

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program Revised* 2020 Proposal Solicitation Notice



Pre-applications due Monday, April 13, 2020*

** Due dates and milestones have been revised (see Table 1).*



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Application Documents (available through the [WCB website](#)):

- Pre-Application Form
- Full Application Form
- Budget Worksheets



Wildlife Conservation Board Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program **2020 Proposal Solicitation Notice**

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) is inviting grant proposals for climate adaptation and resiliency projects that result in enduring benefits. This 2020 Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN) allows for the following project types:

- Projects that acquire perpetual conservation easements over natural and working lands and contain long-term conservation agreements that provide climate adaptation and resilience benefits through protecting transitional habitats for at least 50 years. At least 60 percent of the funds shall be made available for grants for this purpose.
- Projects that develop and implement natural and working lands adaptation and resiliency planning that prioritizes the conservation and management of natural and working lands, and provides technical assistance for natural and working land managers.

This Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN) for the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program (Program) provides application information specific to the 2020 grant cycle. Up to \$8 million may be awarded in grants selected through this PSN, with \$6 million set aside for acquisition of conservation easements, and the remaining \$2 million for planning and technical assistance projects. While this PSN does not operate under strict funding limits by project type, the most competitive request amounts usually run between \$100,000 and \$300,000 for planning and technical assistance projects, and between \$300,000 and \$1,000,000 for conservation easement projects. Applicants should thoroughly review the [WCB Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program Guidelines](#) (Guidelines). Additional planning resources include:

- [2019 WCB Strategic Plan Update](#)
- [State Wildlife Action Plan](#)
- [Areas of Conservation Emphasis Viewer](#)

Questions related to this PSN may also be directed to WCB via e-mail (climatewcb@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](#).

The Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (Program) was created by Assembly Bill 109, which, on September 16, 2017, amended the Budget Act of 2017 to provide \$20,000,000 to the Wildlife Conservation Board for local assistance, payable from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). The Program is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in priority populations, which include disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households.

At least \$11.8M of the funds are still in the process of being encumbered from the first PSN under this program, held in 2018. This competitive PSN is WCB's second invitation for proposals. Projects funded through this PSN must be completed with funds expended by March 31, 2024.

ELIGIBILITY

Grant Applications

Local governments, park and open-space districts, resource conservation districts, private landowners, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to submit grant proposals in response to this PSN.

Project Types

Acquisition of conservation easements, planning (e.g., design and environmental review that lead to future implementation), and technical assistance (e.g., development of tools that provide guidance for managing ecosystems under projected climate impacts) are eligible for consideration in response to this PSN. Priority will be given to projects that clearly demonstrate a readiness to be implemented within a three-year time frame.

Acquisition of Conservation Easements

Acquisition grants shall fund purchases of perpetual conservation easements that provide direct climate change adaptation and resilience benefits to wildlife, habitats and ecosystem services. Scoring priority will be given to subject properties that avoid land use conversion to carbon-intensive practices (e.g. low-density development), contain transitional habitat features such as elevation gradients and ecotones, and provide habitat linkages for wildlife movement from and to adjacent open space areas.

Acquisitions must be from willing sellers and at a price that does not exceed fair market value, as set forth in an appraisal approved by the Department of General Services. Development features on the property, such as the locations and size of building envelopes, must be identified at the time of application. Any future change of development features identified at the time of application, or the request for new development features, may result in the project's ineligibility for funding.

Planning

Planning grants may further efforts that identify processes that lead to the successful implementation of future climate adaptation and resilience projects. These efforts may provide direct guidance for future restoration and enhancement projects, implementation strategies, or project specific activities such as preliminary design and environmental review. Planning grants are intended to support the development of projects that are likely to qualify for future implementation funding.

Technical Assistance

Grants may be used to provide guidance and technical assistance to natural and working land managers, and that result in or lead to direct and measurable climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

2020 PSN Focus

WCB is seeking projects that provide adaptation and resilience to wildlife populations in the face of climate change. Technical assistance grants should provide guidance for funders of future projects and assist private and public land managers responsible for maintaining long-term habitats. Examples of project types that may be eligible in the PSNs are identified below. All projects must provide for adaptation to climate change, facilitate greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction, and further the objectives of AB 32. Projects that sequester and store carbon are a priority. These examples should not be viewed as an exhaustive list of eligible project types. Specifics concerning eligible projects may vary and will be documented in each solicitation.

- Acquisition of conservation easements to protect habitats on working or natural lands that enhance climate adaptation or resilience for wildlife by providing such features as habitat continuity, inland/upland migration for wildlife in response to sea level rise or other climate impacts, prevention of changes in land use that would increase GHG emissions, while providing multiple benefits to human as well as natural communities.
- Projects that promote and implement reserves that provide sufficient diversity and redundancy to remain viable under a range of future climate scenarios.
- Plans to identify climate risks to wildlife (e.g., species vulnerability, habitat exposure, barriers to migration or movement, changes to stream flows, impacts from sea level rise, wildfire or flood susceptibility, invasive species) and methods to minimize or mitigate those risks.
- Development of tools that can be provided to natural and working land managers and supporting organizations to improve long-term management of ecosystems to provide resilience, and how to implement these tools in measurable and meaningful ways.
- Development of state-wide or regional models that identify areas of greatest risk and greatest resilience to climate change to be used to prioritize future climate adaptation and resilience projects.
- Efforts to integrate natural and working lands adaptation and resilience into local and regional climate action and adaptation planning.

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS

The Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program, in administering Cap and Trade funding, operates under reporting requirements of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) [Funding Guidelines](#) for California Climate Investments. A summary of project data needed from applicants to meet these reporting requirements is provided below, under “*Reporting Requirements Under California Climate Investments (CCI) Funding*”. If an application is selected for funding, completion of project benefits using CARB assessment methodologies will be a requirement for entering into an agreement with WCB. Most projects will complete reporting requirements up-front, however a subset (around 30%) will be requested to complete outcomes reporting prior to release of retained funds.

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 18, 2020 Board meeting is likely the first opportunity where WCB may award funds under this PSN. WCB staff anticipate that November 2021 will be the last board meeting where WCB will consider awarding funds under this 2020 PSN.

Table 1. Milestones for the 2020 PSN (*revised April 1, 2020*).

Date	Description
Monday, April 13, 2020, 5:00 pm	Pre-applications due
Tuesday, May 12, 2020	WCB invites full applications from select applicants
Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 5:00 pm	Full applications due
Tuesday, August 25, 2020	WCB completes review of full applications
Wednesday, November 18, 2020	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

Pre-Application

All applicants must submit **Pre-Applications by 5:00 PM Pacific Standard Time on Monday, April 13, 2020** using the online [Pre-Application Form](#). Please submit the Pre-application form as a Microsoft Word Document. A link to this form can also be found on WCB's Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program page:

<https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Climate-Adaptation>. Project Pre-application forms must be submitted to climatewcb@wildlife.ca.gov with “*2020 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program Pre-application*” in the subject line. All information requested in this PSN is mandatory unless otherwise indicated. Failure to complete all required application components will make the proposal incomplete. Incomplete proposals will not be scored or considered for funding. WCB staff will evaluate Pre-applications based on proposed project alignment with PSN priorities and project readiness.

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 climatewcb@wildlife.ca.gov no later than the Pre-Application submission deadline. The e-mail subject line must contain “*2020 Climate Adaptation and Resilience 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 and project readiness.

Full Application

Invited applicants must submit **Full Applications by 5:00 PM Pacific Standard Time on Tuesday, June 16, 2020** using the Full Application Form and Budget Worksheets referenced under the “Guidelines, Forms, and Templates” section, below.

Full Applications will be requested from select applicants and must be submitted via e-mail to climatewcb@wildlife.ca.gov with “*2020 Climate Adaptation and Resilience 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
- Availability of funds
- Coordination with other agencies implementing complementary programs

Budget

While this PSN does not operate under strict funding limits by project type, the most competitive request amounts usually run between \$100,000 and \$300,000 for planning and technical assistance projects, and between \$300,000 and \$1,000,000 for conservation easement projects. Budgets must be submitted with the application by completing the 2020 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program – Budget Worksheets. These budget worksheets will be provided to applicants selected to submit a full proposal. 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.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs (alternatively known as Administrative 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.

Ineligible Costs

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

- All costs incurred outside of the grant agreement term
- Costs related to the preparation and submission of the grant proposal
- 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

Reporting Requirements Under California Climate Investments (CCI) Funding

As an administering agency for CCI funds, the Wildlife Conservation Board is responsible for reporting greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), as well as other co-benefits that result from funded projects in accordance with the CARB-approved [quantification methodology](#) and the [CCI Funding Guidelines](#) for Agencies that administer California Climate Investments. Funding recipients are responsible for reporting information on the following project outcomes to WCB, who in turn will report this as well as programmatic information to CARB for their annual report to the Legislature.

Greenhouse Gas Quantification

Projects are required, where applicable, to show a net GHG benefit. In order to quantify GHG emission reductions, projects must include at least one of the following project activities:

- Sequester and store carbon by protecting the land from development or other land uses that would hinder the ability to sequester carbon in its natural state.
- Sequester and store carbon through restoration of currently degraded habitat.
- Lead to eventual long-term GHG benefits through the development of planning and technical assistance documents that provide direct guidance for future activities that will provide long-term carbon sequestration benefits.

As this program includes planning and technical assistance projects that in themselves may not lead to immediate GHG reductions, or may fund the restoration or protection of habitats for which a quantification methodology has not yet been developed, it is important to check and see if there is an applicable quantification methodology for the type of project considered for funding under this program. The most up to date

quantification methodologies can be found on the California Air Resources Board website at: www.arb.ca.gov/cci-quantification.

Priority Populations

California Climate Investments also provide an opportunity to invest in projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households (Priority Populations). These investments aim to improve public health, quality of life, and economic opportunities in California's most burdened communities. To see if a proposed project area is located within a disadvantaged or low-income community as defined by CARB, as well as access general information on priority populations, please visit the CARB [Priority Population Investments](#) web page.

Applicants whose proposals are for the acquisition of conservation easements and fall within a Priority Population community, are required to evaluate whether their proposed project will benefit Priority Populations. Applicants must provide a clear description of expected benefits, the link between those benefits and the needs of the community or household, and proposed metrics for tracking and reporting the benefits. If selected for funding, benefits to priority populations must be shown through the appropriate CARB [Benefit Criteria Table](#).

Jobs Reporting

To the extent feasible, California Climate Investments programs must foster job creation by selecting and supporting projects carried out by California workers and businesses. For all funded projects, WCB is required to report employment benefits to CARB, and will in turn require grantees to provide the supporting data as part of grant funding requirements. The methods for estimating the number of jobs supported by California Climate Investments projects are accessible through CARB's [Co-benefit Assessment Methodology](#) page.

Co-benefits

An additional intent of this grant program is to achieve benefits beyond the primary objective of climate adaptation and resilience for wildlife. Each proposal must include a clear description of expected co-benefits that will result from project implementation and an approach to measure and report those co-benefits. Co-benefits with assessment methodologies available from CARB should be estimated using those methods at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cci-methodologies>. Applicants must include the relevant objectives of WCB's Strategic Plan, and are encouraged to incorporate the Natural Resource Agency's Safeguarding California Plan and co-benefit objectives that contribute to the implementation of SWAP, CWAP, state and federal recovery plans, and other relevant plans and programs.

Monitoring and Reporting

All conservation easement 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 and technical assistance 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

Applicants proposing conservation easement acquisition shall outline long-term (\geq fifty years, typically) management and maintenance planning for the project as part of their grant proposal. The outline shall include a discussion of the actions that will be taken if it is determined that the project objectives are not being met, including the responsible party and source(s) of funding for completing the remedial measures. This adaptive management approach provides a structured process that allows for taking action under uncertain conditions based on the best available science, establishing an explicit objective, monitoring and evaluating outcomes, and re-evaluating and adjusting decisions as more information is learned. Properties restored, enhanced, or protected, and facilities constructed or enhanced with funds provided by WCB shall be operated, used, and maintained consistent with the purposes of the grant.

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

“4.0 Project Approval and Implementation” and Section 5.0 “General Program Requirements”).

Conservation Easement Acquisitions

Acquisition of any interest in real property (e.g., 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](#) web page.

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](#).

GUIDELINES, FORMS, AND TEMPLATES

Requirements as identified in the 2018 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program [Guidelines](#) 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 be found on WCB's Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program page at: <https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Climate-Adaptation>.

- 2020 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program – [Pre-application Form](#)

Applicants selected for a full application will be requested the following:

- 2020 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program – Full application Form
- 2020 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program – Budget Worksheets:
 - A. Applicant Budget (all project types)
 - B. Budget Justification (all project types)
 - C. Cost Share (all project types)
 - D. Acquisition Costs (acquisition projects only)

For questions regarding this PSN or the Program, please contact WCB's Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program at climategcb@wildlife.ca.gov.

REFERENCES

Senate Bill 109, Public Resources Code Section 5845 et seq. General Fund, Budget Act, Chapter 14 and 249, Statutes of 2017

APPENDIX A – PREVIEW OF PRE-APPLICATION FORM

Project Pre-Application: 2020 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program

Up to 4 pages not including photographs or maps

PLEASE SUBMIT AS A MICROSOFT WORD DOCUMENT to climatewcb@wildlife.ca.gov

1. Project Title:
2. Organization Name:
3. Organization Type:
 - Local government
 - Park/Open Space District
 - Resource Conservation District
 - Nonprofit organization
 - Private landowner
4. Contact Person - full name/title:
5. Contact Person - phone number:
6. Contact Person - e-mail address:
7. Project Type:
 - Conservation easement acquisition
 - Planning
 - Technical assistance
8. Landowner Type (For conservation easement projects only):
 - State government
 - Federal Government
 - Local Government
 - Nonprofit organization
 - Private landowner
 - Other: _____
9. Landowner Name (For conservation easement projects only):
10. Parcel APN number(s) (For conservation easement projects only):
11. Describe any protections or restrictions affecting the project (e.g., carbon offset projects, conservation easements, etc. - for conservation easement projects only).
12. Project Summary (4,000 character limit).

Briefly describe the project. Identify the problem or need and how the proposal will provide a solution. Describe the project objectives and how they will provide adaptation and resilience benefits for ecosystems in the face of projected impacts from climate change.

- For conservation easement projects, describe how the protected habitat(s) will provide wildlife adaptation benefits and avoid any existing threats (e.g., land use conversion to carbon-intensive practices and habitat destruction) to the property if not protected under the easement. Identify current and past major land uses. Provide expected project timeline.
- For planning and technical assistance projects, describe how the project will identify processes that result in direct and measurable climate adaptation and resilience benefits (e.g., provide direct guidance for future restoration projects, guide land management practices).

13. Habitat Type:

14. Habitat Acreage:

15. Total project cost (Round up to nearest \$1,000):

16. Amount requested from WCB (Round up to nearest \$1,000):

17. Amount of non-WCB funds secured (Round up to nearest \$1,000):

18. Start Date (m/d/yyyy):

19. End Date (m/d/yyyy):

20. Briefly describe project location
(e.g., current/former land uses, distance to nearest city, etc.)

21. Latitude for approximate center of project area
Provide in decimal degrees (e.g., 38.583344).

22. Longitude for approximate center of project area
Provide in decimal degrees (e.g., -121.505838).

23. What point is represented by the lat/longs (eg: parking lot, center of site, etc)?

24. Environmental review (CEQA) - The proposed project.... (select the appropriate answer):

- Is not a project under CEQA. Briefly specify why.
- Is exempt under CEQA. Provide the CEQA exemption number and specify how the project meets the terms of the exemption.
- Requires Neg Dec, MND, or EIR. Specify the lead CEQA agency (the agency preparing the document) and the (expected) completion date. Please note that WCB will need to review and approve any CEQA document. For more information on CEQA, visit: <http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/>.

25. Environmental review – Permitting: Briefly describe the project’s required State, federal and local permits, and if they have been obtained. If the project’s permitting obligations have not been met, give the current status and expected completion date(s) of each permit.

26. Please list the county(ies) that overlap the project area.

27. Is the project in a Disadvantaged Community?

Please use the following mapping tool:

<https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/communityinvestments.htm>

- Yes
- No
- Partially

Funding Sources

Provide a task oriented draft budget for the proposed project. Include a complete list of all partners contributing toward the project and include all sources of cash and in-kind services. Identify any funding that is available for long-term operation and maintenance costs.

Task #	Task	WCB	Other CA State Funds	Other Non-State Funds	Total Cost	Expected Completion Date
1						
2						
3						
4						
TOTAL		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	

Add or delete rows as necessary.

Other Funds

Please list the sources of match funding described above. Please indicate if other funding sources have been secured or are pending (applied for but not yet awarded).

Source	Amount (\$)	Status - Secured / Applied for
e.g.: California Natural Resources – Prop 1		Secured
e.g.: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation		Applied for
TOTAL	\$	

Add or delete rows as necessary.

Maps/Photographs

Attach location maps, designs, plans, engineering drawings, color photographs, etc., to help describe your proposal. Label photos with a one sentence description. Please send these items as one combined PDF document not to exceed five, letter-size pages.

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
Purpose and Background (Question #1)	The extent to which a proposal includes a detailed description of the project purpose and background, including sufficient rationale to justify the project need, contains appropriate underlying scientific basis for the proposed work, and clearly articulates the goals and objectives.	1.5	0-5	7.5
Applicability to Solicitation Priorities (Questions 2a and 2b)	The extent to which a project aligns with at least one of the priorities stated in this PSN, contributes to the goals of AB 32 and the State's climate adaptation strategy (Safeguarding California Plan), and promotes and implements the California Water Action Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan and WCB's Strategic Plan. For conservation easements, the extent to which the project improves climate adaptation and resilience over existing conditions.	3.5	5	17.5
GHG Emissions Reductions (Question 2c)	Extent to which a project facilitates GHG emission reduction and/or sequesters and stores carbon.	1.5	0-5	7.5

Category	Criteria	Weight Factor	Max. Points	Max. Score
Significance of Benefits (Questions 3-6)	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
Consistency with, and Implementation of, Regional, State and Federal Plans (Question 7)	Extent to which a project implements, and the proposal clearly explains its linkage to, at least one action in an existing State or federal conservation, restoration, or recovery plan, or relevant regional, county plans or local Climate Action Plan.	2	0-5	10
Durability of Investment (Question 8)	The extent to which a project will deliver enduring sustainable benefits, as defined in the Guidelines. Conservation easements must be permanent and provide climate adaptation benefits for 50 years at a minimum.	2	0-5	10
Approach and Feasibility (Questions 9-11)	The extent to which a proposal narrative is sufficiently detailed to clearly show that the approach is well designed and appropriate for meeting the objectives of the project, and adequately described to assure methods and technologies are appropriate and understood.	1	0-5	5
Monitoring and Reporting (Questions 12, 13)	The extent to which a proposal demonstrates a clear and reasonable approach to monitoring project benefits, contains a reasonable baseline report, identifies performance measures, and utilizes and integrates with existing efforts.	1	0-5	5
Project Team Qualifications (Question 14)	<p>The extent to which a 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> <p><u>Scoring:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant team that demonstrates an appropriate level of expertise and, where applicable, successful completion of previously funded grants will receive 4-5 points. • Applicant team that lacks some expertise, has had some problems with successful completion of previously funded grants, or some key subcontractors are not named, or named subcontractors are not appropriate for work, will receive 2 to 3 points • Proposals in which the project team with very limited expertise and experience and/or has had 	1	0-5	5

Category	Criteria	Weight Factor	Max. Points	Max. Score
	many problems with successful completion of previously funded projects, or no key subcontractors are named, will receive 0-1 point			
Schedule and Deliverables (Question 15)	The extent to which a proposal demonstrates a logical sequence and timing of project tasks, with reasonable milestones and appropriate deliverables consistent with fund liquidation deadline of June 31, 2024, and that aligns with the tasks in the project narrative. The extent to which the proposal demonstrates the means by which data and other information generated by the project will be handled, stored, and made publicly available.	.5	0-5	2.5
Project Readiness (Questions 16-18)	Extent to which a 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.	1	0-5	5
Budget (Question 19)	<p>The extent to which a 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> <p><u>Scoring:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals for which the budget is detailed, accurate, and considered reasonable will receive 5 points Proposals for which the budget appears reasonable, contains moderate detail, inaccuracies or unspecified lump sums of up to 20 percent of the total budget will receive 3 to 4 points Proposals for which the budget lacks sufficient detail, includes; many inaccuracies, unspecified lump sums of 20 to 50 percent of the total budget, or inappropriate costs will receive 1 to 2 points Proposals for which the budget lacks sufficient detail, is inaccurate, contains unspecified lump sums exceeding 50 percent of the total budget, or is not cost effective will receive a score of zero. 	.5	0-5	2.5
Cost Share (Questions 20, 21)	The extent to which a project provides secured federal, State, private, or local cost share. All fund sources, including multiple sources from	.5	0-5	2.5

Category	Criteria	Weight Factor	Max. Points	Max. Score
	<p>the GGRF, must be identified. Scoring is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Program cost share of >40% will receive 5 points • Non-Program cost share of 31-40% will receive 4 points • Non-Program cost share of 21-30% will receive 3 points • Non-Program cost share of 11-20% will receive 2 points • Non-Program cost share of 1-10% will receive 1 point • Non-Program cost share of 0% will receive a score of zero. 			
Community Support and Collaboration (Questions 22-26)	The extent to which a proposal demonstrates that the project has broad-based public and institutional support at the local, regional, or larger scale and that the local community and other stakeholders are engaged in project delivery.	.5	0-5	2.5
Serving Priority Populations (Question 27)	<p>The extent to which a project falls within and/or provides direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to one or more disadvantaged communities, low-income communities or low-income households and meaningfully addresses an important community need, per California Air Resources Board guidance.</p> <p><u>Scoring:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that are located within and provide direct benefits to one or more disadvantaged or low-income communities will receive 5 points • Projects that are either located within but do not provide direct benefits to a disadvantaged or low-income community, or are not located within a disadvantaged community but provide benefits to one or more disadvantaged communities will receive 3 points • Projects that are not located within a disadvantaged or low-income community and do not provide benefits to a disadvantaged community will receive a score of zero 	.5	0-5	2.5
Total Maximum Score: 100				