



**SONOMA ECOLOGY CENTER**

*Beautiful. Sustainable. Sonoma.*

Sonoma Valley

Emergency Watershed Protection Project

**Landowner Consent and Hold Harmless Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print full name), the legal owner, or having control or possession ("Landowner) of the property located at the following address in California, \_\_\_\_\_, (City), \_\_\_\_\_

("Subject Property") do hereby consent and authorize the Sonoma Ecology Center ("SEC"), and any designated staff and project volunteers, contractors, and subcontractors to enter the Subject Property and utilize the means that they deem appropriate to contain burnt debris and ash, including, but not limited to, placing erosion control materials such as sandbags and/or wattles, seed and/or loose straw around/near burnt areas of the Subject Property, and maintaining those materials as circumstances allow.

This activity will take place during the following timeframe: Winter/Spring of 2020/2021 and may require multiple visits.

SEC shall give Landowner reasonable notice for needed access. Reasonable notice may be given in person, by email, or by telephone. Any necessary arrangements are to be made with Landowner prior to each needed access, however, due to the urgency of protecting streams after the fires, it is understood that work may occur on Subject Property after reasonable attempts to contact Landowner have been unsuccessful. Therefore, Landowner acknowledges that work may occur on Subject Property at any time.

SEC will notify the Landowner when the work on Subject Property has been completed.

I hereby release and forever discharge SEC, its officers, directors, agents, employees, members, volunteers, heirs, administrators, successors and assigns from any and all causes of action, claims or demands which the Landowner may have against SEC in any way related to the containment of contaminated debris, the nuisance, or pollutant at the Subject Property.

I acknowledge that SEC and their representatives assume no responsibility for any personal property.

I acknowledge that pollutant management and containment, including but not limited to, sandbagging, placing wattles, seed and loose straw, is a proactive and preventative measure, to prevent debris or runoff from migrating into the watershed, ultimately, protecting the health of the Watershed in Sonoma Valley, and that my consent granted hereby is freely given, without any duress or coercion.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

Directions & Access, Details, as needed: \_\_\_\_\_

List of structures (e.g. house, barn, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Distance to nearest swale or waterway (seasonal or year-round): \_\_\_\_\_

Terrain (e.g. easy to walk/mostly flat, mild slope, very steep): \_\_\_\_\_

Sonoma Ecology Center is a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code. Federal EIN# 94-3136500



## FOR LANDOWNERS OF BURNED STRUCTURES AND/OR VEHICLES Emergency Watershed Protection

### WHY

Houses and structures that burned in the recent fires have left behind toxic ash and debris that includes sulfates, nitrates, asbestos, and heavy metals. This toxic waste can spread across land and wash into our waterways during heavy rains, so keeping the ash and debris in place until it can be properly removed is very important to watershed health, wildlife, and public safety.

Government agencies and private contractors are required to follow established procedures for removing toxic ash and debris from burned sites with structures and vehicles. It is a complex multi-step process that won't be complete before heavy rains come this winter.

### WHAT

SEC is engaging landowners, volunteers, and donors to strategically protect local streams and public health by installing containment materials around burned structures and vehicles to contain toxic ash and prevent runoff into yards and streams.

**Prioritize:** SEC is using maps and science to prioritize and sequence the work, targeting first the sites where structures and/or vehicles burned in close proximity to creeks and fish-bearing streams.

**Assess:** SEC staff will assess the site and determine which containment and protection methods to use. More than one method may be used on a single site.

**Install:** Materials may include sandbags, rice straw-filled wattles, and/or loose straw. Wattles and sandbags are placed immediately around the burned structures and vehicles, to contain toxics. Straw is placed next to the wattles and other disturbed soil. We may include additional erosion control measures. Please note, toxic containment is the first priority, followed potentially by general erosion control.

**Maintain:** Wattles and sandbags need maintenance to remain effective throughout the rainy season. SEC staff will periodically inspect, repair and/or replace materials as needed.

**Remove:** Sandbags and wattles used for toxic containment must be removed along with other toxic waste when either the Army Corps of Engineers or the private debris removal contractor completes that work.

***\*Make sure the debris removal contractor removes all containment materials and installs new erosion control materials to protect your property following debris removal and excavation of contaminated soil. Follow-up erosion control materials should include: straw, hydro-mulch, and wattles or silt fence.***

### YOUR CONTRIBUTION

- Please complete the Landowner consent form and include as much detail as possible to help our crews to safely access and complete work on your property.
- Let your neighbors know about our services. Help us reach displaced landowners.
- More volunteers are needed to help. Email [firerecovery@sonomaecologycenter.org](mailto:firerecovery@sonomaecologycenter.org) with your interest.
- SEC is seeking additional contributions to complete emergency watershed protection as quickly as possible. To contribute, please visit <https://www.sonomaecologycenter.org/sonoma-valley-fires-fund/>.

For questions about the consent form or about the protection materials installed on your property, please email [firerecovery@sonomaecologycenter.org](mailto:firerecovery@sonomaecologycenter.org) or call 707- 996-0712.

P.O. Box 1486  
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