Wildlife Conservation Board
Lower American River Conservancy Program
Frequently Asked Questions

I. Application Questions

Q: I have a Master Plan that identifies the proposed project. Should I attach the Master Plan to my application?

> **A:** Yes. You may attach a Master Plan (or similar planning document) for general information and reference purposes but WCB staff will not be using additional attachments, plans, or documents in their proposal review and scoring. Please include and explain any of the necessary, specific information from reference documents within your application.

Q: Can one organization submit more than one project proposal?

> **A:** Yes. If both proposals are for the same type of project (e.g., planning project), consider merging them into one proposal if it makes sense. For example, two implementation project proposals could be submitted as one even if the project sites are not contiguous but will require similar work such as invasive plant removal, installation of a temporary irrigation system, native plant installation, and maintenance and monitoring.

Q: Must a potential applicant consult with WCB before submitting an application?

> **A:** No. The consultation period is not mandatory, it is optional and provided as a courtesy.

Q: Who should we contact with questions about the American River Parkway Plan?

> **A:** Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks

Q: Whom should we seek letters of support from?

> **A:** City and county representatives and elected officials, relevant governmental agencies, parkway stakeholders, special interest groups, neighborhood associations, nonprofit organizations, conservancies, Native American tribes, etc..

II. Environmental Review

Q: Can the grant cover costs associated with project review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)?

A: Activities and costs to complete CEQA can be covered by a planning grant. Implementation grants may not include costs for completing environmental review in accordance with CEQA. Refer the Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN) for specific details on project types and their eligible activities, and the Grant Requirements section for information on CEQA requirements and timing.

III. Cost Share

Q: Is cost share/match a requirement?

A: A 20% match is required for any project that does not provide benefits to a severely disadvantaged community. Cost share is recommended for projects that provide benefits to a severely disadvantaged community but is not required. Refer to the Evaluation Criteria section in the PSN for information on severely disadvantaged communities.

Q: What can be claimed as cost share?

A: Cost share is the portion of the project cost not funded by WCB and is provided by the applicant and/or other sources (e.g., private companies, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and/or other entities). Proposals providing cost share in the form of cash or other resources (in-kind services) must be used to support the proposed project, be spent between PSN release and end of the proposed WCB funded project term, and secured prior to application submission to be considered during proposal scoring. Refer to the Evaluation Criteria section in the PSN for information on cost share and other financial criteria.

IV. Site Control/Land Tenure

Q: Does proof of adequate land tenure need to be submitted with my application?

A: When an applicant does not have tenure at the time of proposal submission but intends to establish tenure via an agreement that will be signed prior to grant execution, the applicant will submit a template copy of the proposed agreement, memorandum of understanding, or permission form at the time of proposal submission. Once a project has been awarded, the applicant must submit documentation of land tenure before a complete grant agreement can be executed. Refer to the Grant Requirements section of the PSN for information on site control and land tenure.

V. Project Type

Q: Can the program fund a strategic planning process?

A: Planning projects should lead to shovel ready implementation projects and/or include studies and designs for a future capital improvement project.

Q: Can a vegetation mapping proposal be considered an implementation project if it is "implementing" a high priority task in a regional plan?

A: An implementation project must result in a capital improvement to land or property.

Q: Can the program fund a pilot project for habitat restoration strategies?

A: Grant funds should not be used to fund experimental studies or methods. An implementation project must result in a capital improvement.