

Frequently Asked Questions

California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Delta Science Program

Delta Science Proposal Solicitation Notice

Updated September 20, 2018

** new additions from the September 10 version*

Q1: Are projects in counties that neighbor the Delta/Suisun legal boundaries eligible for funding?

A: Proposals for projects outside of the Delta or Suisun Marsh will be considered for funding if the proposal provides clearly articulated and compelling evidence of specific benefits to the Delta and/or a clear link to resource management decisions in the Delta.

Q2: Is there a minimum or maximum limit on the dollar amount a proposal can request from each Program?

A: There are no minimum or maximum limits on the funds that can be requested from CDFW. CDFW anticipates \$7M available for the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program, dependent upon allocation in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Act.

The Delta Science Program has not identified minimum or maximum funding limits. However, the \$2 million USBR contribution will be applied toward funding projects \$500,000 or less.

Q3: Can an eligible applicant submit more than one proposal in response to the Solicitation?

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

Q4: Are Reclamation Districts and water districts eligible applicants?

A: Yes. Reclamation Districts and water districts are eligible for funding via Council contracts or CDFW Proposition 1 grants.

Q5: Are faculty members from out of state universities eligible to submit proposals?

A: Faculty members from out of state universities can apply to be considered for funding by the Council.

Only California universities are eligible to apply for CDFW Proposition 1 funding. However, an out of state faculty member may be included in the project team as a subcontractor under a Prop 1 proposal submitted by an eligible entity.

Q6: Can Federal Agencies apply for these grants?

A: Federal agencies can apply to be considered for funding by the Council.

Federal agencies are ineligible to apply for grants under the CDFW Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs per CWC §79712[a]. However, a federal entity can work as a subcontractor to a grantee under a Proposition 1 funded grant project.

Q7: Is it possible to extend the project beyond the project completion date?

A: CDFW cannot extend projects beyond April 2023. CDFW has a four-year window to execute grant agreements and spend project funded with state bonds and cannot extend the project beyond the completion date stated in the PSN. If a longer period is required to complete a project, CDFW recommends that applicants break projects into phases and apply to future Solicitations to accomplish longer-term projects.

Projects funded solely by the Council must be completed by April 2021. This applies to the following action areas: human dimension, science synthesis, and monitoring, data management and modeling. Where possible a mix of funds could be used to support projects beyond April 2021, but some Council funding will target projects that will be completed by April 2021. Projects funded by USBR must be completed by June 30, 2022.

Q8: What information will be required in the funding application?

A: The application can be accessed online at <https://watershedgrants.wildlife.ca.gov>, and a Word Version of the application is available at: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=161121>. Application guidance is available at: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=161120>.

Q9: Our proposed project includes no fieldwork and thus is exempt from consultation with the California Conservation Corps. Do we need to take any further action?

A: Only projects without field work are exempt from the consultation process and do not need to submit the Corps Consultation Form to the CDFW. Click “No” in response to the application question: “Consultation with the California Conservation Corps and California Association of Local Corps - Establishing Requirement?”.

If the proposed project does include field work, click “Yes” in response to the aforementioned question. To be eligible for CDFW Prop 1 funding, applicants must then submit a completed Corps Consultation Form, available online at:

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=161123>.

Corps consultation is not required to be considered for Council funding.

Q10: Can more than one person have access to input information for an application?

A: Yes. Multiple users registered under the same Applicant Organization may access and edit the same application if they are identified as “Additional Contacts” in the General Information form by selecting “Edit” and then selecting “Additional Grantee Contacts.” Only the individual identified in the “Primary Contact” field will be able to edit the General Information form.

Q11: Will CDFW awards be allocated to proposals from two separate solicitations?

A: Yes. This solicitation calls for scientific study proposals. CDFW is planning to release another Proposition 1 Solicitation in the November 2018 timeframe, which will include statewide and Delta planning, implementation, and acquisition project categories. As in previous rounds of Proposition 1 funding, Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program funds will be distributed amount all project types (science, planning, implementation, and acquisition). There is no fixed split of funds among the project types. Awards are based upon the proposal quality, feasibility, and technical merit as well as applicability to solicitation priorities, selection panel evaluation, coordination with partner agencies, and availability of grant funds.

***Q12: When the PSN refers to “collaborative science initiative” is that referring to a specific set of initiatives?**

A: No, we are not referring to a specific group of initiatives. Applicants are asked to describe the extent to which the proposed work demonstrates collaborative partnerships and integration within and across disciplines. This will be evaluated in the technical review process (refer to the Technical Review Criteria at:

<http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=161132&inline>)

***Q13: Are Federal and State match sources permitted?**

A: Yes. We encourage both cost share and match. CDFW and the Council do not have any restrictions on match funding. We ask that applicants indicate whether they intend to leverage awarded funds as match.

*Q14: Should we submit applications for each program separately to account for differing project periods and requirements?

A: No, a single application should be submitted for consideration by both programs. Where requirements differ between programs (e.g., ineligible expenses, project duration), the project scope and budget may be modified accordingly during grant agreement or contract negotiations.

Both programs will consider funding projects up to three years in duration; however, the timing of project execution and completion differs between programs (see Q7, above). If awarded by CDFW, cost share may be used to support project activities that occur between award announcement and grant execution.

*Q15: How do we decide which funding stream to apply to?

A: Both programs will evaluate each application during administrative review to determine whether the applicant is an eligible entity and the science focus area is applicable. If the applicant is an eligible entity under both programs and the proposal addresses a science focus area applicable to both programs, the application will be considered by both programs. Applicants have the option to identify and explain if they have a funding source preference in the application.

*Q16: How do we obtain prior approval of out of state travel?

A: Out of state travel should be clearly identified in the proposed budget and budget justification. If selected for funding, travel expenses will be incorporated into the grant or contract agreement as documentation of approval.

*Q17: Does the CDFW indirect cost rate limitation apply to subcontractor budgets?

A: No. The CDFW indirect cost rate limitation (20%) applies to the applicant budget. Subcontractors are subject only to the applicant's subcontracting policies.