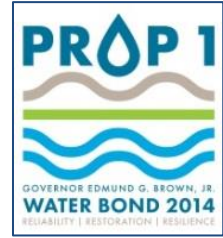




Frequently Asked Questions
Proposition 1
Watershed Restoration &
Delta Water Quality and
Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs
2017 Proposal Solicitation Notice
Updated July 7, 2017



Following the General Questions section of the FAQ, please refer to the appropriate Solicitation section to view related questions. Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are newly added to the prior version.

General Questions

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

A. 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, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, and Wildlife Conservation Board).

Q: Is it possible to get a copy of a proposal that was funded through the previous Prop 1 Solicitation to gain a better understanding of the detail needed for a successful proposal?

A: The Project Narratives of funded proposals are available on our website at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants/Projects>

Full proposals are available to the public upon request. To request a copy of a proposal, please contact CDFW via WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov. Note the Solicitation and application templates have changed from Fiscal Year 2016-17 and will likely change with future funding rounds.

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

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

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

A: No, there is no maximum or minimum grant amount that can be requested by an applicant. There is approximately \$31 million available under this Solicitation for two programs.

Q: Is there a percentage of funding that will be set aside for each project category (Planning, Implementation, Acquisition, and Scientific Studies)?

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

Q: Can a proposal be submitted to both the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Restoration Grant Programs?

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

Q: 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 2017-2018 Solicitation?

A: Yes. Please indicate in your response to *Question 7.2 – Application to Other Grant Programs* in the SOAR questionnaire if you have received funds or have applied for funds from another Proposition 1 granting entity for the same or a related phase of the project for which you are applying to CDFW. Cost share should also be listed in *Attachment 14 – Budget Tables, Tab D – Cost Share*. If you have received Proposition 1 funding for a prior phase of the project, please indicate this in your response to *Question 6.2 – Previous Projects* in the SOAR questionnaire. Information regarding past and current project funding, as well as plans for future phases, if applicable, should also be described in the *Project History / Need for CDFW Funds* section of the Project Narrative (Attachment 11 of the Application).

Q: Can you suggest project partners for applicants?

A: Due to the competitive nature of the solicitation, CDFW Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration Grant Program staff are unable to offer guidance in the development of proposals while the Solicitation is open.

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

A: CDFW Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Program staff can answer clarifying questions about the Solicitation process. Due to the competitive nature of the Solicitation, CDFW Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Program staff cannot help guide an applicant in writing a proposal. Questions can be emailed to WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov.

Q: May we schedule an individual consultation regarding our proposal?

A: 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.

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

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

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

A: 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 governing body authorizing execution of the agreement will be required prior to grant execution.

Background – Grant Program Requirements (Section 1.1)

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

A: No. Funding cannot be used for projects that are undertaken to meet required 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) per California Water Code Section 79737(f). Please see the Solicitation *Sections 1.1 – Grant Program Requirements* and *3.3 – Environmental Compliance and Permitting* for further clarification.

Focus – Funding Priorities by Program (Section 2.1)

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

A: To be eligible under the Protect and Restore Coastal Wetlands Ecosystems priority, proposed activities must align with the description of the priority (refer to *Section 2.1 – Funding Priorities by Program* of the Solicitation) and be located within a watershed(s) that drains into the ocean. Refer to the definition of ‘coastal wetland’ in *Section 7.1 –*

Definitions of the Solicitation. Projects located in watersheds that do not drain into the ocean are not eligible under this priority.

Q: How is the ‘Delta’ defined spatially?

A: Proposition 1 defines the ‘Delta’ to mean 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]).

Q*: Since CDFW did not include desert riparian or other similar language in the 2017/2018 PSN, does this mean we won’t be awarded funding if we applied for a project falling outside of the funding parameters?

A*: Projects that do not address at least one of the 2017/2018 funding priorities would not receive funding in 2017/2018; however, such projects (e.g., desert riparian, etc.) may be a priority in a future PSN.

Q*: While completing the Anadromous Salmonid Recovery Task and Limiting Factors Form, (Attachment 9), if there is no Recovery/Restoration Task Number that correlates to my planning project in the relevant Recovery/Restoration plan, and I select ‘not applicable’ for questions 3 and 4 on this form, will my project not be considered for funding?

A*: If there are no tasks identified under a Recovery/Restoration plan that correspond to your proposed work, then your project would not qualify for federal match and you would check the “Not Applicable” box under questions 2, 3, and question 4. Only a subset of Prop 1 funded projects are counted for federal match. This does not mean that your project is ineligible for Prop 1 funding.

Focus – Project Categories (Section 2.2)

Q: Can a single proposal be submitted for more than one project category, e.g., both Planning and Implementation?

A: With one exception, proposals must be specific to a single project category. Refer to *Section 2.2 – Project Categories* of the Solicitation for additional information regarding eligible activities pertinent to each project category. In instances where the project’s lead agency has already completed a CEQA analysis that addresses the proposed Acquisition and Implementation activities, these two activities can be combined in a single proposal. Outside of those circumstances, proposals for acquisition projects must be standalone (i.e., not combined with another project category).

Q: In order to include Acquisition and Implementation activities within a single proposal, must the CEQA analysis be completed prior to submittal of the application?

A: No, CEQA must be completed prior to grant execution, which is estimated to be in May 2018.

Q: Can a single Acquisition proposal include the acquisition of land or interests in land that encompasses non-contiguous parcels?

A: Yes, if acquiring lands or interests in lands that encompass non-contiguous parcels fits within the project's stated goals and objectives and the parcels are logically part of one project.

Q: With respect to Acquisition proposals, can the bargain sale portion of the estimated purchase price be considered cost share?

A: Yes, in instances where a landowner agrees to sell at a purchase price that is below fair market value, the difference can be included in the cost share calculation. This cost share should be listed in *Attachment 14 – Budget Tables, Tab D – Cost Share* with justification shown in *Tab C – Budget Justification*.

Q*: Will a Conservation Easement acquisition score competitively if it only monitors its own effectiveness within the boundaries of that property, as compared to gathering/assessing/reporting further data on the wetlands, water, etc. that happen to be protected by that Conservation Easement?

A*: The scope of the monitoring and reporting plan will vary depending on the nature (e.g., type, objectives, scale, level of uncertainty, complexity, etc.) of the project. These factors will provide context within which the approach for monitoring and reporting will be evaluated during the technical review process (refer to Criteria 8a, p. 41 of the Solicitation). In this instance (proposed acquisition of a Conservation Easement), the monitoring activities should be tailored to the project objectives; the purposes, terms, and conditions of the Conservation Easement; and Purposes of Grant. At a minimum, the monitoring activities should be designed to enable the Grantee to evaluate compliance with the terms and conditions of the Conservation Easement, and identify and document changes to the property as compared to baseline conditions.

Proposal Requirements – Eligibility (Section 3.1)

Q: Can Federal Agencies apply for these grants?

A: No. Federal agencies are ineligible to apply for grants under the Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs per CWC §79712[a]. However, federal entities can work as a subcontractor to a grantee under a Proposition 1 funded grant project.

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

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

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

A: A private entity is ineligible to 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.

Q*: Are faculty members from out of state universities eligible to submit proposals to Prop 1?

A*: No, only California universities are eligible to apply. However, an out of state faculty member would be eligible to act as a subcontractor under a Prop 1 proposal submitted by an eligible entity.

Proposal Requirements – California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps Consultation (Section 3.2)

Q: 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?

A: All applicants must submit a completed *Attachment 10: California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps Checklist*, even if your project is identified as exempt from consultation. Please read Attachment 10 and check the appropriate box(es).

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

A: 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 D. 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 14 – Budget Tables* within the application.

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

A: 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.

Proposal Requirements - Environmental Compliance and Permitting (Section 3.3)

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

A: It is the applicant's responsibility to coordinate with potential lead agencies and determine CEQA lead agency. CDFW Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Program staff cannot assist in CEQA coordination. If CDFW is anticipated to act as CEQA lead agency for the project, the applicant must obtain CDFW written acceptance of the role **prior to** proposal submission. Projects that fail to comply with this requirement will not be eligible for funding. Please coordinate with the applicable CDFW Regional office well in advance (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/regions>).

Q: We have a project that is in the design phase with a goal of having the design and permitting completed by spring 2018. Is it possible to apply now for an Implementation grant through Prop 1 for the construction phase next summer?

A: Yes, with the caveat that design reaches 65% completion by time of application submittal and CEQA/NEPA compliance is 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.

Q: I am submitting a proposal for a project on federal land, and am working with a Federal agency as a subcontractor. As such, is my project exempt from Section 1600 Notification?

A: We recommend that you contact CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Program staff during project development in order to determine the requirements for your project (see <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA>).

Q*: If I am awarded a grant under the FRGP program, and the project is covered by the FRGP CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration, would a letter from FRGP stating CEQA is covered under that program satisfy the Prop 1 CEQA requirement if I am applying for a Prop 1 implementation grant to complete the project?

A*: If CEQA has been completed prior to the execution of the Prop 1 project, it satisfies the requirement. You do not need to get a letter from FRGP.

Proposal Requirements - Project Monitoring and Reporting (Section 3.4)

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

A: 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.

Q: 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)?

A: Yes. Please see instructions for the *Approach and Statement of Work* section of *Attachment 11 – 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.

Q*: Can you please provide the suite of standardized performance measures for anadromous salmonid habitat restoration that will be required for awarded projects, those that facilitate reporting to NOAA Fisheries? Will these apply to non-coastal projects?

A*: All applicants proposing Implementation or Acquisition projects are required to develop performance measures as a component of their application (refer to Attachment 12 – Monitoring, Reporting, and Long-Term Management Plan, of the application). Projects designed to protect and restore habitat for anadromous salmonids, should incorporate performance measures that are consistent with the performance standards described in the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) – Definitions

spreadsheet (on the Database Structure tab, refer to the Metrics columns associated with the type of work proposed). That spreadsheet is available at:

<https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/j/Docs/PCSRF%20Data%20Dictionary%20ver20%2004-08-13.xlsx>. This provision applies throughout the distribution of these fishes in California (e.g., coastal watersheds, San Francisco Bay system, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and rivers and streams of the Central Valley). If funded, such projects will be required to provide results consistent with these standards for each project site. Additional information regarding PCSRF performance reporting can be found at: <https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/apex/f?p=309:13>.

Proposal Requirements – Budget (Section 3.8)

Q: Is cost share or match required?

A: No. Neither cost share nor match is required. However, points will be awarded in the Technical Review to the proportion 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.

Q*: Can we claim indirect charges of up to 20% for all supplies, travel, fees, and other general expenses, which are not considered equipment or subcontractors, and is this true for both the applicant and the subcontractor.

A*: That is correct. Indirect charges may be calculated against personnel, supplies, travel, fees, and general operating expenses, but not for subcontractors or equipment.

Q*: If I have not yet secured a subcontractor necessary to complete project, how do I fill out the subcontractor budget form?

A*: In this case, you would not complete a subcontractor budget, but would include lines for unspecified subcontractor(s) within the project budget including estimates of the cost of those subcontractors (you cannot increase your award amount if you underestimate a subcontractor costs). Also, note that potential subcontractor(s) are 'to be determined' within the budget justification tab.

Proposal Requirements – Engineering and Design Plans (Section 3.10)

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

A: Location and project specific maps are required; refer to Question 2.1 Maps and Graphics in the SOAR application for additional specifications regarding these graphics. It is not necessary to provide design plans for a project that does not involve construction or physical modification of the habitat.

Submission Process (Section 4)

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

A: No. 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.

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

A: A Microsoft Word version of the Application (Appendix A - Proposal Application Form and Instructions) is available on the [Proposition 1 Restoration Grants – News and Events](#) webpage. All Application Attachment templates are also available here in pdf or Word format, as applicable. However, note that the complete application must be submitted through the SOAR system. Hard copy or email submissions of the proposal will not be reviewed or considered for funding.

Q*: Do we need the PIN (proposal identification number) in our attachment file names?

A*: Yes, include the PIN within all attachment file names. Please refer to Solicitation section 4.3 – Application Attachments for guidance on naming files uploaded to SOAR.

Q*: Can I upload a .zip file for the Project Boundary attachment? Question 2.2 states Project Boundary Shapefiles must be uploaded using either Shapefile (.shp): zipped; or Keyhole Markup Language: zipped (.kmz)

A*: Yes, .zip files may be uploaded. A shapefile is a set of files, and will include a .shp file. These are generally transmitted in zipped format.

Q*: Do conservation targets provided in a table format count toward the 20 page limit of the Project Narrative?

A*: Tables, figures, graphics, pictures and references are not part of the 20-page limit.

Requirements if Funded (Section 6)

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

A: CDFW anticipates executing grant agreements approximately six months following grant award. As such, applicants should anticipate a start date around May 2018. Work performed prior to the start date of an executed 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.