



## Environmental Enhancement Fund Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### **Q: What is considered an “Enhancement” in the context of this grant program?**

A: An enhancement project is a project that acquires habitat for preservation, or improves habitat quality and ecosystem function above baseline conditions, and that meets all of the following requirements:

1. Is located within or immediately adjacent to waters of the state, as defined in Section 8670.3 of the government code.
2. Has measurable outcomes within a predetermined timeframe.
3. Is designed to acquire, restore, or improve habitat or restore ecosystem function, or both, to benefit fish and wildlife.

### **Q: What locations in California qualify as “waters of the state”?**

A: “Waters of the state” or “state waters” means any surface water, including saline waters, marine waters, and freshwaters, within the boundaries of the state but does not include groundwater.

### **Q: Where does the money come from to fund this grant program?**

A: Per legislation, money taken in by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response (CDFW-OSPR) for fines and penalties from civil oil spill cases and civil administrative actions goes to a fund known as the Environmental Enhancement Fund, which is the source of funds for this grant program.

### **Q: Who will select the recipients of the grant(s)?**

A: The selections are made by a three-member committee consisting of the Administrator of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response (CDFW-OSPR), The Executive Director of the California Coastal Conservancy, and a member of the public, designated by the OSPR Administrator, that is an officer of a statewide nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is the protection and/or enhancement of natural resources.

### **Q: When can we expect to know if our grant proposal was selected for funding?**

A: The timing of each Request for Proposal may vary but expect 4 to 6 months from the application due date to award notification to allow time for proper review and selection.

**Q: Who is eligible to apply for this grant?**

A: Any nonprofit organizations, cities, counties, cities and counties, districts, state agencies, and departments; and, to the extent permitted by federal law, federal agencies may be awarded funding in an Environmental Enhancement Grant.

**Q: Are there any fees associated with this grant?**

A: There are no fees associated with applying for or receiving this grant.

**Q: How many grants will be awarded?**

A: The number of grants to be awarded varies yearly and is not predetermined. In previous years, it has ranged from two to four recipients per fiscal year that receive grants from the EEF.

**Q: What are the minimum, maximum, or average dollar amounts of the grants to be awarded?**

A: This is not predetermined and may be determined by the amount of funds that are allocated for spending each year. Proposals will be evaluated based on the merits of the project and the budget should be reasonable for the work proposed and the degree of expected habitat and ecosystem benefits. Previous values awarded may be viewed on the EEF website.

**Q: How much is available for grants this year?**

A: The amount of funding available for grants each year is contingent upon fund availability and allocation authority, which varies from year to year. If an RFP is released, the current year's allocation will be announced at the time of the Request for Proposals.

**Q: Who can I contact for help or if we have other questions?**

A: Contact [OSPREEF@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:OSPREEF@wildlife.ca.gov)