



Frequently Asked Questions

Propositions 1 and 68

Grant Opportunities Proposal Solicitation Notice

November 8, 2019

Here is a list of frequently asked questions and their answers. This list may be updated from periodically during the open solicitation.

Q: Should an applicant apply specifically for Prop 1 or Prop 68, or does CDFW match the most appropriate funding to the project?

A: If awarded, CDFW will ultimately match the most appropriate funding for the project. It is possible that a project could be jointly funded.

Q: I don't see priorities specific to Prop 68 listed in the application drop-down list (in Form 1 of application)?

A: The priorities listed in the PSN and WebGrants are intended to apply to both Proposition 1 and/or Proposition 68 proposals. Priorities are intended as a guide for connecting proposals with grant programs and allows CDFW to better track types of project proposals. If an applicant determines that the options provided in the dropdown list in the "Project Priorities" section of Form 1 do not fully capture a proposed project's breadth as it applies to Prop 68 funding the applicant should select the most closely applicable drop-down choice and provide a detailed explanation in the "Solicitation Priorities Description" section of the application.

Example: Restoration of riparian and side-channel habitat could fit within the "Manage headwaters for multiple benefits" priority or the "Protect and restore anadromous and other non-game native fish habitat" priority. The applicant would then explain in the "Solicitation Priorities Description" field the specific Prop 68 element that the project addresses and how it ties/relates to the listed PSN priority(ies).

This approach will not impact competitiveness.

Q: If my project will address multiple priorities, how do I present this in the application?

In Form 1 of the application applicants will provide this information. Although the applicant is only able to select one priority in the drop-down list in Form 1, applicants can present and describe additional priorities in the “Solicitation Priorities Description” section below the drop-down menu.

Q: Is it possible to get a list of projects funded through the previous Prop 1 and Prop 68 solicitations?

A: A list of projects previously funded is available on our website at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants/Projects>

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

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

Q: Is there a maximum or minimum dollar amount a proposal can request for funding?

A: No, there is no maximum or minimum grant amount that can be requested by an applicant. There is approximately \$37 million available under this Solicitation for the grant programs.

Q: Is there a match / cost-share requirement?

A: No. Please refer to Section 3.1.1 of the Proposition 1 Guidelines and Section 3.1.1 of the Proposition 68 Guidelines.

Q: Can you suggest project partners for applicants?

A: Due to the competitive nature of the solicitation, CDFW Propositions 1 and 68 Watershed Restoration Grant Program staff are unable to offer guidance in the development of proposals while the Solicitation is open.

Q: May we ask questions about our proposal during the Solicitation?

A: CDFW Propositions 1 and 68 Restoration Grant Program staff can answer clarifying questions about the Solicitation process. Due to the competitive nature of the Solicitation, these staff cannot help guide an applicant in writing a proposal. Questions can be emailed to WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov.

Q: May we schedule an individual consultation regarding our proposal?

A: We do not provide individual consultation while the Solicitation is open or being evaluated. After proposals submitted under this Solicitation have been awarded, you may request a debriefing in order to gain information about how your proposal was evaluated.

Q: Is an authorizing resolution required to apply for grant program?

A: An authorizing resolution is not required. However, if awarded, a resolution (or order, motion, ordinance or other similar document) from the governing body authorizing execution of the agreement will be required prior to grant execution.

Q: How can indirect costs be calculated within the proposed budget?

A: Indirect costs may be calculated on personnel, general operating expenses, and the first \$25,000 of each subcontract. Equipment and some cost associated with acquisitions are not eligible. Please see Section 3.1.2 of the Proposition 1 Guidelines and Section 3.1.2 of the Proposition 68 Guidelines.

Q: Will my project be considered for funding under both Proposition 1 and Proposition 68?

A: This is a joint application for both fund sources. CDFW will award the appropriate fund sources to individual selected proposals.

Q. Can the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provide letters of support for proposed projects?

A. To avoid conflicts of interest, CDFW is not able to write letters of support for proposals submitted for Proposition 1 funding, including those grant programs administered by CDFW as well as other agencies (e.g., Coastal Conservancy, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, and Wildlife Conservation Board).

Q: Can funding be used for projects that are being undertaken to meet required environmental mitigation measures or environmental compliance obligations?

A: No. Funding cannot be used for projects that are undertaken to meet required environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations, except for any water transfers for the benefit of subsection (d) of Section 3406 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Title 34 of Public Law 102-575) per California Water Code Section 79737(f). However, we are able to fund portions of a project that go beyond mitigation requirements.

Q: Can I interpret the priority (or project focus) of “5) Protect and Restore Coastal Wetland Ecosystems” to include watersheds located on the Coastal Range?

A: To be eligible under the Protect and Restore Coastal Wetlands Ecosystems priority, proposed activities must align with the description of the priority (refer to *Section 2.1*) and be located within a watershed(s) that drains into the ocean.

Q: How is the ‘Delta’ defined spatially?

A: Proposition 1 defines the ‘Delta’ to mean the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as defined in California Water Code (CWC) §12220 and the Suisun Marsh as defined in Public Resources Code §29101 (CWC §79702[e]).

Q: Can a single acquisition proposal include the acquisition of land or interests in land that encompasses non-contiguous parcels?

A: Yes, if acquiring lands or interests in lands that encompass non-contiguous parcels fits within the project’s stated goals and objectives and the parcels are logically part of one project.

Q: Can Federal Agencies apply for these grants?

A: Federal agencies are only eligible for Proposition 68 funding. Federal agencies are ineligible to apply for Proposition 1 grants per CWC §79712[a]. However, federal entities can work as a subcontractor to a grantee under a Proposition 1 funded grant project.

Q: Can a proposal cover acquisition of easements that are specific to habitat conservation for HCPs/NCCPs?

A: Yes, if the funds are not used for mitigation obligations or projects that are required under an enforcement action by a regulatory agency.

Q: Can an applicant partner with a private consultant to submit a proposal?

A: A private entity is ineligible to apply for a grant, but can perform work as a subcontractor of an applicant or grantee. Please refer to eligible applicant types in *Section 3.1 Eligible Entities* of the Solicitation for further details.

Q: In circumstances where a proposed project does not include field-work does an applicant need to consult with the California Conservation Corps?

A: If a project does not include implementation and/or field-work activities, applicants do not need to submit a completed California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps *Corps Consultation Review Document*.

Q: Will the California Conservation Corps (CCC) be a part of our proposed budget?

A: If the CCC or a Certified Community Conservation Corps determines that their participation in the proposed project is feasible, estimated costs for their involvement

must be included under “D. Operating Expenses: Subcontractors” of the applicant’s Budget and a breakdown of those costs must be provided in the Subcontract Budget. Note that a separate subcontract budget sheet must be included for each subcontractor. Refer to the Instructions for “*Attachment 7. Budget Tables*” within the application.

Q: Is our CCC consultation from last year still valid for the same project submitted to this years’ Solicitation?

A: No. Consultations completed in association with prior Proposition 1 and 68 Solicitations, administered by CDFW or other agencies, are not valid for the current Solicitation. The California Conservation Corps and Certified Community Conservation Corps resources and availability will vary, thus requiring a new consultation for this Solicitation.

Q: We are not sure who should be the lead agency for CEQA. Will CDFW be the lead agency for my project?

A: It is the applicant’s responsibility to coordinate with potential lead agencies and determine CEQA lead agency. CDFW Propositions 1 and 68 Restoration Grant Program staff cannot assist in CEQA coordination. If CDFW is anticipated to act as CEQA lead agency for the project, the applicant must obtain CDFW written acceptance of the role **prior to** proposal submission. Projects that fail to comply with this requirement will not be eligible for funding. Please coordinate with the applicable CDFW Regional office well in advance (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/regions>).

Q: For Scientific Study projects, are faculty members from out of state universities eligible to submit proposals?

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

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

A: See Table 1 in the Solicitation for dates that projects must be completed by. CDFW cannot extend projects beyond these dates. CDFW has a limited window to execute grant agreements and spend these state bond funds, and as a result cannot extend the schedule of the project beyond the completion dates stated in the Solicitation. If a longer period is required to complete a project, CDFW recommends that applicants break projects into phases (if feasible) and apply to future Solicitations to accomplish longer-term projects.

Q: Are subcontractors held to the 20% indirect rate?

A: No, subcontractors who have their own budget are not held to the indirect rate cap. However, consideration will be given to the overall reasonableness of project costs.

Q: Can Planning and Implementation projects be combined in one application?

A: No, Planning projects are intended to ready a project for Implementation. Implementation projects should be ready to proceed with on-the-ground activities.

Q: If a grant is awarded and under agreement, is the grantee required to pay subcontractors and suppliers prior to being reimbursed by the grant program?

A: Yes, these are reimbursement projects, we do not advance funds. The grantee will need to include proof of payment with their invoice submittals.

Q: Is CEQA required for Acquisition projects?

A: The applicant should make their own determination about the need for CEQA. Often times, Acquisition projects are exempt from CEQA.

Q: Will a short-term water rights transfer, lease, or dedication project be considered during this solicitation? This project type is mentioned under the Acquisition category in the Proposal Solicitation Notice.

A: No. The Department mistakenly retained the mention of “short-term water transfers, leases, or dedications” on page 15 of the 2020 Proposition 1 & Proposition 68 Grant Opportunities Proposal Solicitation Notice from the previous funding cycle’s solicitation. The Department does not have authority to award funds for short-term water transfers, leases, or dedications through this 2020 solicitation. The Department was awarding funds through that previous solicitation pursuant to, among other authorities, Public Resources Code section 80132, subdivision (g). The Department is not awarding Prop. 68 funds through this 2020 solicitation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 80132, subdivision (g).

Q: Is a Draft Conservation Easement or Grant Deed required to apply for funding?

A: No, however a Draft Conservation Easement or Grant Deed will be required prior to CDFW executing a grant agreement.