

LAND ACQUISITION PROPOSAL SOLICITATION PACKAGE

NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLANNING 30x30 GRANT PROGRAM



**Department of Fish and Wildlife
Natural Resources Agency
State of California**

FY 2023-24

Landscape Conservation Planning Program, Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact: NCCP@wildlife.ca.gov
<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/NCCP/Grants>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

30X30 GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW.....	3
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	3
ELIGIBLE PROJECTS	3
GRANT PROCESS AND TIMELINES.....	4
TO APPLY.....	4
POST SUBMITTAL	5
APPENDIX A.....	7

NCCP 30X30 GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature

California is committed to the goal of conserving 30 percent of our lands and coastal waters by 2030. CDFW has up to \$28.5 million available to support NCCP and/or HCP land acquisition. The funding available through this program is dependent on the approval of the projects in the previous solicitation. CDFW plans to partner with the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) through an interagency agreement to administer 30x30 Grant Program awards for land acquisition projects.

CDFW, through this Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP), seeks proposals for highest priority projects associated with the implementation of a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) and/or Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) through land acquisition projects. This PSP provides guidance on applicant eligibility, the grant process and deadlines, and submission procedures.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include public agencies, tribes, and non-profit organizations that have an interest in assisting with the execution of land acquisition projects associated with NCCPs and/or HCPs.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

This ongoing solicitation covers only land acquisition projects. Please check our NCCP Grants page in Spring 2024 if you are interested in other implementation projects that are typically funded through the NCCP Local Assistance Grant (LAG) Program.

Project Type	Description
Land Acquisition	Acquisition of land by fee title or conservation easement that is an essential part of an NCCP and/or HCP reserve system and acceptable to CDFW. <i>Proposals using the incorrect template will be ineligible for consideration.</i>

Land acquisition applicants must complete a pre-application and then will be notified if CDFW and WCB have selected the project to proceed to a full application. Full land acquisition applications will be reviewed by CDFW and WCB and may be recommended for WCB Board approval.

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 August 2024 Board meeting is likely the first opportunity where WCB's Board may consider projects under this PSP.

GRANT PROCESS AND TIMELINES

CDFW encourages applicants to work with regional staff from the Wildlife Agencies and the appropriate NCCP and/or HCP Implementing Entity to identify high-priority land acquisition projects to implement NCCPs and/or HCPs. The following timeline summarizes the grant process for this FY 2023-24 grant solicitation.

December 5, 2023: CDFW will open an ongoing solicitation for applications by posting the PSP on CDFW's NCCP Grants web page: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/NCCP/Grants>. CDFW and WCB will review applications as they are received.

August 2024: Grantees should expect that the August 2024 Board meeting may be the earliest opportunity for WCB Board consideration.

December 31, 2024: While this is considered an ongoing solicitation, there are deadlines associated with the funding. December 31, 2024, is the estimated last date for pre-application consideration. This date would likely allow for project review and board consideration before funding expiration. The deadline may be adjusted if projected timelines extend to a point where a successful land acquisition may not be possible.

November 2026: Grantees should expect that the November 2026 Board meeting may be the final opportunity for WCB Board consideration and grant agreement in order to expend funds by March 2027.

March 31, 2027: All NCCP 30x30 Land Acquisition grant funds must be expended by March 31, 2027. Timeline extensions will not be considered for grants issued under this PSP.

Full Land Acquisition applications will be reviewed and scored by a CDFW and WCB review team. Full applications may then be recommended for WCB Board consideration. If approved by the WCB Board, WCB will develop and execute a Grant Agreement with the grantee.

TO APPLY

Letter of Support

If the applicant is the Implementing Entity (or the entity that will implement the plan(s) once permitted), then a support letter is not necessary.

Non-Implementing Entity applicants **must include a letter of support** from the Implementing Entity indicating its support for the proposal, the high priority nature of the proposed acquisition, and how the project will assist in implementing the NCCP and/or

HCP. Please consult with the Implementing Entity early in the process to allow appropriate time for review and preparation of the letter of support, as the Implementing Entity may have internal processes and time constraints to consider. If a proposal covers multiple plans, a letter must be included from the primary plan's Implementing Entity.

Agency Contacts and Collaboration

CDFW encourages applicants to work closely with CDFW's regional offices, USFWS and NMFS staff (if appropriate), and the NCCP and/or HCP Implementing Entity in advance of submitting a pre-application.

Proposal Pre-Application

Applicants must use the correct Land Acquisition Pre-application Form, available on CDFW's NCCP Grants web page:

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/NCCP/Grants>.

Checklist for Proposal Applications:

- Complete Land Acquisition Proposal Pre-Application Form
 - Summary information including contact information
 - Letter of Support for Non-Implementing Entity applications, if applicable

To Submit

Proposals should be submitted electronically by the applicant to HCPB at:

NCCP@wildlife.ca.gov.

- Please note that we are not currently able to accept .zip files. Any submissions with .zip files attached will be rejected by our servers.
- If the wrong application is submitted, the proposal will be rejected.
- Ensure that text in submission is searchable.

Proposal Due Date

- Proposals for this ongoing solicitation will be considered on a first come, first served basis. Pre-applications will be considered until December 2024 or until the funding has been fully dedicated to projects, whichever comes first.

POST SUBMITTAL

Screening

Proposals will first be screened using the criteria below:

- Was the correct pre-application submitted?
- Is the proposal complete? (Includes completed Proposal pre-application and support letter from Implementing Entity (if applicable))

- Are the applicant and project eligible for this grant solicitation?
- Has the applicant sufficiently demonstrated progress on, or results from, previous related projects under programs such as NCCP LAG or Section 6 (if applicable)?

If the answer to any of these questions is “No,” CDFW will deem the proposal ineligible for funding and will not evaluate further or score the proposal.

Evaluation and Scoring

At least three CDFW and WCB staff will review and score the pre-application. The review panel may consult with the applicant for clarification purposes. If selected to proceed, the applicant will be asked to prepare a full application. Once the full application is submitted, the full application evaluation may also include a site visit. The review panel may recommend modifications, including recommending partial funding, in order to meet program priorities, funding targets and available funding limitations, and will route the project for due diligence review on the applications to assure the project can move forward.

Notification, Approval and Grant Agreement

Once all due diligence is complete, CDFW and WCB staff will work with the applicant to prepare a draft Grant Agreement and any other associated materials in preparation for presentation at a public WCB Board meeting. The WCB Board’s voting members have sole and absolute discretion to approve a project for funding.

Grant agreements are not executed or final until authorized by the WCB Board’s voting members and fully signed by the grant recipient and WCB’s Executive Director.

APPENDIX A

