

NOTICE PUBLICATION/REGULATIONS SUBMISSION

STD. 400 (REV. 10/2019)

For use by Secretary of State only

OAL FILE NUMBERS	NOTICE FILE NUMBER Z-	REGULATORY ACTION NUMBER	EMERGENCY NUMBER
For use by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) only			
NOTICE		REGULATIONS	
AGENCY WITH RULEMAKING AUTHORITY Wildlife Conservation Board			AGENCY FILE NUMBER (If any)

A. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE (Complete for publication in Notice Register)

1. SUBJECT OF NOTICE		TITLE(S)	FIRST SECTION AFFECTED	2. REQUESTED PUBLICATION DATE
3. NOTICE TYPE ☐ Notice re Proposed Regulatory Action ☐ Other		4. AGENCY CONTACT PERSON	TELEPHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER (Optional)
OAL USE ONLY	ACTION ON PROPOSED NOTICE ☐ Approved as Submitted ☐ Approved as Modified ☐ Disapproved/Withdrawn		NOTICE REGISTER NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE

B. SUBMISSION OF REGULATIONS (Complete when submitting regulations)

1a. SUBJECT OF REGULATION(S) 2024 Climate Bond Grants		1b. ALL PREVIOUS RELATED OAL REGULATORY ACTION NUMBER(S)	
2. SPECIFY CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TITLE(S) AND SECTION(S) (Including title 26, if toxics related)			
SECTION(S) AFFECTED (List all section number(s) individually. Attach additional sheet if needed.)		ADOPT 41000 through 41016	
TITLE(S) 14		AMEND	
		REPEAL	
3. TYPE OF FILING			
☐ Regular Rulemaking (Gov. Code §11346) ☐ Certificate of Compliance: The agency officer named below certifies that this agency complied with the provisions of Gov. Code §§11346.2-11347.3 either before the emergency regulation was adopted or within the time period required by statute. ☐ Emergency Readopt (Gov. Code, §11346.1(h)) ☐ Changes Without Regulatory Effect (Cal. Code Regs., title 1, §100)			
☐ Resubmittal of disapproved or withdrawn nonemergency filing (Gov. Code §§11349.3, 11349.4) ☐ Resubmittal of disapproved or withdrawn emergency filing (Gov. Code, §11346.1) ☐ File & Print ☐ Print Only			
☒ Emergency (Gov. Code, §11346.1(b)) ☐ Other (Specify) _____			
4. ALL BEGINNING AND ENDING DATES OF AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED REGULATIONS AND/OR MATERIAL ADDED TO THE RULEMAKING FILE (Cal. Code Regs. title 1, §44 and Gov. Code §11347.1)			
5. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHANGES (Gov. Code, §§ 11343.4, 11346.1(d); Cal. Code Regs., title 1, §100.) ☐ Effective January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1 (Gov. Code §11343.4(a)) ☐ Effective on filing with Secretary of State ☐ \$100 Changes Without Regulatory Effect ☒ Effective other (Specify) February 6, 2026			
6. CHECK IF THESE REGULATIONS REQUIRE NOTICE TO, OR REVIEW, CONSULTATION, APPROVAL OR CONCURRENCE BY, ANOTHER AGENCY OR ENTITY ☐ Department of Finance (Form STD. 399) (SAM §6660) ☐ Fair Political Practices Commission ☐ State Fire Marshal ☐ Other (Specify) _____			
7. CONTACT PERSON Colin W. Mills		TELEPHONE NUMBER (916) 599-9278	FAX NUMBER (Optional) E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional)

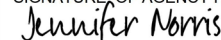
8. I certify that the attached copy of the regulation(s) is a true and correct copy of the regulation(s) identified on this form, that the information specified on this form is true and correct, and that I am the head of the agency taking this action, or a designee of the head of the agency, and am authorized to make this certification.

For use by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) only

DocuSigned by:

SIGNATURE OF AGENCY HEAD OR DESIGNEE

DATE



11/12/2025

TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNATORY

Jennifer M. Norris, Executive Director

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

Title 14. Natural Resources

Division 20. Wildlife Conservation Board

Chapter 1. 2024 Climate Bond Grants

Article 1. Scope

§ 41000. Scope

The provisions of this chapter apply to the Wildlife Conservation Board's (Board) implementation of the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (2024 Climate Bond) at Public Resources Code Sections 90000-95015.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

Article 2. Applying for a Grant

§ 41001. Pre-application Contents

- (a) Any entity seeking to receive 2024 Climate Bond funds from the Board shall submit a pre-application through WCB.ca.gov.
- (b) A pre-application shall include:
 - (1) A description of the project for which the applicant seeks 2024 Climate Bond funds from the Board.
 - (2) A brief description of the location, including the following:
 - (A) County(ies) in which the property is located.
 - (B) Nearest city or unincorporated area and distance to it from the property.
 - (C) Applicable Assessor Parcel Numbers or an address.
 - (D) A relevant latitude/longitude expressed in decimal degrees and a description of the location represented by the coordinates (e.g. center of the project site).
 - (3) The amount of 2024 Climate Bond funds requested from the Board and the total cost of the project.
 - (4) Whether the project is in a community that qualifies as a disadvantaged community, severely disadvantaged community, or vulnerable population as defined in Public Resources Code section 90100.
 - (5) Identifying information of the applicant, including an email address and other contact information.

- (6) Identifying information of the owner of the land on which the project would take place, if different than the applicant, including email address and other contact information.
- (7) A description of applicable review under the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.
- (8) A list of other entities funding the project and the amounts they are contributing.
- (9) If the project is a real property acquisition, describe what type of real property interest is being acquired (e.g. fee title or conservation easement).

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90100 and 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

§ 41002. Pre-application Evaluation

- (a) Board staff will review each pre-application to determine whether the applicant will be invited to submit a full application, according to the following criteria:
 - (1) Consistency with the goals and objectives of the 2024 Climate Bond.
 - (2) Whether the pre-application identifies a grant recipient that meets the eligibility criteria defined in Public Resources Code section 90110.
 - (3) The project's readiness to proceed with the project upon funding.
 - (4) The reasonableness of the estimated project budget and extent to which the project leverages funding from alternate sources.
 - (5) The extent of consultation with tribes, as defined in Public Resources Code section 90100(n).
- (b) If an applicant is invited to submit a full application, the Board staff will notify the applicant at the contact information provided in the pre-application and indicate whether to submit an implementation and planning full application pursuant to section 41003 or an acquisition full application pursuant to section 41011. The Board staff will also instruct the applicant how and where to submit the full application.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90100(n) and 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

§ 41003. Implementation and Planning Full Application Contents

Upon invitation pursuant to section 41002, an implementation or planning full application shall include the following:

- (a) The amount of 2024 Climate Bond funding requested from the Board.
- (b) Identifying information of the applicant and the owner of the land on which the project would take place, if different than the applicant.

- (c) A brief description of the location of the project including the information contained in section 41001(b)(2) and the following:
- (1) California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) region in which the property is located and a description of the applicant's efforts to coordinate with CDFW.
 - (2) The state elected officials for the location.
- (d) The Board meeting dates at which the applicant hopes to receive funding.
- (e) A description of the applicant's project team's qualifications, experience, and capacity to perform the tasks to complete the project.
- (f) A description of the project's readiness, including the status of applicable review under the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.
- (g) The following statements: Purpose and Need, as defined in section 41004; Implementation and Planning Approach, as defined in section 41005; Consistency with State, Federal, Regional, and Local Plans as defined in section 41006; Durability and Climate Resiliency, as defined in section 41007; and Community Support and Collaboration, as defined in section 41008.
- (h) A signature page signed by an authorized representative of the applicant.
- (i) A complete budget of project costs for which the applicant seeks funding from the 2024 Climate Bond.
- (j) The following visual depictions of the project: project location maps, representative photographs showing project area and environmental conditions the project is addressing, and for implementation projects detailed drawings or representations showing relevant features of the project.
- (k) A workplan document showing project summary, description of the tasks to be completed, timelines, milestones, and deliverables
- (l) A description of the applicant's plan for management of the project and the property on which the project takes place, during the project and post-project.
- (m) A description of any proposed use of herbicides, if applicable.
- (n) For planning projects, describe potential or secured funding for project implementation.
- (o) For projects including public access, describe how the project will enhance public access and Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. section 12101, et seq.) accessibility.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90050(c) and 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

§ 41004. Purpose and Need statement

An applicant's purpose and need statement shall describe the following: the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address; how the goals and objectives of the project align with the 2024 Climate Bond; quantified expected outcomes and benefits of the project; and a description of what opportunities or benefits could be lost if the project is not implemented or funding is not secured.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

§ 41005. Implementation and Planning Approach statement

An applicant's approach statement shall thoroughly describe the project including the following: the actions required to solve the identified problem(s); the scientific merit, methodologies, and technologies used in the project's approach; and how the data and other information generated from the project will be handled and stored.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

§ 41006. Consistency with State, Federal, Regional, and Local Plans statement

An applicant's consistency with state, federal, regional and local plans statement shall identify and discuss how the project meets the following policy objectives: the specific goals, strategic initiatives, and objectives outlined in any strategic plans under which the Board operates; those in Public Resources Code section 93060; and any other key plan(s) that the project supports or will help achieve its goals.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 93060 and 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

§ 41007. Durability and Climate Resiliency statement

An applicant's durability and climate resiliency statement shall describe the following: how the project will deliver enduring sustainable benefits; for how long the grantee would conduct management and maintenance over the project and the property on which the project would take place; how the project's effectiveness at achieving its goals will be reported, monitored, and evaluated; how the project will provide habitat and/or species resilience to climate change; and any legal protections or restrictions affecting the project.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 93060 and 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

§ 41008. Community Support and Collaboration statement

An applicant's community support and collaboration statement shall describe whether and how: the project has broad-based public and institutional support; the project will provide meaningful and direct benefits to a disadvantaged community, severely disadvantaged community, or vulnerable population as defined in Public Resources Code section 90100; the project will include work with the California Conservation Corps or a certified community conservation corps, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 14507.5; and tribe(s) were consulted.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90100, 90150 and 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

§ 41009. Implementation Full Application Scoring

- (a) To determine the greatest public benefit, each implementation full application that meets the criteria of section 41003 will be scored by technical reviewers according to the following criteria:
 - (1) The significance of the benefits of the project.
 - (2) The consistency with implementation of state, federal, regional, and local plans.
 - (3) The durability of the investment.
 - (4) The climate resiliency of the project.
 - (5) The completeness, accuracy, and feasibility of the project approach.
 - (6) The completeness and reasonability of the proposed approach to monitoring, assessing, and reporting the effectiveness of the project.
 - (7) The qualifications of the personnel required to implement the project.
 - (8) The completeness, accuracy, and reasonableness of the timing of project schedule and deliverables.
 - (9) Project readiness for prompt implementation.
 - (10) The completeness, accuracy, and reasonableness of the estimated budget.
 - (11) The extent to which a project leverages secured funding from alternate project partners, also known as cost share.
 - (12) The extent to which a project has community support and collaboration.
- (b) Once scored, the application will then undergo the selection process detailed in section 41013.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

§ 41010. Planning Full Application Scoring

- (a) To determine the greatest public benefit, each planning full application that meets the criteria of section 41003 will be scored by technical reviewers according to the criteria detailed in section 41009 but without consideration of the criteria in subsections (6) and (9).
- (b) Once scored, the application will then undergo the selection process detailed in section 41013.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

41011. Acquisition Full Application Contents

- (a) Upon invitation pursuant to section 41002, an acquisition full application shall include the following:
 - (1) A brief description of the property including the information contained in section 41001(b)(2) and the following:
 - (A) California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) region in which the property is located and a description of the applicant's efforts to coordinate with CDFW.
 - (B) The state elected officials for the location.
 - (C) Fair market value or estimate of the value of the property interest proposed for acquisition.
 - (D) Any known prior Board-funded projects on and adjacent to the site.
 - (2) A brief description of the applicant's project team experience, qualifications, and capacity to perform the proposed acquisition including whether the applicant or team members have completed projects funded by the Board in the past.
 - (3) A brief, one-page description of the project, including: a Purpose and Need statement, as defined in section 41004; the habitat types present; and the resource values present including water resources and the species type(s).
 - (4) A complete budget of costs for the project including the full amount of funding requested from the Board, all other funders and the amount contributed by those funders (cost share), and whether cost share is secured.
 - (5) A description of the historic and current use of the property, the intended use upon the applicant's acquisition, and any planned subsequent transfers and to whom.
 - (6) A description of the property's habitat and biological diversity including the ecological values or species that would benefit from the acquisition and how they would be benefitted.
 - (7) A description of other land in the immediate area with conservation protections (e.g. conservation easements, CDFW-owned properties, and mitigation properties) and how this project further contributes to these protections.
 - (8) A Consistency with State, Federal, Regional, and Local Plans statement as defined in to section 41006.
 - (9) A description of the threats to the wildlife protection interests of the property which the applicant's acquisition would prevent (e.g. development, agriculture, mining or recreational use, zoning, urban influence, and trespassing).

- (10) A brief description of the project's readiness and plans to address issues, if any, relating to legal title or access to the property, including:
 - (A) The state of the property's title including whether there are severed mineral rights, deeds of trust, legal judgments, and threatened or pending lawsuits.
 - (B) Any leases associated with the property (e.g. mineral, agricultural, and hunting) and the terms of those leases that could impact conservation values of the property.
 - (C) The presence of any encroachments.
 - (D) Proof of legal access to the property.
 - (E) Whether the property is subject to Government Code section 51200 et seq., also known as the Williamson Act.
- (11) A description of the existing and planned condition of the property including any infrastructure present or planned, and intentions for reserved development rights.
- (12) A description of any coordination with the CDFW.
- (13) A description of the applicant's plan for future management of the property, including a description of:
 - (A) Any future restoration or habitat improvements which the applicant intends to implement on the property.
 - (B) Long-term management and stewardship. If available, provide a management plan.
 - (C) Annual monitoring tailored to the project examining conditions on the property relative to its condition at the close of escrow.
 - (D) A detailed description of the property at the time of acquisition.
 - (E) If a conservation easement project, explain whether there will be a conservation easement endowment and, if so, provide the endowment amount and investment strategy.
- (14) A Community Support and Collaboration statement, as defined in section 41008.
- (15) A description of whether public access will be allowed on the property including the type and timing.
- (16) A signature page signed by an authorized representative of the applicant.
- (17) The following attachments are required:
 - (A) Project location maps. If available, provide GIS shape files.
 - (B) Detailed aerial photo map and representative photographs showing the project area with detailed captions.

(C) One of the following: willing seller letter, option agreement, or purchase and sale agreement.

(18) The following items may be attached, if available:

(A) Current preliminary title report.

(B) Phase 1 environmental site assessment.

(C) Mineral remoteness evaluation.

(D) Current appraisal.

(E) For conservation easement acquisitions, draft easement language

(E) Letters of support.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

41012. Acquisition Full Application Scoring

To determine the greatest public benefit, each acquisition full application that is complete pursuant to section 41011 will be scored by technical reviewers according to the following criteria:

(a) Consistency with Public Resources Code section 93060.

(b) Reasonableness of the estimated budget.

(c) Extent to which a project leverages funding from alternate project partners and whether it is secured.

(d) Completeness of project planning, including long-term management, that evidences a high probability of success.

(e) Project readiness for prompt implementation including:

(1) Title free of adverse encumbrances or adverse encumbrances can be easily cleared.

(2) Property has legal access.

(3) Property has a completed Phase I environmental site assessment, and any required remediation has been completed. Projects where harmful contaminants remain present will receive a lower score.

(4) Mineral rights are retained on property or, if severed, there is a negative mineral remoteness opinion.

(f) Existing infrastructure and landowner's reserved property development rights do not significantly undermine conservation values.

- (g) The extent to which the project has community support and collaboration.
- (h) The qualifications and track record of the applicant and key personnel.
- (i) Project provides meaningful and direct benefits to disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, or vulnerable populations as defined in Public Resources Code section 90100.
- (j) Project uses the services of the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 14507.5.
- (k) Project protects cultural resources.
- (l) Costs of any required physical modifications or improvements.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90100, 90150, 93060, and 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

§ 41013. Full Application Selection

- (a) When scoring is complete on implementation, planning, or acquisition full applications the Board staff shall evaluate each full application and determine whether to make an award recommendation for the full or partial amount requested, based on the following factors:
 - (1) Final score by technical reviewers.
 - (2) Distribution of funds among geographies, applicants, and project types.
 - (3) Availability of funds.
 - (4) Coordination with other agencies implementing complementary programs.
 - (5) Project readiness.
 - (6) Applicant's past performance in administering and completing Board grant projects as a grantee, if applicable.
- (b) Board staff shall make its award recommendations to the Board at a public board meeting. The Board shall review each recommendation and approve, modify, or deny these recommendations based on the information provided and the record before it. Upon a final vote, the Board shall notify successful applicants of a grant award, including the amount of a grant.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

Article 3. Grant Administration Requirements

41014. Grant Agreements

The terms and conditions by which any project selected for funding by the Board are administered shall be set forth in a grant agreement entered into by the Board and the entity receiving the awarded funds. A grantee has the sole responsibility for the fiscal management of the funds awarded pursuant to this Chapter, recordkeeping, reporting, performance of the project, and all other aspects of compliance with this Chapter and the grant agreement. The grant agreement shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) Grant amount.
- (b) Grantee contact information.
- (c) Term of the grant.
- (d) Description of the project receiving funds pursuant to this Chapter.
- (e) Project budget.
- (f) A complete Payee Data Record, Std. Form 204.
- (g) A resolution from grantees with governing boards authorizing the grantee to enter into a grant agreement with the Board and identifying the person authorized to execute the grant agreement for the applicant.
- (h) If an implementation or acquisition project, proof of legal access to the property on which the project will take place.
- (i) If project is on property owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), a support letter from CDFW.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90000-95015, Public Resources Code.

41015. Advance Payments

For grants awarded a 25 percent advance payment pursuant to Government Code section 11019.3, the recipient of the advance payment shall comply with the additional requirements contained therein.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 90130, Public Resources Code.

41016. Reporting.

An entity awarded grant funds pursuant to this Chapter and that has entered into a grant agreement with the Board shall electronically provide to the Board staff the following reports on the expenditure of 2024 Climate Bond funds:

- (a) For planning and implementation grant projects:

(1) No less than quarterly from the date of the award, progress reports that specify the dates of the reporting period, the activities performed during the reporting period, problems or issues that occurred during the reporting period and how they were addressed, project benefits to date, and a list of proposed activities for the next reporting period.

(2) Final report.

(A) A final report must be submitted prior to the Board's release of the final disbursement for the project and shall include: a description of the project benefits and results, a summary of activities performed, the status of all deliverables identified in the workplan, a description of problems encountered and delays experienced, pre and post-project photographs, and a description of any equipment purchased with grant funds for more than \$10,000.

(B) The final report shall be accompanied by the final invoice for the project.

(b) For acquisition grants, within 60 days of purchase of the property interest grantee shall report on the status of all funds awarded.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 90135(e)(1), Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 90135(c) and 90050(c), Public Resources Code.