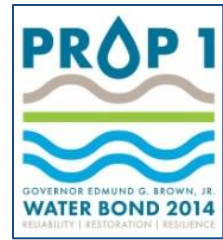




Frequently Asked Questions
Proposition 1
Watershed Restoration &
Delta Water Quality and
Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs
July 30, 2015



Q1: What is the anticipated timeline for the final guidelines, solicitation release, and application submission?

A1: The [Proposition 1 Grant Program Final Guidelines](#) were approved in June 2015. CDFW currently anticipates release of the Final Proposal Solicitation Notice for Fiscal Year 15/16 (Solicitation) in early-August 2015, and proposal applications will be accepted for six weeks. Following the proposal review period, grants will be awarded in late-2015 or early-2016, with grant execution approximately six months from award.

Q2: Will there be a percentage required for matching funds or is this still being determined?

A2: There is not a matching funds requirement for CDFW's Proposition 1 Proposal Solicitation Notice for Fiscal Year 2015/2016. However, proposed projects that leverage other cost share funds, either state or non-state, will receive additional points during technical review (see page 28 of the draft Solicitation).

Q3: Is there information available about specific grant possibilities or a central control address for grant idea proposals?

A3: The Department is seeking proposals that address the priority areas listed in the draft Solicitation (starting on page 3). More specific information about grant possibilities is not available. Grant idea proposals (or concept proposals) will not be accepted for this solicitation cycle.

Q4: What is the maximum performance period for completion of projects?

A4: Typical project terms will be for three years, with a possibility of extending to a maximum of five years. In general, projects should be developed with a three year completion schedule.

Q5: Can a proposal include both acquisition and implementation? Or acquisition and planning?

A5: Proposals for acquisition projects should be standalone. Acquisitions are typically exempt under CEQA unless the only reason for acquiring the property, or at least a major one, is to do some work on it. Acquisition should not be combined with

implementation because the implementation component of the proposal may complicate the exemption. Similarly, acquisitions should not be combined with planning because a property cannot be acquired until CEQA has been completed for the planned future use.

To provide some additional information on combination of proposal categories: Although the Watershed Restoration Grant Program will not be funding proposals for which the primary intent is to conduct Scientific Studies, Monitoring, and Assessment; proposals for Planning, Implementation, and Acquisition projects under this program may include scientific studies, monitoring, and assessment tasks as part of the proposal's performance evaluation plan (i.e., as a lesser component). Refer to Section 3.10 (Performance Evaluation) of the draft Solicitation for additional information regarding the requirement that each proposal include a performance evaluation plan describing how success of the project will be evaluated. CDFW will not award implementation grants until the lead agency has completed CEQA/NEPA compliance for the project (see pages 9-10 of the draft Solicitation).

Q6: Can federal agencies ultimately own, manage and steward a property acquired with these funds?

A6: Yes, properties acquired with Proposition 1 funds by an eligible entity can be transferred to a federal agency to own, manage, and steward.

Q7: 3.4 California Conservation Corps- how is *ecosystem protection* defined for the purposes of these programs?

A7: Ecosystem protection has not been specifically defined. The California Conservation Corps and California Association of Local Conservation Corps are reviewing all projects, with the exception of planning and acquisition projects, to determine whether or not aspects of the projects are within their capabilities. The California Conservation Corps website includes a Fact Sheet with a list of examples of work they can do (see link on the right hand side of the page) :
<http://www.ccc.ca.gov/work/programs/prop1/Pages/default.aspx>

Q8: Are acquisition projects subject to the same project performance (compliance and effectiveness) requirements outlined in the program on p. 10-12?

A8: Each proposal, regardless of category or program (i.e., Planning, Implementation, Acquisition, or Scientific Studies, Monitoring, and Assessment), must describe the means by which project performance will be evaluated. Please note that the primary purpose for proposals submitted under the Watershed Restoration Grant Program may not be for Scientific Studies, Monitoring, and Assessment, but proposals for this program may include scientific studies, monitoring, and assessment tasks as part of the proposal's performance evaluation plan (i.e., as a lesser component). It is recognized that the approach to performance evaluation may vary across, as well as within, proposal categories. The scope and nature of the monitoring and evaluation program

should be commensurate with the type, objectives, scale, level of uncertainty, complexity, etc. of the proposal. Such factors will provide context within which the proposed monitoring and assessment approach will be evaluated during the technical review process.

Q9: I'm wondering if you can help me understand the scoring criteria for Leveraged Funding on page 28. I think you said that you're looking for projects to match other state funding, which the criteria reflects.

As I read it, to score the most points, project proponents will need greater than 40% from other state sources, plus greater than 40% from non-state sources, leaving less than 20% from this funding source.

So is the ideal situation for this program to fund less than 20% of a project? WCB has the same criteria in their stream flow solicitation, which means that one would need 3 state funding sources to score well on this criteria (if applying to both of these programs). That seems like quite a challenge.

A9: Although the Technical Review Criteria for Leveraged Funding (Table 3, Criteria 12 and 13) indicate that proposals will need greater than 40% state and non-state funding to receive the maximum points, this is not an effort to only fund 20% of a project. Rather, all proposals will receive points based on the amount of state and non-state cost share that they have secured, and the total scores of all proposals will be ranked competitively. It is not a requirement for a proposal to receive the maximum points on these criteria.

Q10: Under the planning category, with consideration of draft solicitation language that states "these efforts may include implementation strategy development," would CDFW consider a watershed master plan that will lead to implementation including prioritization as an eligible project proposal?

A10: Planning proposals that address the priorities eligible for funding (starting on page 3 of the draft Solicitation) will be considered.

Q11: In the Watershed Restoration Grant Program, five funding priorities are described. Will all of these priority types be competing against each other or will projects compete with other projects within a specific category?

A11: CDFW is seeking a diversity of projects that encompass the priorities for this Solicitation. In selecting project awards, CDFW will consider proposal review scores and comments, amount of funds available, and distribution of funding among priorities considered in the Solicitation (See Section 2 Focus and Section 6.3 Selection Panel Review).

Q12: Are projects that are not part of the CWAP eligible for funding if those projects are part of another statewide plan, such as the Wildlife Action Plan?

A12: Yes, projects that are not part of the CWAP are eligible for funding provided that they are consistent with non-CWAP priorities in the Solicitation (see Section 2.1 Priorities Eligible for funding). See Technical Review Criteria 3 and 4 for how this affects proposal scoring.

Q13: Leveraged funding - The challenge with this criterion lies in different funding cycles and award timelines for other state agencies. Is it possible to assign points for projects that have submitted or are planning to submit for an upcoming grant deadline?

A13: To be considered eligible, other state funds and non-state cost share must be secured prior to grant award. Grant awards will be made in late-2015 or early-2016.

Q14. How is the 'Delta' defined spatially?

A14. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) means the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as defined in CWC §12220 and the Suisun Marsh as defined in Public Resources Code §29101(CWC §79702[e])

Q15. Can Federal agencies be subcontractors?

A15. Yes, Federal agencies can be subcontractors. It is the responsibility of the applicant to comply with all applicable laws and regulations for their projects, including the applicant's institutional requirements for selection of subcontractors.

Q16. I have reviewed many grant applications in the past and have never seen a requirement to consult with the California Conservation Corps. It appears that it should be the first step (unless the application is for planning only).

A16. The requirement to consult with the California Conservation Corps and a certified local conservation corps is specific to Prop 1 and can be found at California Water Code §79734.

Q17. Would it be possible to get a copy of the Solicitation in MS Word. We'd like to work on the application in Word before transferring the data to the online application.

A17. A copy of the Proposal Application will be provided in Rich Text Format when the Final Solicitation is released in August 2015. This will allow applicants to fill out the application before transferring the data to the online application.

Q18. Will projects with 60% design be eligible for implementation funding (i.e. will implementation funding allow for inclusion of permitting and final design costs)?

A18. Provided that CEQA has been completed, implementation proposals may include final design and permitting as lesser components. If permits are to be obtained for a proposed project, a complete description of the permits needed and a timeline for obtaining them must be included in the application.

Q19: Why is a proposal which includes multiple small-scale projects considered a single project under CEQA? Since multiple small-scale projects bundled into a single proposal would likely be required to prepare a mitigated negative declaration under CEQA, is it okay to submit a single small-scale project as a stand-alone proposal if it would qualify for a categorical exemption under CEQA?

A19: Applicants may submit a single small-scale project as a stand-alone proposal, indicating in the Proposal Application Form that the project qualifies for a categorical exemption from CEQA. However, if in response to a proposal bundling multiple actions CDFW were to make a single decision to fund a group of actions, the grant would presume and require that all actions must be implemented. Thus those component actions would be inter-related and foreseeable, and CDFW's commitment would be to support all of the component actions. If no previous environmental review has occurred, CDFW's funding decision must consider the "whole of the action" that is supported by CDFW's approval. Therefore, the CDFW must consider a proposal including multiple component actions as a single project for CEQA purposes.

Q20: I am preparing to submit a Prop 1 proposal and have contacted the CCC and CALCC as required. Both have responded and have agreed to participate in our proposal. How do I figure out and include costs for the CCC in the budget that will be submitted in the proposal?

A20: Upon receiving confirmation from the CCC and/or CALCC that they will participate in a proposed project, the applicant should work with the CCC and/or CALCC coordinator(s) to develop an estimate for time and cost of services for the proposal budget.