA checklist template (Appendix PD-3 of Volume II of the Final Program EIR) includes the criteria to support an Addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR for the inclusion of areas outside the CalVTP treatable landscape. The template evaluates each resource in terms of whether the later treatment project, including the "changed condition" of additional geographic area, would result in significant impacts that would be substantially more severe than those covered in the Program EIR and/or would result in any new impacts that were not covered in the Program EIR.

Ascent will use the PSA checklist template (Appendix PD-3 of Volume II of the Final Program EIR) to complete the PSA. First, we will meet with Yuba FSC and staff of partner fire districts, as appropriate, to gather the information needed to complete the "Vegetation Treatment Project Information" section of the PSA, including the description of the proposed treatment project and treatment maintenance. To qualify as a project that is within the scope of the Program EIR, the treatment project must be consistent with the treatment types and treatment activities analyzed in the CalVTP Program EIR. It must also be consistent with the factors (e.g., intensity) identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2). A detailed treatment description provides the evidence for this component of the project within the scope determination. The proposed treatment is complex, with several treatment activities planned over time, across a large landscape, and the involvement of multiple landowners across disjunct parcels. Ascent's cost estimate assumes 20 hours to develop the treatment description; if additional work is necessary to complete this portion of the PSA, support may be provided by the Yuba FSC team or a contract modification may be warranted to authorize additional time for Ascent. As early as feasible in the project planning phase, Ascent will compile and submit to CAL FIRE the information that is required for planned projects pursuant to CalVTP Standard Project Requirement (SPR) AD-7.

Ascent's biologist and environmental planner will participate in a site visit to view the proposed treatment project area and discuss the proposed treatment. No focused or protocol biological surveys will be conducted..

It is assumed that the level of detail in the PSA will be guided by the level of detail presented in the Hypothetical Example of a Completed PSA for Guidance to Project Proponents, available on the CalVTP for

Project Proponents webpage: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/calvtp/>. Accordingly, no emissions modeling or other new technical studies will be conducted.

Ascent will conduct a cultural records search for the 15,338 -acre project area and a 0.25-mile buffer. Ascent will also contact any geographically affiliated Native American tribes identified on the contact list provided by the Native American Heritage Commission pursuant to Standard Project Requirement CUL-2 in the CalVTP Program EIR. Pedestrian surveys are not included in this scope of work. Because the proposed project is assumed to be within the scope of the Program EIR, Native American consultation for Assembly Bill (AB) 52 compliance has been completed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and AB 52 support is not included in this scope of work.

Yuba FSC and the CEQA responsible agency will conduct two rounds of review (draft Addendum/PSA and draft final Addendum/PSA) before Ascent submits a final Addendum/PSA. The cost estimate also assumes Ascent will prepare a draft and final Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program by completing Attachment A to the PSA checklist template to identify the standard project requirements and mitigation measures applicable to the proposed treatment.

Deliverables

Every deliverable will be submitted only in electronic format (MS Word and PDF).

- ▲ Draft and Final Project Description
- ▲ Information required by SPR AD-7 (e.g., the SPR AD-7 form)
- ▲ Draft PSA/Addendum
- ▲ Draft final PSA/Addendum
- ▲ Final PSA/Addendum
- ▲ Draft Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
- ▲ Final Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Task 3: Decision Support

Because Yuba County is a responsible agency seeking to use the CalVTP Program EIR for CEQA review of the proposed treatment project, Ascent will also prepare draft and final Project-specific CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations by completing Attachment B to the PSA checklist template.

Upon approval of the project, Ascent will prepare a Notice of Determination for review and signature. Ascent will file the Notice of Determination with the Yuba County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse. County Clerk filing fees are included in Ascent's cost estimate. A California Department of Fish and Wildlife fee is not required for a within the scope finding.

To assist with tracking, reporting, and adaptively managing actions under the CalVTP, Ascent will submit the completed Addendum/PSA and associated geospatial data to CAL FIRE at the time the Notice of Determination is filed, pursuant to Standard Project Requirement AD-7.

Deliverables

- ▲ Draft project-specific CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations
- ▲ Final project-specific CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations
- ▲ Notice of Determination
- ▲ Information required by SPR AD-7 (submitted to CAL FIRE)

SCHEDULE

For each task, the time necessary to complete the task after completion of the preceding task is presented below. The enclosed scope of work can be completed approximately 14 weeks from notice to proceed (although possible delays in obtaining the cultural records search results may affect the schedule; see note below the schedule).

Milestone/Deliverable	Timing
Notice to Proceed	▶ TBD
Final Project Description	▶ Within 3 weeks
Draft Addendum/PSA to YWA	▶ Within 6 weeks*
Comments on Draft Addendum/PSA	▶ Within 2 weeks
Draft Final Addendum/PSA to YWA	▶ Within 2 weeks
Comments on Draft Final Addendum/PSA	▶ Within 1 week
Final Addendum/PSA	▶ Within 1 week
File NOD	▶ Within 5 days of project approval

* This timing could be affected by how long it takes to receive cultural records search results from the information center (the current estimate is 8 weeks). The request will be submitted as early as possible based on the entire approximately 15,000-acre area and does not need to wait until the project description is finalized. Another option could be to submit the draft Addendum/PSA without the cultural resources section to minimize schedule impacts from information center delays. The cultural resources section would be submitted separately after the records search results are received.

ATTACHMENT B

PRICE PROPOSAL

CEQA COMPLIANCE FOR THE YUBA ROADSIDE FUEL TREATMENT PROJECT

YUBA COUNTY

The proposed price for the Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project is presented on the enclosed spreadsheet.

Please note that the price is estimated based on a good faith effort and current understanding of the project needs of Yuba FSC. Variations in approach, issues, and deliverables can adjust the contract price. If this scope of work and price do not meet your expectations, Ascent is very interested in understanding Yuba FSC's needs and is willing to revise the scope and associated price.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. Time and Materials: Work is authorized on a time-and-materials basis and will be billed monthly.
2. Price Allocation to Tasks. The proposed price has been allocated to tasks. Ascent may reallocate budget among tasks, as needed, as long as the total contract price is not exceeded.
3. Staff Assignment. Work has been assigned to the identified staff or labor category. Ascent may reassign tasks to different staff or labor categories, as long as the total contract price is not exceeded.
4. Billing Rates. The proposed billing rates apply to the current calendar year. For work performed after this year has concluded, budget augmentations and contract amendments will be calculated using updated billing rates, unless precluded by contract terms.

PRICE PROPOSAL
Yuba Roadside Fuels Treatment Project CEQA

Task 1: Project Management and Meetings		Hourly rate:
	Price	Hours
Coordination Calls	\$ 5,110	24
Project Management	\$ 2,790	16
Subtotal, Task 1	\$ 7,900	40

Task 2: Addendum and PSA Preparation		Price	Hours
2.1 Draft Addendum/PSA		\$ 34,780	230
Project Description		\$ 3,010	18
Site Visit		\$ 4,800	32
Agency Coordination		\$ 1,520	6
2.2 Draft Final Addendum/PSA + Draft MMRP		\$ 9,200	56
2.3 Final Addendum/PSA + Final MMRP		\$ 4,035	22
Subtotal, Task 2	\$ 57,345	364	

Task 3: Decision Support		Price	Hours
NOD		\$ 660	4
Findings		\$ 1,535	9
Subtotal, Task 3	\$ 2,195	13	

LABOR SUBTOTAL	\$ 67,440	417
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REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES		Price	Hours
Printing		\$ -	4,500
County filing fee		\$ 50	
Mileage/Parking/Travel		\$ 250	
Postage		\$ -	
Field Equipment		\$ -	
Other (Cultural Records Search)		\$ 4,200	

TOTAL PRICE	\$ 71,940
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Project No: 2000080.00

PIC	PM	APM/Planner	Sr. Bio	Bio	Cultural	WQ/Soils	AQ/GHG	Planner	GIS	WP	Admin
#####	\$210	\$165	#####	#####	\$150	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####
4	10	10									6
4	20	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
4	16	30	14	38	40	20	16	40	6	6	
4	4	10							4		
		16		16							
2	4										
2	10	20	2	2	2	2	2	12		2	
1	6	14								1	
9	40	90	16	56	42	22	18	52	10	9	0
		4									
	2	6								1	
0	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
13	62	110	16	56	42	22	18	52	10	10	6
\$ 4,420	\$ 13,020	\$ 18,150	\$ 3,120	\$ 7,560	\$ 6,300	\$ 3,300	\$ 2,610	\$ 5,720	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,250	\$ 690

ASSUMPTIONS
Assumptions that explain the basis of the proposed price are enclosed and are an integral part of this proposed scope for work for services.