



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

BOD	Basis of Design
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
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CLC	California Labor Code
Corps	California Conservation Corps (CCC) and California Association of Local Conservation Corps (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
PRC	Public Resources Code
Solicitation	Proposal Solicitation Notice
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board

1 BACKGROUND

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is seeking high quality grant proposals from eligible applicants to assist qualified cannabis cultivators in managing 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. 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 funds through the Cannabis Restoration Grant Program (CRGP). All qualified, eligible applicants (see [Section 2.1 Eligible Applicants](#)) are encouraged to submit grant proposals.

This document details eligibility requirements, the proposal process, proposal review procedures, and other pertinent information. Eligible applicants are encouraged to read this Solicitation thoroughly prior to submitting a proposal. CDFW will advertise funding updates through email 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

Projects under this appropriation are for qualified cultivators transitioning to an annual license, implementing sustainable cultivation methods, and/or improving water conservation. Funding for proposals submitted under this Solicitation are subject to availability of funds and must be completed within three years of the grant agreement execution.

1.2 Concept Consultation

CRGP will conduct an optional concept consultation as part of this funding opportunity. Prior to the pre-application, potential applicants are encouraged to request a concept consultation, share project narratives, and discuss applicability to the Solicitation's priorities. For consultation requests, email canngrantprogram@wildlife.ca.gov.

1.3 Application Timeline

Applications will be accepted and considered for approval on a rolling basis as long as funding is available. All applicants must first submit a [pre-application](#) to canngrantprogram@wildlife.ca.gov. The pre-application process is focused 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 the amount requested in grant funding. Eligible pre-applicants with projects that meet

the Solicitation priorities will be invited to submit a Full Application Proposal. Prior to submittal of the Full Application Proposal, applicants may receive comments from CDFW that must be addressed in the Full Application Proposal. Full Application Proposals will be submitted in [WebGrants](#) (see [Section 5 – Submission, Review, and Selection Process](#)).

If the applicant is asked to provide a Full Application Proposal, Full Application Proposals must be submitted a minimum of two months in advance of the desired approval timeframe. Processing time for Full Application Proposals 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 from the 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. Agreements may take up to 120 days to complete before the grantee signs.

2 ELIGIBILITY AND PRIORITIES

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

Actions required as compensatory mitigation, 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. Other ineligible costs include cannabis licensing fees (see [Section 4.5.3 Ineligible Costs](#) for a complete list of ineligible costs).

2.1 Eligible Applicants

The following organizations are eligible to receive grant funding (Fish and Game Code, section 1501.5(b)):

- Public agencies within California (state agencies or departments, public universities, special districts, joint power authorities, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of the state)
- Nonprofit organizations qualified to do business in California, qualified under Section 501(c), Title 26 of the United States Code, and with the capacity to meet the requirements of this Solicitation and the executed grant agreement
- California Native American Tribes as 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 organization. Additionally, eligible applicants may represent qualified cultivator(s), as defined in [Section 2.5 Qualified Cultivator](#).

2.2 California’s Threatened and Endangered Species Focus

Funds under this Solicitation are available for projects statewide. Proposals that directly benefit [California’s Threatened and Endangered Species](#), as defined by the [California Endangered Species Act](#) (CESA), will receive higher scores under the “Solicitation Priorities” scoring criteria during the Full Application Proposal phase.

2.3 Project Priorities

Applications may be considered under one or more of the project priorities described below.

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 4 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 15002, 15006, and 16309. Eligible activities under this project type include, but are not limited to, the following: cleanup, remediation, and restoration; professional services; consulting; and infrastructure related to cleanup, remediation, and restoration. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to, the following: compliance costs (except for the ineligible costs described in [Section 4.5.3](#)); meeting the avoidance, minimization, or mitigation requirements approved in the project’s CEQA document; and county permitting requirements.

If the applicant is representing a provisionally licensed 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 reduce direct and indirect environmental impacts of cannabis cultivation, benefit local ecosystems, and/or enhance environmental stewardship. Project activities that may be eligible include, but are not limited to, the following: sustainable waste management; integrated pest and disease management; erosion control; and riparian protection.

2.3.3 Water Conservation and Flow Enhancements

Water conservation and permitted flow enhancement practices must include measures that reduce negative impacts to instream flows and/or groundwater supplies. Activities that may be eligible include, but are not limited to, the following: infrastructure for sustainable water usage, permitted bypass flows and flow releases, water tank installation and storage, and/or stream gauges to ensure sufficient streamflow and water quality prior to water being available for irrigation.

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 must describe the expected co-benefits from project execution and explain how the co-benefits will be measured and reported. Assessment methodologies may be quantitative or qualitative. Co-benefits may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Habitat Improvements or Species Conservation Efforts– These may include implementation of actions described in the State Wildlife Action Plan, California Water Action Plan, state and federal recovery plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or other relevant conservation plan or program (see resources in [Appendix A](#)). For example, actions may include habitat improvements for birds, bats, pollinators, or aquatic species; water conservation; minimize the spread of invasive species; or enhance native habitat and habitat connectivity.
- Promote Equity – Efforts to promote equity may include participation in, or support of, any local equity program defined in the Business and Professions Code (BPC) or referenced by any equity assessment completed by a California jurisdiction. For more information on local equity programs, please refer to BPC, Division 10, Chapter 23, Section 26240, and the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, [Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions](#).

2.5 Qualified Cultivator

A qualified cultivator as described below may be represented by an eligible applicant.

2.5.1 California Department of Cannabis Control Cultivation License

A qualified cultivator can be represented by an eligible applicant and must, at a minimum, possess an active provisional license or annual license issued by the Department of Cannabis Control pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 26050 et seq. ([Bus. & Prof. Code, § 26050.2 et seq.](#)). Priority will be given to qualified cultivators with an ownership or financial interest in no more than a total of 10,000 square feet of canopy under cannabis cultivation. Cultivators with ownership or financial interest in more than 10,000 but less than 20,000 square feet of total canopy may still qualify under this Solicitation but will not receive priority ranking.

Qualified cultivation license types include the following:

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

Currently, cultivators with ownership or financial interest in more than 20,000 square feet of canopy do not qualify as eligible. The qualified cultivator must include all Department of Cannabis Control license numbers as well as all associated permit numbers in the Full Application Proposal.

2.6 Land Tenure/Site Control

Project applicants that require access to private property must demonstrate landowner permission to access the site. If the qualified cultivator is not the landowner, project applicants must provide evidence the cultivator has the legal right to occupy and use the proposed location pursuant to section 15007 in Title 4 of the California Code of Regulations. Implementation projects conducting on-the-ground work must submit documentation demonstrating the cultivator will have adequate tenure to, and site control of, the properties covered by grant funds 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, memorandum of understanding, or landowner permission form with the proposal. If awarded, an executed site access agreement is required prior to execution of the grant agreement.

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.

Land tenure agreements must provide CDFW staff access to the project site at least once every 12 months for five years, or other term negotiated by CDFW and the grantee. For projects involving multiple landowners, all landowners or an appointed designee must provide written permission for the project in addition to long-term management. Proof of adequate land tenure may include one or more of the following:

- 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, which provides the applicant adequate site control for the purposes of the project and long-term management

3 PROJECT CATEGORIES

Eligible project categories for this Solicitation include Planning, Planning and Implementation, and Implementation, as described below. Proposals may fall under one project category.

3.1 Planning

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 as part of the stakeholder or technical advisory group 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 all permits must be included in the proposal. Eligible activities for Planning projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 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, or long-term management plans for a specific project
- Performing necessary studies and assessments, collecting baseline data, or developing project designs related to a specific site or physical project
- Obtaining the services of a qualified licensed professional (refer to [Section 4.11](#) for guidance on when licensed professionals are required)
- Completing permits
- Preparing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and/or National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) documents
- Conducting stakeholder, technical advisory, and public meetings

3.2 Planning and Implementation

Applicants may request funding for both the planning and implementation phases of a project. Grant funds may be used to fund planning efforts in conjunction with the implementation of a project if completed within the grant agreement term. Applicants should consider CDFW grant managers, regional liaisons, and engineers/geologists as part of the stakeholder or technical advisory group 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 awarded grant funds must 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 a description and status of the necessary CEQA/NEPA documentation. In addition, applicants must provide a justification for the proposed actions and a description of the resulting benefits, as well as a discussion of any potential adverse impacts related to the implementation of the project.

3.3 Implementation

Implementation grants fund construction and monitoring of shovel-ready restoration and habitat enhancement projects. Applicants must demonstrate CEQA compliance and submit 65 percent (or higher) design plans, a Basis of Design (BOD) Report, as well as technical studies.

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

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

4 FULL APPLICATION PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS

As noted in [Section 1 - Background](#), only those applicants that successfully submit a [pre-application](#) may be invited to submit a Full Application Proposal. Applicants must address the comments provided during the pre-application phase in the Full Application 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 Project Location Topographic Map

The project must be illustrated on an appropriately scaled United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute contoured topographic quadrangle map, or equivalent, that includes the location of the project. Site features, roads, watercourses, and USGS quad names need to be clearly labeled. The project area, including the extent of the work proposed, must be clearly illustrated.

4.2 Environmental Compliance and Permitting

Projects funded through this Solicitation must comply with applicable state, tribal, local, and federal environmental laws and regulations, including CEQA, NEPA, and other environmental permitting requirements. State, tribal, local, and federal agencies may have permitting or other approval authority over projects eligible for grant funding. The applicant is responsible for obtaining all permits and approvals necessary to conduct the proposed work.

Applicants must identify the project's expected permitting requirements, describe the permits 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.

4.2.1 Planning

Planning projects that include preparation of CEQA and/or NEPA documents must identify the anticipated state and federal lead agencies, the documents that will be prepared, and whether the respective agencies have accepted the lead agency role.

4.2.2 Planning and Implementation

Proposals for planning and implementation must complete CEQA and/or NEPA, in addition to all environmental permitting, and implement the proposed project within the grant term agreement. Proposals must identify the anticipated state and federal lead agencies, the responsible and trustee agencies (if applicable), and document whether the 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).

4.2.3 Implementation

Implementation projects must demonstrate that all CEQA obligations will be completed 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 or a Notice of Exemption with the appropriate local county(ies). For funding purposes, CDFW will exercise independent judgment whether a project is subject to a CEQA statutory exemption or eligible for a categorical exemption. Implementation projects should include documentation of compliance with all CEQA and NEPA requirements to the extent the information is available at the time the proposal is submitted.

4.3 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. This will ensure appropriate measures have been identified to assist with consistency, as well as nomenclature, units, and measurements.

The scope of the Monitoring and Reporting Plan will vary depending on the nature of the project. Each plan must include project specific objectives with clearly defined quantitative targets, at least some of which can be met within one to two years after grant execution.

A description of the metrics and associated monitoring approaches for documenting project progress must include the following:

1. Characterization of baseline (pre-project) and post-project conditions
2. Pre-implementation data collection, if applicable
3. If dewatering and/or species relocation are proposed, specifics of the activities shall be consistent with all permitting and reporting requirements and in consultation with state and federal wildlife agencies²
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;

² A grant agreement does not authorize take of any candidate, threatened, endangered, or candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish and Game Code, section 2050 et seq.), or any species fully protected under the Fish and Game Code.

and/or building partnerships capable of attracting funding from multiple sources over time)

4.4 Long-term Management and Maintenance

Implementation and Planning and Implementation projects must 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 grant deliverable.

4.5 Budget

Applicants must submit a complete project budget with the Full Application Proposal. The budget must provide sufficient detail for reviewers to understand how the requested funds will be used, why the expenses are necessary, and how the applicant is estimating project costs.

Eligible costs are project related costs associated with an eligible activity identified in the grant agreement. Eligible costs can only be incurred during the project period specified in the grant agreement. All eligible 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 any travel costs, development of long-term management plans and monitoring plans (if not included in the proposal), project signage, publication fees, and subcontractor costs, etc. Subcontractor costs must be reasonable and based on the circumstances of the proposal.

4.5.1 Cost Share

Cost share is the portion of project costs not funded by the awarding agency (CDFW) and provided by the applicant and/or other sources (e.g., private companies, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, or other entities). The cost share must support the proposed project and be spent during the term of the executed grant agreement. While cost share is encouraged, it is not required as part of this Solicitation. However, proposals with higher proportions of secured cost share will receive higher scores during the evaluation process.

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

4.5.2 Indirect Costs

The applicant's indirect costs (administrative overhead) 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 and cannot include equipment

costs as defined in [CDFW General Grant Provisions](#). CDFW will not fund indirect costs amounting to over 20 percent of the direct costs. However, the applicant can use any funds above the 20 percent cap as cost share. Indirect costs include, but are not limited to, the following: utilities, office space, phone, use of computers and office equipment, postage, and photocopying related to completion of the proposed project. The applicant must itemize all indirect costs. The costs cannot be rolled into direct costs.

4.5.3 Ineligible Costs

The following costs are ineligible for reimbursement:

- Costs incurred outside the grant agreement term
- Costs related to the preparation of the grant proposal
- Cannabis license application 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
- Indirect costs greater than 20 percent of the direct costs
- Indirect costs on equipment costs
- Student tuition and fees
- Intern stipends
- Travel, equipment, and other property costs not specifically identified in the grant budget, and/or costs that are inconsistent with [CDFW General Grant Provisions](#)
- Out of state travel without prior written authorization from CDFW
- Appraisal, title, or escrow costs
- Insurance, including liability insurance

4.6 Conflict of Interest

All applicants, as well as all 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 any individual who participates 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 the solicitation. Applicants should 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. However, they 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 rejection of the proposal and any subsequent grant agreement declared void. Other legal actions may also be taken. Applicable

statutes include, but are not limited to, the following: California Government Code section 1090 and Public Contract Code sections 10365.5, 10410, and 10411.

4.7 Confidentiality

Once a Full Application Proposal has been submitted to CDFW, any privacy rights as well as other confidentiality protections afforded by law, will be waived. Unsealed proposals are public records under California Government Code sections 6250 through 6276.48.

4.8 California Conservation Corps Consultation

All applicants for implementation projects and projects that include field work should consult with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) or a California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) to determine whether it is feasible to use their services. If CCC and CALCC (collectively Corps services) are available, applicants must identify the appropriate Corps and the components of the project that will be completed by Corps services in the Project Narrative. The applicant must also include all estimated costs for Corps services 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.

4.9 Cannabis Equity Program

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development administers the Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions to aid local equity program efforts that support equity applicants and equity licensees by offering technical support, regulatory compliance assistance, and assistance with securing capital for beginning a business. 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 Section 26240, will receive higher scores during the proposal evaluation process.

4.10 CDFW Engineer/Geologist Interaction and Coordination

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

1. Project Kick-Off Meeting – Site meeting to discuss design approach, site constraints, data collection, project setting, goals, objectives, and potential alternatives. 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 the site assessment, development of initial alternatives, and discussions pertaining to the collection of necessary data and design work. CDFW should designate a lead person for each project. The CDFW lead person is responsible for keeping all CDFW headquarters and regional staff informed during the design process.

2. Check in with the CDFW Lead Person – Discuss anything discovered during data collection that will affect design approach, goals, and objectives, as well as potential alternatives.
3. Existing Conditions and Alternatives Analysis Report – Meet with the kick-off meeting group to review alternatives and develop a consensus on the preferred alternative. The CDFW engineer/geologist should participate in discussions of how the collected data will inform the design and selection of a preferred alternative.
4. Design Plans and Basis of Design (BOD) Report (30 percent design plans) – Discuss the rationale for selecting the preferred alternative and the feasibility of the design. Initial calculations and controlling factors should be presented to illustrate the effectiveness of the design (performance based design). The CDFW engineer/geologist should be invested in making the selected alternative work and collaborate with the team on negotiating the design challenges.
5. Updated BOD Report (65 percent design plans) – Develop grading plans, sections and profiles, limits of disturbance, site access, and construction details. The CDFW engineer/geologist should provide detailed input into the specifics of the design so that benefits to the watercourse or other habitat are maximized (QA/QC the performance based design analysis).
6. Updated BOD Report (90 percent design plans) – Refine the 65 percent plans, address comments, and include structural, mechanical, electrical, and revegetation plans as well as a draft of the specifications. The CDFW engineer/geologist should have an understanding of how the additional plan sheets will impact the design performance, provide input on performance needs, and check the specifications for clarity.
7. Updated BOD Report (100 percent design plans) – Refine the 90 percent plans, address comments, and finalize specifications resulting in plans ready 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 the design development for a project with 65 percent or higher design plans and the proposal is approved or conditionally approved (see [Section 5.2.3](#)), 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 the design 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.

4.11 Qualifications and Licensed Professionals

Applicants must demonstrate the project team has the experience, facilities, equipment, and capacity to successfully perform the proposed tasks by describing prior projects completed as well as qualifications of the project team. The project team includes all applicant staff and subcontractors that will be performing the work described in the Full Application 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 [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 is required to design and plan the following project types:

1. Stream crossings for fish passage, bridges, and bottomless culverts
2. Fish screening
3. Instream bank stabilization, slope stabilization, and grading
4. Upslope remediation or decommissioning of roads
5. Groundwater infiltration, groundwater storage, or surface/groundwater interaction
6. Installation of monitoring wells (if samples logged)
7. Tidal 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 described below. Applications for these project types that do not include a licensed professional on the project team must provide justification for why a licensed professional is 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 and/or invasive species removal activities do not require a licensed professional.

4.12 Labor Code Requirements: Prevailing Wage

Grants awarded through the Cannabis Restoration Grant Program may be subject to prevailing wage provisions described in Part 7 of Division 2 of the California Labor Code (CLC), commencing with section 1720. Typically, the types of projects subject to the prevailing wage requirements are public works projects. Existing law defines "public works" as construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work (among other things) 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, who maintains authority in these matters. Refer to the [Department of Industrial Relations website](#) and California Fish and Game Code Section 1501.5 for more details.

4.13 Water Law

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

4.14 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.

4.15 Recognition of Funding Source

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

4.16 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 must 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 the proposed project site contains hazardous materials. In addition, the applicant must provide the assessment for CDFW to review after execution of the grant agreement and before any on-the-ground 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.

4.17 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 timeframe

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

Applicants must demonstrate the project data will be collected using peer-approved methods, undergo a quality control and accuracy assessment process, include metadata that meet the CDFW [Minimum Data Standards](#), and will be properly stored and protected until the project has been completed and data have been delivered to CDFW. Data delivery can include uploading data to relevant open data portals including, but not limited to, the following:

- Geospatial data can be reported to the [Biogeographic Information and Observation System \(BIOS\)](#)
- Surface water data can be reported to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network [\(CEDEN\)](#)
- Groundwater data can be reported to the [GeoTracker GAMA \(Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program\)](#)
- Species observation data of [tracked species](#) can be reported to the [California](#)

[Natural Diversity Database](#) using the online field [survey form](#) or other digital method

- Fish passage assessment data can be 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 the datasets, including:

- Description of the data to be acquired or generated by the project
- Quality control/quality assurance procedures
- The process for managing, describing, analyzing, storing, curating, and publishing datasets
- The process for efficient and effective data flow
- The process for addressing data sharing
- How the DMP is aligned with the applicant's established data management approach (if applicable)
- The mechanisms for sharing and ensuring long-term archival of the dataset

5 SUBMISSION, REVIEW, AND SELECTION PROCESS

5.1 Submission Process

Full Application Proposals must be submitted online through the CDFW [WebGrants portal](#) (<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 portal should be directed to the CDFW WebGrants Help Desk at (916) 323-0477 or by email CDFWWebgrants@wildlife.ca.gov. See the [WebGrants User Guide](#) for assistance navigating WebGrants.

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

5.2.1 Administrative Review

An administrative review determines whether a Full Application Proposal is complete. The administrative reviewer uses a “Yes/No” scoring method based on the criteria outlined in Table 1. Applications which receive a “No” as outlined in [Table 1](#) will be considered incomplete and may not be considered for funding under this Solicitation.

TABLE 1. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW EVALUATION CRITERIA

Administrative Criteria	Score
Pre-Application approved for submittal of Full Application Proposal	Yes/No
All proposal components are complete per the required format, including all proposal forms, associated documents, and the applicant’s contact information, including person authorized to sign grant agreement	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 evaluate and score all eligible and complete Full Application Proposals. Technical reviewers evaluate each proposal in accordance with the technical review criteria described in [Table 2](#) and may make narrative comments that support these 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 are professionals in fields relevant to the proposed project. Although CRGP grants are non-competitive, CRGP staff recommend proposals score an average of 70 out of 100 points or better to qualify for grant funding. CRGP staff will make recommendations to improve project success if applicants are open to continuing the process.

Where standard scoring criteria are applied, points will be assigned as follows:

- A score of 5 points is awarded if the criterion is fully addressed and supported by thorough and well-presented documentation and logical rationale
- A score of 4 points is awarded if the criterion is fully addressed but supported by less thorough documentation or less sufficient rationale
- A score of 3 points is awarded if the criterion is less than fully addressed and supported by less thorough documentation or less sufficient rationale
- A score of 2 points is awarded if the criterion is moderately addressed, or the documentation or rationale are incomplete or insufficient
- A score of 1 point is awarded if the criterion is minimally addressed, or no documentation or rationale is presented
- A score of 0 points is awarded if the criterion is not addressed

TABLE 2. TECHNICAL REVIEW EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING STANDARD

Criteria	Weighting Factor	Max. Score
1. Purpose and Background 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 The proposal addresses the Solicitation’s priorities, meets the qualified cultivator criteria, and provides co-benefits. Priority is given to projects identified in Sections 2.2 and 2.3	3	15
3. Significance of Benefits The proposal provides sufficient analysis and documentation to demonstrate the benefit to qualified cultivators and the watershed based on expected project outcomes (e.g., magnitude, diversity)	1	5
4. Community Support, Collaboration, and Equity The proposed project demonstrates stakeholder support for the project (number, diversity of partners)	2	10
5. Project Team Qualifications / Ability to Accomplish Project The proposal demonstrates the project team has the qualifications, experience, and capacity to perform the proposed tasks	1	5
6. Environmental Compliance Applicable environmental review and permitting requirements are adequate, sufficiently detailed, and reasonable/feasible	1	5
7. Monitoring and Reporting The proposal demonstrates a clear and reasonable approach to monitoring, assessing, and reporting project effectiveness	1	5

Criteria	Weighting Factor	Max. Score
8. Durability of Investment and Long-Term Management The proposed project will deliver sustainable outcomes in the long-term	1	5
9. Timeline and Deliverables 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 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 The proposed budget is appropriate for the work proposed, cost effective, sufficiently detailed to describe project costs, and consistent with the tasks described in the project narrative and schedule	2	10
12. Cost Share 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 reviewed by CDFW Engineering staff are evaluated as described below.

A score of 0 is assigned if the information provided is insufficient to determine the following:

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.

A score of 1 is assigned if the information provided is sufficient to determine the following:

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.
4. However, the information provided is insufficient to determine the following:
 - a. The proposed scope of work is appropriate and consistent with the proposed budget; or
 - b. The proposed benefits have a high likelihood of being achieved through successful completion of the project.

A score of 2 is assigned if the information provided is sufficient to determine the following:

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 provides a score of 0 or 1 for a proposal 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 from this meeting should include agreed changes to the grant's scope of work, or the grant deliverables will not receive reviews from an engineer/geologist and the grant will not be funded.

5.2.4 Selection Panel Review

CDFW will convene a Selection Panel to review the scores and comments from the Engineering-Geologic and Technical Review processes. The Selection Panel may establish subcommittees, organized around funding priorities, to provide a preliminary ranking for Selection Panel deliberations. Representatives from other agencies and organizations may be invited to participate on the Selection Panel or its subcommittees. The Selection Panel will generate the initial funding recommendations. When developing funding recommendations, the Selection Panel considers the following:

- Technical Review scores and comments
- Engineering-Geologic Review, if applicable
- Input from CDFW Regional Managers and Staff
- Subcommittee preliminary rankings

- Availability and distribution of funds
- Program purposes
- Policy considerations
- Balance and distribution of funds according to the following: a) project priorities b) project types c) geographic areas d) type of institutions
- Results of coordination with partner agencies implementing other relevant grant programs

The Selection Panel may recommend modifications, including reducing requested grant amounts, to meet current priorities as well as any potential future program priorities, funding targets, and available funding limitations.

5.2.5 Final Approval

The Director of CDFW reviews the Selection Panel recommendations and associated materials and makes final funding approvals on a continual basis.

6 REQUIREMENTS IF FUNDED

6.1 Grant Agreement

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

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

Executed grants must be signed by authorized representatives, including the grant recipient and CDFW. Work performed prior to an executed agreement will not be reimbursed.

6.2 Responsibilities of the Grantee

The grantee must be responsive during grant agreement development and responsible for conducting the work agreed to. Financial management of the grant includes invoicing, providing timely payments to subcontractors, accounting, and financial auditing. Other project management duties are also required, including all reporting requirements. See [Appendix C](#) for additional state auditing requirements.

Grantees must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances. If necessary, the grantee is responsible for obtaining the

services of appropriately licensed professionals to complete project design plans and other work (see [Section 4.11](#)).

6.3 Invoicing and Payments

CDFW structures all grant agreements to provide for payment in arrears of work performed. CDFW does not disburse funds until there is an executed grant agreement between CDFW and the grantee. Payments are 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 required environmental compliance, permitting, and design documents have been received and accepted by CDFW. The 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 must submit progress reports as outlined in the executed grant agreement to the CDFW Grant Manager for the duration of the grant. CDFW may require annual reports and task specific reports as project deliverables.

6.5 Performance Retention

CDFW may retain an amount equal to 10 percent of the invoiced amount from the grantee's reimbursements for each period for which payment is made, pending satisfactory completion of the task. CDFW may modify retention withholding in specific circumstances. For example, if the grantee or subcontractor is a public entity contracted to construct any public works improvement, CDFW may retain an amount equal to 5 percent from the grantee's earnings, for each period for which payment is made, pending satisfactory completion of the task (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 has the option to cancel the grant agreement, offer the grantee a grant amendment that reflects the reduced amount, or suspend work. In the event of cancellation or suspension of work, CDFW will provide written notice to the grantee and be liable for payment of any work completed pursuant to the agreement up to the date of the written notice. CDFW maintains no liability for payment of work undertaken after such date. In the event of suspension of work, CDFW may remove the suspension of work through written notice to the grantee. CDFW is liable for payment for work completed from the date of the written notice for the removal of the suspension of work and forward. Payment will be consistent with other terms of the grant agreement. In no event is CDFW liable to the grantee for any costs or damages associated with any

period of suspension invoked pursuant to this provision, nor is CDFW liable for any costs in the event that, after a suspension, no funds are available, and the grant agreement is cancelled based on state budget contingencies.

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

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, the following:

1. Failing to execute an agreement with CDFW within 6 months of the award announcement. In such situations, the applicant may apply for 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 data rights. 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 necessary, the grantee is 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](#)) and all applicable requirements of the Business and Professions Code.

If a project is selected for funding and the project proponent fails to perform in accordance with the provisions of the enacted agreement, 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 must provide proof of self-insurance or certificate(s) of insurance showing the required insurance is presently in effect. Insurance coverage requirements are based on the scope of the project and may 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 Coordinator Program](#)

[California Department of Industrial Relations](#)

[California Department of Water Resources](#)

[Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Programs](#)

[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](#)

[CEQA: The California Environmental Quality Act](#)

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 Water Use Efficiency

[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 defined in Public Resources Code section 21073.

Feature – A distinct physical implementation at a location within a project site intended to interact with the environment and improve anadromous salmonid, aquatic, riparian, or upland habitat. Features consist of one or more restoration treatments. There can be numerous features within one project site. 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 can be considered one feature. It is impractical to separate each baffle because they interact and work together as a group for the same objective. 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 need to be separated into different features because they have different objectives.

Full Application Proposal – The application for a project proposed for funding.

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.

Grant Manager – The CDFW staff person assigned to manage a grant, including assisting with the development of the grant agreement, accepting and reviewing invoices and deliverables, and 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 – Continuous lines along which associated treatments are implemented. Lines must follow the path of a stream or a road where work is taking place.

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

Local Equity Licensee – A person who has obtained a license from a local jurisdiction to engage in commercial cannabis activity within the jurisdictional boundaries of the respective jurisdiction and who meets the requirements of the respective jurisdiction’s local equity program (BPC § 26240(d)).

Local Equity Program – 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 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 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 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 – An organization qualified to do business in California in accordance with Section 501(c) of Title 26 of the United States Code, and with the capacity to meet the requirements of this Solicitation and the executed grant agreement.

Point Sites – Work that occurs at one or more discrete locations no more than 0.5-mile from each other.

Project – An effort described in the proposal that may include construction of physical facilities or implementation of non-structural actions.

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

Qualified Cultivator – A person or group represented by the eligible applicant who maintains, at a minimum, an active provisional license or annual license issued by 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 is 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 and 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 include the following:

- Specialty Cottage:
 - “Specialty Cottage Outdoor” is an outdoor cultivation site with up to 25 mature plants
 - “Specialty Cottage Mixed-Light Tier 1³” 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” 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” is a mixed-light cultivation site between 5,001 and 10,000 square feet of total canopy

³ “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 provide initial funding recommendations. Representatives from other agencies and organizations may also be invited to participate on the Selection Panel.

Site – 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 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 includes a reach of stream with 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 0.5-mile. Similarly, the area of habitat where cannabis cultivation sites are to be cleaned and replanted are 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, sub-awardees, 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. This may include representatives from CDFW, other agencies, or other outside experts. Individuals selected to serve as technical reviewers are 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 maintain 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/or (3) the substrate is non-soil and 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 review in the event a grant agreement is audited. Grant recipients should ensure all 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](#)

State Audit Document Requirements

Internal Controls:

1. Organizational chart (e.g., grant recipient's overall organizational chart and the organizational 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 the 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