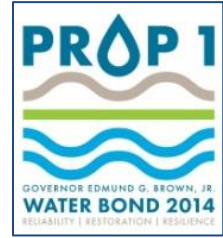




**Frequently Asked Questions**  
Proposition 1  
Watershed Restoration &  
Delta Water Quality and  
Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs  
June 21, 2016



**Q1: Is a Planning project limited to the development of a single Implementation project, or can it result in more than one Implementation project?**

A1: Planning projects can lead to a future specific Implementation project or set of projects. Please see *Section 2.2 Project Categories* in the Solicitation for further information.

**Q2: The Solicitation states that grant agreements be executed in May of 2017. Is there any leeway with the start date of a grant agreement?**

A2: Grant agreements are anticipated to be executed as early as May 2017; however, they will not be executed earlier than that timeframe. It is possible to start a project later than May 2017; however, that would be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**Q3: Can you confirm whether or not our project is exempt from CEQA?**

A3: CDFW Grant Program Staff cannot make that determination. It is the responsibility of the applicant to check with the appropriate entity(ies) to ensure their proposed project is CEQA compliant, if applicable.

**Q4: We are not sure who should be the lead agency for CEQA. Will CDFW be the lead agency for my project?**

A4: It is the applicant's responsibility to coordinate with potential lead agencies and determine CEQA lead agency. CDFW Grant Program staff cannot assist in CEQA coordination.

**Q5: Our proposed project includes no field work and thus is exempt from consultation with the California Conservation Corps. Do we need to take any further action?**

A5: All applicants must submit a completed *Attachment 5: California Conservation Corps Consultation Form*, even if your project is identified as exempt from consultation. Please read the form and check the appropriate box(es).

**Q6: Is baseline monitoring considered “on-the-ground work” and do we need Land Tenure/Site Control documentation from private or public property landowners?**

A6: Yes; baseline monitoring is considered “on-the-ground work”, and you must provide written permission from the landowner(s) authorizing access to their property for relevant Project activities. When an applicant does not have written permission at time of proposal submission, but intends to establish it via an agreement that will be signed prior to grant execution, the applicant must submit a template copy of the proposed permission form at the time of proposal submission. Please see *Section 3.7 Land Tenure/Site Control* in the Solicitation for more information.

**Q7: Should we scan and upload our “Permission to Access Land” forms signed by private landowners? What about draft conservation easements? If so where do they go?**

A7: Yes; you can upload these forms through FFAST, under the *Attachment 12: Land Tenure/Site Control Documentation* category.

**Q8: Our project includes many private landowners’ names and addresses, more than will fit within the space provided to answer *Question 3.1 Landowners Granting Access for Project*. Can we provide this information as an uploaded document under the *Attachment 12 – Land Tenure/Site Control Documentation*?**

A8: Yes. You should address this upload in your response to Question 3.1 Landowners Granting Access for Project in the application questionnaire. Uploading this form in the *Attachment 12: Land Tenure/Site Control Documentation* category is suitable.

**Q9: The Subcontractor budget template does not include Budget Category C “Operating Expenses: Subcontractors.” Is there a restriction on subcontracting for subcontractors?**

A9: There is no restriction. If your subcontractors have their own subcontractors, that information can be added to the Subcontract Budget worksheet within *Attachment 4, Budget Tables*.

**Q10: Does the *Attachment 2: Project Narrative* page limit (20 pages) include tables/figures/graphics/pictures?**

A10: The 20-page limit for the Project Narrative is specific to narrative text. Tables, figures, graphics, and pictures exceeding the 20-page limit can be included and referenced (e.g., Figure 1, Table 1, etc.) within the document.

**Q11. Can the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provide letters of support for proposed projects?**

A11. To avoid conflicts of interest, CDFW is not able to write letters of support for proposals submitted for Proposition 1 funding, including those grant programs administered by CDFW as well as other agencies (e.g., Coastal Conservancy, Delta Conservancy, and Wildlife Conservation Board).

**Q12. Can CDFW provide a letter documenting previous involvement and/or a commitment to future involvement in a project?**

A12. CDFW is not able to write letters documenting previous involvement or a commitment to future involvement in a project for submittal with a Proposition 1 application. However, the applicant can, as relevant, describe such involvement in applicable fields of the application. For example, if CDFW provided funding to the applicant to implement a prior phase of the project, that action should be described in Question 6.2, Previous Projects in the Application. If CDFW has awarded funding or committed to providing in-kind support to a current or future phase of the project that would be spent between the anticipated grant award date and the end of the proposed project term, such resources should be represented in Attachment 4, Budget Tables – Cost Share Table. Depending upon the circumstances, the Project History / Need for CDFW Funds section of Attachment 2, Project Narrative might also be an appropriate venue to describe CDFW’s past, current, or future involvement. These are provided as

examples; other fields in the application may be applicable based on the project specific circumstances.

**Q13: Is it possible to get a copy of a previously submitted proposal that was funded in the previous Prop 1 Solicitation to gain a better understanding of the detail needed for successful proposal?**

A13: Proposals are available to the public upon request. To request a copy of a proposal, please contact CDFW via [WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov). Note the Solicitation and application templates have changed from Fiscal Year 2015-16 and will likely change with future funding rounds.

**Q14: Can an eligible applicant submit more than one proposal in response to the Solicitation?**

A14: Yes. Each submitted proposal will be evaluated based on its individual merit.

**Q15: Can a single proposal be submitted for more than one project type, e.g., both planning and implementation?**

A15: No. A proposal must be submitted to one project type.

**Q16: Is there a maximum or minimum dollar amount a proposal can request for funding?**

A16: No, there is no maximum or minimum grant amount that can be requested by an applicant. However, the amount of funds available under the current Solicitation is limited.

**Q17: Is there a percentage of this round of funding that will go to Planning vs. Implementation proposals?**

A17: No. A funding breakdown by project category has not been predetermined.

**Q18: Can a single Acquisition proposal include multiple acquisitions or easements of non-contiguous parcels?**

A18: Yes, if the acquisitions or easements of non-contiguous parcels fit within the project's stated goals and objectives and are logically part of one project.

**Q19: Can a proposal be submitted for both the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Restoration Grant Programs?**

A19: No. Each proposal can be submitted to either the Delta or Watershed program, but not to both programs.

**Q20: Is cost share or match required?**

A20: No. Neither cost share nor match is required. However, points will be awarded in the Technical Review scaled on the amount of cost share/match relative to the total project cost. Please see *Section 3.8* and *number 13 in Table 4: Technical Review Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Standards* from the Solicitation for more information and scoring criteria for Cost Share.

**Q21: Can Federal Agencies apply for these grants?**

A21: No, federal agencies do not represent an eligible applicant, as defined in Proposition 1, and therefore cannot apply for grants under the Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs. However, federal entities can work as a subcontractor to a grantee under a Proposition 1 funded grant project.

**Q22: Are Reclamation Districts and/or Ports eligible as public entities to apply for a grant funding under Prop 1?**

A22: Proposition 1 defines 'eligible applicants' as "public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, and mutual water companies" (California Water Code [CWC] §79712[a]). 'Public agency' is further defined as "a state agency or department, special district, joint powers authority, city, county, city and county, or other political subdivision of the state" (CWC §79702[s])

Reclamation Districts are eligible. If the Port meets the Proposition 1 definition of an 'eligible applicant', it is eligible as well.

**Q23: Can an applicant partner with a private consultant to submit a proposal?**

A23: A private entity cannot apply for a grant, but can perform work as a subcontractor to the Grantee. Private entities can also assist an applicant in the preparation of a proposal. Only one entity may act as an applicant and Grantee, if awarded. Please refer to eligible applicant types in *Section 3.1 Eligibility* of the Solicitation for further details.

**Q24: The proposal asks for both a Federal Tax ID number (FEIN) and for a 501(c) 3 number for non-profit organizations. We don't seem to have a separate 501(c) 3 number. How should I answer the second question?**

A24: There is not a separate number for 501(c) 3 entities in addition to the Federal Tax ID (FEIN). Please provide your FEIN in both places of the proposal application, if applicable.

**Q25: We are considering applying now for a planning project, and later an implementation project. When will the Solicitation for the next round of grant funding be released?**

A25: CDFW anticipates releasing a new Solicitation each fiscal year, upon passage of the State Budget Act for that year. CDFW anticipates releasing the fiscal year 2017-18 Solicitation sometime in summer 2017.

**Q26: If we are awarded funding under this Solicitation, when can our project start?**

A26: CDFW anticipates executing grant agreements approximately six months following grant award which is expected to be around May 2017. Work performed prior to the start date of a grant agreement will not be eligible for reimbursement under this award. Please see *Table 1: Proposal Solicitation Process and Anticipated Schedule* on Page 3 of the Solicitation for details on the timeline.

**Q27: Do I need to upload engineering design drawings, basic sketch drawings, or maps for a project that doesn't involve actual construction?**

A27: Location and project specific maps are required; refer to the relevant section of the FAAST application for additional specifications regarding these graphics. It is not necessary to provide engineering drawings for a project that does not involve construction or physical modification of the habitat.

**Q28: Can projects required as mitigation or other compliance obligations be considered for funding?**

A28: No, funding cannot be used for projects that are undertaken to meet required environmental mitigation measures or compliance, with the exception noted below. California Water Code Section 79737(f) states “[f]unds provided by this section shall only be used for projects that will provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits or improvements that are greater than required applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations, except for any water transfers for the benefit of subsection (d) of Section 3406 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Title 34 of Public Law 102-575).” Please see the Solicitation *Sections 1.1 Grant Program Requirements* and *3.3 Environmental Compliance and Permitting* for further clarification.

**Q29: Can a proposal cover acquisition easements that are specific to habitat conservation for HCPs/NCCPs?**

A29: Yes, if the funds are not used for mitigation obligations or projects that are required under an enforcement action by a regulatory agency.

**Q30: We have a project that is in the 30% design phase with a goal of having the design and permitting completed by spring 2017. Is it possible to apply now for an implementation grant through Prop 1 for the construction phase next summer?**

A30: Yes, with the caveat that CEQA/NEPA compliance must be completed prior to grant execution (anticipated to occur within 6 months of award). Please refer to *Section 2.2 Project Categories* and *Section 3.3 Environmental Compliance and Permitting* of the Solicitation for further guidance on implementation projects and the timing of relevant tasks.

**Q31: Can we include on-the-ground baseline monitoring in a planning project to enable us to measure impact of a future implementation project (following phase)?**

A31: Yes. Please see instructions for the *Approach and Statement of Work* section of Attachment 2 – Project Narrative within the Application. In addition, refer to *number 8b in Table 4: Technical Review Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Standards* of the Solicitation for how this topic is taken into consideration during technical review.

**Q32: Can I interpret Protect and Restore Coastal Wetland Ecosystems to include watersheds located on the Coastal Range?**

A32: Only if those watersheds drain into the ocean. Watersheds located on the Coastal Range that do not drain into the ocean do not qualify under this priority.

**Q33: Does this request for Proposals include watersheds outside of the Delta?**

A33: Yes, the **Watershed Restoration Grant Program** has a statewide scope. For proposals under the **Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program**, the project must benefit the Delta. The scope for each Program is further defined by the Project Categories and Funding Priorities identified in the Solicitation. Please see *Section 1.1 Grant Program Requirements*, *Section 2.1 Funding Priorities by Program*, and *Section 2.2 Project Categories* of the Solicitation for more information.

**Q34: Is there a template in Microsoft Word for the Questionnaire portion of the Proposal Application?**

A34: A Rich Text Format (RTF) version of the Application has been uploaded to the [Proposition 1 Restoration Grants web page](#) and can be opened with Microsoft Word. However, note that all applications must be submitted through the FFAST system.

**Q35: Will the California Conservation Corps (CCC) be a part of our proposed budget?**

A35: If the CCC or a Certified Community Conservation Corps determines that their participation in the proposed project is feasible, estimated costs for their involvement must be included under C. Operating Expenses: Subcontractors of the Applicant Budget



and a breakdown of those costs must be provided in the Subcontract Budget. Note that a separate subcontract budget sheet must be included for each subcontractor. Refer to the Instructions for Attachment 4 – Budget Tables within the application.

**Q36: Is our CCC consultation from last year still valid for the same project submitted to this years' Solicitation?**

A36: No. Consultations completed in association with prior Proposition 1 Solicitations, administered by CDFW or other agencies, are not valid for the current Solicitation. The California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps resources and availability will vary, thus requiring a new consultation for this Solicitation.

**Q37: Do the monitoring requirements for acquisition projects ever rise to the level of “field work”, for example: ecological and water quality monitoring during the three-year term of the project, therefore requiring a CCC consultation?**

A37: If you are uncertain, it is advisable to complete the California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps consultation process to determine if their participation is feasible.

**Q38: If our project has already received Proposition 1 Funds from another Proposition 1 granting entity, are we still eligible to receive funds from CDFW under the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Solicitation?**

A38: Yes. Please indicate in the appropriate section on the application if your project has received funds from another Proposition 1 granting entity for the same phase for which you are applying to CDFW, or if you have also applied for funding from another Proposition 1 granting entity.

**Q39: Can you suggest project partners for applicants?**

A39: CDFW is unable to offer guidance in the development of projects or suggest project partners while the Solicitation is open.

**Q40: May we ask questions about our proposal during the Solicitation?**

A40: CDFW can answer clarifying questions about the proposal but, due to the competitive nature of the Solicitation, cannot help guide an applicant in writing a proposal.

**Q41: May we schedule an individual consultation regarding our proposal?**

A41: We do not provide individual consultation while the Solicitation is open or being evaluated. After proposals submitted under this Solicitation have been awarded, you may request a debriefing in order to gain information about how your proposal was evaluated.

**Q42: Can graduate students perform work on projects funded through Proposition 1 grant programs?**

A42: Yes, graduate students can perform work; however tuition may not be reimbursed through a grant agreement. Only hourly wages and salaries with established rates may be reimbursed.

**Q43: Is an authorizing resolution required to apply for grant program?**

A43: An authorizing resolution is not required in order to apply for the Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs. However, if awarded, a resolution (or order, motion, ordinance or other similar document) from the local governing body authorizing execution of the agreement will be required prior to grant execution.

**Q44: How is the 'Delta' defined spatially?**

A44: The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) means the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as defined in California Water Code (CWC) §12220 and the Suisun Marsh as defined in Public Resources Code §29101(CWC §79702[e]).

**Q45: Section 7.1 of the Solicitation identifies a *Water Conservation and Efficiency Program* that grant recipients must have. Is this a plan for the specific project or for**

**the organization, and does a copy of the plan need to be submitted with the proposal?**

A45: The drought-related water plan is for the organization and not the project, and does not need to be submitted with the proposal. Section 7.1 of the Solicitation indicates that, “Pursuant to Governor Brown’s April 2014 Executive Order, recipients of funding for future projects that impact water resources, including groundwater resources must have appropriate water conservation and efficiency programs in place in response to persistent drought conditions.”

Question 4.2 in the Application asks whether or not the Applicant’s organization has a water conservation and efficiency program in place. The Executive Order can be found [here](#). The Executive Order did not provide specific guidance concerning the format or content of the water efficiency and conservation plans. As such, each entity can develop a plan that is appropriate for the type and scale of their organization. At its base level, the plan needs to outline, to the extent applicable to that organization’s core function, how they will conserve water.

**Q46: What naming convention should I use for my attachments in FFAST?**

A46: The attachment name should reference the category and FFAST PIN. Example: **12345ProjectMaps.pdf**. Please refer to *Attachment 1: Applicant Checklist* for the appropriate naming convention for attachments.