



Cannabis Restoration Grant Program



Proposal Solicitation Notice,
Qualified Cultivator Funding Opportunity
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BPC	Business and Professions Code
CALCC	California Association of Local Conservation Corps
CCC	California Conservation Corps
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
Corps	CCC and CALCC, collectively
CRGP	Cannabis Restoration Grant Program
CWC	California Water Code
DGS	Department of General Services
DMP	Data Management Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PDT	Pacific Daylight Time
PRC	Public Resources Code
Solicitation	Proposal Solicitation Notice
SWRCB	State Water Resource Control Board

1 BACKGROUND

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is seeking high quality grant proposals for eligible applicants to assist qualified cannabis cultivators and enhance CDFW's mission 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. These grants are provided through the Environmental Restoration and Protection Account pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 34019(f)(2). This Proposal Solicitation Notice (Solicitation) focuses on planning only, planning and implementation, and implementation only projects outlined herein.

This Solicitation addresses priorities that will contribute to the objectives of the State of California's Revenue and Taxation code Section 34019(f)(2) as well as CDFW's mission. CDFW will award these funds through the Cannabis Restoration Grant Program (CRGP). All qualified, eligible entities (see [Section 2.1 – Eligible Entities](#)) are encouraged to submit grant proposals.

This document details eligibility requirements, the proposal process, proposal review procedures, and other pertinent information. Eligible entities are encouraged to thoroughly read this Solicitation prior to deciding to submit a proposal. CDFW will advertise timeline updates through e-mail announcements, posting on the [CRGP website](#), and news releases. Please [sign up](#) for email updates on CDFW's Grant News Notification page.

1.1 Funding

Funding of proposals submitted under this Solicitation are subject to availability of funds. Approximately \$6 million may be available. Projects under this initial appropriation must be completed within three years of the grant agreement execution.

1.2 Concept Consultation Request

CRGP will conduct an optional concept consultation phase for this funding opportunity until December 1, 2022. Prior to the pre-application phase, potential applicants are encouraged to participate in the concept consultation process to share potential project narratives and discuss the applicability to the Solicitation's priorities.

1.3 Application Timeline

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and considered for approval until April 30, 2023. Application approval will be done on a scheduled basis. The tentative schedule is outlined in [Table 1](#). All applicants must first submit a [pre-application](#) to canngrantprogram@wildlife.ca.gov. The pre-application process will focus on basic eligibility requirements, including applicant eligibility, license and/or permit status of any associated qualified cultivator(s), land tenure assurances, and project objectives. The applicant will be asked to complete a brief summary of the proposed project, and provide an estimate of the total project costs, including grant

request amount. Eligible pre-applicants will be invited back to submit a full application. Prior to submittal of the full application, applicants may receive comments from CDFW that must be addressed in the full application. Full applications will be submitted in [WebGrants](#) (see [Section 5 – Submission, Review and Selection Process](#)).

If the applicant is asked to provide a full application, full applications must be submitted at least two months in advance of the desired approval timeframe. Processing time for full applications can vary depending on complexity and completeness of the application. All applications will be evaluated by a technical review team that may consist of staff of California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Cannabis Control, and other appropriate agencies. If a proposed project is accepted and approved, and funding is available, a grant agreement will be prepared for the applicant and can take as long as 120-days before being sent to the grantee for signature.

TABLE 1. SOLICITATION PROCESS AND ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

Activity	Tentative Schedule
Concept Consultation Request Acceptance Period	August 2021 – December 1, 2022
Release Solicitation	October 08, 2021
Solicitation Workshop	October 21, 2021
1 st Pre-application / Full Application Phase	October – February 28, 2022
1 st Application Approval	March 2022
2 nd Pre-application / Full Application Phase	March 2022 – July 31, 2022
2 nd Application Approval	August 2022
3 rd Pre-application / Full Application Phase	August 2022 - December 31, 2022
3 rd Application Approval	January 2023
Last day to schedule a concept consultation	December 1, 2022
4 th Pre-application / Full Application Phase	January - April 30, 2023
4 th Application Approval	May 2023
All project work completed, and final invoices submitted for payment	3 years after grant execution
Proposal Evaluations	~6 weeks
CDFW Director approval	~8 weeks
Execute grant agreements	~12 weeks after approval
All project work completed, and final invoices submitted for payment	3 years after grant execution

2 ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITIES

Eligibility requirements outlined below represent the minimum requirements for funding. Detailed information on various funding requirements can be found in [Section 4 – Full Application Proposal Requirements and Conditions](#).

Actions required by compensatory mitigation as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15370(e), or mitigation projects undertaken solely pursuant to a court order or settlement agreement will not be funded. Proposals that include additional projects above those required as mitigation may be considered for funding. Applicants must describe how the proposed project will exceed the scope of required mitigation to justify eligibility.

2.1 Eligible Entities

The following entity types are eligible to receive grant funding (FGC §1501.5(b)):

- Public agencies within California (state agencies or departments, public universities, special districts, joint powers authorities, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of the state);
- Nonprofit organizations qualified to do business in California, qualified under Section 501(c) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and have the capacity to meet the requirements of this Solicitation and the executed grant agreement; and
- California Native American tribes, as that term is defined in Public Resources Code Section 21073.

Proposals from private individuals, for-profit enterprises, 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 entity. Additionally, eligible entities may represent qualified cultivator(s), as defined in [Section 2.5](#).

2.2 Geographic Focus

Funds under this Solicitation will be available for projects statewide. However, if proposed projects are within a [Cannabis Priority Watershed](#), as defined by the State Water Resources Control Board in coordination with CDFW, and/or identified as a priority stream in the California Water Action Plan, they will receive higher scores under the “Solicitation Priorities” scoring criteria section of the full application phase.

2.3 Project Priorities

Applications may be considered under one or both of the following project priorities. Ineligible costs under any of the project priorities includes the fee to submit the permit or license application to the respective agency, and/or the CEQA filing fees, costs required by compensatory mitigation as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15370(e), or mitigation projects undertaken solely pursuant to a court order or settlement agreement will not be funded (See [Section 4.4.3](#) for a more complete list of ineligible costs).

Proposals that include additional projects above those required as mitigation may be considered for funding. Applicants must describe how the proposed project will exceed the scope of required mitigation to justify eligibility.

2.3.1 Transition from Provisional License to Annual License

To transition to an annual license, provisional licensees must meet all regulatory requirements in Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 8102, 8105, and 8106. Eligible activities under this project type include, but are not limited to: cleanup, remediation, and restoration, professional services, consulting, and infrastructure related to cleanup, remediation, and restoration. Eligible costs include but are not limited to: compliance costs (except the ineligible costs described above); meeting the avoidance, minimization, or mitigation requirements approved in the project's CEQA document; or county permitting requirements.

If the applicant is representing a provisional license cultivator, actions outlined must lead to the issuance of an annual license or lead to on-the-ground implementation that will result in the issuance of an annual license from the licensing authority.

2.3.2 Sustainable Cannabis Cultivation Practices

Sustainable cannabis cultivation practices should alleviate direct and indirect environmental impacts of cannabis cultivation and enhance environmental stewardship. Activities that may be eligible include but are not limited to: sustainable water consumption, sustainable waste management, integrated pest and disease management, erosion control, and/or riparian protection.

2.4 Co-Benefits

All proposed projects under this Solicitation must benefit qualified cultivators as defined in [Section 2.5](#) and provide co-benefits. Applicants are to include a description of expected co-benefits from project execution and an approach to measure and report those co-benefits. Assessment methodologies may be quantitative or qualitative. Co-benefits may include, but are not limited to:

- Habitat improvements and/or species conservation - Efforts may include but not limited to implementation of actions found in the State Wildlife Action Plan, California Water Action Plan, state and federal recovery plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or other relevant conservation plans and programs. This may involve improvements for birds, bats, pollinators, and/or aquatic species; water conservation; minimizing the spread of invasive species; and enhancing native habitat and habitat connectivity.
- Promote Equity – Promoting equity may include participation in or support of, any local equity program, which may be defined in the Business and Professions Code (BPC) or as referenced by any equity assessment completed by any California jurisdiction. Please refer to BPC, Division 10, Chapter 23, Section 26240 and California Governor's Office of Business and

Economic Development, [Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions](#) for more information on local equity programs.

2.5 Qualified Cultivator

The following qualified cultivator may be represented by an eligible applicant:

2.5.1 California Department of Cannabis Control Cultivation License

The qualified cultivator being represented by the eligible applicant must at a minimum have an active provisional license or annual license issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA; now the Department of Cannabis Control) as described by the Business and Professions Code section 26050 of the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act ([Bus. & Prof. Code, § 26050.2 et seq.](#)). Priority will be given to qualified cultivators with ownership and/or financial interest in no more than 10,000 square feet of total canopy. However, cultivators with ownership and/or financial interest accumulating between 10,000-20,000 square feet of total canopy may still qualify to be represented under this Solicitation.

The cultivation license type of the provisional or annual license for any qualified cultivator under this Solicitation is defined by the Business and Professions Code section 26050 and 26061 of the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act ([Bus. & Prof. Code, § 26050.2 et seq.](#)) and Section 8201 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations.

Qualified cultivation license types are:

- Specialty cottage:
 - “Specialty Cottage Outdoor” is an outdoor cultivation site with up to 25 mature plants.
 - “Specialty Cottage Mixed-Light Tier 1¹” only, is a mixed-light cultivation site with 2,500 square feet or less of total canopy
- Specialty:
 - “Specialty Outdoor” is an outdoor cultivation site with less than or equal to 5,000 square feet of total canopy, or up to 50 mature plants.
 - “Specialty Mixed-Light Tier 1” only, is a mixed-light cultivation site between 2,501 and 5,000 square feet of total canopy.
- Small:
 - “Small Outdoor” is an outdoor cultivation site between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet of total canopy.

¹ “Mixed-light Tier 1” is without the use of artificial light or the use of artificial light at a rate above zero, but no more than six watts per square foot.

- “Small Mixed-Light Tier 1” only, is a mixed-light cultivation site between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet of total canopy.

Cultivators with ownership and/or financial interest in more than 20,000 square feet of canopy will not qualify to be represented by an eligible entity. If a project includes or is involved with an active cultivation license, the Department of Cannabis Control license number, and any associated permit numbers will be required.

2.6 Land Tenure/Site Control

Applicants for all projects that involve access to private property must demonstrate landowner permission to access the site and evidence that the represented qualified cultivator, if not the landowner, has the legal right to occupy and use the proposed location pursuant to Section 8104 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations. Implementation projects conducting on-the-ground work must submit documentation showing that they will have adequate tenure to, and site control of, the properties to be improved or restored for at least five years. When an applicant does not have tenure at the time of proposal submission, the applicant must submit a proposed agreement template, memorandum of understanding, or landowner permission form with the proposal submission. If awarded, an executed site access agreement is required prior to execution of the grant agreement.

Land tenure agreements must provide CDFW access to the project site at least once every 12 months for five years or a term negotiated with CDFW and the grantee. Proof of adequate land tenure includes:

- Fee title ownership
- An easement or site access agreement
- Other agreement between the applicant and the fee title owner, or the owner of an easement in the property, sufficient to give the applicant adequate site control for the purposes of the project and long-term management
- For projects involving multiple landowners, all landowners or an appointed designee must provide written permission for the purposes of the project and long-term management.

3 PROJECT CATEGORIES

Eligible project categories for this Solicitation are Planning, Planning and Implementation, and Implementation. Proposals may only include one project category. Each project category is described below.

3.1 Planning Only

Planning grants provide funding for activities that will lead to a specific on-the-ground implementation project. Applicants should consider CDFW grant managers,

regional liaisons, and engineers/geologists part of the stakeholder and/or technical advisory groups formed for the project. Inclusion of CDFW staff in planning level decisions streamlines the grant process for eventual implementation of the project. If the proposal seeks funding for permitting, a complete description of the permits needed and a timeline for obtaining them must be included in the proposal. 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
- Performing necessary studies and assessments, collecting baseline data, and developing project designs related to a specific site or physical project
- Obtaining the services of a qualified licensed professional (refer to [Section 4.10](#) for guidance on when licensed professionals are required)
- Completing permits
- Preparing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) documents
- Conducting stakeholder and public meetings

3.2 Planning and Implementation

Applicants may request funding for both planning and implementation phases of a project. Grant funds may be used to fund planning efforts directly linked to an implementation project that is implemented and completed within the grant agreement term. Applicants should consider CDFW grant managers, regional liaisons, and engineers/geologists part of the stakeholder and/or technical advisory groups formed for the project. Inclusion of CDFW staff in planning level decisions streamlines the grant process for eventual implementation of the project. The planning phase may include completing CEQA/NEPA compliance, and environmental permitting. Applicants will be asked to provide a summary of work completed to date, discuss data gaps, explain proposed assessment methods, provide a description and status of required permits, and provide presumed type and status of CEQA/NEPA documentation. In addition, technical justification for the proposed actions and resulting benefits, and a discussion of any potential adverse impacts related to implementation of the project, must be provided.

3.3 Implementation Only

Implementation grants fund construction and monitoring of shovel-ready restoration and enhancement projects. Applicants must demonstrate CEQA compliance, and submit 65% or higher design plans, Basis of Design Report, and technical studies.

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

- Preparation of bid packages and subcontractor documents
- Development of final engineering design
- Finalizing permits
- Construction
- Monitoring

4 FULL APPLICATION PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS

As noted in [Section 1 - Background](#), only those applicants that successfully submitted a [pre-application](#) will be invited to submit a Full Proposal. Applicants must address the comments provided in the pre-application Phase in the Full Proposal.

Applicants must be in compliance with all stated requirements of this Solicitation. Any changes to the proposal application submission process will be posted in a timely manner on CDFW's CRGP [website](#).

All information requested in this Solicitation is mandatory unless otherwise indicated. Proposals are subject to Public Records Act requests and may be made publicly available.

4.1 Environmental Compliance and Permitting

Projects funded through this Solicitation must be in compliance with applicable State, tribal and federal environmental laws and regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), and other environmental permitting requirements. 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 or approvals necessary to carry out the proposed work.

Applicants must identify the project's expected permitting requirements, state what permits have been obtained or the process through which the permits will be obtained, and describe the anticipated timeframe for obtaining each permit. Actions required by compensatory mitigation as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15370(e), or mitigation projects undertaken solely pursuant to a court order or settlement agreement will not be funded. Proposals that include additional projects above those required as mitigation may be considered for funding. Applicants must describe how the proposed project will exceed the scope of required mitigation to justify eligibility

4.1.1 Planning Only

Planning projects that include preparation of CEQA and/or NEPA documents must identify the anticipated state and federal lead agencies,

documents to be prepared, and whether those agencies have accepted the lead agency role.

4.1.2 Planning and Implementation

Proposals for implementation with planning must complete CEQA and permitting and implement the proposed project within the grant term agreement execution. Proposals must identify the anticipated State and federal lead, responsible, and trustee agencies, if applicable, and document whether those agencies have accepted the lead agency role. CDFW will consider CEQA complete when a lead agency has filed a Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research or a Notice of Exemption with the appropriate local county(ies).

4.1.3 Implementation Only

Proposals must demonstrate that all CEQA obligations will be complete prior to the final funding approval. The deadline for CEQA completion is 15 days prior to CDFW Director approval of projects. For purposes of this Solicitation, CDFW will consider CEQA obligations complete when the lead agency has filed a Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research for that lead agency's approval of the project, or upon adequate documentation that the project qualifies for an exemption. CDFW will exercise its independent judgment about whether its decision to fund a project would be subject to a CEQA statutory exemption or eligible for a categorical exemption. Implementation project proposals should include documentation of compliance with these requirements to the extent it is available at the time the proposal is submitted.

4.2 Monitoring and Reporting

All projects are required to develop project objectives and include a pre- and post-project Monitoring and Reporting Plan that explains how project success and co-benefits will be evaluated and reported. The specific terms and conditions for monitoring and reporting, including project objectives, 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. Each plan shall include project-specific objectives that have quantitative and clearly defined targets, at least some of which are feasible to meet within one to two years post-grant execution.

Description of the metrics and associated monitoring approaches that will be used to document progress towards the project objectives, including:

1. Characterization of baseline (pre-project) and post-project conditions
2. Pre-implementation data collection, when applicable

3. If dewatering and/or species relocation was conducted as part of the project, then specifics of the activity must be reported including:
 - a. The area dewatered and location (in decimal degrees)
 - b. Time and length of time the area was dewatered
 - c. Methods used for dewatering and relocation
 - d. Relocation site (in decimal degrees)
 - e. Number and species of fish relocated, injured, or killed
4. 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.)

4.3 Long-term Management and Maintenance

Implementation only and Planning and Implementation projects shall summarize long-term management and maintenance planning for at least five years. If a detailed Long-term Management Plan has not been prepared, one must be included as a deliverable.

4.4 Budget

Applicants must submit a complete project budget with the Full Proposal. The budget must provide enough detail for reviewers to understand how the requested funds will be used, why the expenses are necessary, and how the applicant estimated project costs. The following forms capture project budget information.

Eligible costs are only project-related costs associated with an eligible project activity identified in the grant agreement. Eligible costs can only be incurred during the project period specified in the grant agreement. All such costs must be supported by appropriate invoices, purchase orders, canceled warrants, and/or other records.

Applicants should budget for all costs associated with project delivery, for example: presentations to CDFW including travel, long term management plan development, monitoring plan development (if not included in proposal), project signage, publication fees, permit fees, subcontractor costs etc. Subcontractor costs must be reasonable under the circumstances of the proposal.

4.4.1 Cost Share

Cost share is the portion of the project cost not funded by the awarding agency (CDFW) and is provided by the applicant and/or other sources (e.g., private companies, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and/or other entities). Cost share must support the proposed project and be spent during the term of the executed grant agreement. Cost share is encouraged, not required; however,

proposals with higher proportions of secured cost share will receive higher scores during the evaluation process.

Applicants must indicate if any cost share is being used as match for other grants or entities and whether they intend to leverage CRGP funds as match, if awarded. Where applicable, cost share agreements or funding assurances must be submitted prior to grant execution.

4.4.2 Indirect Costs

The applicant's indirect cost (administrative overhead) calculations are limited to actual costs and cannot exceed 20 percent of the direct costs. Indirect costs may include up to \$25,000 of each subcontract, but shall not include equipment costs as defined in [CDFW General Grant Provisions](#). CDFW will not fund any amount over 20 percent but the applicant can use applicant's funds above the 20 percent as cost share. Indirect costs include, but are not limited to, utilities, office space rental, phone, use of computers and office equipment, postage, and copying related to completion of the proposed project. Applicant must itemize indirect costs. The costs cannot be rolled into direct costs.

4.4.3 Ineligible Costs

The following are ineligible costs for reimbursement:

- Costs incurred outside of the grant agreement term
- Costs related to the preparation of the grant proposal
- Fee to submit permit or license application to the respective agency
- CEQA filing fees
- Costs required by compensatory mitigation as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15370(e), or mitigation projects undertaken solely pursuant to a court order or settlement agreement will not be funded
- Costs for CEQA or NEPA document completion on implementation only projects
- Indirect costs greater than 20% of the direct costs
- Student tuition and fees
- Intern stipends
- Travel, equipment, and other property costs not specifically identified in the grant budget, and/or not following the [CDFW General Grant Provisions](#).
- Out of state travel without prior written authorization from CDFW
- Appraisal, title, or escrow costs
- Insurance, including liability insurance

4.5 Conflict of Interest

All applicants and individuals who participate in the review of submitted proposals are subject to State and federal conflict of interest laws. Any individual who has participated in planning or setting priorities for a specific solicitation or who will participate in any part of the grant development and negotiation process on behalf of the public is ineligible to receive funds or personally benefit from funds awarded through that solicitation.

Applicants should also be aware that certain State agencies may submit proposals that will compete for funding. Employees of State and federal agencies may participate in the review process as scientific and technical reviewers but are subject to the same State and federal conflict of interest laws.

Failure to comply with the conflict of interest laws, including business and financial disclosure provisions, will result in the proposal being rejected and any subsequent grant agreement being declared void. Other legal actions may also be taken. Applicable statutes include, but are not limited to, California Government Code section 1090 and Public Contract Code sections 10365.5, 10410, and 10411.

4.6 Confidentiality

Once the proposal has been submitted to CDFW, any privacy rights, as well as other confidentiality protections afforded by law with respect to the application package will be waived. Unsealed proposals are public records under the California Government Code sections 6250-6276.48.

4.7 California Conservation Corps Consultation

All applicants for implementation projects and for projects that include field work should consult with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) or a California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) as to the feasibility of using their services. If CCC and CALCC, collectively (Corps) services are available, applicants must identify the appropriate Corps and the components of the project where work will be completed in the Project Narrative and include estimated costs in the Budget. Applicants awarded funding must thereafter work with either the CCC or CALCC to develop a statement of work and enter into a contract with the appropriate Corps.

4.8 Cannabis Equity Program

The California Bureau of Cannabis Control entered into an interagency agreement with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development for fiscal year 2019-2020 to administer the Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions to aid local equity program efforts to support equity applicants and equity licensees. Offering technical support, regulatory compliance assistance, and assistance with securing the capital necessary to begin a business furthered the stated intent of the Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act by reducing barriers to entry into the regulated cannabis industry. If applicable, applicants working with local equity applicants, local equity licensees, and/or part of a local equity program(s), as defined by the Business and Professions Code (BPC), Division 10, Chapter 23, Section 26240 (c-e), will receive higher scores during the proposal evaluation process.

4.9 CDFW Engineer/Geologist Interaction and Coordination

For projects that involve engineering design or geologic investigations, the project should proceed as follows:

1. Project kick-off meeting in the field to discuss design approach, site constraints, data collection, project setting, goals and objectives, potential alternatives, etc. The grantee, design sub-contractor, regional CDFW biologists, CDFW permitting staff, CDFW engineer/geologist, landowners, and other stakeholders should attend the meeting. The CDFW engineer/geologist should participate in developing an understanding of the site, brainstorming initial alternatives, and discussing the collection of necessary data for design. CDFW should designate a lead person for each project. The CDFW lead person would be responsible for keeping all CDFW headquarters and regional staff informed during the design process.
2. Check in with the CDFW lead person to discuss anything discovered during data collection that will affect design approach, goals and objectives, potential alternatives, etc.
3. Existing conditions and alternatives analysis report – meet with kick-off meeting group to review alternatives and come to a consensus on preferred alternative. The CDFW engineer/geologist should participate in discussing how collected data should inform the design and in the process of selecting a preferred alternative.
4. 30% design plans and Basis of Design (BOD) report – rationale for selecting alternative and development of preferred alternative to vet the feasibility of the design. Initial calculations regarding controlling factors should be presented to show that the design will work (performance-based design). The CDFW engineer/geologist should be invested in making the selected alternative work and should collaborate on how to negotiate design challenges.
5. 65% design plans and updated BOD report – grading plans, sections and profiles, limits of disturbance, site access, construction details. The CDFW engineer/geologist should provide detailed input into the specifics of the design to make sure that the benefits to the stream and habitat are maximized (checking of the performance-based design analysis).
6. 90% design plans and updated BOD report – refined sheets from 65% plans that incorporate comments, structural, mechanical, electrical, revegetation plans should be included, draft specifications. The CDFW engineer/geologist should develop an understanding of how the additional plan sheets will impact design performance and give input on performance needs and should check the specifications for clarity.

7. 100% design plans and updated BOD report – Incorporate comments from 90% plans and specifications. These are the plans used for construction bids.

All engineering designs are subject to review and acceptance by CDFW Engineering staff. If CDFW Engineering staff have not been involved with design development and an applicant submits 65% or higher design plans and the proposal is approved or conditionally approved (see [Section 5.2.3](#)), then a project kick-off meeting with all relevant CDFW staff and project team representatives will be required. The CDFW engineer/geologist should participate in developing the subsequent design plans and other required reports and documents.

Review and acceptance of engineering design plans by CDFW Engineering staff does not imply CDFW responsibility or liability for the performance of this aspect or any other aspect of the project. Such liabilities and assurances of performance are the responsibility of the applicant and/or their engineering contractor.

4.10 Qualifications and Licensed Professionals

Applicants must demonstrate that the project team has the experience, facilities/equipment, and capacity to successfully perform the proposed tasks by describing prior projects completed by the applicant and other qualifications of the project team. The project team includes all applicant staff and subcontractors that will be performing the work described in the proposal.

Some projects require a California licensed professional engineer or California licensed professional geologist to comply with applicable requirements of the Business and Professions Code including but not limited to [Section 6700 et seq. \(Professional Engineers Act\)](#) and/or [Section 7800 et seq. \(Geologists and Geophysicists Act\)](#). A qualified professional licensed to practice in California shall be required to design/plan the following project types:

1. Stream crossings for fish passage, bridges, bottomless culverts, etc.
2. Fish screening
3. Instream bank stabilization, slope stabilization, or grading
4. Upslope – roads remediation or decommission
5. Groundwater infiltration, storage, or surface/groundwater interaction
6. Monitoring well installation (if samples logged)
7. Tide gates
8. Levee breaches
9. Geophysical, geotechnical, or structural analysis
10. Land surveying
11. Grade control structures

Qualified licensed professionals may be required for the project activities below. Applications for these project types that do not include a licensed professional in the

project team must provide justification for why the services of such a licensed professional are not necessary:

1. Sediment basins
2. Instream barrier modifications
3. Instream or riparian habitat restoration (non-fixed structures)
4. Watershed evaluation, assessment, and planning
5. Water conservation techniques
6. Water measuring devices

Projects consisting only of vegetation planting or invasive species removal activities do not require a licensed professional.

4.11 Labor Code Requirements: Prevailing Wage

Grants awarded through the Restoration Grant Programs may be subject to prevailing wage provisions of Part 7 of Division 2 of the California Labor Code (CLC), commencing with section 1720. Typically, the types of projects that are subject to the prevailing wage requirements are public works projects. Existing law defines "public works" as, among other things, construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of public funds. Assembly Bill 2690 (Hancock, Chapter 330, Statutes of 2004) amended CLC section 1720.4 to exclude most work performed by volunteers from the prevailing wage requirements until January 1, 2017. The grantee shall pay prevailing wage to all persons employed in the performance of any part of the project if required by law. Any questions of interpretation regarding the CLC should be directed to the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, the department having jurisdiction in these matters. Refer to the [Department of Industrial Relations website](#) and California Fish and Game Code Section 1501.5 for more details.

4.12 Water Law

Funded grants that address stream flows and water use shall comply with the California Water Code (CWC), as well as any applicable State or federal laws or regulations. Any proposal that would require a change to water rights, including, but not limited to, bypass flows, point of diversion, location of use, purpose of use, or off-stream storage shall demonstrate an understanding of the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) processes, timelines, and costs necessary for project approvals by SWRCB and the ability to meet those timelines within the term of a grant. In addition, any proposal that involves modification of water rights for an adjudicated stream shall identify the required legal process for the change as well as associated legal costs. Prior to its completion, any water right acquisition must be supported by a water rights appraisal approved by the Department of General Services Real Property Services Section.

4.13 Illegal Water Diversions

When applicable, a proposal must include methods to locate and remove or rectify all illegal water diversions and impoundments associated with the project site.

4.14 Recognition of Funding Source

The grantee must include signage, to the extent practicable, informing the public that the project received funds through CDFW from the Cannabis Restoration Grant Program Recognition of funding under this program extends to publications, websites, and other media-related and public-outreach products.

4.15 Hazardous Materials

When applicable, proposals for all project types must address the remediation of any hazardous materials on the project site. The remediation of hazardous materials must comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the following: California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5160 et seq.; regulations promulgated by the California Department of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA); and regulations promulgated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Restoration activities shall not commence until remediation is complete and the risk to human health and the environment has been abated. The applicant must prepare a written assessment of whether or not the proposed project site contains hazardous materials and provide that assessment to CDFW for review after execution of grant agreement and before any on-the-ground project work begins. If hazardous materials are later discovered on a project site, the applicant must cease any restoration efforts and remediate the site pursuant to this section.

4.16 Data Management

Data management should comply with the following principles:

- Data are interoperable (machine readable)
- Standard data formats are used for similar data types
- Quality assurance and quality control procedures are documented and followed
- Open and transparent data and metadata are accessible to the public in a reasonable time frame

Data must be documented, understandable to general users, and accessible, except where limited by law, regulation, and policy or security requirements. Data are required deliverables and will be a condition of final payment if awarded.

Applicants must demonstrate that project data will be collected using peer-approved methods, undergo a quality control and accuracy assessment process, include metadata that meet the CDFW's [Minimum Data Standards](#), and will be properly stored and protected until the project has been completed and data have been delivered. Data

delivery can include uploading data to relevant open data portals, including but not limited to:

- Geospatial data reported to [Biogeographic Information and Observation System \(BIOS\)](#)
- Surface water data reported to California Environmental Data Exchange Network ([CEDEN](#))
- Groundwater data reported to [GeoTracker GAMA \(Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program\)](#).
- Species observation data of [tracked species](#) reported to the [California Natural Diversity Database](#) using the online field [survey form](#) or other digital method
- Fish passage assessment data reported to the [California Fish Passage Assessment Database](#)

Projects that include data collection may be asked to prepare a Data Management Plan (DMP). DMPs are short (2-3 page) documents that capture essential information from researchers about their datasets, including:

- Description of the data to be acquired or generated during the project
- Quality control/quality assurance procedures
- The process to manage, describe, analyze, store, curate and publish datasets
- The process for efficient and effective data flow
- The process to address data sharing
- How the DMP is aligned with applicant's established data management approach (if applicable)
- The mechanisms to share and ensure long-term archival of the dataset

5 SUBMISSION, REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

5.1 Submission Process

Full proposals must be submitted electronically through CDFW WebGrants online at <https://watershedgrants.wildlife.ca.gov>. The name of this Solicitation in WebGrants is **CRGP - Qualified Cultivator Funding Opportunity**. To access the application, applicants must have an existing account or register for a new 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 CDFWebgrants@wildlife.ca.gov. See the [WebGrants User Guide](#) to help you navigate through WebGrants.

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 register with WebGrants as soon as possible and allow sufficient time to submit proposals to avoid last minute errors and omissions.

5.2 Review and Selection Process

Full proposals received will be evaluated using the multi-step review process. An overview of the administrative review and technical review criteria are described in the section below. All eligible and complete final applications will be evaluated and scored by technical reviewers. Technical reviewers will independently score proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria below. Engineering-Geologic review will be completed on all projects where engineering design or geologic investigation are included. Applicants will be notified if/when the project will be considered by CRGP.

5.2.1 Administrative Review

An administrative review will first determine if the full application is complete and meets all the requirements for technical review. The administrative review will use a "Yes/No" scoring method based on the criteria presented in Table 1. Applications which receive a "No" from [Table 2](#) will be considered incomplete and may not be considered for funding under this Solicitation.

TABLE 2. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW EVALUATION CRITERIA

Administrative Criteria	Score
CDFW/CRGP approved submittal of full application	Yes/No
All proposal components have been completed in the required formats, including all proposal forms, associated documents, and the applicant's contact information, including person authorized to sign grant agreement	Yes/No
Applicant contact information, including person authorized to sign grant agreement, is included	Yes/No
Applicant is an eligible entity	Yes/No
Proposal represents an eligible project priority	Yes/No
Proposed project does not include any ineligible activities	Yes/No
Proposal includes documentation addressing legal requirements for land tenure for at least five years	Yes/No

5.2.2 Technical Review

CDFW technical reviewers will evaluate and score all eligible and complete proposals. Technical reviewers evaluate each proposal in accordance with technical review criteria ([Table 3](#)) and may 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 criteria 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. See the CRGP [detailed technical review criteria](#) for more information.

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 moderately 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.

TABLE 3. TECHNICAL REVIEW EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING STANDARD

Criteria	Weighting Factor	Max. Score
1. Purpose and Background Extent to which the proposal includes a detailed description of the project purpose and background, including sufficient rationale to justify the project need.	1	5
2. Solicitation Priorities Extent to which the proposal addresses the Solicitation’s priorities, meets the qualified cultivator criteria, and co-benefits. Priority will be given to projects identified in Section 2.2 Geographic Focus.	3	15
3. Significance of Benefits Extent to which the proposal provides sufficient analysis and documentation to demonstrate the benefit to qualified cultivators and the watershed from the expected project outcomes (e.g., magnitude, diversity).	1	5
4. Community Support, Collaboration, and Equity Extent to which the proposed project demonstrates stakeholder support for the project (number, diversity of partners).	2	10
5. Project Team Qualifications / Ability to Accomplish Project Extent to which the proposal demonstrates that the project team has the qualifications, experience, and capacity to perform the proposed tasks.	1	5

Criteria	Weighting Factor	Max. Score
6. Environmental Compliance Extent to which the proposed approach to ensure compliance with all applicable environmental review and permitting requirements is adequate, sufficiently detailed, and reasonable/feasible.	1	5
7. Monitoring and Reporting Extent to which the proposal demonstrates a clear and reasonable approach for monitoring, assessing, and reporting the effectiveness of the project.	1	5
8. Durability of Investment and Long-Term Management Extent to which the proposed project will deliver sustainable outcomes in the long-term.	1	5
9. Timeline and Deliverables Extent to which the proposed schedule demonstrates the sequence and timing of project tasks, milestones, and deliverables and is sufficiently detailed and reasonable.	3	15
10. Project Approach and Scope Extent to which the proposal includes a clear description of the project's primary tasks and objectives, and the project description is sufficiently detailed to serve as a statement of work for a grant agreement.	3	15
11. Applicant Budget and Justification Extent to which the proposed budget is appropriate to the work proposed, cost effective, sufficiently detailed to describe project costs, and are consistent with the tasks shown in the project narrative and schedule.	2	10
12. Cost Share Extent to which the proposal leverages other state funds or provides private, federal, or local funding match.	1	5
Total Possible Points		100

5.2.3 Engineering-Geologic Review

Applications for applicable projects that are reviewed by CDFW Engineering staff will be evaluated as follows:

A score of 0 will be assigned if the information provided was insufficient to determine that either:

1. the existing site conditions have been, or are proposed to be, adequately characterized;
2. the proposed project is technically appropriate for the site; or
3. the project team is qualified, appropriately experienced, and has a high likelihood of successfully completing the project.

A score of 1 will be assigned if the information provided was sufficient to determine that:

1. the existing site conditions have been, or are proposed to be, adequately characterized;
2. the proposed project is technically appropriate for the site; and
3. the project team is qualified, appropriately experienced, and has a high likelihood of successfully completing the project.

But the information provided was insufficient to determine that either:

1. the proposed scope of work is appropriate and consistent with the proposed budget; or
2. the proposed benefits have a high likelihood of being achieved through successful completion of the project.

A score of 2 will be assigned if the information provided was sufficient to determine that:

1. the existing site conditions have been, or are proposed to be, adequately characterized;
2. the proposed project is technically appropriate for the site;
3. the project team is qualified, appropriately experienced, and has a high likelihood of successfully completing the project;
4. the proposed scope of work is appropriate and consistent with the proposed budget; and
5. the proposed benefits have a high likelihood of being achieved through successful completion of the project.

If a CDFW engineer/geologist gives a proposal a score of 0 or 1 and the grant is awarded regardless, there should be a meeting with the CDFW grant manager, CDFW regional staff, the grantee, and the CDFW engineer/geologist prior to writing the grant agreement. Outcomes of this meeting would be agreed upon changes to the grant's scope of work or that the grant deliverables will not be receiving reviews from an engineer/geologist or that the grant will not be funded.

5.2.4 Final Approval

The Director of CDFW will review the recommendations from CRGP and associated materials and make the final funding approval.

6 REQUIRMENTS IF FUNDED

6.1 Grant Agreement

Development of grant agreements will begin following announcement of awards. Successful applicants will work with an assigned CDFW Grant Manager to develop the grant agreement. The applicant must agree to the [General Grant Provisions](#). Awarded applicants must complete, sign, and return these additional forms:

- [Payee Data Record form \(STD. 204\)](#)
- Federal Taxpayer ID Number
- [Drug-Free Workplace Certification \(STD. 21\)](#)
- Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)

For a grant to be executed it must be signed by an authorized representative of the grant recipient and CDFW. Work performed prior to an executed agreement will not be reimbursed.

6.2 Responsibility of the Grantee

The grantee must be responsive during grant agreement development and will be responsible for carrying out the work agreed to and for managing finances, including but not limited to, invoicing, payments to subcontractors, accounting and financial auditing, and other project management duties including reporting requirements. See [Appendix C](#) for additional state auditing requirements.

Grantees shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and/or ordinances. As may be necessary, the grantee shall be responsible for obtaining the services of appropriately licensed professionals to complete project design plans (See [Section 4.10](#)).

6.3 Invoicing and Payments

CDFW will structure all grant agreements to provide for payment in arrears of work being performed. CDFW will not disburse funds until there is an executed grant agreement between CDFW and the grantee. Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis (i.e., the grantee pays for services, products or supplies, submits an invoice that must be approved by the CDFW Grant Manager, and is then reimbursed by CDFW). Funds for construction will not be disbursed until all the required environmental compliance, permitting, and design documents have been received and accepted by CDFW. Grantee must support all expense claims for reimbursement with appropriate documentation including indirect costs. State auditing requirements are described in [Appendix C](#).

6.4 Reporting

Grantees shall submit progress reports as outlined in the executed grant agreement to the CDFW grant manager for the duration of the grant. CDFW may also require annual reports and task-specific reports as project deliverables.

6.5 Performance Retention

CDFW may retain from the grantee's reimbursements, for each period for which payment is made, an amount equal to 10 percent of the invoiced amount, pending satisfactory completion of the task or grant. CDFW may modify retention withholding in the following circumstance: When the grantee or subcontractor is a public entity contracting for construction of any public work of improvement, CDFW may retain from the grantee's earnings, for each period for which payment is made, an amount equal to five percent of such earnings, pending satisfactory completion of the task or grant (Public Contract Code §7201(b)(1)).

6.6 Loss of Funding

Work performed under the grant agreement is subject to availability of funds through the State's budget process. If funding for the grant agreement is reduced, deleted, or delayed by the Budget Act or through other budget control actions, CDFW shall have the option to either: cancel the grant agreement, offer to the grantee a grant agreement amendment reflecting the reduced amount, or to suspend work. In the event of cancellation or suspension of work, CDFW shall provide written notice to the grantee and be liable for payment for any work completed pursuant to the agreement up to the date of the written notice. CDFW shall have no liability for payment for work undertaken after such date. In the event of a suspension of work, CDFW may remove the suspension of work through written notice to the grantee. CDFW shall be liable for payment for work completed from the date of written notice of the removal of the suspension of work forward, consistent with other terms of the grant agreement. In no event shall CDFW be liable to the grantee for any costs or damages associated with any period of suspension invoked pursuant to this provision, nor shall CDFW be liable for any costs in the event that, after a suspension, no funds are available, and the grant agreement is then cancelled based on state budget contingencies.

Actions of the State that may lead to suspension or cancellation include, but are not limited to:

1. Lack of appropriated funds
2. Executive order directing suspension or cancellation of grant agreements
3. CDFW or California Natural Resources Agency directive requiring suspension or cancellation of grant agreements

Actions of the grantee that may lead to suspension or cancellation of the grant agreement include, but are not limited to:

1. Failing to execute an agreement with CDFW within six months of the award announcement. In such situations, the applicant may apply to a future solicitation
2. Withdrawing from the grant program
3. Failing to submit required documentation within the time periods specified in the grant agreement
4. Failing to submit evidence of environmental or permit compliance as specified by the grant agreement
5. Changing project scope without prior approval from CDFW
6. Failing to complete the project
7. Failing to demonstrate sufficient progress
8. Failing to comply with pertinent laws
9. Failing to adequately address CDFW Engineering – Geologic review comments.

6.7 General Terms and Conditions

Successful applicants must agree to the appropriate terms and conditions for their entity type. General Grant Provisions include information regarding audits, amendments, liability insurance, and rights in data. All awarded entities must agree to the CDFW [General Grant Provisions](#) for Public or Non-public entities. Awarded applicants from the University of California and California State University must agree to [University Terms & Conditions - Exhibit "C" for University of California and California State University Agreements \(UTC-518 Exhibit C\)](#).

As may be necessary, the grantee shall be responsible for obtaining the services of appropriately licensed professionals to comply with the applicable requirements of the Business and Professions Code including but not limited to [section 6700 et seq. \(Professional Engineers Act\)](#) and/or [section 7800 et seq. \(Geologists and Geophysicists Act\)](#) with the applicable requirements of the Business and Professions Code.

If the project is selected for funding and the project proponent fails to perform in accordance with the provisions of the enacted agreement, the CDFW retains the right, at its sole discretion, to interrupt or suspend the work for which the monies are appropriated or to terminate the agreement.

6.8 Liability Insurance – Additional Coverage

In addition to insurance limits identified in CDFW's General Terms and Conditions, prior to executing a final grant agreement, successful applicants shall provide either proof of self-insurance or certificate(s) of insurance, showing that the required insurance is presently in effect. Insurance coverage limit requirements will be based upon scope of project to include policies, including, but not limited to, pollution liability, auto liability, aircraft liability, and watercraft liability.

APPENDIX A – USEFUL WEB LINKS

State Departments and Programs:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

[CRGP Homepage](#)

[Grant Opportunities](#)

[ERP Conservation Strategy](#)

[State Wildlife Action Plan](#)

California Department of Cannabis Control

California Natural Resources Agency

[Bond Accountability](#)

California Department of Conservation

[Watershed Program](#)

California Department of Industrial Relations

California Department of Water Resources

[Integrated Regional Water Management](#)

State Water Resources Control Board

[California Environmental Data Exchange Center](#)

[Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program](#)

Other Relevant Resources:

California Water Action Plan

CEQA Information

[California State Clearinghouse Handbook](#)

[Environmental Information](#)

Climate Change Information

[CDFW's Science Institute: Climate Change](#)

[Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk](#)

[National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy](#)

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration

NEPA Information

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

United States Forest Service

Water Conservation and Efficiency Plans

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Alliance for Water Efficiency](#)

APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Applicant - The entity that is formally submitting a grant application. This is the same entity that would enter into an agreement with the state should the grant application be funded. The grant applicant must be an eligible entity.

Application - The individual application form and any required attachments for grants pursuant to this grant program.

Area Sites – These are described by the outline of a polygon on the landscape. These areas may be relatively small, such as the planting area for a riparian project, or relatively large, such as a watershed in which a planning project is taking place.

California Native American tribe - a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004 (PRC § 21073).

Eligible Costs - Expenses incurred by the grantee during the agreement performance period of an approved agreement, which may be reimbursed by CDFW.

Eligible Entities - (FGC §1501.5[b]) - 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]); Nonprofit organizations qualified to do business in California, qualified under Section 501(c) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and have the capacity to meet the requirements of this Solicitation and the executed grant agreement; and California Native American tribes, as that term is defined in Public Resources Code Section 21073.

Feature - A feature is a distinct physical implementation at a location within a project work site intended to interact with the environment to improve anadromous salmonid, aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat. Features consist of one or more restoration Treatments. Within one project site there can be numerous features. For implementation monitoring, features are divided by treatment type and location. However, functional groups of structures or treatments can be grouped as one feature. For example, a group of tightly spaced willow baffles should be considered one feature. It is impractical to separate each baffle because they interact and work together as a group for the same objective at the same location. A string of closely spaced grade control weirs is another example of a group of structures of the same type functioning together. However, willow baffles and riprap bank stabilization at the same location would need to be separated into different features because they have different objectives.

Grant Agreement - An agreement between CDFW and the grantee specifying the payment of funds by CDFW for the performance of the project scope within the term of the agreement by the grantee.

Grant Manager - The CDFW staff person assigned to manage a grant, including to assist with the development of the grant agreement, accept and review invoices and deliverables, and be the first point of contact for the grantee.

Grantee - Refers to the applicant once a proposal is awarded and a grant agreement is executed (i.e., a grant recipient)

Line (Length) Sites - are a continuous line along which associated treatments are implemented. Lines must either follow the path of a stream or a road where work is taking place.

Local equity applicant – means an applicant who has submitted, or will submit, an application to a local jurisdiction to engage in commercial cannabis activity within the jurisdictional boundaries of that jurisdiction and who meets the requirements of that jurisdiction’s local equity program (BPC § 26240(c)).

Local equity licensee - means a person who has obtained a license from a local jurisdiction to engage in commercial cannabis activity within the jurisdictional boundaries of that jurisdiction and who meets the requirements of that jurisdiction’s local equity program (BPC § 26240(d)).

Local equity program - means a program adopted or operated by a local jurisdiction that focuses on inclusion and support of individuals and communities in California’s cannabis industry who are linked to populations or neighborhoods that were negatively or disproportionately impacted by cannabis criminalization as evidenced by the local jurisdiction’s equity assessment. Local equity programs may include, but are not limited to, the following types of services ((BPC § 26240(e)):

- 1) Small business support services offering technical assistance or professional and mentorship services to those persons from economically disadvantaged communities that experience high rates of poverty or communities most harmed by cannabis prohibition, determined by historically high rates of arrests or convictions for cannabis law violations.
- 2) Tiered fees or fee waivers for cannabis-related permits and licenses.
- 3) Assistance in paying state regulatory and licensing fees.
- 4) Assistance securing business locations prior to or during the application process.
- 5) Assistance securing capital investments or direct access to capital.
- 6) Assistance with regulatory compliance.
- 7) Assistance in recruitment, training, and retention of a qualified and diverse workforce, including transitional workers.
- 8) Other services deemed by the bureau to be consistent with the intent of this chapter.

Nonprofit Organization - Nonprofit organizations qualified to do business in California, qualified under Section 501(c) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and have the capacity to meet the requirements of this Solicitation and the executed grant agreement.

Point Sites - describe work that occurs at one or more discrete locations that are more than ½ mile from each other.

Project - Refers to an effort included in the proposal. It may include construction of physical facilities or implementation of non-structural actions.

Proposal - Refers to the application for a project that is proposed for funding.

Public Agency - A California agency or department [including public universities], special district, joint powers authority, county, city, city and county, or other political subdivision of the state (CWC §79702[s]).

Qualified Cultivator - The qualified cultivator being represented by the eligible applicant must at a minimum have an active provisional license or annual license issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA; now the Department of Cannabis Control) as described by the Business and Professions Code section 26050 of the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act ([Bus. & Prof. Code, § 26050.2 et seq.](#)). Priority will be given to qualified cultivators with ownership and/or financial interest in no more than 10,000 square feet of total canopy. However, cultivators with ownership and/or financial interest accumulating between 10,000-20,000 square feet of total canopy may still qualify to be represented under this Solicitation.

The cultivation license type of the provisional or annual license for any qualified cultivator under this Solicitation is defined by the Business and Professions Code section 26050 and 26061 of the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act ([Bus. & Prof. Code, § 26050.2 et seq.](#)) and Section 8201 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations. Qualified cultivation license types are:

- Specialty cottage:
 - “Specialty Cottage Outdoor” is an outdoor cultivation site with up to 25 mature plants.
 - “Specialty Cottage Mixed-Light Tier 1²” only, is a mixed-light cultivation site with 2,500 square feet or less of total canopy
- Specialty:
 - “Specialty Outdoor” is an outdoor cultivation site with less than or equal to 5,000 square feet of total canopy, or up to 50 mature plants.
 - “Specialty Mixed-Light Tier 1” only, is a mixed-light cultivation site between 2,501 and 5,000 square feet of total canopy.
- Small:
 - “Small Outdoor” is an outdoor cultivation site between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet of total canopy.
 - “Small Mixed-Light Tier 1” only, is a mixed-light cultivation site between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet of total canopy.

² “Mixed-light Tier 1” is without the use of artificial light or the use of artificial light at a rate above zero, but no more than six watts per square foot.

Review Criteria - Set of requirements used to evaluate a proposal for a specific solicitation.

Selection Panel - Representatives from CDFW, assembled to review and consider the evaluations of all complete and eligible proposals and to make initial funding recommendations. Representatives from other agencies and organizations may also be invited to participate on the Selection Panel.

Site - A project site is defined as a point, line (reach), or polygon that spatially describes a work area where specific restoration activities take place. Many projects employ multiple treatment types within a given work site. With multiple treatment types (point, line, or polygon) a project may need to be divided into more than one site. For example - a project that includes instream restoration and riparian treatments in a contiguous area would require two sites: a line for the instream activities and a polygon for the riparian plantings. Another example - a reach of stream may have several treatments, such as, instream habitat structures, stream bank stabilization structures, and a log jam barrier removal, but still be considered as one linear site, provided the distance between any two individual features is less than 1/2 mile. Similarly, the area of habitat where cannabis cultivation sites are to be cleaned and replanted would be considered one polygon site.

Subcontractor - An entity other than the project proponent/applicant that performs a portion of the Scope of Work and includes subrecipients, subawardees, independent contractors, and consultants. Applicant budgets cannot charge indirect costs for subcontractors.

Technical Reviewers - A group of individuals assembled to evaluate the scientific and technical merit of a proposed project. May include representatives from CDFW, other agencies, or other outside experts. Individuals selected to serve as technical reviewers will be professionals in fields relevant to the proposed project.

Wetlands - Lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For purposes of this classification, wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes; (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and (3) the substrate is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year (Cowardin et al. 1979).

Appendix C – State Auditing Requirements

The list below details the documents or records that State Auditors may need to review in the event of a grant agreement being audited. Grant recipients should ensure that such records are maintained for each State funded project. For additional details including specific audit tasks performed during a bond audit, see the California Department of Finance Bond Accountability and Audits Guide and the Bond Audit Bulletins (http://www.dof.ca.gov/Programs/OSAE/Prior_Bond_Audits/).

State Audit Document Requirements

Internal Controls:

1. Organization chart (e.g. Grant recipient's overall organization chart and organization chart for the State funded project).
2. Written internal procedures and flowcharts for the following:
 - a. Receipts and deposits
 - b. Disbursements
 - c. State reimbursement requests
 - d. State funding expenditure tracking
 - e. Guidelines, policies, and procedures on State funded project
3. Audit reports of the Grant recipient's internal control structure and financial statements within the last two years.
4. Prior audit reports on State funded projects.

State Funding:

1. Original grant agreement, any amendment(s) and budget modification documents.
2. A list of all bond-funded grants, loans or subventions received from the State.
3. A list of all other funding sources for each project.

Agreements:

1. All subcontractor and consultant contracts and related documents, if applicable.
2. Agreements between the grant recipient, member agencies, and project partners as related to the State funded project.

Invoices:

1. Invoices from vendors and subcontractors for expenditures submitted to the State for payments under the grant agreement.
2. Documentation linking subcontractor invoices to State reimbursement requests and related grant agreement budget line items.
3. Reimbursement requests submitted to the State for the grant agreement.

Cash Documents:

1. Receipts (copies of warrants) showing payments received from the State.
2. Deposit slips or bank statements showing deposit of the payments received

from the State.

3. Cancelled checks or disbursement documents showing payments made to vendors, subcontractors, consultants, or agents under the grant agreement.

Accounting Records:

1. Ledgers showing receipts and cash disbursement entries for State funding.
2. Ledgers showing receipts and cash disbursement entries of other funding sources.
3. Bridging documents that tie the general ledger to reimbursement requests submitted to the State for the grant agreement.

Administration Costs:

1. Supporting documents showing the calculation of administration costs.

Personnel:

1. List of all contractors and grant recipient staff that worked on the State funded project.
2. Payroll records including timesheets for contractor staff and the grant recipient's staff.

Project Files:

1. All supporting documentation maintained in the files.
2. All grant agreement related correspondence.