

# Delta Science Proposal Solicitation Notice

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

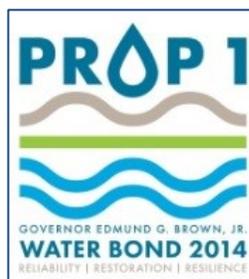
**Proposition 1**

Delta Water Quality and  
Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program

**Delta Stewardship Council**

**Delta Science Program**

**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL  
DELTA SCIENCE PROGRAM



**Proposal Submission Deadline: 4 p.m. October 26, 2018**

This Delta Science Proposal Solicitation Notice is a collaborative effort to achieve the vision of “One Delta, One Science” by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Delta Science Program.

Funding supported through the CDFW Proposition 1 Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program, Delta Stewardship Council, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

**Applications must be submitted online at CDFW WebGrants:**

<https://watershedgrants.wildlife.ca.gov>

## Foreword

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Delta Science Program (DSP), and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) are pleased to announce this joint Delta Science Proposal Solicitation Notice (Solicitation). This Solicitation includes the CDFW Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program's science topics for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and the Delta Stewardship Council's (Council) funding from state and federal sources. Awards will follow a joint CDFW and DSP selection process. All eligible entities are encouraged to submit proposals for qualified projects.

CDFW and the DSP have collaborated throughout previous Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program solicitations to fund scientific study projects that support implementation of the Science Action Agenda. USBR desires supporting efforts that enhance and accelerate critical science related to water and fish management and adaptive management in the Bay-Delta, which are supported through the Science Action Agenda. Building on this collaborative effort, the CDFW and the DSP have developed a joint Solicitation with funding contributed by USBR intended to:

- Establish a simplified proposal submission process with one application
- Use standardized proposal review criteria specific for evaluating scientific studies in the Delta
- Collaboratively prioritize funding for a large group of high-quality scientific studies that inform environmental management

A single application will be used for both programs. While the two programs have much in common, there are important differences between them: Table 1 highlights the main differences between the two programs regarding the funding source, schedule, eligible entities, and budget specifics.

**Table 1 Summary of differences between programs**

Component	CDFW	Delta Science Program
Anticipated Funding	Up to \$7 million to be awarded via CDFW grants	Up to \$5 million to be awarded via Council contracts
Funding Source	Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014	General Fund, Environmental License Plate Fund; U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
Project Duration	Grants executed July-December 2019 Projects completed by April 30, 2023	Contracts executed March-June 2019 Projects completed by April 20, 2021
Solicitation focus (Section 3)	Support implementation of the Science Action Agenda and address one or more of the following science topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support and evaluate habitat restoration</li> <li>2. Delta estuarine and migratory aquatic species</li> <li>3. Interactions between stressors, managed species, and communities</li> </ol>	Contribute towards one or more action area identified in the Science Action Agenda: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Human dimensions of natural resource management</li> <li>2. Science synthesis</li> <li>3. Support and evaluate habitat restoration</li> <li>4. Interactions between stressors, managed species, and communities</li> <li>5. Monitoring, data management, and modeling</li> </ol>
Eligible Entities	See Section 4.1.1	See Section 4.1.2
Indirect Costs (Section 4.3.1)	Maximum 20%	Over 20% may be approved

Component	CDFW	Delta Science Program
Ineligible Costs	See Section 4.3.1	See Section 4.3.1
Corps Consultation	Required for all projects that include field work. (Section 4.8.1)	Not required
Funding Decision	CDFW Director makes final funding decision	DSP Lead Scientist makes final funding recommendation, with approval by Executive Officer and/or Council if above \$500,000
Agreement Terms and Conditions	<a href="#">CDFW Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Guidelines</a> and <a href="#">CDFW General Grant Provisions</a>	<a href="#">Council Contract Template</a>

## Award Information

### CDFW Grant Awards

- Anticipated funding: Up to \$7 million from the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program
- Award notification anticipated April 2019
- Grant Execution between July and December 2019
- Project work must be completed by April 2023

### Council Contract Awards

- Anticipated funding: Up to \$5 million
- Award notification anticipated March 2019
- Contracts must be executed by June 2019
- Project work completed by April 2021

## Eligibility Information

Eligible entities are California public agencies (including state agencies or departments, public universities, special districts, joint powers authorities, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of the state), nonprofit organizations registered in California, federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, public utilities, and mutual water companies (CWC §79712[a]).

In addition, federal agencies, out-of-state public universities, and non-profit organizations registered outside of California are eligible for Council contracts, or may work as subcontractors to an applicant eligible for CDFW grant funding.

Private individuals and for-profit enterprises are not eligible to submit proposals, but they may work as subcontractors for an eligible applicant.

## Proposal Deadline

The complete proposal and all supporting documentation must be submitted via the [CDFW WebGrants System](#) by 4:00 PM, Pacific Daylight Time, on **October 26, 2018**.

## Application Workshop

CDFW and DSP will schedule two online workshops to provide technical assistance with the application. Please see the CDFW [Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs website](#)

and [DSP website](#) for workshop details. Workshops will be recorded and made available online.

## Contacts

For questions about this Solicitation and the CDFW Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Program, contact [WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov)

For questions regarding the Council contracts, contact [DeltaCouncilContracts@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:DeltaCouncilContracts@deltacouncil.ca.gov)

For questions about the application, contact the CDFW WebGrants Help Desk at (916) 323-0477 or [Prop1WebGrants@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Prop1WebGrants@Wildlife.ca.gov)

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CALCC	California Association of Local Conservation Corps
CCC	California Conservation Corps
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Corps	CCC and CALCC, collectively
Council	Delta Stewardship Council
CSU	California State University
CWC	California Water Code
DMP	Data Management Plan
DSP	Delta Science Program
GAMA	Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment
IRB	Institutional Review Board
PDT	Pacific Daylight Time
Proposition 1	Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014
SAA	Science Action Agenda
Solicitation	Proposal Solicitation Notice
QA/QC	Quality Assurance and Quality Control
UC	University of California
USBR	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

## 1 - Background

The Delta Science Program's (DSP) mission is to provide objective scientific information for decision-making in the Delta. The DSP fulfills this mission by identifying strategic research gaps, synthesizing and communicating scientific information to policymakers, facilitating independent science peer review, and coordinating with Delta agencies to promote science-based adaptive management. A requirement of the Delta Science Plan is the four-year science agenda, called the Science Action Agenda (SAA), which prioritizes and aligns science actions to fill gaps in knowledge, achieves key objectives in the DSP, and builds science capacity to address current and anticipated management needs. The 2017-2021 SAA is a key source of focus areas for scientific studies of this joint Delta Science Proposal Solicitation Notice (Solicitation). For more information about the SAA, please visit: <http://scienceactionagenda.deltacouncil.ca.gov/>.

The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 ([Proposition 1](#)), provides funding to implement the objectives of the [California Water Action Plan](#): more reliable water supplies; the restoration of important species and habitat; and a more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system. Proposition 1 authorizes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to award \$87.5 million in grant funds on a competitive basis through the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program. Part of this program includes funding for scientific studies to support implementation of the Delta Science Plan and the SAA. CDFW anticipates funding up to \$7 million for the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program in 2019<sup>1</sup>.

CDFW is working in collaboration with the DSP and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to solicit high-quality scientific study projects that advance the SAA. The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) authorizes contracts and contains the DSP. The Council anticipates funding up to \$5 million through this Solicitation; funding will come from the California General Fund, Environmental License Plate Fund, and from additional funds provided to the Council by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for this Solicitation.

In an effort to streamline the application, review, and evaluation process, these two

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<sup>1</sup> Dependent upon allocation in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Act.

programs are being advertised jointly, and a single application will be used for both funding sources.

## 2 - Solicitation Schedule

The Solicitation schedule is listed in Table 2. Schedule updates will be advertised through e-mail announcements, website postings, and news releases. Please sign up for email updates from CDFW at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Grants/Subscribe> and from the DSP at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov>.

**Table 2: Solicitation Schedule**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
Delta Science Solicitation Released	<b>September 10, 2018</b>
Public Workshop(s)	<b>September 20, 2018</b> <b>October 17, 2018</b>
Proposals due by 4:00 PM, Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)	<b>October 26, 2018</b>
Proposal Evaluation	<b>October 2018 – March 2019</b>
Council Funding Decision	<b>March 2019</b>
CDFW Director Award Approval	<b>April 2019</b>
Execute Council Contracts	<b>March – June 2019 (no later)</b>
Execute CDFW Grant Agreements	<b>July 2019 – December 2019</b>
All Council contract work completed and final invoice submitted for payment	<b>April 20, 2021</b>
All CDFW grant work completed and final invoice submitted for payment	<b>April 30, 2023</b>

### 3 - Solicitation Focus

The focus of this Solicitation is scientific study projects in the Delta<sup>2</sup> that further the vision of “[One Delta, One Science](#)” – an open Delta science community that works collaboratively to build a shared body of scientific knowledge with the capacity to adapt and inform water, environmental, and societal decisions. This Solicitation prioritizes the funding of projects that will contribute to the objectives of Proposition 1 (Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014), the SAA, the California Water Action Plan, the Delta Science Plan, the Delta Plan, the Safeguarding California Plan, and the fulfillment of CDFW, the DSP, and USBR respective missions.

Proposals must address one or more of the SAA action areas and/or CDFW science topics described below. Available funding for this Solicitation ranges in duration from two to three years; given this funding availability, research projects with a duration of 18 months to three years are encouraged

Eligible activities that may be included in a scientific study include, but are not limited to:

- Data collection, analysis, synthesis, management, and delivery
- Development of resource management tools and technologies
- Development of conceptual or numeric models
- Building capacity for collaborative science
- Stakeholder involvement
- Reporting, publishing peer-reviewed journal articles, conference presentations, and other means of communicating findings

Funding prioritization of scientific studies will consider:

- Scientific merit
- The degree to which results can inform potential management actions
- The degree to which the study addresses priority science needs and facilitates integration among the science actions
- The degree to which the study is partnered with collaborative science initiatives

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<sup>2</sup> Projects under this Program are not required to be physically located within the Delta; however, project activities must provide a demonstrable benefit(s) to the Delta. Proposition 1 defines the ‘Delta’ to mean the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as defined in CWC §12220 and the Suisun Marsh as defined in Public Resources Code §29101 (CWC §79702[e]).

### 3.1 DSP Priority Action Areas

The Council will provide funding to implement the coequal goals of "...providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place (CA Water Code §85054). The Council will award contracts through this Solicitation for scientific studies to inform water and natural resource policy and management decisions that contribute to achieving the coequal goals for the Delta, and projects that facilitate implementation of the 2016 Delta Science Plan and the SAA.

Projects must address one or more of the following action areas; examples of relevant projects are provided in bullet points below.

#### Action Area 1: Human Dimension of Natural Resource Management

- Understand socio-economic adaptations to climate change
- Investigate cost-effective methods to improve species habitat on working lands
- Integrate natural sciences with the social sciences for research on the Delta as an evolving place
- Assess long-term costs and benefits of managed wetlands
- Develop levee risk assessments

#### Action Area 2: Science Synthesis

- Develop improved sturgeon abundance estimates
- Analyze existing telemetry results to understand system-wide fish movement and predation
- Integrate key data sources that promotes collaboration among disciplines

#### Action Area 3: Support and Evaluate Habitat Restoration

- Evaluate long-term benefits of habitat restoration
- Estimate effects of tidal marsh restoration under climate change and sea-level rise scenarios
- Meta-analysis of habitat restoration at the landscape scale

- Develop a database of baseline habitat conditions at the landscape scale (e.g., native species, water quality, predators, hydrologic conditions, and socio-economic values)

#### **Action Area 4: Interactions between Stressors, Managed Species, and Communities**

- Understand the ecosystem and species response to changes in water quality constituents.
- Identify climate change refugia for species
- Understand mechanism underlying relationships between flows and aquatic species
- Evaluate the effects of contaminant mixtures, mercury, pharmaceutical products, and harmful algal blooms and disease on aquatic species
- Understand salmonid temperature tolerances in streams and rivers
- Identify effective control strategies for non-native invasive and ecosystem engineering species

#### **Action Area 5: Monitoring, Data Management, and Modeling**

- Integrate modeling efforts that can guide policy
- Develop innovative and cost-effective methods for monitoring flow, water quality, and ecosystem characteristics
- Model fish with water quality monitoring data and/or 3-D hydrodynamic modeling to understand distribution of salmon runs. Coordinate modeling with monitoring data (e.g., coupling 3-D hydrodynamic modeling with juvenile salmon behavior and survival)
- Conduct baseline surveys and quantify spawning habitat, map egg, larval, fry, and juvenile rearing habitat for anadromous fish

### **3.2 CDFW Science Topics**

CDFW's objective is to fund scientific studies that inform water and natural resource policy and management decisions and contribute to implementation of the Delta Science Plan and the SAA. Projects should partner with collaborative science initiatives wherever

feasible and must address one or more of the topics described below.

CDFW science topics and the DSP action areas were developed in tandem with a common goal of addressing high priority science needs for resource managers in the Delta. As a result, the science topics identified by CDFW overlap considerably with some SAA action areas, but are not a clearly delineated subset of the SAA action areas.

### **Topic 1. Support and evaluate habitat restoration**

- Provide decision support using new and existing models to evaluate potential regional effects of implementing multi-project habitat restoration on water quality, food webs, contaminants, flows, and species population dynamics.
- Improve understanding of how large-scale tidal wetland and seasonal floodplain restoration actions affect tidal excursion, bathymetry, salinity, nutrients, sediment dynamics, temperature, species composition, vital rates, and ecological processes in the estuary.
- Enhance current or implement additional monitoring efforts to supplement and synthesize data on the condition and function of existing seasonal floodplain, intertidal, shallow-water, and channel habitats. Proposed monitoring methods should be consistent with the Interagency Ecological Program Tidal Wetlands Monitoring Project Work Team [Monitoring Plan Guidance](#) and [Standard Operating Procedures](#) where relevant.
- Improve understanding of the effectiveness of wetland restoration/enhancement on subsidence reversal, carbon sequestration, mercury methylation, flood protection, and levee stability.
- Improve understanding of tidal flux of water quality constituents and food web productivity between wetlands and adjacent open water channels.
- Improve understanding of how different channel morphologies and channel margin habitats affect fish species and communities.
- Improve understanding of aquatic invasive vegetation in tidal wetland systems, including extent to which their presence influences the suitability of restored habitats for target species, extent to which tools for invasive species removal

produce successful restoration outcomes, and extent to which different approaches to restoration promote or suppress invasive species.

- Improve understanding of food web dynamics and productivity and how they can be improved for native estuarine and migratory species.

## **Topic 2. Habitat Requirements of Delta estuarine and migratory aquatic species**

- Improve understanding of when green sturgeon and salmonids enter the Delta, identification of Delta habitats these species use, residence time, and timing of exit from the Delta.
- Improve understanding of hydrodynamics effects on native estuarine and migratory species, including how the time and space dynamics of water velocities affect fish movement through passive transport and active swimming, as triggers that cue migration or spawning activities, and thresholds that alter routing behavior.
- Decision support tools to better link potential effects of management decisions on native estuarine and migratory species in the Delta.

## **Topic 3. Interactions between stressors, managed species, and communities**

- Improve understanding of the ecosystem response before, during, and after major changes in the amount and type of water quality constituents in the Delta including water treatment facilities. Proposals can address knowledge gaps identified in the [Delta Nutrient Research Plan](#).
- Improve understanding of the effects of non-flow stressors (toxicants, disease, predation, etc.), including their interactions with physical parameters, on food webs and native fish species condition, sensory perception, and bioenergetics.
- Hydrodynamic forecasting coupled with climate change projections to provide an assessment of future expectations for Delta aquatic habitats that can help prioritize planning and implementation activities.

## **4 - Application Requirements**

Funding will be available for projects that will provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits or improvements that are greater than required applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations (CWC §79732[b]). Funds shall not be expended to pay the costs of the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of Delta conveyance facilities (CWC §79738[f]). Projects that are undertaken to meet mitigation obligations, or projects that are under an enforcement action by a regulatory agency, will not be considered for funding.

### **4.1 Eligible Entities**

#### **4.1.1 CDFW Grant Eligible Entities**

Eligible entities are California public agencies (including state agencies or departments, public universities, special districts, joint powers authorities, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of the state), nonprofit organizations registered in California, federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, public utilities, and mutual water companies (CWC §79712[a]). Proposals from federal agencies, private individuals, for-profit enterprises, or out-of-state public entities are ineligible for funding by CDFW under this Solicitation (but see Council section below). However, these entities can work as subcontractors for an eligible applicant.

#### **4.1.2 Council Contract Eligible Entities**

All of the entities listed above as eligible for CDFW grants are also eligible for Council contracts. In addition, federal agencies, out-of-state public universities, and non-profit organizations (including private universities) not registered in California are eligible for Council contracts. Private individuals and for-profit enterprises are not eligible to submit proposals but they may work as subcontractors for an eligible applicant. Any subcontractor unidentified in the proposal must be solicited by competitive bid process and will be subject to state audit.

### **4.2 Qualifications**

Applicants must demonstrate that the project team has the experience, facilities/equipment, and capacity to successfully perform the proposed tasks by describing prior projects completed by the applicant, prior publication and productivity,

and other qualifications. The project team includes all applicant staff and subcontractors that will be performing the work described in the proposal. Project team experience with multi-team efforts, management engagement, and broader outreach history is preferred. Project teams partnered with collaborative workgroups or science initiatives (e.g., Interagency Ecological Program, Collaborative Adaptive Management Team, Delta Regional Monitoring Program) will be evaluated favorably.

## **4.3 Budget**

Applicants should budget for all costs associated with project delivery, for example: presentations to CDFW or the Council including travel, publication fees, permit fees, subcontractor costs, etc. Subcontractor costs must be reasonable under the circumstances of the proposal. Applicants should budget for project “co-production” costs associated with stakeholder meetings, involvement, and broader outreach. (see: <https://mavensnotebook.com/portfolio/panel-4-legitimacy-co-production-and-communication/>).

### **4.3.1 Indirect Costs**

#### **CDFW Indirect Cost Requirements**

Indirect cost (i.e., administrative overhead) rates must be justified, and are limited to 20 percent of the direct costs excluding subcontractors and equipment. Any amount over 20 percent will not be funded but may be used as cost share. Indirect costs include, but are not limited to, utilities, office space rental, phone, use of computers and office equipment, IT services, postage, and photocopying directly related to completion of the proposed project. Indirect costs must be broken out and may not be rolled into Personnel Services.

#### **Council Indirect Cost Requirements**

Indirect cost (i.e., administrative overhead) rates are not limited to 20 percent of direct costs, but must be substantiated by documentation from an approved cognizant agency (i.e., the federal agency with the largest dollar value of direct federal awards with a governmental unit or components, as appropriate), an agreed upon indirect cost rate structure for UCs or CSUs per AB20 requirements, or for other entities, reasonable overhead/indirect costs as demonstrated by market rates, historical pricing, indirect cost breakdown, etc. The appropriate UC federally negotiated F&A Rate will apply to state agency awards made with federal funding per 2 CFR 200.331(a)(4).

### ***4.3.2 Ineligible Costs***

The following are ineligible costs for reimbursement by CDFW:

- Costs incurred outside of the grant agreement term
- Costs related to the preparation of the grant proposal
- Indirect costs greater than 20% of the direct costs
- Student tuition and fees
- Intern stipends
- Travel, equipment, and other property costs not specifically identified in the grant budget
- Out of state travel without prior written authorization from CDFW
- Insurance, including liability insurance

The following are ineligible costs for reimbursement by the Council:

- Costs incurred outside of the agreement term
- Costs related to the preparation of the proposal
- Student tuition and fees (allowable for UC/CSUs only)
- Intern stipends (allowable for UC/CSUs only)
- Land acquisition
- Certain non-expendable equipment over \$5,000 or considered theft-sensitive (to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis)
- Out-of-state travel without prior written authorization from the Council
- Insurance, including liability insurance
- Relocation expenses

Ineligible costs for reimbursement may be identified as cost share if funds will be spent during the agreement term. CDFW or the Council may remove ineligible costs for reimbursement from the budget of a project selected for funding.

### ***4.3.3 Cost Share***

Cost share is the portion of the project cost not funded by the awarding agency and is provided by the applicant and/or other sources (e.g., private companies, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and/or other entities). Cost share is not required; however proposals with higher proportions of secured cost share will receive higher scores during the evaluation process. Cost share must support the proposed project and be spent between the award announcement and project end date.

Applicants must indicate if any cost share is being used as match for other grants or entities and whether they intend to leverage awarded funds as match. Where applicable, cost share agreements or funding assurances must be submitted prior to grant or contract execution.

## 4.4 Data Management

Data management should be consistent with the recommendations of the [Environmental Data Summit white paper](#), complementary to the Open and Transparent Water Data Act ([AB1755](#)), and should comply with the following principles:

- Data are interoperable (machine readable)
- Standard data formats are used for similar data types
- Quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) procedures are documented and followed
- Open and transparent data and metadata are accessible to the public in a reasonable time frame

Data must be documented, accessible, and understandable to general users, except where limited by law, regulation, and policy or security requirements. Data are required deliverables, and will be a condition of final payment if awarded.

Applicants must demonstrate that project data will be collected using peer-approved methods, undergo a quality control and accuracy assessment process, include metadata that meet the Department's [Minimum Data Standards](#), and will be properly stored and protected until the project has been completed and data have been delivered. Data delivery can include uploading data to relevant open data portals, including but not limited to:

- Surface water data reported to [California Environmental Data Exchange Network](#)
- Groundwater data reported to [GeoTracker GAMA](#)
- Species observation data of [tracked species](#) reported to the [California Natural Diversity Database](#)
- Fish passage assessment data reported to the [California Fish Passage Assessment Database](#)

Proposals must include a Data Management Plan (DMP) following the guidance provided in the [DMP instructions](#). The DMPs are short (2-3 page) documents that capture essential information from researchers about their datasets, including:

- Description of the data to be acquired or generated during the project
- Quality control/quality assurance procedures
- The process to manage, describe, analyze, store, curate and publish datasets
- The process for efficient and effective data flow
- The process to address data sharing
- How the DMP is aligned with applicant's established data management approach (if applicable)
- The mechanisms to share and ensure long-term archival of the dataset

For more information about DMPs, see the California Water Quality Monitoring Council's [DMP Fact Sheet](#). Successful applicants must revise the DMP as necessary for approval prior to project initiation. If awarded, the DMP will be part of the grant file and will be shared with the public on the funding agency's website.

## **4.5 Environmental Compliance and Permitting**

Projects must comply with all applicable state, tribal, and federal environmental laws and regulations, including the Delta Reform Act. Applicants are responsible for obtaining all permits necessary to complete project work. Scientific studies that involve the collection of fish, wildlife, or endangered or rare plants must have a valid Scientific Collecting Permit or Plant Voucher Collection Permit.

For any research involving human research subjects, the applicant must ensure that subjects are protected from research risks in conformance with the relevant Federal policy known as the Common Rule (Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects, 45 CFR 690). All projects involving human subjects must either (1) have approval from an Institutional Review Board (IRB) before issuance of a contract; or (2) must affirm that the IRB has declared the research exempt from IRB review. Proposals will be reviewed without IRB certification; however, any research recommended for funding must document IRB certification prior to the finalization of any contract for research. IRB review should be initiated as soon as possible to avoid delays in contracting.

## **4.6 Permission to Access Private Lands**

Applicants for projects that involve data collection on private property must demonstrate landowner permission. A landowner access agreement is required prior to data collection.

## **4.7 Disadvantaged Communities**

Applicants are required to evaluate whether the project will benefit a disadvantaged community. Proposition 1 defines a disadvantaged community as “a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income” (CWC §79505.5). CDFW will ensure that a portion of its Proposition 1 funding benefits these communities. The [Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool](#) shows the location of disadvantaged communities in the state.

## **4.8 Additional CDFW Requirements**

### ***4.8.1 California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps Consultation***

All applicants submitting proposals that include field work shall first consult with *both* the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Certified Community Conservation Corps (as represented by the California Association of Local Conservation Corps [CALCC]), collectively referred to as the Corps, as to the feasibility and timing of using their services (CWC §79734). Applicants must submit the standardized [California Conservation Corps consultation form](#).

If Corps services are available, applicants must identify the appropriate Corps and the components of the project for which work will be completed in the Project Narrative and include estimated costs in the Budget. Applicants awarded funding must thereafter work with the CCC or CALCC to develop a statement of work and enter into a contract.

### ***4.8.2 Labor Code Requirements: Prevailing Wage***

State grants may be subject to California Labor Code requirements, which include prevailing wage provisions. Certain state grants administered by CDFW are not subject to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 1720) of Part 7 of Division 2 of the Labor Code. For more details, please refer to California Fish and Game Code Section 1501.5 and to the [Department of Industrial Relations website](#). Grantee shall pay prevailing wage to all persons employed in the performance of any part of the project if required by law.

## **5 - Submission Process**

### **5.1 Proposal Submission Deadline**

**Online submission of proposals must be received before 4:00 PM, PDT on October**

26, 2018.

Proposals are subject to Public Records Act requests and may be publicly available.

## 5.2 Electronic Submission

All proposals must be submitted electronically through CDFW WebGrants online at <http://watershedgrants.wildlife.ca.gov>. The name of this Solicitation in WebGrants is “Delta Science Proposal Solicitation – 2018”. To access the application, applicants must register an account in WebGrants. The WebGrants Help Desk is staffed Monday – Friday (9:00AM – 4:00PM). Questions regarding the CDFW WebGrants website should be directed to the CDFW WebGrants Help Desk at (916) 323-0477 or by e-mail at [Prop1Webgrants@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Prop1Webgrants@wildlife.ca.gov).

The proposal application in WebGrants consists of multiple forms. WebGrants includes dropdown menus, text boxes, multiple-choice selections, tables, and attachment upload links. Once submitted, applicants cannot alter their proposal or submit additional information without first contacting the WebGrants Help Desk. Applicants are encouraged to allow sufficient time to submit proposals to avoid last minute errors and omissions.

## 6 - Proposal Review Procedure

### 6.1 Administrative Review

Administrative review determines if the proposal is complete (Table 4). Proposals which receive a “No” for one or more of the Administrative Review Evaluation Criteria will be considered incomplete and may not be considered for funding under this Solicitation.

**Table 3: Administrative Review Evaluation Criteria**

Criteria	Score
Application is complete	Yes/No
Applicant is an eligible entity	Yes/No
Proposed project is applicable to Solicitation Priorities	Yes/No
Proposed project is not required mitigation	Yes/No
Corps consultation forms are complete (CDFW only)	Yes/No

## 6.2 Technical Review

All proposals that advance past administrative review will go through independent scientific review by at least three external technical experts. Individuals selected to serve as technical reviewers will be professionals in fields relevant to the proposed project (CWC §79707[f]). Technical reviewers will evaluate each proposal in accordance with the standard [Technical Review Criteria](#) (Table 5) and may make narrative comments that support their scores.

**Table 4: Technical Review Criteria**

	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Score</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Importance/Relevance</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Scientific Merit</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Approach and Feasibility</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Schedule and Deliverables</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Team Qualifications</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Stakeholder Support</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Data Management Plan</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>

## 6.3 Coordinated Review Panels

### 6.3.1 Joint Subcommittee

CDFW will convene a joint subcommittee to develop preliminary ranking and evaluation statements for proposals, to inform Selection Panel deliberations. Evaluation statements may recommend conditions of funding to address issues raised during the technical review process or through the joint subcommittee deliberations. The joint subcommittee will be made up of representatives from relevant CDFW programs, the DSP, USBR, and other agencies. Evaluations will take into account:

- Proposal quality
- Technical review scores and comments
- Degree to which study results address one or more of the science topics and/or action areas identified in Section 3.1

### **6.3.2 CDFW Selection Panel**

Following completion of the joint subcommittee, CDFW will convene a Selection Panel to produce a ranked list of proposals recommended for funding. That ranked list will include proposals received in response to this Solicitation as well as proposals received in response to the fall 2018 Proposition 1 Solicitation for statewide and Delta planning, implementation, and acquisition projects. When developing the funding recommendation, the CDFW Selection Panel will consider:

- Technical review scores and comments
- Subcommittee ranking and evaluation statements
- Availability and distribution of grant funds
- Coordination with partner agencies

### **6.3.3 DSP Selection Panel**

Following completion of the joint subcommittee, the DSP will convene a Selection Panel in coordination with CDFW and USBR to review the scores and comments from the Technical Review process for SAA-related proposals. The DSP Selection Panel will prepare recommendations to the DSP's Lead Scientist. The Lead Scientist (or her or his designee) will serve as the non-voting chairperson of the DSP Selection Panel with primary responsibility of assuring that the discussion is balanced, fair, and comprehensive. Representatives from other agencies and organizations may be invited to participate on the DSP Selection Panel. The result of these discussions will be a ranked list of proposals for funding. The DSP Selection Panel's recommendations will be based on:

- Technical review scores and comments
- Panel member evaluations, including joint subcommittee evaluations
- Availability of funds
- Funding priorities
- Coordination with partner agencies

## **6.4 Funding Decisions**

Selection Panel funding recommendations will be compared, and where there is overlap in funding recommendation between programs, consideration will be given to each program's available funds, timeline, and relative proposal rankings to determine an entity for award.

### ***6.4.1 CDFW Funding Decisions***

The Director of CDFW will review the CDFW Selection Panel recommendations and make the final CDFW funding decisions. CDFW anticipates announcing grant awards as early as April 2019, with grant agreement execution approximately six months from award date.

### ***6.4.2 DSP Funding Decisions***

The Delta Lead Scientist will review the DSP Selection Panel recommendations and make final funding recommendations to the Executive Officer (for contracts less than \$500k) or the Council (for contracts greater than \$500k). The Executive Officer or the Council may, at its discretion, recommend and/or award a package of agreements determined to be most responsive to the goals and objectives of the Solicitation and the Delta Reform Act. The Council anticipates awarding contracts as early as March 2019, with agreement execution prior to June 30, 2019.

## **7 – Requirements for Funded Projects**

### **7.1 CDFW Grant Requirements**

Successful applicants will receive an award letter officially notifying them of their proposal selection and grant amount and work with an assigned CDFW grant manager to develop the grant agreement.

#### ***7.1.2 Grant Agreement***

Development of grant agreements will begin following announcement of awards. The applicant must submit additional forms before an agreement is prepared and executed. The applicable forms described in this section are for informational purposes only. **Do not submit these forms with your proposal.** Applicants are required to complete, sign, and return the forms when projects are approved for funding. These additional forms include:

- [Payee Data Record form \(STD. 204\)](#)
- Federal Taxpayer ID Number (for non-profit organizations)
- [Drug-Free Workplace Certification \(STD. 21\)](#)
- Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)

Grant agreements are not executed until signed by both the authorized representative of the grant recipient and CDFW. Work performed prior to the start date of an executed grant agreement will not be reimbursed.

### ***7.1.3 Responsibility of the Grantee***

The grantee will be responsible for carrying out the work agreed to and for managing finances, including but not limited to, invoicing, payments to subcontractors, accounting and financial auditing, and reporting. State auditing requirements are described in Appendix C of the [CDFW Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Guidelines](#).

Grantees shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and/or ordinances.

### ***7.1.4 Invoicing and Payments***

Grant agreements will be structured to provide for payment in arrears of work performed. Funds cannot be disbursed until there is an executed grant agreement between CDFW and the grantee. Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis, i.e., the grantee pays for services, products or supplies, submits an invoice that must be approved by the CDFW grant manager, and is then reimbursed. All expenses claimed in an invoice submitted to CDFW, including indirect costs, must be supported by appropriate documentation.

### ***7.1.5 Reporting***

Grantees shall submit quarterly status reports to the CDFW grant manager for the duration of the grant. Annual reports and task-specific reports may also be included as project deliverables.

### ***7.1.6 WebGrants***

Grantees shall use [CDFW WebGrants](#) for grant management and tracking activities, including but not limited to submitting invoices and deliverables, reporting, and corresponding with the CDFW Grant Manager.

### ***7.1.7 Performance Retention***

CDFW may retain from the grantee's reimbursements for each period for which payment is made, an amount equal to 10 percent of the invoiced amount, pending satisfactory completion of the task or grant.

### ***7.1.8 Loss of Funding***

Work performed under the grant agreement is subject to availability of funds through the state's budget process. If funding for the grant agreement is reduced, deleted, or delayed by the State Budget Act or through other budget control actions, CDFW shall have the

option to either cancel the grant agreement, offer to the grantee a grant agreement amendment reflecting the reduced amount, or to suspend work. In the event of cancellation or suspension of work, CDFW shall provide written notice to the grantee and be liable for payment for any work completed pursuant to the agreement up to the date of the written notice and shall have no liability for payment for work undertaken after such date. In the event of a suspension of work, CDFW may remove the suspension of work through written notice to the grantee. CDFW shall be liable for payment for work completed from the date of written notice of the removal of the suspension of work forward, consistent with other terms of the grant agreement. In no event shall CDFW be liable to the grantee for any costs or damages associated with any period of suspension invoked pursuant to this provision, nor shall CDFW be liable for any costs in the event that, after a suspension, no funds are available and the grant agreement is then cancelled based on State Budget contingencies.

Actions of the state that may lead to suspension or cancellation include, but are not limited to:

- Lack of appropriated funds
- Executive order directing suspension or cancellation of grant agreements
- CDFW or California Natural Resources Agency directive requiring suspension or cancellation of grant agreements

Actions of the grantee that may lead to suspension or cancellation of the grant agreement include, but are not limited to:

- Failing to execute an agreement with CDFW within six months of the award announcement. In such situations, the applicant may apply to a future solicitation
- Withdrawing from the grant program
- Failing to submit required documentation within the time periods specified in the grant agreement
- Failing to submit evidence of environmental or permit compliance as specified by the grant agreement
- Changing project scope without prior approval
- Failing to complete the project
- Failing to demonstrate sufficient progress
- Failing to comply with pertinent laws

### ***7.1.9 General Terms and Conditions***

Successful applicants must agree to the appropriate terms and conditions for their entity type. In accordance with AB 20, awarded University of California and California State University applicants must agree to University Terms & Conditions - Exhibit "C" for University of California and California State University Agreements ([UTC-518 Exhibit C](#)). All other awarded entities must agree to the CDFW [General Grant Provisions](#) for Public or Non-public entities. General Grant Provisions include information regarding audits, amendments, liability insurance, and rights in data.

### ***7.1.10 Recognition of Funding Source***

The grantee must inform the public that the project received funds through CDFW from the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (CWC §79707[g]). Recognition of funding under this program extends to presentations, publications, websites, and other media-related and public-outreach products.

## **7.2 Council Contract Requirements**

Recipients of Council contracts must be able to comply with the [Council's contract terms and conditions](#). Funding will be provided via contracts with the Council; some contracts may include funding provided from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Applicants that receive U.S. Bureau of Reclamation funds must also comply with federal pass-through requirements.

### ***7.2.1 Council Contract Documents***

Development of contracts will begin following announcement of awards. The applicant must submit additional forms before a contract is prepared and executed.

The applicable forms described in this section are for informational purposes only. **Do not submit these forms with your proposal.** Applicants are required to complete, sign, and return the forms when projects are approved. These additional forms include:

- [Payee Data Record form \(STD. 204\)](#)
- Federal Taxpayer ID Number (for non-profit organizations)
- Contractor Certification Clauses [CCC 04/2017](#)
- Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)

### ***7.2.2 Responsibility of the Awarded Entity***

The awarded entity will be responsible for carrying out the work agreed to and for managing finances, including but not limited to, invoicing, payments to subcontractors, accounting and financial auditing, and other project management duties including reporting requirements. All eligible costs must be supported by appropriate documentation.

Awarded Entities shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and/or ordinances.

### ***7.2.3 Invoicing and Payments***

Agreements will be structured to provide for payment in arrears of work performed. Funds cannot be disbursed until there is an executed contract between the Council and the applicant. Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis, i.e., the applicant pays for services, products or supplies, submits an invoice that must be approved by the Council contract manager, and is then reimbursed.

### ***7.2.4 Reporting***

The contractor shall submit quarterly status reports to the Council contract manager for the duration of the contract. Annual reports, stakeholder meetings, communication products (e.g. website material or interviews), and task-specific reports may also be included as project deliverables.

### ***7.2.5 General Terms and Conditions***

Successful applicants must agree to the appropriate terms and conditions for their entity type. In accordance with AB 20, awarded University of California and California State University applicants must agree to University Terms & Conditions - Exhibit "C" for University of California and California State University Agreements ([UTC-518 Exhibit C](#)). All awarded entities must agree to the Council's Contract Provisions including Exhibit B – Budget Detail, Exhibit C – General Terms and Conditions, Exhibit D – Special Terms and Conditions, and Exhibit E – Protection of Confidential and Sensitive Information. If U.S. Bureau of Reclamation funds are awarded, the applicant must agree to federal pass-through requirements (2 CFR 200.326).

### ***7.2.6 Recognition of Funding Source***

The applicant must inform the public that the project received funds through the Council, the DSP, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (if applicable). Recognition of funding under this program also extends to publications, websites, and other media-related and public-outreach products.

## **8 – Definitions and Links**

### **8.1 Definitions**

#### **Cognizant Agency for indirect cost rate**

The federal agency with the largest dollar value of direct federal awards with a governmental unit or components, as appropriate.

#### **Delta**

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

#### **Disadvantaged Community**

A community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income (CWC §79505.5).

#### **Eligible Entities (CDFW)**

Eligible entities are California public agencies (including state agencies or departments, public universities, special districts, joint powers authorities, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of the state), nonprofit organizations registered in California, federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, public utilities, and mutual water companies (CWC §79712[a]).

#### **Eligible Entities (Council)**

All entities eligible for the CDFW Grant Program listed above are also eligible for Council contracts. In addition, federal agencies, out-of-state public universities, and private or non-profit universities registered within and outside California are eligible for Council contracts. Private individuals and for-profit enterprises are not eligible to submit proposals but they may work as a subcontractor for an eligible applicant. Any subcontractor unidentified in the proposal must be solicited by competitive bid process subject to state audit.

**Federally Recognized Indian Tribe**

Indian tribes that are recognized by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and listed annually in the Federal Register.

**Mutual Water Companies**

Any private corporation or association organized for the purposes of delivering water to its stockholders and members at cost, including use of works for conserving, treating and reclaiming water. Mutual water companies are organized under California Corporations Code Section 14300. To be eligible for funding, proposals must have a clear and definite public purpose and benefit the customers of the water system and not the investors.

**Nonprofit Organization (CDFW)**

An organization qualified to do business in California and qualified under §501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code (CWC §79702[p]).

**Nonprofit Organization (Council)**

A group, often a corporation, organized for purposes other than generating profits; for example, a charitable, educational, religious, or scientific organization. Certification by the IRS or Franchise Tax Board is a common attribute.

**Public Agency**

A California agency or department [including public universities], special district, joint powers authority, county, city, city and county, or other political subdivision of the state (CWC §79702[s]).

**Public Utilities**

Privately owned electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger transportation companies that are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission. To be eligible for funding, proposals must have a clear and definite public purpose and benefit the customers of the water system and not the investors (CWC §79712[b][1]).

**State Indian Tribe**

Indian tribes that are listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List.

**Subcontractor**

An entity other than the project proponent/applicant that performs a portion of the Scope of Work and includes subrecipients, subawardees, independent contractors, and consultants. Applicant budgets cannot charge indirect costs for subcontractors.

## 8.2 Links

### Enabling Legislation

[Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 \(Proposition 1\)](#)

[Delta Reform Act](#)

### State Departments and Programs

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife:** <http://wildlife.ca.gov>

CDFW WebGrants: <http://watershedgrants.wildlife.ca.gov>

[Ecosystem Restoration Program Conservation Strategy \(2014\)](#)

[CDFW Grant Opportunities](#)

[CDFW Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs](#)

[CDFW Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs - Resources for Grantees](#)

**California Conservation Corps:** <https://ccc.ca.gov>

[Proposition 1 – Water Bond](#)

[Hire a Crew](#)

**California Natural Resources Agency:** <http://resources.ca.gov>

[Bond Accountability](#)

**Delta Stewardship Council:** <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov>

[Delta Plan](#)

[Delta Science Program](#)

[Delta Science Plan](#)

[Science Action Agenda](#)

**California Department of Industrial Relations**

**State Water Resources Control Board**

[California Environmental Data Exchange Center \(CEDEN\)](#)

[Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program \(SWAMP\)](#)

### Other Relevant Resources

[California Water Action Plan](#)

[California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup](#)

## **Data Management Resources**

Open and Transparent Water Data Act ([AB1755](#))

[Data Management Workgroup](#)

[Disadvantaged Community Mapping Tool](#)

[Interagency Ecological Program](#)

## **Metadata Information**

[CDFW Minimum Metadata Standards](#)

## **Mutual Water Companies**

[California Corporations Code §14300](#)

## **Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta**

[Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as defined in Proposition 1 \(CWC §79702\[e\]\)](#)

[Map of Legal Delta](#)

[Statutory Definition of Legal Delta \(CWC §12220\)](#)

[United States Bureau of Reclamation, Bay-Delta Office](#)