

2020 Proposition 1 & Proposition 68 Grant Opportunities



Proposal Solicitation Notice

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Application Deadline Extended to:
November 25, 2019**

WatershedGrants@Wildlife.ca.gov



California Department of Fish and Wildlife



The Mission of the Department of Fish and Wildlife is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public

FOREWORD

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is pleased to announce funding opportunities for multi-benefit ecosystem restoration and protection projects under both Proposition 1 and Proposition 68. This Proposal Solicitation Notice (Solicitation) for Proposition 1 Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and Proposition 68 Fiscal Year 2019-2020 focuses on planning, implementation, acquisition, and scientific study projects across multiple priorities outlined herein.

This Solicitation addresses priorities which will contribute to the objectives of Proposition 1 (Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014); Proposition 68 (California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018). In addition, CDFW is seeking projects that contribute to implementation of [California Water Action Plan](#), [State Wildlife Action Plan](#), [Sacramento Valley Salmon Resiliency Strategy](#), [Delta Plan](#), [California EcoRestore](#), [Safeguarding California Plan](#), the [California Biodiversity Initiative](#), and the fulfillment of CDFW's Mission. All qualified, eligible entities are encouraged to submit grant proposals.

Grant Program Guidelines

This Solicitation provides specifics for each grant program described in the Solicitation and Evaluation Guidelines for the [Proposition 1](#) and [Proposition 68](#) Grant Programs. These guidelines were recently updated and provide detailed information not found in this Solicitation regarding: project types, program and funding requirements, budgets, design plans and engineering, qualifications and licensed professionals, labor code requirements, long-term management, environmental compliance and permitting, water law, project monitoring and reporting, data management, the selection process, requirements for awarded grants, invoicing and payments, reporting, standard conditions, and many other general program requirements.

Award Information

- Anticipated total available funding: approximately \$37 million
 - \$6 million in Proposition 68 funds, allocated in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Act
 - \$31 million in Proposition 1 funds dependent upon allocation in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Act
- Grant award notifications anticipated in the Spring of 2020
- Grant-funded project work must be completed by:
 - March 15, 2022 for Proposition 68 funds (January 1, 2022 for University of

- California agreements)
- March 15, 2024 for Proposition 1 funds (January 1, 2024 for University of California agreements)

Eligibility Information

Eligible entities vary slightly between the Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 grant programs. Eligibility for Proposition 1 is defined by California Water Code Sections §79702[p], §79702[s], and §79712. Eligibility for Proposition 68 is defined by Fish and Game Code Section §1501.5[b]. The following entity types are eligible for funding by both grant programs: state and local public agencies within California, federally recognized Indian tribes and State Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, and non-profit organizations. In addition, federal agencies can apply for Proposition 68 grants, and public utilities and mutual water companies can apply for Proposition 1 grants. See Section 3.1 of this Solicitation for detailed information. Other entities that are not eligible for funding under this Solicitation may work as subcontractors for an eligible applicant.

Proposal Deadline

The complete proposal application and all supporting documentation must be submitted via the [CDFW WebGrants System](https://watershedgrants.wildlife.ca.gov) (<https://watershedgrants.wildlife.ca.gov>) by 4:00 PM, Pacific Daylight Time, on November 25, 2019.

Application Workshops

CDFW will schedule two online workshops to provide technical assistance with the application. Please see CDFW [Proposition 1](#) and [Proposition 68](#) Restoration Grant Programs websites for workshop details. Workshops will be recorded and made available online.

Contacts

For questions about this Solicitation please contact CDFW's Watershed Restoration Grants Branch by e-mail at WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov.

This document, email list subscription information, and further information about the funding sources can be found at the CDFW websites for the [Proposition 1](#) and [Proposition 68](#) Restoration Grant Programs.

For questions regarding CDFW WebGrants, please contact the CDFW WebGrants Help Desk at (916) 323-0477 or by e-mail at Prop1Webgrants@wildlife.ca.gov.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CALCC	California Association of Local Conservation Corps
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CCC	California Conservation Corps
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
Corps	CCC and CALCC, collectively
CWC	California Water Code
DGS	Department of General Services
DMP	Data Management Plan
GAMA	Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PDT	Pacific Daylight Time
PRC	Public Resources Code
Proposition 1	Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014
Proposition 68	California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018
Solicitation	Proposal Solicitation Notice
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WCB	Wildlife Conservation Board

1 BACKGROUND

The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 ([Proposition 1](#)), and the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 ([Proposition 68](#)) provide funding to implement the objectives of the [California Water Action Plan](#) for more reliable water supplies, the restoration of important species and habitat, and a more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system. In addition, CDFW is seeking projects that contribute to implementation of [State Wildlife Action Plan](#), [Sacramento Valley Salmon Resiliency Strategy](#), [Delta Plan](#), [California EcoRestore](#), [Safeguarding California Plan](#), the [California Biodiversity Initiative](#), and the fulfillment of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) Mission.

Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 authorize CDFW to award \$457.5 million in grant funds to multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects. CDFW distributes these funds on a competitive basis through the:

1. Watershed Restoration Grant Program,
2. Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program, and
3. Proposition 68 Grant Programs.

The [Project Solicitation and Evaluation Guidelines for Proposition 1 Grant Programs](#) were finalized in June 2015 and revised in October 2018. The [Project Solicitation and Evaluation Guidelines for Proposition 68 Grant Programs](#) were finalized in October 2018. These Guidelines provide a foundation for the basic requirements for project proposals; however, the information in this Solicitation supersedes any discrepancies among the documents.

Under this Solicitation, approximately \$37 million is anticipated for award:

- \$24 million for the Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration Grant Program,
- \$7 million for the Proposition 1 Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program, and
- \$6 million for Proposition 68 Rivers and Streams Restoration Grants.

CDFW anticipates that up to \$4 million of the funding awarded to projects that protect and restore anadromous salmonid habitat will serve as state match for the 2020 [Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund](#) grant. The purpose of this Solicitation is to solicit

proposals limited to the focus areas described in Section 2.

1.1 Proposition 1 Grant Programs

Proposition 1 includes a number of provisions that govern how CDFW may allocate funds authorized by California Water Code (CWC) [Section 79737](#) and [Section 79738](#), including those identified below. Projects must be consistent with the purposes of Proposition 1 to be eligible for funding by either program. Proposals must address at least one of the following priorities:

Watershed Restoration Grant Program

- Large-scale wildfire recovery response and prevention
- Manage headwaters for multiple benefits
- Protect and restore mountain meadow ecosystems
- Protect and restore anadromous and other non-game native fish habitat
- Protect and restore coastal wetland ecosystems
- Protect and restore cross-border urban creeks and watersheds

Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program

- Improve water quality
- Improve habitats in the Delta
- Planning for multi-benefit restoration through regional partnerships
- Scientific studies to support implementation of the Delta Science Plan and the 2017-2021 Science Action Agenda

1.2 Proposition 68 Grant Programs

Proposition 68 includes a number of provisions that govern how CDFW may allocate funds authorized by Public Resource Code (PRC) [Section 80132\(d\)](#), [Section 80132\(e\)\(2\)](#), and [Section 80132\(g\)](#). Projects must be consistent with the purposes of Proposition 68 to be eligible for funding by any of these programs. This Solicitation aims to fund projects that address Section 80132(d):

Rivers and Streams Restoration Grant Program

- Restore rivers and streams in support of fisheries and wildlife
- Reconnect rivers with their floodplains
- Restore riparian and side-channel habitat
- Restore and protect upper watershed forests and meadows

Funds available pursuant to this section shall not be expended to pay the costs of the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of Delta conveyance facilities (PRC §80132[d] and CWC §79738[f]).

1.3 Solicitation Schedule

CDFW will advertise timeline updates through e-mail announcements, postings on the [Proposition 1](#) and [Proposition 68](#) program websites, and news releases. Please sign up for email updates on either of the the program websites.

Table 1: Proposal Solicitation Process and Anticipated Schedule

Activity	Schedule
Draft Solicitation public review and comment period	August 21, 2019 – September 6, 2019
Public Workshop on Draft Solicitation	August 28, 2019
Release Proposal Solicitation Notice	October 1, 2019
Online Application Workshops	October 17, 2019 November 6, 2019
Proposals due by 4:00 PM, Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)	November 25, 2019
Deadline for CEQA completion if applicable	February 7, 2020
Proposal Evaluation	November 2019 – January 2020
CDFW Director approval/awards announced	Spring 2020
Execute grant agreements	Summer/Fall 2020
All project work completed, and final invoice submitted for payment	March 15*, 2022 (Prop 68) March 15*, 2024 (Prop 1)

*January 1 for University of California grants

1.4 Requirements for Awarded Proposals

Grant agreement requirements for awarded proposals can be found in Section 4.4 of the [Proposition 1 Guidelines](#) and [Proposition 68 Guidelines](#).

2 SOLICITATION FOCUS BY PROGRAM

All Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 grants funded by CDFW under this Solicitation must fall within the following priorities:

2.1 Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration and Proposition 68 Rivers and Streams Grants

The Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration Grant Program will fund multi-benefit projects of statewide importance outside of the Delta. The Proposition 68 Rivers and Streams Grant Program will fund projects to restore and protect rivers and streams in support of fisheries and wildlife, including, but not limited to, reconnection of rivers with their floodplains, riparian and side-channel habitat restoration activities, and restoration and protection of upper watershed forests and meadow systems that are important for fish and wildlife resources (PRC §80132[d]). Because the focus of these programs are similar, the following description of priorities applies to both. Projects must be consistent with the purposes of Propositions 1 and 68, and contribute to implementation of the [California Water Action Plan](#). In addition, CDFW is seeking projects that contribute to implementation of [State Wildlife Action Plan](#), [Sacramento Valley Salmon Resiliency Strategy](#), [Safeguarding California Plan](#), [Central Valley Flood Protection Plan](#), [Conservation Strategy](#), [California Biodiversity Initiative](#), state and federal recovery plans, or other relevant state and federal plans.

Proposals must address at least one of the following priorities:

1) **Large-Scale Wildfire Recovery Response and Prevention**

The objective of this priority in response to the increase in frequency and intensity of wildfires and the devastating effects on watersheds, is to fund Planning and Implementation projects in fire-damaged watersheds that will contribute to restoration and recovery of stream and riparian habitats, prevent erosion, protect and improve water quality, and prevent potential future negative ecosystem effects. Example projects include, but are not limited to:

- Fuel reduction
- Native, fire-resistant understory vegetation restoration
- Sediment basin construction
- Prevention of upslope erosion
- Restoration of riparian habitat
- Improvement of water quality for aquatic and riparian species

- Post-fire assessments that will inform a future implementation project

Proposed projects that address this priority may include activities that are subject to partial or full streamlining of regulatory requirements. Any such streamlining will have its own procedural and substantive requirements. As with other laws and regulations potentially applicable to applicants' projects, applicants are encouraged to review those requirements. For example, projects that address this priority may include activities that are subject to one or more Governor's emergency proclamations suspending certain state statutes, rules, regulations, or requirements. Those Governor's emergency proclamations require that an individual who desires to conduct activities under such a suspension request that the appropriate Secretary from either the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) or California Natural Resources Agency, or a delegate thereof, determine that proposed project activities are eligible to be conducted under that suspension. CDFW recommends applicants contact the Watershed Restoration Grants Branch and CalEPA as soon as possible regarding the emergency proclamations' potential applicability prior to applying.

Please note in the event a request for regulatory requirement streamlining is not granted, applicants will remain responsible for all regulatory compliance and permitting, as outlined in Section 3.11 of the [Proposition 1 Guidelines](#). It is important that applicants communicate with CDFW as soon as possible to begin the coordination process.

2) Manage Headwaters for Multiple Benefits

Watersheds in the Cascades, Sierra Nevada and other forested areas of the state are places of origin for more than two-thirds of the state's developed water supply. Many of these crucial watersheds are in poor health. Implementing projects to restore, protect, and enhance the condition, function, and resiliency of forests, streams, meadows, and soils can contribute to several objectives, including:

- Improve and protect the quantity and quality of water available year-round
- Improve and protect habitat for wildlife, fish, and plant species
- Reduce the risk and consequences of large, damaging wildfires
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stabilize carbon storage
- Improve and protect air quality
- Improve local socio-economic conditions and public safety

CDFW seeks projects that contribute to managing headwaters for multiple benefits by:

- Restoring forest health through ecologically sound forest management. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to:

- Thinning of overstocked forest stands to improve forest health
- Treatment and prevention of forest pests and invasive species
- Restoration of riparian areas and hardwood communities
- Invasive species removal
- Reforestation of native species
- Thinning of encroaching conifers near aspen stands
- Increasing carbon sequestration
- Decreasing forest vulnerability to climate change
- Road and culvert decommissioning and sediment control
- Protecting and restoring degraded stream and meadow ecosystems to assist in natural water management and improved habitat
- Protecting strategically important lands within watersheds to ensure continued or improved watershed health, function, connectivity, and resilience

Prioritization of projects to manage headwaters for multiple benefits will consider project scale and regional importance, degree to which the project addresses landscapes damaged by large, high-intensity fires, and the diversity and significance of the project benefits.

3) Protect and Restore Mountain Meadow Ecosystems

The objective of this priority is to protect, restore, and enhance mountain meadow ecosystems in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges. Mountain meadows throughout California's high mountain ranges are in a state of degradation due to land management practices and other factors. Restoring and protecting ecological and hydrological functions to mountain meadows will decrease their vulnerability to climate change and provide many critical functions and services, including increased groundwater storage, reduced and delayed peak flows on streams that flow through meadow systems, improved water quality, protection of climate refugia, and restored and expanded habitat for native species.

Applicants proposing to conduct any project that creates ponds or pools, such as a meadow restoration using pond-and-plug or beaver dam analog techniques, should include a whirling disease¹ risk assessment as a part of their scope of work.

¹ Whirling disease is a lethal parasite of salmonids and is present in some waters of the state. Ponds and still waters can increase the impact of whirling disease on trout populations, including trout native to California. Whirling disease requires a worm (*Tubifex tubifex*) as an obligate and alternate host. Ponds and still waters are preferred habitat for the tubifex worm and can result in amplification of the whirling disease parasite and greater impacts to sensitive and native salmonid populations.

Prioritization of projects to protect and restore mountain meadow ecosystems will take into account the extent to which the project restores landscapes damaged by large high-intensity wildfires, the significance and diversity of the project benefits, and where applicable, relevance to the [Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration Business Plan \(National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 2010\)](#) and [the Sierra Meadows Strategy](#) (Sierra Meadows Partnership, 2016).

4) Protect and Restore Anadromous and Other Non-Game Native Fish Habitat

The objective of this priority is to protect, restore, or enhance anadromous and other non-game native fish habitat in watersheds of California to aid in the recovery and conservation of these species. CDFW is seeking projects that address limiting factors and priority actions specified in state or federal recovery plans, the [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) (Chapter 6), and/or other relevant conservation plans, including:

- Removing high priority fish passage barriers (refer to the [2018 Fish Passage Priorities List](#))
- Installing screens on priority unscreened diversions and repair/replacement of existing substandard screens (refer to the [2018 Priority Water Diversions for Screening](#))
- Restoring or enhancing riparian, instream, floodplain, side channel, or estuarine habitat
- Restoring instream spawning and rearing habitat
- Restoring off-channel rearing, streambank, and riparian habitats and migratory conditions
- Improving instream flow quality and quantity
- Removing migration barriers to green sturgeon and other special-status species
- Reducing erosion and instream/downstream sedimentation
- Improving adult fish passage through the Sacramento River Flood Control Project
- Protecting important watershed lands and riparian buffers in agricultural landscapes through acquisitions and conservation easements

Proposition 1 grant funds are also available for water conservation projects (e.g., off-channel water storage, changes in the timing or source of water supply, moving points of diversion, irrigation ditch lining, piping, stock-water systems, and agricultural tailwater recovery/management systems) that permanently dedicate 100 percent of the water saved due to project implementation for instream purposes to support anadromous fish during water limited seasons.

Projects for which the main purpose is to enhance stream flow should consider submitting

proposals to the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB's) [California Stream Flow Enhancement Program](#). In instances where an applicant submits a proposal to CDFW's Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Program and WCB's California Stream Flow Enhancement Program, the applicant should clearly define the streamflow enhancement component(s) of the project in the scope of work (task description) and budget.

Prioritization of projects will take into account the listing status of the species for which the project is designed to benefit, passage designs that benefit or provide passage for multiple migratory species, and whether the proposal: focuses on populations and geographies that play an important role in recovery, implements a high priority recovery action identified in a final or public draft recovery plan, addresses restoration activities specified in the [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) (Chapter 6), and also addresses other priorities in this solicitation. Prioritization of projects that eliminate barriers to migration will be informed by CDFW's [2018 Fish Passage Priorities List](#) and [2018 Priority Water Diversions for Screening](#). Prioritization of projects designed to enhance stream flows will consider coordination with WCB's California Stream Flow Enhancement Program.

Priority for projects funded with Proposition 68 funds will be given to projects supported by multi-stakeholder public or private partnerships, or both, using a science-based approach and measurable objectives to guide identification, design, and implementation of regional actions to benefit salmon and steelhead (PRC §80132[d]). Funds available pursuant to this section shall not be expended to pay the costs of the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of Delta conveyance facilities (PRC §80132[d] and CWC §79738[f]).

5) Protect and Restore Coastal Wetland Ecosystems

The objective of this priority is to implement multi-benefit projects designed to protect, restore, or enhance coastal wetland ecosystems. These projects will seek to protect and restore diversity, quality, and connectivity across the range of wetland types extending from subtidal areas to upland transition areas, including non-tidal wetlands. Restoring ecological condition and function within coastal wetlands will provide a variety of important benefits, such as improved habitat for fish and wildlife, enhanced flood protection, increased resiliency to sea-level rise and storm events, and improved water quality.

The [California Water Action Plan](#) calls upon CDFW to implement large-scale habitat projects along the California coast in strategic estuaries to restore ecological health and natural system connectivity and help defend against sea-level rise. As such, project scale, regional importance, and significance and diversity of the benefits will be considered

during prioritization of these projects.

6) Protect and Restore Cross-Border Urban² Creeks and Watersheds

The ecological health of California-Mexico cross-border urban creeks and watersheds is threatened by urban and agricultural encroachment and pollution, sedimentation, trash, and other stressors. CDFW is seeking projects that address these threats. Projects under this priority should address the unique ecological, flood control, water quality, and hydrological conditions associated with urban creeks and watersheds on the California-Mexico border. Fund in this solicitation is only available to the parts of a project that are located within the State of California.

2.2 Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grants

The Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program will fund projects that benefit the Delta³. Projects must be consistent with the purposes of Proposition 1 and contribute to implementation of the [California Water Action Plan](#), [State Wildlife Action Plan](#), [Delta Plan](#), [Delta Science Plan](#), 2017-2021 Science Action Agenda, [Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Conservation Strategy](#), [Delta Conservation Framework](#), and/or [California EcoRestore](#).

Applicants awarded grants for projects that are covered actions under the Delta Plan will be required to ensure that a written [certification of consistency](#) with the Delta Plan is prepared as part of the pre-implementation project permitting requirements, including an adequate adaptive management plan (Delta Plan General Policy 1); this process includes consultation with the Delta Science Program's [Adaptive Management Liaison team](#).

Proposals must address at least one of the following priorities:

1) Improve Water Quality

The objective of this priority is to plan for and implement multi-benefit projects that contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Delta to improve ecosystem condition, functions, and resiliency, including projects in Delta counties that provide multiple public benefits and improve drinking and agricultural water quality or water supplies. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to:

² CWC Section 7048(e) defines an "urban creek" as "a creek which crosses built-up residential, commercial, or industrial property, or which crosses land where, in the near future, the land use will be residential, commercial, or industrial."

³ Projects under this Program are not required to be physically located within the Delta; however, project activities must demonstrably benefit the Delta. Proposition 1 defines Delta as the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as defined in CWC §12220 and the Suisun Marsh as defined in Public Resources Code §29101.

- Planning or implementing a specific on-the-ground water quality improvement project;
- Developing or enhancing water quality management models and tools; and
- Implementing Best Management Practices or other tools that contribute to improving Delta water quality.

2) Improve Habitats in the Delta

The objective of this priority is to plan for and implement projects that protect, restore, or enhance aquatic, terrestrial, and transitional habitats to improve the health and resiliency of native fish and wildlife species in the Delta. CDFW is seeking projects consistent with the [Delta Plan](#) that contribute to the objectives of [California EcoRestore](#) but must not be used to satisfy any regulatory compliance responsibility⁴. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to:

- Protecting, restoring, or enhancing tidal, sub-tidal, floodplain, riparian, transitional, and terrestrial habitats
- Eradicating or controlling invasive species to benefit special status, at risk, endangered, or threatened species in the Delta
- Supporting the beneficial reuse of dredged material for habitat restoration
- Enhancing or developing managed wetlands for subsidence reversal and carbon sequestration

Habitat restoration and enhancement projects must be carried out in alignment with the recommendations in the [Delta Conservation Framework](#), [Delta Plan](#), [A Delta Renewed: A Guide to Science-Based Ecological Restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta](#) (A Delta Renewed, SFEI-ASC, 2016) and with Section 1, part II (Habitats) of the [Ecosystem Restoration Program Conservation Strategy for Restoration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley Regions](#) (CDFW, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service 2014).

3) Planning for Multi-Benefit Restoration Through Regional Partnerships

The objective of this priority is to fund the development of regional planning partnerships, composed of local stakeholders, public agencies, and technical experts, and facilitate the collaborative development of regional conservation strategies or plans in the Delta. The [Delta Conservation Framework](#) describes the process and lists several example

⁴ Proposition 1 funds cannot be used to meet the existing obligations for habitat restoration established through the biological opinions for the State Water Project and Central Valley Project operations (USFWS 2008, NMFS 2009), and the CDFW Longfin Smelt Incidental Take Permit for State Water Project Delta operations.

Conservation Opportunity Regions that would benefit from a facilitated planning process to develop a suite of region-specific projects for implementation in the near- and long-term. An example of a successful partnership-based regional plan developed through a similar process is the Suisun Marsh Plan. The Central Delta Corridor Partnership is an example of a novel partnership that is now moving forward through a facilitated process to develop a coordinated strategy for project implementation on public lands and publicly financed lands in the Central Delta.

4) Scientific Studies to Support Implementation of the Delta Science Plan and the 2017-2021 Science Action Agenda

The objective of this priority is to fund scientific studies to inform water and natural resource policy and management decisions and contribute to achieving the co-equal goals for the Delta. Projects should facilitate implementation of the Delta Science Plan and the 2017-2021 Science Action Agenda. Projects are encouraged to coordinate with collaborative science initiatives (e.g., [Interagency Ecological Program \[IEP\]](#), Fish Restoration Program, Collaborative Adaptive Management Team [CAMT], Delta Regional Monitoring Program) and must address one or more of the following topics.

Eligible scientific study topic areas are listed below with more specifics on high priority studies. Applicants may submit proposals for studies within the eligible topic areas that are not included within the high priority examples; however projects closely related to the the high priority examples may receive higher review scores.

Topic 1. Support and evaluate habitat restoration

- Provide decision support using new and existing models to evaluate potential regional and long-term effects of implementing multi-project habitat restoration on flows, water quality, food webs, 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, and ecological processes in the estuary, including how climate change will affect these factors and ecological processes in restored areas.
- 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 fluxes of water quality constituents and food web productivity between wetlands and adjacent open water channels.

- 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 how different channel morphologies and channel margin habitats affect fish, plant, and invertebrate communities, including native and non-native species.
- Estimate and assess the system-wide effects of the location and sequence of tidal marsh habitat restoration projects on fish and wildlife in regions where sea level is rising and climate is changing.
- Improve understanding of non-native vegetation ecology in the Delta and methods to manage them, including:
 - Response of invasive aquatic vegetation to habitat restoration;
 - Efficacy of aquatic vegetation control activities, including testing of novel control techniques;
 - Aquatic vegetation control effects on non-target organisms;
 - Evaluation of the effects of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and floating aquatic vegetation (FAV) on quality and extent of habitat for desired species, tidal wetland function, and human uses within the Delta and upper Estuary; and
 - Understanding the ecological role of the common reed (*Phragmites australis*) in tidal wetlands.

Topic 2. Habitat requirements of Delta estuarine and migratory aquatic species

- Improve understanding of how hydrodynamics affect 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.
- Develop Individual Based Models and Life Cycle Models for Delta fish species, including coupling of these models with climate change projections to understand habitat compression or other future stressors to species of interest.
- Improve understanding of factors affecting habitat suitability in the Delta for fish species of concern.

- Improve understanding of the role of effective Delta smelt population size on reproduction, and modeling of hatchery supplementation effects on the wild population.
- 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, including use of eDNA as a tracer for migration patterns.
- Develop decision support tools to better link potential effects of management decisions on native estuarine and migratory species in the Delta.
- Improve understanding connecting wetlands/floodplains to target species for conservation; e.g., use of stable isotopes to follow energy flows from source to consumers and predators.

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

- Research related to the Sacramento Regional Sanitation wastewater treatment plant upgrades, including:
 - Post-upgrade monitoring of sediment, including variability in spatial and temporal distributions; and
 - Improved understanding of how nitrogen reduction will impact the ecosystem, specifically phytoplankton (including cyanobacteria), zooplankton, macrophyte, and microbial communities.
- Improve understanding of the effects of non-flow stressors on food webs and native fish, including:
 - Effects of toxicants including Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) on disease, predation, homing and olfaction, etc.;
 - Identifying major sources of contaminants/water quality impairments entering into the Delta, especially upstream of Sacramento; and
 - Ecosystem and health effects of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) on native species, and improved HABs monitoring, modeling and forecasting.
- Improve understanding of non-native aquatic species (including but not limited to bivalves and fish) and methods to manage them.
- Assess future expectations of Delta aquatic habitats that can help prioritize restoration planning, implementation, and monitoring activities using hydrodynamic forecasting coupled with climate change projections.
- Improve understanding of the role of water quality, flow, agriculture, and restoration on food webs, such as sub-lethal effects of water quality contaminants on phytoplankton, zooplankton, and larval fish.

2.3 Project Categories

Eligible project categories for this Solicitation are Planning, Implementation, and Acquisition. Each project category is described below. In addition, scientific studies related to the Delta as described in Section 2.2(4) are eligible. CDFW's Fisheries Branch maintains a [list](#) of additional restoration manuals and guidelines that may be considered for salmon and steelhead habitat restoration in addition to [CDFW's California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual](#).

2.3.1 Planning

Planning grants provide funding for activities that lead to specific on-the-ground implementation projects. Eligible activities for Planning projects include, but are not limited to:

- Preparing plans or supplementing existing plans (e.g., watershed and habitat assessments) that will result in a specific project or set of projects;
- Developing monitoring, adaptive management, climate change adaptation, and long-term management plans for a specific project;
- Coordination with partners to develop large-scale restoration or enhancement projects;
- Coordination with partners to develop standardized monitoring procedures;
- Performing necessary studies and assessments, collecting baseline data, and developing project designs related to a specific site or physical project;
- Obtaining the services of licensed professional (refer to Section 3.8 in the [Proposition 1 Guidelines](#) and [Proposition 68 Guidelines](#) for guidance on when licensed professionals are required);
- Acquiring permits;
- Preparing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) documents; and
- Conducting stakeholder and public meetings.

2.3.2 Implementation

Implementation grants fund construction and monitoring of shovel-ready restoration and enhancement projects and new or enhanced facilities. Applicants should demonstrate that CEQA will be complete by **February 7, 2020** (see Sections 2.2 and 3.11.2 in the [Proposition 1 Guidelines](#) and [Proposition 68 Guidelines](#)), and submit 65% or higher design plans, Basis of Design Report, and technical studies (see Section 3.7 in the [Proposition 1 Guidelines](#) and [Proposition 68 Guidelines](#)).

Eligible activities for Implementation projects include, but are not limited to:

- Preparation of bid packages and subcontractor documents;
- Development of final engineering design;
- Finalization of permits;
- Construction;
- Habitat restoration and enhancement;
- Pre- and post-project monitoring and adaptive management;
- Finalization and initial execution of a long-term management plan; and
- Communication of project results to stakeholders and the public.

2.3.3 Acquisition

Acquisition grants fund purchases of interests in land or water. Property must be acquired from willing sellers at a price that does not exceed fair market value, as set forth in an appraisal prepared by a licensed real estate appraiser and approved by the Department of General Services (DGS) Real Property Services Section. A completed appraisal, approved by DGS, is not required at the time of proposal submission; however, if awarded, the appraisal must be submitted and approved by DGS prior to the request for distribution of acquisition funds. Costs associated with preparation of the appraisal are ineligible for reimbursement through an awarded grant. Appraisal review by DGS can take up to 4-8 weeks and can cost up to \$10,000; applicants should consider including this cost as a line item within their proposed budgets.

If a signed purchase option agreement is not available for submittal with the application, a Willing Seller Letter is required from each landowner (see Section 3.6 of the [Proposition 1 Guidelines](#) and [Proposition 68 Guidelines](#)). Once funds are awarded and an agreement is signed with CDFW, another property cannot be substituted for the property specified in the application. Therefore, it is imperative the applicant demonstrate the seller is negotiating in good faith, and that discussions have proceeded to a point of confidence.

Properties acquired can be transferred to a federal, state, local, or nonprofit entity to ultimately own, manage, and steward consistent with the purpose of the grant. CDFW will not hold title to interests in land or water, nor will CDFW enter into forbearance agreements with applicants or other entities. A separate entity must be identified at the time of proposal submission.

Eligible activities and expenses for Acquisition projects include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition of fee title or perpetual conservation easements;
- Water acquisitions that include permanent, long-term, or short-term water

transfers, leases, or dedications;

- Project-related administrative costs, including DGS appraisal review, monitoring plan and/or long-term management plan;

Ineligible costs include:

- Appraisal preparation;
- Environmental Site Assessment;
- Mineral Rights Assessment;
- Other fees and costs to accomplish the transaction and the conveyance and acquisition of the property; and
- Title escrow and closing costs.

The following information is required at the time of application:

- Parcel numbers, acreage, and willing seller information;
- Acquisition schedule;
- Description of existing improvements, if any;
- Copy of the signed purchase option agreement or willing seller letter(s);
- Appraisal or estimation of fair market value;
- Current Preliminary Title Report; and
- Map showing lands to be acquired, including parcel lines and numbers.

Applicants must disclose any known or suspected hazardous material release, threatened release, or other adverse environmental condition associated with the property. Prior to execution of a grant agreement for acquisition of an interest in real property, CDFW will assess the risk posed to the intended conservation purposes by the environmental conditions of the property, including any recognized environmental conditions that could occur on the property. As part of that risk assessment, CDFW may require the surface estate landowner or project proponent to provide CDFW and any third parties with a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment. Costs associated with preparation of the Environmental Site Assessment and related activities are not eligible for reimbursement. Successful applicants should consult with CDFW for specific requirements prior to initiating work on an Environmental Site Assessment. If CDFW determines that the risk is not acceptable, and the risk cannot be reduced to an acceptable level within a reasonable amount of time, then CDFW will rescind the grant award.

All grant awards for acquisition of an interest in real property are contingent on a CDFW determination that the risk posed to the conservation values of that property by mineral exploration, development, and related consequences is acceptable. Prior to execution of

a grant agreement, CDFW will assess the risk that future mining activities could occur on the property. As part of the risk assessment, CDFW may require the surface estate landowner or project proponent to provide CDFW and any third parties with an interest in the minerals with a mineral assessment report. Costs associated with preparation of the mineral assessment report and related activities are not eligible for reimbursement. Successful applicants should consult with CDFW for specific requirements prior to initiating work on a mineral assessment report. Based on its risk assessment, CDFW will determine whether the risk of mining and the related consequences for intended conservation purposes is acceptable. If CDFW determines that the risk is not acceptable, and the risk cannot be reduced to an acceptable level within a reasonable amount of time, then CDFW will rescind the grant award.

CDFW may restrict grantees' authority to conduct or allow commercial activity on real property purchased in fee simple through these grant programs. CDFW may require that income generated from property purchased with CDFW grant funds (Project Income) only be used to offset the costs of owning, managing, or restoring the real property purchased with CDFW grant funds. CDFW may also require that so long as the grantee is receiving Project Income or Project Income remains unspent, the grantee must provide CDFW with a basic annual accounting of Project Income. Finally, CDFW may impose restrictions on the use of water rights associated with fee simple property interests acquired with CDFW grant funds.

2.3.4 Scientific Studies (Delta Proposals Only)

Scientific Studies grants fund projects to assess the condition of natural resources, inform policy and management decisions, or assess the effectiveness of grant projects and programs. Eligible activities for Scientific Studies projects include, but are not limited to:

- Data collection, analysis, and management
- Development of resource management tools and technologies
- Building capacity for collaborative science
- Reporting, publishing peer-reviewed journal articles, and other means of communicating findings

3 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the requirements listed in this section, applicants must demonstrate that the proposed project is consistent and in compliance with all program requirements found in the [Proposition 1 Guidelines](#) or [Proposition 68 Guidelines](#).

3.1 Eligible Entities

The following entity types are eligible for Proposition 1 funding (CWC §79712):

- public agencies within California (state agencies or departments, public universities, special districts, joint powers authorities, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of the state (CWC §79702[s])),
- non-profit organizations registered with the California Secretary of State (CWC §79702[p]),
- federally recognized Indian tribes and state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List,
- public utilities (CWC §79712[b][1]), and
- mutual water companies (CWC §79712[b][2], [3], & [4]).

Additional eligibility requirements for public utilities, mutual water companies, and agricultural and urban water suppliers can be found in Section 2.1 of the [Proposition 1 Guidelines](#).

The following entity types are eligible for Proposition 68 (FGC §1501.5[b]):

- public agencies (federal, state, local agencies or departments, including public universities, special districts, joint powers authorities, counties, and cities)
- non-profit organizations, and
- federally recognized Indian tribes and State Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List.

See Section 2.1 of the [Proposition 68 Guidelines](#).

Proposals from private individuals, for-profit enterprises (except those that are eligible for Proposition 1 funding as a public utility), or out-of-state public entities (except those that are nonprofit organizations registered with the California Secretary of State) are ineligible for funding under this Solicitation, however, these entities can work as subcontractors for an eligible applicant.

4 SUBMISSION PROCESS

4.1 Proposal Submission Deadline

Online submission of proposals must be received before 4:00 PM, PDT on November 25, 2019.

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

4.2 Electronic Submission

Proposals must be submitted electronically through CDFW WebGrants online at <https://watershedgrants.wildlife.ca.gov>. The name of this Solicitation in WebGrants is “2020 Proposition 1 & Proposition 68 Grant Opportunities - Proposal Solicitation Notice.” 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.

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.

5 REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals received by the deadline will be evaluated using the multi-step review process described in the [Proposition 1 Guidelines](#) and [Proposition 68 Guidelines](#). An overview of the administrative review and technical review criteria are described in this section. Engineering-Geological review will be completed on Planning and Implementation projects where engineering is included. See the [Engineering-Geological Review Scoring Criteria](#) for more information. The project selection process is described in more detail in Section 4.3 of the [Proposition 1 Guidelines](#) and [Proposition 68 Guidelines](#), including the Selection Panel process and Director’s final approval. CDFW will determine the funding program that best fits the submitted proposals, and may conduct separate evaluations for each program.

5.1 Administrative Review

Administrative review determines if the proposal is complete. Proposals which receive a “No” for one or more of the Administrative Review Evaluation Criteria (Table 2) will be considered incomplete and may not be considered for funding under.

Table 2: Administrative Review 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
California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps consultation form is complete	Yes/No
CEQA will be complete prior to award (as applicable)	Yes/No
Applicant has submitted: intermediate (65%) or higher design plans, a basis of design report, and supporting technical studies (as applicable)	Yes/No

5.2 Technical Review

Technical reviewers evaluate each proposal in accordance with technical review criteria (Table 3a for non-scientific study applications, Table 3b for scientific study applications) and make narrative comments that support their scores. Each criterion is assigned a point value between zero and five and multiplied by the applicable weighting factor to calculate the criterion score. The sum of the criterion scores produces the total score for the proposal. Individuals selected to serve as technical reviewers will be professionals in fields relevant to the proposed project (CWC §79707[f]). See the [detailed technical review criteria for watershed applications](#) and [detailed technical review criteria for Delta scientific studies](#) for more information.

Table 3a: Technical Review Criteria – Watershed (Non-Scientific Study) Applications

Criteria	Weighting Factor	Maximum Score
Purpose, Background, and Scientific Merit	2	10
Community Support and Collaboration	2	10
Diversity and Significance of Benefits	2	10
Climate Change Considerations	1	5
Approach, Feasibility, and Scope	3	15
Monitoring and Reporting	1	5
Durability of Investment and Long-Term Management	1	5
Project Team Qualifications	2	10
Schedule and Deliverables	3	15
Applicant Budget	1	5
Budget Justification	2	10
Total Possible Points		100

Table 3b: Technical Review Criteria – Scientific Study Applications

Criteria	Weighting Factor	Maximum Score
Importance/Relevance: Relevance to Solicitation Focus	2	10
Importance/Relevance: Applicability to Delta Resource Management	2	10
Scientific Merit- Justification	2	10
Scientific Merit – Collaboration and Integration	2	10
Approach and Feasibility: Study Design and Methods	2	10
Approach and Feasibility: Logistics	1	5
Schedule and Deliverables: Timeline	1	5
Schedule and Deliverables: Publications and Deliverables	1	5
Data Management	1	5
Project Team Qualifications	2	10
Stakeholder Support & Outreach	1	5
Applicant Budget	1	5
Budget Justification	1	5
Cost Share	1	5
Total Possible Points		100

Where standard scoring criteria are applied, points will be assigned as follows:

- A score of 5 points will be awarded where the criterion is fully addressed and supported by thorough and well-presented documentation and logical rationale.
- A score of 4 points will be awarded where the criterion is fully addressed but is supported by less thorough documentation or less sufficient rationale.
- A score of 3 points will be awarded where the criterion is less than fully addressed and is supported by less thorough documentation or less sufficient rationale.
- A score of 2 points will be awarded where the criterion is marginally addressed, or the documentation or rationale is incomplete or insufficient.
- A score of 1 point will be awarded where the criterion is minimally addressed, or no documentation or rationale is presented.
- A score of 0 points will be awarded where the criterion is not addressed.

6 LINKS

Links within the body of this Solicitation are provided below for your convenience. Please see the [Proposition 1 Guidelines](#), [Proposition 68 Guidelines](#), and the [Watershed Restoration Grants Webpage](#) for additional resources.

State Departments and Programs:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

- [2018 Fish Passage Priorities List](#)
- [2018 Priority Water Diversions for Screening List](#)
- [CDFW's California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual](#)
- [Additional Restoration Guidelines and Manuals that may be Considered for Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Restoration in California](#)
- [Ecosystem Restoration Program Conservation Strategy \(2014\)](#)
- [Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs](#)
- [Proposition 68 Restoration Grant Programs](#)
- [Restoration Grant Programs - Resources for Grantees](#)
- [State Wildlife Action Plan \(SWAP\)](#)

California Conservation Corps

- [Hire a Crew: Proposition 1](#)
- [California Conservation Corps Consultation Form](#)

California Natural Resources Agency

- [Bond Accountability Proposition 1](#)
- [Bond Accountability Proposition 68](#)
- [California Biodiversity Initiative](#)
- [California EcoRestore](#)
- [California Water Action Plan](#)
- [Safeguarding California Plan: 2018 Update](#)
- [Sacramento Valley Salmon Resiliency Strategy](#)

Delta Stewardship Council / Delta Science Program

- [Delta Plan](#)
- [Delta Plan Covered Actions](#)

Enabling Legislation

- [Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 \(Proposition 1\)](#)
- [California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 \(Proposition 68\)](#)

Mutual Water Companies

- [California Corporations Code §14300](#)