



Frequently Asked Questions Summer 2021 North Coast Coho Recovery Proposal Solicitation Notice

Updated: September 9, 2021



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

Q1: Is the pre-application phase required?

A1: Yes. Applicants must submit a pre-application to be eligible to submit a full application.

Q2: What are the new permitting options for this solicitation?

A2: New permitting options for this Solicitation are outlined in Section 6 of the Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN). There are several potential accelerated or programmatic permitting pathways for projects funded through this Solicitation. For all permitting pathways, applicants interested in obtaining coverage should review the eligibility requirements carefully and should account for costs associated with permit compliance (e.g., pre- and post-project and construction monitoring) in the application budget and scope of work. Additionally, if an applicant cannot verify whether its project will be eligible for a specific permitting pathway for restoration projects or it is uncertain when a permitting pathway for restoration projects that is currently being developed by a permitting agency will be available for use, applicants should estimate costs for preparing individual permits and include these costs in their proposal's budget, indicating that the project's actual permitting pathway and costs may differ.

Q3: If an implementation project does not have CEQA currently, could we get CEQA costs paid for through the implementation award, or would CEQA and the costs need to happen before application?

A3: CEQA costs cannot be paid under an implementation grant. This is the case because CDFW is essentially issuing a project approval when awarding an implementation grant; therefore, CEQA must be complete, or the project must be shown to be exempt, before the award can be made. Applicants must demonstrate that their project qualifies for a statutory or categorical CEQA exemption or that a state or local agency will have filed a Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research for that agency's approval of the project before CDFW would award a grant to the project. CEQA costs are reimbursable as part of a planning project; applicants looking to cover CEQA preparation costs may wish to apply for a planning grant prior to submitting an implementation proposal.

Q4: Are watershed wide assessments eligible under this solicitation?

A4: Performing necessary studies and assessments are eligible activities for Planning projects. Typically, planning grants provide funding for activities that lead to specific on-the-ground implementation projects. Activities that do not lead to specific on-the-ground projects are not likely to be competitive.

Q5: Can Planning and Implementation projects be combined into one application?

A5: Implementation projects may include a few planning activities such as permitting and finalization of designs. However, generally projects will be more competitive if the schedule is limited to either planning or implantation tasks. Small restoration projects that qualify for a statutory or categorical CEQA exemption and/or include permitting pathways identified within Section 6 of the PSN could potentially combine planning and implantation tasks. Additionally, the project will still need to be completed by March 2025.

Q6: How should indirect costs be calculated within the proposed budget?

A6: Indirect costs may be calculated on personnel, general operating expenses, and the first \$25,000 of each subcontract. Equipment and some costs associated with acquisitions are not eligible. More information on Indirect Costs can be found within the [Proposition 1 Project Solicitation and Evaluation Guidelines](#).

Q7: Can federal agencies apply to this Prop 1 Solicitation?

A7: No, federal agencies are ineligible to apply for Proposition 1 grants per CWC §79712[a]. However, federal entities can work as subcontractors to a grantee under a Proposition 1 funded grant project.

Q8. Will any sort of match funding be required?

A8. While match funding is not required, proposals that demonstrate match funding or other sources of cost share, such as outside grant awards or private donations, may receive points for these items under the “Community Support” scoring criterion. However, non-fiscal evidence of community support and partnerships may also be provided in lieu of or in addition to fiscal cost share (e.g., letters of support, volunteer labor, donations of materials and supplies, pro bono design work, etc.).

Q9: Should acquisition proposals request the costs for DGS appraisal review?

A9: Yes, we recommend budgeting \$10,000 for DGS appraisal review.

Q10: Is there a maximum or minimum dollar amount a proposal can request for funding?

A10: No, there is no maximum or minimum grant amount that can be requested by an applicant. Under this solicitation we have approximately \$15 million available.

Q11: Is there a cap on the number of planning (or implementation or acquisition) projects that will be awarded?

A11: No, there are no predefined caps on the amounts or number of projects to be awarded for any of the project types (planning, implementation, or acquisition).

Q12: Would it be consistent with the Bond guidelines to allow a 12 month "look-back" period for creditable match (for land acquisitions)?

A12: The Proposition 1 Guidelines state that eligible match requirements are allowed within the project performance period.

Q13: May we ask questions about our proposal during the Solicitation?

A13: CDFW Propositions 1 Restoration Grant Program staff can answer clarifying questions about the Solicitation process. Due to the competitive nature of the Solicitation, Program staff cannot help guide an applicant in writing a proposal. Questions can be emailed to WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov. Please note that outside of active solicitation periods, CDFW staff may be contacted year-round for questions about proposal development or to request a project-specific consultation.

Q14: Can an eligible applicant submit more than one proposal in response to the Solicitation?

A14: Yes. Each submitted proposal will be evaluated based on its individual merit.

Q15: Can a single proposal be submitted for more than one project category, e.g., both Planning and Implementation?

A15: With one exception, proposals must be specific to a single project category. Refer to Section 2.3 – Project Categories of the Solicitation for additional information regarding eligible activities pertinent to each project category. In instances where the project's lead agency has already completed a CEQA analysis that addresses the proposed acquisition and implementation activities, these two activities can be combined in a single proposal. Outside of those circumstances, proposals for acquisition projects must be standalone (i.e., not combined with another project category).

Q16: How do we access reviewer comments on prior proposal submitted?

A16: Please contact us at WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov to request a debrief summary. In desired, you may also request a meeting to discuss your prior proposal. Be sure to specify which PSN you applied to, your Application Number, and the Project Title.

Q17: How do I satisfy a land tenure requirement?

A17: Submit written permission from the landowner that includes the following:

1. The parties involved (applicant and landowner)
2. Location information for the property

3. Allowed activities, including access prior to, during, and following construction
4. The term of the land tenure, which must be at least 25 years

Q18: Who should register for WebGrants?

A18: The applicant main contact and those who will complete the WebGrants application online should each have a WebGrants user account. If you have applied on WebGrants before, you do not need to register for a new account. Please use your existing user id and password. If you need assistance registering or updating your account information, please refer to the [WebGrants User Guide](#) or email CDFWWebgrants@wildlife.ca.gov.

Q19: Is an authorizing resolution required to apply for the grant program?

A19: An authorizing resolution is not required when submitting an application. However, if awarded, a resolution (or order, motion, ordinance, or other similar document) will be required if the applicant is a public entity (such as a Resource Conservation District, city, county, water agency, etc.) that has a governing body. The governing body would need to provide a resolution authorizing execution of the agreement prior to grant execution. An authorizing resolution is not required for public universities or nonprofit organizations.

Q20: Will you accept CCC forms that were completed for a different proposal but covered the same proposal content?

A20: No, consultations completed in association with prior Proposition 1 Solicitations, administered by CDFW or other agencies, are not valid for the current Solicitation. The California Conservation Corps resources and availability will vary throughout the year, thus requiring a new consultation form for this Solicitation.

Q21: Are consultations still allowed before the pre-app is due?

A:21: No, the consultation period has closed for this Solicitation. Now that the Solicitation has been released, CDFW Propositions 1 Restoration Grant Program staff can only answer clarifying questions about the Solicitation process. This is to keep to the competitive nature of the Solicitation. Questions can be emailed to WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov.

Q22: Based on previous experience, we have concerns that the 500-character limit is not sufficient to respond to the field "Description of Consistency with and Implementation of CWAP, SWAP, and Other plans", within the Strategy(ies) or Recovery Plan(s) section on WebGrants; particularly when the proposed project is referenced in multiple plans and addresses multiple benefits/recovery tasks. Can you provide advice about how best to provide this information within the character limit? For example, is providing a URL to the plan absolutely necessary?

A22: Within the pre-application we are looking for a clear/concise connection on how the project connects to a recovery strategy. As long as we can tie your project to text in the plan, we don't have a preference on citation format. Information such as the chapter number, page

number, and paragraph number (e.g., third paragraph from the top) or table line number (e.g., fourth line from the bottom) would be helpful for our reviewers.

Q23: Are detailed budgets required with the pre-application?

A23: No, the pre-application phase is used to determine whether a proposal meets the eligibility criteria and scope of this Solicitation. A detailed budget is not required; however, it will be required during the full application.

Q24: In the full proposal, will applicants be held to the exact overall project cost/CDFW request amount listed in the pre-app?

A24: No, we are allowing the flexibility to adjust the requested amount between the pre-application and full application. During the full application, the applicant will be required to submit a detailed budget.