**Endangered Species Act
Non-Traditional Section 6 Grant Program**

**FY2019 Recovery Land Acquisition**

**Project Narrative**

***NOTE: All text in italics can be removed upon finalizing the Project Narrative***

*This template is not intended to be a substitute for the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Final Rule (2 CFR 200), the Section 6 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), 50 CFR 80.13, or the Fish and Wildlife Manual. The current NOFO should be read carefully before submitting an application package for funding consideration*

**PROJECT CONTACTS**

*Provide complete contact information for the individual(s) within the organization that will oversee/manage the project activities on a day-today basis as well as the State agency project manager and FWS cooperator.*

**California Department of Fish & Wildlife:**

[Name]

[Phone]

[Email]

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:**

[Name]

[Phone]

[Email]

**Local:**

[Name]

[Affiliation]

[Phone]

[Email]

**PROJECT TITLE**:

**PROJECT COST**:

 Federal Share - $ Non-Federal Share\* - $ Total Cost - $

\*The non-Federal share must be at least 25% of the total project cost. (On the separate Budget Worksheet), provide a detailed allocation of federal funds to attain the objectives of the project.)

**NEED**

* *Include this introductory paragraph:*

This proposal requests $X in federal grant funds from the Fiscal Year 2019 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act) Recovery Land Acquisition Program. This funding will support the recovery of *[Insert Name(s) of Federally Listed or Candidate Species]*in *[southern/northern]* California.

* *List and describe the Applicant(s) and stakeholder(s)*
* *Provide a brief geographic description of the parcel(s) proposed for acquisition.*
* *Acreage of acquisition area*
* *Describe how the proposed project will contribute to the recovery of the target species. List the Recovery Plan tasks or actions that identify acquisition of the subject parcel(s) as a priority action for recovery of the species.*

**OBJECTIVE**

*Describe what will be accomplished during the performance period. This may be a range of acres based upon the per acre current fair market value(s). Include if partial funding will be acceptable and if so how the project objectives would be realigned.*

**EXPECTED RESULTS OR BENEFITS**

*How will the proposed project contributed to species conservation or benefit the public. Please provide quantifiable or verifiable benefits.*

*If applicable, include the following paragraph:*

Public benefits include carbon sequestration, enhanced water quality, protection of viewsheds, biodiversity conservation, and protection of pollinator habitat which benefits surrounding farming communities. Passive recreation that is conducive to sensitive resources may also be permitted, where consistent with the Plan.

**SPECIES BENEFITS**

*Using the tables below, separately describe the* ***benefit of this acquisition of parcels*** *tofederally listed, candidate and at-risk species. Include if there is designated Critical Habitat in the acquisition area or targeted parcels.*

| **Covered Listed Species** | **Expected Benefits**  | **Degree of Benefit (low, medium, high)\*** | **Recovery Plan (or similar document) and Task/Action Number** | **Justification\*\*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Example: Longhorn fairy shrimp* | *Protection of essential habitat.*  | *High* | *Identify the federal Recovery Plan and the task or action number which identifies acquisition of the subject parcel(s) as a priority recovery action. If no draft or final Recover Plan exists note the document that identifies the proposed acquisition as a priority recovery action.* | *80% of the species habitat will be protected through the acquisition of the X acres\*\*\*.* |

*\*As defined in the USFWS Fiscal Year 2019 NOFO, the benefit to covered species will be considered high or low if the following criteria can be met:*

* *High benefit to species conservation: The benefits to species will be considered high, if through the project, 75% or greater of the species’ range-wide habitat or an essential piece (as identified in a draft or final recovery plan or similar conservation document) of habitat will be protected, or protecting a major population necessary for recovery or to preclude the need to list, or a source population that provides individuals for future emigration is protected, or major threats to the species will be eliminated, or acquisition is necessary to avoid extinction within the next five years, or the acquisition will assist the species in achieving down or de listing criteria within the next five years, or preclude the need to list a species.*
* *Medium benefit to species conservation: The benefits to species will be considered medium, if through the project, 26-74% of the species’ range-wide habitat is protected, or acquisition is necessary to avoid a significant decline of the populations that will be protected, and will contribute to recovery or help preclude the need to list, but other actions are still necessary to achieve these goals.*
* *Low benefit to species conservation: The benefits to species will be considered low, if through the project, only a small percentage (25% or less) of the species’ range-wide habitat will be protected, or individual populations(s) to be covered contribute little to the overall recovery of the species, or may not contribute to precluding the need to list, or threats addressed are not imminent, or acquisition will provide habitat that is currently unoccupied.*

*\*\*Cite the information sources used to develop the justification for the degree of benefit.*

*\*\*\* If feasible, add in which APNs are targeted for each species. Lumping species is okay (i.e. the suite of vernal pool species for San Diego).*

**ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONALITY**

*When considered in the context of the surrounding landscape, the land targeted for acquisition, contains (none, some, or all) of the naturally occurring biotic and abiotic components and ecological processes necessary to maintain a fully functioning ecosystem that contains the habitat necessary to support the listed, candidate, or at-risk species associated with that ecosystem. Discuss the level of restoration needed, if any, for each proposed acquisition.*

**HABITAT CONNECTIVITY**

*Do the lands proposed for acquisition fill a critical void in the matrix of protected lands, such as a connection between protected areas or protection of a core population area? Include a justification for each species. Consider consulting the following resources: (1)* [*CDFW’s Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS)*](https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/bios/) *for (a) existing conserved lands documented in the California Protected Areas Database (CPAD) and the California Conservation Easement Database (CCED) (accessed under the “Land Ownership” tab on the left-side menu) and (b) the California Essential Habitat Connectivity (CEHC) project (by typing CEHC into the search bar at the top titled “Add Data: BIOS”; and (2) CDFW’s Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE-III) (using the “Connectivity” tab on the left-side menu); and (3) California Essential Habitat Connectivity.*

**APPROACH**

* *Explain how the objective will be attained and include specific procedures and schedules.*
* *Fill out the table below, using the level of detail in the example below. Do not include USFWS or CDFW:*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stakeholder/Partner Name** | **Role** | **Contribution (cash or in-kind) to Plan Implementation** |
| *Example: County X* | *County X is a Permittee and is signatory to the I.A. County X is responsible for the implementation of the Plan. This includes, but is not limited to, raising money for land acquisition.*  | *County X has contributed X hours of Staff time ($300,000) to implement the NCCP/HCP. County X has participated in land acquisition due diligence and negotiations, land acquisition funding, and management.* |
| *Example: NGO Y* | *NGO Y will be the titleholder for the conserved property and will manage the property in perpetuity.* | *NGO Y will contribute donated land or cash as match for the acquisition parcel(s).* |
|  |  |  |

**READINESS**

*Indicate if all proposed activities can be completed within 1 year. Otherwise this section can be removed.*

**LOCATION**

*Include maps of the proposed acquisition, including parcels targeted for acquisition that characterize the following:*

* *Species habitat and other important ecosystem information,*
* *Location in relation to other conservation lands funded outside this grant as part of larger, landscape level conservation effort*
* Any other information that will assist reviewers in proposal evaluation and ranking.

**PROGRAM PRIORITIES** *Proposals will be evaluated with the USFWS National program priorities in mind. This proposal may have addressed one or more priorities in the sections above. If not, please include a brief description on the ways in which this specific project supports the priorities highlighted here:*

* *Listing status of the target species. Federally listed and candidate species will be given priority.*
* *Relative urgency of taking recovery or protection measures to assure survival of a species (prevent extinction).*
* *Ability to accomplish priority actions for species recovery as identified in a draft or final species recovery plan or similar conservation document.*
* *Readiness of the State to proceed with the project.*
* *Recovery potential for the target species with projects promoting down or delisting, or precluding the need to list.*
* *Number of endangered and threatened species benefitted.*
* *Potential for restoring an endangered or threatened species within a State or potential for restoring the ecosystems (habitat) upon which the target species depend.*

**ESTIMATED COST**

*Include a map of the prioritized parcels and a list of assessor parcel numbers (APN)\* in a table format as follows:*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **APN** | **Acres** | **Estimated Cost** | **Federal Share of Cost** |
|  |  |  |  |

*\*If a parcel is included in this grant proposal, it may not be included in a recovery land acquisition proposal for the same fiscal year.*

* *Complete and attach the* [*2019 – 2022 Multi-Year Budget*](http://dfgintranet/Portal/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=jnqGuoJyN3M%3d&tabid=2694) *provided by the Federal Assistance Section.*

**BUDGET NARRATIVE***As part of the Project Narrative or as an appendix, explain and justify all requested budget items identified on the budget worksheet (SF 424A or SF 424C) and costs associated with the Federal funding requested.*

*If this grant is a pass-through, the budget details must be stated in the “external contracts” section. Other sections, not including “match description”, are for CDFW expenses only.*

* *In-Kind Match Description ($):*
	+ - *Include the source, the amount, and the valuation methodology used to arrive at the total.*
		- *If you propose to use the value of real property as all or a portion of the non‐Federal cost share, you must include information on both (a) parcels proposed for acquisition with CESCF grant funds, and (b) parcels proposed for acquisition to serve as non-Federal cost share.*

**WILLING SELLER LETTERS***Include willing seller letter(s). In absence of a letter, the applicant must submit a statement that describes current negotiations regarding the potential sale of the property to describe likelihood of success for the proposed project.*

*Please note: Appraisals are not required to be submitted with the grant proposals, but will contribute to the project readiness criteria. Appraisals are required prior to expenditure of funds if the project is selected for funding. Please be aware that if an appraisal to Federal standards is not provided with the grant application, the amount specified in the award announcement will be based on the estimate of the property's value as provided in the grant proposal. However, the actual purchase price will not be greater than the current market value as determined by an appraisal and appraisal review completed to Federal standards. States or other non-Federal partners will be responsible for ensuring that appraisal and title work are completed. The cost of conducting an appraisal(s) and completing title work, in accordance with Federal requirements, must either be assumed by the State or a non-Federal subgrantee (as matching funds), or included as part of the Federal request in the project proposal.*

**INDIRECT COST STATEMENT***Include the following paragraph:*
CDFW is a U.S. State government entity receiving more than $35 million in direct Federal funding each year. The indirect cost rate proposals are submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior. Currently, the approved FY18/19 rate is 27.20%. The FY19/20 rate proposal will be submitted for approval and is subject to change.

**SINGLE AUDIT REPORTING STATEMENT**
*Include the following paragraph:*
CDFW submitted a Single Audit report for CDFW’s most recently closed fiscal year. The report is available on the Federal Audit Clearinghouse’s Single Audit Database website (http://harvester.census.gov/sac) under EIN 94-1697567, for which the report was submitted.

**OVERLAP OR DUPLICATION OF EFFORT STATEMENT***Please provide a statement indicating if there is any overlap between this Federal application and any other Federal application, or funded project, in regards to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel. If no such overlap or duplication exists, state, “There are no overlaps or supplication between this application and any of our Federal applications or funded projects, including in regards to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel.” If any such overlap exists, provide a complete description of overlaps or duplications between this proposal and any other federally funded project or application in regards to activities, costs, and time commitment of key personnel, as applicable. Provide a copy of any overlapping or duplicate proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity and identify when that proposal was submitted, to whom (entity name and program), and when you anticipate being notifies of their funding decision. When overlap exists, your statement must end with “We understand that if any time we receive funding from another source this is duplicative of the funding we are requesting from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this application, we will immediately notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service point of contact identifies in this Funding Opportunity in writing.”*

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE***Applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission. Conflicts of interest include any relationship or matter that might place the recipient, including their employees and subrecipients, in a position of conflict, real or apparent, between their responsibilities under the award and any other outside interests. Conflicts of interest include direct or indirect financial interests; close personal relationships; positions of trust in outside organizations; consideration of future employment arrangements with a different organization; and decision-making authority related to the proposed project. Conflicts of interest are those circumstances real or perceived that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts to question the impartiality of the applicant, or the applicant’s employees or subrecipients, in matters pertaining to the proposed project. Applicants must notify the Service in writing in their application if any employees, including subrecipient and contractor personnel, are related to, married to, or have a close personal relationship with any Federal employee in the Federal program receiving this application or who otherwise may be involved in the review and selection of their proposal. The term employee means any individual to be engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award application. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Service may result in the rejection or disqualification of the application.*

**COMPLIANCE***Describe any conservation measures to be implemented that avoid or minimize take (harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect) of federally listed species. This includes the target species associated with the project and any other federally listed species in the project area. This is information not already described in the Approach Section.*

**LETTERS OF COMMITMENT (IF APPLICABLE)***States providing cost share are not required to submit letters of commitment, unless the match is being used to receive additional consideration and points under project readiness evaluation factor detailed below. Match sources and attributed values from partnering entities must also be documented in a letter of commitment that is signed by an individual with the authority to commit funds on behalf of the entity to receive additional consideration and points under this evaluation factor. Letters must detail the amount of matching funds or value of land and/or services to be contributed to the project within the period of performance. The State is responsible for ensuring availability of the full amount of the non‐Federal match.*

**LITERATURE CITED (IF ANY)**

**PREPARED BY:**

**DATE:**