

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Forest Conservation Program 2019 Proposal Solicitation Notice



Pre-applications due June 28, 2019



Contents

BACKGROUND.....	1
ELIGIBILITY	2
PSN Area	2
Grant Applicants	2
Project Types.....	2
PSN PRIORITIES	3
APPLICATION PROCESS	3
Administrative Review	4
Pre-Application	4
Full Application	4
<i>Evaluation Criteria</i>	4
<i>Budget</i>	5
<i>Community Access</i>	6
<i>Serving Disadvantaged Communities</i>	6
<i>California Conservation Corps/California Association of Local Conservation Corps Services</i>	7
<i>Monitoring and Reporting</i>	7
<i>Maintenance and Management</i>	8
GRANT REQUIREMENTS.....	8
Acquisitions.....	8
Environmental Compliance and Permitting.....	8
Data Management	8
Land Tenure/Site Control.....	9
GUIDELINES, FORMS, AND TEMPLATES.....	9
REFERENCES	10
APPENDIX A – Preview of Pre-Application Form	i
APPENDIX B – Evaluation and Scoring Guide.....	iv

Links to Application Documents:

- [Pre-Application Form](#)
- [Full Application Form](#)
- [Budget Worksheets](#)



Wildlife Conservation Board Forest Conservation Program 2019 Proposal Solicitation Notice

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) is inviting grant proposals for climate adaptation and resiliency projects that protect, restore, and improve upper watershed lands in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains, including forest lands, meadows, wetlands, chaparral, and riparian habitat. These projects should protect and improve water supply and water quality, improve forest health, reduce wildfire danger, mitigate the effects of wildfires on water quality and supply, increase flood protection, or protect or restore riparian or aquatic resources.

This 2019 Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN) for the Forest Conservation Program (Program) provides application information specific to the 2019 grant cycle. Up to \$30 million may be awarded in grants selected through this PSN. The minimum grant amount requested from WCB should be no less than \$100,000. Applicants should thoroughly review the [WCB Proposition 68 Guidelines](#) (Guidelines). Additional planning resources include:

- [WCB Strategic Plan](#)
- [State Wildlife Action Plan](#)
- [Areas of Conservation Emphasis Viewer](#)

Questions related to this PSN may also be directed to WCB via e-mail (Forests@wildlife.ca.gov).

BACKGROUND

WCB is an independent state board with the authority to carry out programs that benefit wildlife conservation in California (California Fish and Game Code 1300, et seq.). WCB's three main conservation functions are land acquisition, habitat restoration, and development of wildlife-oriented public access facilities. WCB promotes this work through many [conservation programs](#).

In June 2018, voters passed the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) which identified a need for climate adaptation and resiliency projects. Among other things, Proposition 68 made available not less than \$60 million for WCB to advance "...protection, restoration, and improvement of upper watershed lands in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains, including forest lands, meadows, wetlands, chaparral, and riparian habitat, in order to protect and improve water supply and water quality, improve forest health, reduce wildfire danger, mitigate the effects of wildfires on water quality and supply, increase flood protection, or to protect or restore riparian or aquatic resources" ([PRC 80132f](#)).

This competitive PSN is WCB's first Forest Conservation Program invitation for proposals to be funded by this Proposition 68 allocation for conservation work in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains. Projects funded through this PSN must be completed with funds expended by March 31, 2024.

WCB anticipates issuing another PSN for the Program in 2020.

ELIGIBILITY

PSN Area

Projects must be located within the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains in California (PSN Area, Figure 1), ecoregions identified by USDA Forest Service Ecological Classification and Mapping Task Team (ECOMAP 1993). An outline of the PSN Area can also be viewed through an [interactive map](#) on the Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS).

Grant Applicants

Nonprofit organizations and government agencies (federal, state, and local) are eligible to submit grant proposals in response to this PSN.

Project Types

Implementation (e.g., restoration and enhancement), planning (e.g., design and environmental review that lead to future implementation) and acquisition (e.g., conservation easement or fee title) projects are eligible for consideration in response to this PSN.



Figure 1. Outline of the PSN Area (Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains within California).

PSN PRIORITIES

Projects must advance climate adaption and resiliency projects that support “ ... protection, restoration, and improvement of upper watershed lands ... in order to protect and improve water supply and water quality, improve forest health, reduce wildfire danger, mitigate the effects of wildfires on water quality and supply, increase flood protection, or to protect or restore riparian or aquatic resources” (PRC 80132f). Example projects and their relative priority in this PSN are identified below.

These examples are **not an exhaustive list of possible projects**. In general, implementation projects (e.g., “on-the-ground” results) will be prioritized over planning projects (e.g., design and environmental review).

Priority 1

- Restoration of degraded montane meadows and streams
- Reforestation and post-fire habitat recovery
- Restoration of aspen stands
- Acquisitions that protect meadow habitat, migration corridors, or habitat connectivity

Priority 2

- Road improvements benefiting sensitive environmental resources
- Hazardous fuels reduction (mechanical thinning, prescribed burning) benefiting forest health, wildlife corridors, etc.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Table 1 lists milestones for this PSN. WCB staff will evaluate Pre-Applications and offer applicants feedback regarding alignment with PSN priorities, overall merit, and any ineligible costs. WCB will only request Full Applications from select applicants.

WCB holds a minimum of four meetings annually (typically February, May, August, and November) where the board may consider awarding funds for proposed projects. The November 21, 2019 board meeting is likely the first opportunity where WCB may award funds under this PSN. WCB staff anticipate that August 2020 will be the last board meeting where WCB will consider awarding funds under this 2019 PSN. Subsequent awards for the Program will be considered under future PSNs.

Table 1. Milestones for the 2019 PSN.

Date	Description
June 5, 2019	PSN release
June 28, 2019 at 5:00 pm	Pre-Applications due
August 9, 2019	WCB invites full applications from select applicants
September 13, 2019 at 5:00 pm	Full Applications due
November 8, 2019	WCB completes review of full applications
November 21, 2019	First WCB meeting to consider approval of selected projects
March 31, 2024	Projects complete and funds expended

Administrative Review

WCB will conduct an administrative review to determine if applications were completed as required. All information requested in this PSN must be provided and in the required formats. Applications that are determined to be ineligible or incomplete may not be considered for funding. Administrative review criteria include:

- Applications submitted by required deadlines
- Project meets eligibility requirements
- Pre-Application completed per PSN instructions
- Full Application (upon invitation) completed per PSN instructions
- CEQA documents are current and complete or will be completed no less than 15 days prior to board meeting where funding approval may be considered
 - For this 2019 PSN, projects must have CEQA completed no later than June 2020

Pre-Application

All applicants must submit **Pre-Applications by 5:00 PM Pacific Standard Time on June 28, 2019** using the online [Pre-Application Form](#). A link to this form can also be found on WCB's Forest Conservation Program page: <https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Forest>.

Only plain text may be entered in the Pre-Application Form and applicants are unable to save progress or edit responses after submission. If an applicant would like to revise or resubmit a Pre-Application before the submission deadline, that applicant should e-mail WCB at Forests@wildlife.ca.gov. Appendix A includes a preview of the Pre-Application Form to help applicants prepare responses in advance.

In addition to the required Pre-Application Form, applicants may submit optional attachments (e.g., maps, labeled photos, design drawings). To submit optional attachments, applicants must e-mail one combined PDF document not to exceed five, letter-size pages to WCB at Forests@wildlife.ca.gov no later than the Pre-Application submission deadline. The e-mail subject line must contain "2019 Forest Conservation Program Pre-App" and the Project Title as submitted with the online Pre-Application Form. The main text of the e-mail message should list the optional documents provided.

WCB staff will evaluate Pre-Applications based on proposed project alignment with PSN priorities, geographic distribution, and project readiness.

Full Application

Invited applicants must submit **Full Applications by 5:00 PM Pacific Standard Time on September 13, 2019** using the Full Application Form and Budget Worksheets referenced under the "Guidelines, Forms, and Templates" section, below.

Full Applications must be submitted via e-mail to Forests@wildlife.ca.gov with "2019 Forest Conservation Program Application" and the Project Title in the subject line. Incomplete applications will not be scored or evaluated for funding. The Guidelines describe the general evaluation process. Review and evaluation processes specific to this PSN are described in additional detail, below.

Evaluation Criteria

All Full Applications that satisfy WCB's administrative review will be evaluated and scored by technical reviewers based upon the scoring guide and evaluation criteria listed in Appendix B.

Each criterion will be scored with a point value between zero and five. A weighting factor will be applied to each criterion to calculate a weighted score. A final score for the proposal will be generated by averaging the weighted scores from all reviewers.

When scoring is complete, WCB will compose preliminary funding recommendations based on:

- Final score by technical reviewers
- Alignment with Guidelines and PSN priorities
- Distribution of funds among geographies, applicants, etc.
- Availability of funds
- Coordination with other agencies implementing complementary programs

Budget

The minimum grant amount requested from WCB should be no less than \$100,000. Budgets must be submitted with the application by completing the 2019 Forest Conservation Program – Budget Worksheets (budget worksheets). Project tasks identified in the budget worksheets should be consistent with the project narrative and schedule. The budget worksheets should identify funding that is available for long-term operation and maintenance as well as any non-WCB contributions (i.e., cash or in-kind services) to be used as cost share.

Cost Share

Cost share is the portion of the project cost not funded by the awarding agency (WCB) and is provided by the applicant and/or other sources (e.g., private companies, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and/or other entities). A list of all cost share sources must be detailed in the budget worksheets. Proposals with higher proportions of secured cost share contribution towards total project cost will score more points through the “Cost Share” proposal evaluation criterion.

Proposals must specify the source and dollar amount of all cost share contributions of cash or in-kind services (e.g., volunteer time, materials, land donations). If volunteer time is to be used as part of the matching requirement, explain the type of service that will be provided, the number of hours the service will be provided, and the hourly rate associated with the service. Cost share must be:

- Used to support the proposed project
- Spent between PSN release and the end of the grant term
- Secured prior to application submission in order to be considered during proposal scoring

Where applicable, cost share agreements or funding assurances will be required prior to grant execution. Applicant must also indicate if any cost share is being used as match for other grants or entities and whether they intend to leverage other state funds as match, if awarded. WCB may withhold retention until all cost share expenses are accrued.

Incidental Costs

Incidental costs (alternatively known as Administrative Costs, Indirect Costs or Administrative Overhead) rates are limited to 20 percent of the total direct WCB award to the grantee, minus subcontractor and equipment costs. Any amount over 20 percent will not be funded but may be used as cost share. Indirect costs include but are not limited to: workers compensation insurance, utilities, office space rental, phone, and copying which is directly related to completion of the proposed project. Costs for subcontractors and purchase of equipment cannot be included in the calculation of indirect costs in the overall project budget. The applicant must explain the methodology used to determine the rate and

provide detailed calculations in support of the indirect cost rate. Please refer to the 2019 Forest Conservation Program – Budget Worksheets.

Ineligible Costs

The following are costs that are ineligible for reimbursement through an awarded grant:

- All costs incurred outside of the grant agreement term
- Travel costs not specifically identified in the grant budget
- Out of state travel without prior written authorization from WCB
- Appraisal, title, or escrow costs
- Student tuition and/or registration fees
- Purchase of electronics or other equipment not specifically identified in the grant agreement

Community Access

Proposition 68 defined community access as “engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education, or recreational amenities” ([PRC 80002](#)).

Community access-related costs should be identified as a separate task in the “Budget Justification” Budget Worksheet and may comprise up to 5% of the grant amount from WCB.

Serving Disadvantaged Communities

Proposition 68 requires that at least 20 percent of the chapter funds available be allocated for projects serving severely disadvantaged communities. Projects that directly benefit a severely disadvantaged community and/or are located within a severely disadvantaged community will score more points through the “Serving Disadvantaged Communities” proposal evaluation criterion.

Proposition 68 defines a severely disadvantaged community as “a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average.” The Department of Water Resources has developed an interactive [Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool](#) which shows the location and boundaries of disadvantaged communities in the state.

Applicants should use the following two-step process to evaluate whether their proposed project will benefit one or more severely disadvantaged communities.

Step 1 – Determine whether a majority ($\geq 50\%$) of the proposed project area is located within a severely disadvantaged community. Applicants may use boundary data from the census place, census tract, or census block group geography levels to determine whether the project is located within a severely disadvantaged community, based on the geography that is the most representative for that community.

Step 2 – Determine whether the proposed project will provide benefits to a severely disadvantaged community. If the proposed project meets one or more of the following criteria, it will be considered to provide benefits to a severely disadvantaged community.

- Project preserves, restores, or enhances a site that allows public access, enhances public recreational opportunities (e.g., fishing, hiking, biking, bird watching), and is within 1 mile of a severely disadvantaged community
- Project significantly reduces flood risk to one or more severely disadvantaged communities
- Project reduces exposure to local environmental contaminants (e.g., water quality contaminants) within a severely disadvantaged community

- Project includes recruitment, agreements, policies, or other approaches that are consistent with federal and state law and result in at least 25% of project work hours performed by residents of a severely disadvantaged community
- Project includes recruitment, agreements, policies, or other approaches that are consistent with federal and state law and result in at least 10% of project work hours performed by residents of a severely disadvantaged community participating in job training programs which lead to industry-recognized credentials or certifications

California Conservation Corps/California Association of Local Conservation Corps Services

The California Conservation Corps (CCC) is a state agency with local operations throughout the state. The California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) is the representative for certified local conservation corps. To the extent feasible, a project whose application includes the use of services of the CCC or certified community conservation corps, as defined in Section 14507.5 of the Public Resources Code, shall be given preference for receipt of a grant. The CCC has developed a [Corps Consultation Review Document](#) to help determine whether it is feasible for CCC or CALCC to provide services for the proposed project.

Monitoring and Reporting

Planning and implementation project proposals are required to include a Monitoring and Reporting Plan that explains how habitat improvements will be measured or quantified and how project success will be evaluated and reported (see “Monitoring and Reporting” proposal evaluation criterion). Planning projects proposing to conduct baseline monitoring may include development of a monitoring plan as a task in the scope of work, or if the proposed monitoring approach is known, it should be described in the Monitoring and Reporting portion of the application. Performance of planning projects will be evaluated based on completion of project deliverables per the grant agreement. The specific terms and conditions for monitoring and reporting, including performance measures, may be negotiated prior to grant execution to ensure appropriate measures have been identified and to assist with consistency of nomenclature, units, and measurements.

The scope of the Monitoring and Reporting Plan will vary depending on the nature of the project. However, each plan shall include:

- Project-specific performance measures that are clearly linked to project objectives and have quantitative and clearly defined targets, at least some of which must be feasible to meet within one to two years post-implementation. Performance measures can be placed into two broad categories.
 - Output measures track whether on-the-ground activities were completed successfully and evaluate factors that may be influencing ecosystem outcomes (e.g., number of acres protected or restored, types and numbers of land management practices developed and implemented).
 - Outcome measures evaluate direct ecosystem responses to project activities (e.g., responses by target wildlife populations and responses in ecosystem function).
- Identify opportunities to extend the monitoring activities beyond the term of the grant (e.g., by using standardized, readily replicated monitoring and evaluation processes; leveraging on-going monitoring programs; and building partnerships capable of attracting funding from multiple sources over time).
- A plan for reporting monitoring results and progress toward performance measures.

Maintenance and Management

Implementation project proposals are required to include a Long-Term Management Plan (LTMP) that describes how the project area will be managed for a minimum of 25 years to deliver enduring, sustainable benefits consistent with the purposes of the grant (see “Durability of Investment/Climate Change Considerations” proposal evaluation criterion). The LTMP should identify funding mechanisms and parties responsible for conducting maintenance and management activities. Acquisition projects may be required to provide LTMPs.

If a LTMP is not available for the project, one may be developed as a grant deliverable. However, if a LTMP is included as a grant deliverable, the project proposal should still describe a general strategy that addresses these maintenance and management considerations.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

By submitting an application, project proponents understand and agree to all requirements and responsibilities detailed in this PSN and the Guidelines (e.g., Sections “5.0 Project Approval and Implementation” and Section 6.0 “General Program Requirements”).

Acquisitions

Acquisition of any interest in real property (e.g., fee title or conservation easement) must be from a willing seller. Sales price must not exceed fair market value, as set forth in an appraisal approved by the Department of General Services. Detailed information about WCB acquisition policies and requirements (e.g., Baseline Conditions Report) can be found on WCB’s [Grant Documents and Templates](#) webpage.

Environmental Compliance and Permitting

Activities funded under the Program must comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Several local, state, tribal and federal agencies may have permitting or other approval authority over projects that are eligible for grant funding. The applicant is responsible for obtaining all permits, approvals, reviews, etc. necessary to carry out the proposed work.

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.

Proposals for projects that are subject to CEQA and NEPA must identify the state and federal lead agencies and provide documentation that the agency or agencies have accepted the role. CEQA/NEPA compliance must be complete 15 days before WCB meets to consider funding approval. If CEQA/NEPA compliance for a proposed project is not complete at time of proposal submission, WCB will determine the likelihood of CEQA/NEPA completion by the anticipated board meeting date based upon the applicant’s schedule for and progress toward completion. Applicants must provide environmental documents and lead agency compliance, such as an Environmental Impact Report and a Notice of Determination, upon request.

Data Management

Environmental data collected under this grant program must be made visible, accessible, and independently understandable to general users in a timely manner, except where limited by law, regulation, policy or security requirements. Applicants should account for the resources necessary to implement data management activities in the project budget. Projects generating environmental data must include data management activities that support incorporation of those data into statewide data systems, where applicable.

Unless otherwise stipulated, all data collected and/or created through WCB grant funds shall be required as a deliverable and will become the property of WCB. A condition of final payment shall include the delivery of all related data. Geospatial data must be delivered in an [ArcGIS-compatible](#) format where applicable and documented with metadata in accordance with the [CDFW Minimum Data Standards](#).

Land Tenure/Site Control

Applicants for projects conducting on-the-ground work must submit documentation showing that they have adequate tenure to, and site control of, the properties to be improved or restored for at least 25 years. Proof of adequate land tenure includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

- Fee title ownership
- An easement or license agreement
- Other agreement between the applicant and the fee title owner, or the owner of an easement in the property, sufficient to give the applicant adequate site control for the purposes of the project and long-term management
- For projects involving multiple landowners, all landowners or an appointed designee must provide written permission to complete the project
- For most grants to non-profit organizations for project implementation and construction, WCB will require an agreement sufficient to protect the public interest. That agreement shall be recorded in the county in which the real property is located. This document is typically a Notice of Unrecorded Grant Agreement, or NOUGA.

When an applicant does not have tenure at the time of proposal submission, but intends to establish tenure via an agreement that will be signed prior to grant execution, the applicant must submit a template copy of the proposed agreement, memorandum of understanding (MOU), or permission form at the time of proposal submission. Once a project has been awarded, the applicant must submit documentation of land tenure before a complete grant agreement can be executed.

WCB and its representatives shall have the right to access the project site at least once every 36 months for acquisitions, and for all other grants at least once every 12 months from the start date of the grant for the life of the project. WCB shall provide advance notice to Grantee and landowners prior to accessing the project site.

GUIDELINES, FORMS, AND TEMPLATES

Requirements as identified in the Guidelines below are mandatory unless stated otherwise. Applicants must use the forms referenced below to apply or the application may be deemed incomplete and ineligible for funding. Links to these forms can also be found on WCB's Forest Conservation Program page <https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Forest>.

- 2019 Forest Conservation Program – [Full Application Form](#)
- 2019 Forest Conservation Program – [Budget Worksheets](#):
 - A. Applicant Budget (planning and implementation projects only)
 - B. Budget Justification (planning and implementation projects only)
 - C. Cost Share (all planning, implementation, and acquisition projects)
 - D. Acquisition Costs (acquisition projects only)

For questions regarding this PSN or the Program, please contact WCB's Forest Conservation Program at Forests@wildlife.ca.gov.

REFERENCES

ECOMAP. 1993. National hierarchical framework of ecological units. Unpublished administrative paper. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. 20 p. Ecoregions of the United States [map, rev. ed.]. Robert G. Bailey, cartog. 1994. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Scale 1:7,500,000; colored.

PRC 80321f. PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, DIVISION 45. California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 [80000 - 80173], CHAPTER 10. Climate Preparedness, Habitat Resiliency, Resource Enhancement, and Innovation [80130 - 80137].

APPENDIX A – Preview of Pre-Application Form

1. Project Title

2. Organization Name

3. Organization Type

- State government
- Federal government
- Local government
- Nonprofit organization

4. Contact Person - full name

5. Contact Person - phone number

6. Contact Person - e-mail address

7. Project Type

- Planning
- Implementation
- Acquisition

8. Landowner Type

For implementation projects only.

- State government
- Federal government
- Local government
- Nonprofit organization
- Private landowner

9. Landowner Name

For implementation and acquisition projects only.

10. Acquisition Type

For acquisition projects only.

- Easement
- Fee Title

11. Parcel APN number(s)

For implementation and acquisition projects only.

12. Describe any protections or restrictions affecting the project (e.g., carbon offset projects, conservation easements, etc.).

For implementation and acquisition projects only.

13. Project Summary (4,000 character limit).

Briefly describe:

- *Problem or need and how the project will provide a solution, including anticipated results (e.g., restored habitat types and acreages, deliverables, etc.).*
- *How the project advances WCB's objectives for the Program, as described in the PSN.*
- *Whether/how this project relates to other conservation work in the vicinity.*

14. Habitat Type

15. Habitat Acreage

16. Total project cost

Round up to nearest \$1,000.

17. Amount requested from WCB

Round up to nearest \$1,000.

18. Amount of non-WCB funds secured

Round up to nearest \$1,000.

19. Start Date

(m/d/yyyy)

20. End Date

(m/d/yyyy)

21. Briefly describe project location

e.g., current/former land uses, distance to nearest city, etc.

22. Latitude for approximate center of project area

Provide in decimal degrees (e.g., 38.583344).

23. Longitude for approximate center of project area

Provide in decimal degrees (e.g., -121.505838).

24. Status of project environmental review per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Note that a Notice of Determination or equivalent is required at least two weeks in advance of a WCB meeting for the Board to consider approving the grant award at that meeting.

- Project is exempt under CEQA
- Project requires a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report

25. Briefly explain why the project is exempt under CEQA and provide the number for the project class exemption.

26. Specify the environmental review document, lead CEQA agency, and clearinghouse number or anticipated filing date.

27. County(ies) overlapping project area.

You may select multiple counties if applicable.

- Alpine
- Amador
- Butte
- Calaveras
- El Dorado
- Fresno
- Inyo
- Kern
- Lassen
- Madera
- Mariposa
- Modoc
- Mono
- Nevada
- Placer
- Plumas
- Shasta
- Sierra
- Siskiyou
- Tehama
- Tulare
- Tuolumne
- Yuba
- Other

28. Do you plan to upload any optional documents (e.g., maps, labeled photos, design drawings) for WCB to consider as part of this Pre-Application?

See PSN instructions regarding e-mail transmittal of optional documents.

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Closing message after submission:

"Thank you for submitting a Pre-Application in response to the 2019 Proposal Solicitation Notice for WCB's Forest Conservation Program.

You may not further edit the submitted application. However, contact WCB at 'Forests@wildlife.ca.gov' if you would like to discard this application and resubmit a different version.

Follow the Proposal Solicitation Notice instructions to submit any optional documents (e.g., maps, labeled photos, design drawings) that you may want to accompany your Pre-Application.

You may save a copy of this screen as evidence of your Pre-Application submission."

APPENDIX B – Evaluation and Scoring Guide

General Scoring Guide

Points*	Description
5	Criterion is fully addressed and supported by thorough and well-presented documentation and logical rationale.
4	Criterion is fully addressed and supporting documentation or rationale is less robust.
3	Criterion is not fully addressed and supporting documentation or rationale is insufficient to justify methods or objectives.
2	Criterion is marginally addressed and supporting documentation or rationale is insufficient to justify methods or objectives.
1	Criterion is minimally addressed and supporting documentation and rationale is insufficient to justify methods or objectives.
0	Criterion is not addressed.

*Categories with special scoring criteria are identified below.

Evaluation Criteria

Category	Criteria	Weight Factor	Max. Points	Max. Score
1. Applicability to Solicitation Priorities	Project aligns with the goals and priorities stated in this PSN, the Proposition 68 Guidelines, and WCB’s Strategic Plan.	3	5	15
2. Project Outcomes – Significance of the Benefits	Project provides multiple tangible benefits and the proposal provides sufficient analysis and documentation to demonstrate significance and a high likelihood that the benefits will be realized.	3	5	15
3. Durability of Investment/ Climate Change Considerations	Project delivers enduring benefits and provides climate change and resilience benefits to wildlife, habitat, and ecosystem function.	3	5	15
4. Approach and Feasibility	Proposal narrative clearly shows that the approach is well-designed and appropriate for meeting the project objectives; methods and technologies are appropriate and understood.	3	5	15
5. Monitoring and Reporting	Proposal demonstrates a clear and reasonable approach to monitoring, assessing, and reporting the effectiveness of the project.	1	5	5

Category	Criteria	Weight Factor	Max. Points	Max. Score
6. Project Team Qualifications	<p>Proposal demonstrates that the project team, and any partnership as appropriate, has the appropriate experience, facilities/equipment, and capacity to successfully perform the proposed tasks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 to 5 points: Project team demonstrates an appropriate level of expertise and, where applicable, successful completion of previously funded. • 2 to 3 points: Project team lacks some expertise, has had some problems with successful completion of previously funded grants, or some key subcontractors are not named or are not appropriate for work. • 0 to 1 point: Project team has very limited expertise and/or has had numerous problems with successful completion of previously funded projects, or no key subcontractors are named. 	1	5	5
7. Schedule and Deliverables	<p>Proposal demonstrates a logical sequence and timing of project tasks, with reasonable milestones and appropriate deliverables consistent with a fund liquidation deadline of March 31, 2024, and that aligns with the tasks in the project narrative.</p>	1	5	5
8. Project Readiness	<p>Proposal demonstrates that access to the property, environmental compliance, permitting, planning, engineering design or other necessary preparations for the project as a whole are sufficient for prompt project implementation.</p>	1	5	5
9. Budget	<p>Proposed budget and justification are appropriate to the work proposed, cost effective, and sufficiently detailed to describe project costs, and are consistent with the tasks shown in the project narrative and schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 points: Budget is detailed, accurate, and costs appear reasonable. • 3 to 4 points: Budget is moderately detailed, has some inaccuracies, and costs appear reasonable. • 1 to 2 points: Budget lacks sufficient detail, has many inaccuracies or costs appear unreasonable. • 0 points: Budget lacks sufficient detail, has many inaccuracies, and costs do not appear reasonable. 	1	5	5

Category	Criteria	Weight Factor	Max. Points	Max. Score
10. Cost Share	<p>Project provides secured federal, state, private, or local cost share. All fund sources must be identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 points: Non-WCB cost share of >40%. • 4 points: Non-WCB cost share of 31-40%. • 3 points: Non-WCB cost share of 21-30% will receive 3 points. • 2 points: Non-WCB cost share of 11-20%. • 1 point: Non-WCB cost share of 1-10%. • 0 points: No non-WCB cost share. 	1	5	5
11. Community Support and Collaboration	<p>Project has broad-based public and institutional support at the local, regional, or larger scale and the local community or other stakeholders are engaged in project delivery.</p>	1	5	5
12. Serving Disadvantaged Communities	<p>Project benefits to severely disadvantaged communities per California Department of Water Resources guidance (https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 points: Projects that provide direct benefits to a severely disadvantaged community. • 1 point: Majority of the project area is located within a severely disadvantaged community. 	1	3	3
13. CCC/CALCC Services	<p>Project utilizes California Conservation Corps (CCC) and/or California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) services. (1 point possible)</p>	1	2	2
Total Maximum Score: 100				