STATEMENT OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES (SOPO)

Advanced Wildfire Mitigation Solutions

A. OBJECTIVES

This project seeks to deploy a suite of advanced wildfire risk mitigation technologies within utilities facing wildfire risk challenges, and to serve as a catalyst for widespread adoption of similar technologies across the western United States. To support this overall objective, a coalition of utilities, service providers, technology providers, academic institutions, and national labs has been assembled to achieve the following goals:

- Accelerate the deployment of advanced wildfire risk mitigation technologies - particularly among smaller, publicly owned utilities in the western united states - by demonstrating success and reducing technology risk perceptions.
- Reduce the probability and consequence of ignitions from utility equipment failures, or from contact between utility equipment and vegetation or other materials.
- Improve utility situational awareness, particularly in high fire threat areas.
- Reduce outage frequencies and durations.
- Improve community awareness of the actions being taken within this project, and where they fit within the context of the full suite of fire mitigations deployed by utilities.
- Increase awareness and communication with communities through direct engagement and support for specific actions that can be taken to increase wildfire resilience.

B. SCOPE OF WORK

The project has been divided into two parallel workstreams: (1) Utility Technology Deployments; and (2) Community Engagement. UMS Group will support all tasks associated with the first workstream, while a Community Engagement Workstream Lead will be the primary coordinator and executor of tasks associated with the second workstream. The Utility Technology Deployments workstream includes additional support provided by the Recipient to each Subrecipient utility to identify and implement opportunities to align the utility's wildfire risk mitigation strategy with leading practices from around the world. This additional support is provided at the utility's request and based on individual needs.

The project will proceed as an annual cycle that includes Initial Planning (Tasks 2 and 3), Execution (Task 5), Continuous Sharing of Lessons Learned (Tasks 4 and 6), and finally Annual Reviews (Tasks 7 and 8) to assess performance and provide guidance for the following year's activities.

C. TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

Task 1.0 – Project Management and Planning

Subtask 1.1 – Project Management Plan (PMP): Within 30 days of award, the Recipient shall submit a Project Management Plan (PMP) to the designated Federal Project Officer (FPO). The Recipient shall not proceed beyond Task 1.0 until the PMP has been accepted by the FPO.

The PMP shall be revised and resubmitted as often as necessary, during the course of the project, to capture any major/significant changes to the planned approach, budget, key personnel, major resources, etc.

The Recipient shall manage and direct the project in accordance with the accepted PMP to meet all technical, schedule and budget objectives and requirements. The Recipient will coordinate activities to effectively accomplish the work. The Recipient will ensure that project plans, results, and decisions are appropriately documented, and that project reporting and briefing requirements are satisfied.

Subtask 1.2 – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance: As required, the Recipient shall provide the documentation necessary for NEPA compliance.

Subtask 1.3 – Cybersecurity Plan (CSP): The CSP shall be revised and resubmitted as often as necessary, during the course of the project, to capture any major/significant changes.

Subtask 1.4 – Continuation Briefing(s): The Recipient will brief DOE on roughly an annual basis to explain the plans, progress and results of the technical effort. The briefing shall also describe performance relative to project success criteria, milestones, and the Go/No-Go Decision point that are documented in the Project Management Plan (PMP).

Task 2.0 – Utility Baseline Assessments & Technology Deployment Planning *(Year 1 Only)*

Subtask 2.1 – **WMP Reviews & Key Personnel Interviews:** The Recipient will review each Subrecipient utility's most recent Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP), if available, and conduct virtual interviews with key personnel to assess their overall wildfire risk mitigation strategy.

Subtask 2.2 – SWOT Analysis: The Recipient will conduct a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat (SWOT) analysis for each Subrecipient utility in relation to their wildfire risk mitigation strategy, with the goal of identifying opportunities for foundational improvements.

Subtask 2.3 – Set Annual Improvement Goals: Recipient will develop a set of recommendations to improve each Subrecipient utility's wildfire risk mitigation strategy.

Subtask 2.4 – Set Annual Technology Implementation Targets: Working directly with each Subrecipient utility, and utilizing the information gleaned in subtasks 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3, Recipient will assist the utility with selecting a suite of advanced technologies that specifically address their needs and provide maximum benefits while remaining within the Subrecipients budget allocation for the year. Each utility will set a target number of deployments (hardware) and/or target scope/scale of deployment within the organization (software).

Subtask 2.5 – Develop and Finalize Annual Workplan, Including Success Metrics: Recipient will work directly with each Subrecipient utility to develop and finalize a detailed annual work plan, which describes the utility's goals for the year, including the improvements documented in Subtask 2.3 and technology deployments documented in Subtask 2.4. Furthermore, Recipient and Subrecipient utility will collaborate to define quantifiable annual success metrics for each goal, such as "cumulative percentage of target sensors deployed".

Task 3.0 – Community Engagement Planning

Subtask 3.1 – Annual Utility Workplan Review: Community Benefits Workstream Lead will meet with each Subrecipient utility to review the Annual Utility Workplan from Subtask 2.5, with the goal of analyzing and identifying potential impacts and benefits to local communities.

Subtask 3.2 – Disadvantaged Community (DAC) and Vulnerable Population Identification: Community Benefits Workstream Lead will work with each Subrecipient utility and local

community organizations to identify and map Disadvantaged Communities and other vulnerable populations (such as customers that depend on power for certain medical needs) located in areas of the utility service territory where advanced technologies may be deployed.

Subtask 3.3 – Develop Community Engagement & Preparedness Annual Workplan: Community Benefits Workstream Lead will work with each Subrecipient utility and local community benefits organizations to develop and finalize a comprehensive Annual Community Engagement & Preparedness Plan. The plan will include baseline information sharing activities (e.g., workshops) that will be conducted within each Subrecipient utility service territory, as well as targeted initiatives and activities that support specific community goals or address known gaps in the utility's existing community engagement strategy.

Task 4.0 – Coalition Sharing of Lessons Learned

Subtask 4.1 – Platform Identification: Recipient will research and select a platform for compiling lessons learned throughout the project and sharing within the coalition.

Subtask 4.2 – Development & Testing: Recipient will develop the lessons learned database and conduct testing to ensure it meets the needs of the coalition.

Subtask 4.3 – Platform Access, Communication, and Training: Recipient will provide access to the lessons learned database to members of the coalition, develop training materials and user guides, and ensure coalition members are aware of the database and its overall purpose.

Subtask 4.4 – Ongoing Maintenance: For the duration of the project, Recipient will update and maintain the lessons learned database to ensure usability and continued delivery of value to members of the coalitions. Recipient will implement upgrades and refinements as needed.

Subtask 4.5 – Regional GRIP Funding Annual Symposium: Grid Forward will organize an annual gathering to convene those working on solutions related to grid systems that address wildfire threats. The gathering will bring together project partners from federally funded efforts, alongside other industry parties including community-based organizations and community groups, to share lessons and best practices from these critical projects.

Task 5.0 - Utility Annual Workplan Execution

Subtask 5.1 – Execute Community Engagement & Preparedness Workplan: Community Engagement Workstream Lead will work with Subrecipient utilities and local community partners to execute the Community Engagement & Preparedness Workplan (Subtask 3.3).

Subtask 5.2 – Execute Wildfire Mitigation Program Foundational Improvements: Subrecipient utilities will work together with Recipient to make foundational improvements to their wildfire risk mitigation program, including enhancements that support the effective integration of new technologies and data streams into existing operating processes.

Subtask 5.3 – Execute Annual Technology Deployment Workplan: Subrecipient utilities will work together with technology providers to deploy the technologies identified in Task 2.0 and in accordance with the Annual Workplan developed in Subtask 2.5. They will also work to address additional areas of their wildfire mitigation strategy where opportunities were identified in Subtask 2.3, with support from Recipient as needed.

Task 6.0 – Quarterly Coalition Status Meetings

Subtask 6.1 – Quarterly Status Meeting Documentation Template Preparation: Recipient will develop a template for documenting outcomes from quarterly status meetings.

Subtask 6.2 – Quarterly Status Meeting Scheduling: Recipient will schedule quarterly status meetings with the coalition members at the start of each project year.

Subtask 6.3 – Quarterly Status Meetings: Recipient will facilitate a virtual meeting with all members of the coalition, where each subrecipient is invited to share their progress, experiences, challenges, and successes in deploying advanced mitigation technologies and addressing other areas of their wildfire risk mitigation strategies. Non-utility partners of the coalition will weigh in with their experiences and subject matter expertise to qualify the issues presented during the meeting and identify potential remedies for any challenges reported.

Subtask 6.4 – Quarterly Status Meeting Follow-Up Communications and Action Items: Recipient will compile notes and key takeaways from each quarterly status meeting and disseminate to the coalition. Action Items for specific coalition members will be noted, and Recipient will follow-up with those assigned to each Action Item to ensure timely completion.

Task 7.0 - Utility Wildfire Mitigation Year-End Assessments

Subtask 7.1 – Key Personnel Interviews & Lessons Learned: Recipient will meet with each Subrecipient utility to discuss key learnings from Task 5.

Subtask 7.2 – Annual Performance Assessment: Recipient will assemble a report containing data on each success metric included in each Subrecipient utility Annual Workplan. Metric performance will be reviewed with representatives from each Subrecipient utility.

Subtask 7.3 – Compile & Review Recommendations for Following Year: Using the information gleaned in Subtasks 7.1 and 7.2, Recipient will compile a list of recommendations around wildfire mitigation strategies/activities and technology deployments that should be prioritized or executed differently in the following year by each Subrecipient utility.

Subtask 7.4 – Finalize Following Year Annual Workplan: Recipient will work with each Subrecipient utility to produce the annual workplan for all improvement and technology deployment activities to be completed in the following year, as described in Subtask 2.5.

Task 8.0 - Community Engagement Year-End Assessments

Subtask 8.1 – Key Personnel Interviews & Lessons Learned: Community Benefits Workstream Lead will meet with each Subrecipient utility to discuss key learnings from yearly activities in support of the Community Engagement & Preparedness Workplan.

Subtask 8.2 – Annual Performance Assessment: Community Benefits Workstream Lead will assemble a report containing data on each success metric included in each Subrecipient utility Annual Community Engagement Workplan. The performance achieved on each metric will be reviewed and discussed with representatives from each Subrecipient utility.

Subtask 8.3 – Compile Community Engagement Recommendations for Following Year: Using information gleaned in Subtasks 8.1 and 8.2, Community Benefits Workstream Lead will compile recommendations for each Subrecipient utility related to community engagement activities that should be prioritized or executed differently in the following year.

Subtask 8.4 - Finalize Following Year Annual Community Engagement Plan: Community Benefits Workstream Lead will work with each Subrecipient utility to produce the annual Community Engagement & Preparedness workplan for the following year (see Subtask 3.3).

D. DELIVERABLES

Subtask 1.1 – Project Management Plan

Subtask 1.3 – Cybersecurity Plan

Subtask 1.4 – Pre-Continuation Briefing Document(s)

Subtask 2.2 – SWOT Analysis

Subtask 2.5 – Baseline Annual Technology Implementation and Wildfire Mitigation Workplan

Subtask 3.3 – Baseline Annual Community Engagement & Preparedness Workplan

Subtask 4.3 – Lessons Learned Database Platform and User Guides

Subtask 6.1 – Quarterly Status Meeting Documentation Template

Subtask 6.4 – Quarterly Status Meeting Notes and Action Items

Subtask 7.4 – Community Engagement Performance Assessment and Recommendations Report

Subtask 7.4 – Year-Ahead Technology Implementation and Wildfire Mitigation Workplan

Subtask 8.3 – Utility Wildfire Mitigation Performance Assessment and Recommendations Report

Subtask 8.4 – Year-Ahead Community Engagement & Preparedness Workplan

In addition to the deliverables listed above, the Recipient shall submit all periodic, topical, final, and other reports in accordance with the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist and accompanying instructions.

E. BRIEFINGS/TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

The Recipient shall prepare, and present periodic briefings, technical presentations and demonstrations as requested by the Federal Project Officer, which may be held at a DOE or the Recipient's facility, other mutually agreeable location, or via webinar. Such meetings may include all or a combination of the following:

Kickoff Briefing - Not more than 30 days after submission of the Project Management Plan, the Recipient shall prepare and present a project summary briefing as part of a Project Kickoff Meeting.

Pre-Continuation Briefing - Not less than 90 days prior to the planned start of a budget period, the Recipient shall brief the DOE on the results to date, and their plans for the subsequent periods of work. The DOE will consider the information from this briefing, as well as the content of deliverables submitted to date, prior to authorizing continuing the project.

Final Project Briefing - At least 30 days prior to the end of the project, the Recipient shall prepare and present a Final Project Briefing on the results and accomplishments of the entire project.

Other Briefings - The Recipient shall prepare and present technical, financial, and/or administrative briefings as requested by the DOE. Additionally, the DOE may require Recipients to make technical presentations at national and/or industry conferences.