



# 2026 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program Proposal Solicitation Notice

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Updated December 2025*

### **Have there been any updates since last year's Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN)?**

Yes, a few updates were made from the 2025 PSN. Below is a list of more significant changes to the PSN and Guidelines.

- Proposals over \$2 million are required to submit a concept proposal to be eligible for the full proposal.
- PD Project Types are required to complete CEQA surveys as part of the project deliverables, i.e. Tribal Cultural Resources, biological, etc. (see the Guidelines, Part V).

### **What is process-based restoration?**

Process-based restoration aims to reestablish the physical, chemical, and biological processes that sustain ecosystems (Beechie et al. 2010). Examples of processes include erosion and sediment transport, storage and routing of water, plant growth and successional processes, input of nutrients and thermal energy, and nutrient cycling in the aquatic food web. Process-based restoration, then, focuses on correcting anthropogenic disruptions to these processes, such that the river-floodplain ecosystem progresses along a recovery trajectory with minimal corrective intervention (Sear 1994, Wohl et al. 2005).

Four process-based principles ensure that ecosystem restoration will be guided toward sustainable actions: (1) restoration actions should address the root causes of degradation, (2) actions must be consistent with the physical and biological potential of the site, (3) actions should be at a scale commensurate with environmental problems,

and (4) actions should have clearly articulated expected outcomes for ecosystem dynamics (Beechie et al. 2010).

Applying these principles will help avoid common pitfalls in restoration, such as creating habitat types that are outside of a site's natural potential, attempting to build static habitats in dynamic environments, or constructing habitat features that are ultimately overwhelmed by unconsidered system drivers. Such actions restore river dynamics and natural variation in habitat conditions, which are inherently more sustainable and resilient than static, uniform channels or habitats.

Beechie T. J., Sear D. A., Olden J. D., Pess G. R., Buffington J. M., Moir H., Roni P., Pollock M. M. 2010 . Process- based Principles for Restoring River Ecosystems. *BioScience*, Vol 60:3. 209-222. [https://www.fs.usda.gov/rm/pubs\\_other/rmrs\\_2010\\_beechie\\_t001.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/rm/pubs_other/rmrs_2010_beechie_t001.pdf)

Sear D . A. 1994 . River restoration and geomorphology. *Aquatic Conservation*, Vol. 4:2, 169-177.

Wohl E., Angermeier P. L., Bledsoe B., Kondolf G. M., MacDonnell L., Merritt D. M., Palmer M. A., Poff N. L., Tarboton D. 2005. River restoration. *Water Resources Research*, Vol. 41:W10301.

**Do I need to submit a separate MO proposal to complete a project type's required monitoring?**

No. Only proposals wishing to “determine if restoration treatment and features have produced the desired habitat response and/or physical watershed processes” need to submit a separate MO proposal.

Projects carrying out monitoring required for a specific project type, as outlined in the Project Type Requirements (see the Guidelines, Part IV), do not need a separate MO proposal.

**Can I submit paper copies of my proposal by mail or bring it to your office?**

No. All proposals, including attachments, must be submitted online at [CDFW WebGrants](https://www.cdfw.ca.gov/Grants).

**Can I copy and resubmit my proposal from last year under the current PSN?**

Yes. The FRGP 2026 Funding Opportunity in WebGrants does allow applicants to copy over proposals from 2025 only.

**As an eligible applicant, can I submit more than one proposal in response to the PSN?**

Yes. FRGP will evaluate each submitted proposal independently and on its individual merit.

**I want to submit a proposal with more than one Project Type. Is this allowable?**

Yes. If more than one project type is incorporated into a proposal, all applicable Guideline documents and required information must be provided.

**Will a project required as mitigation or other compliance obligations be eligible for funding in this program?**

No. Funds cannot be used for projects required to meet environmental mitigation or compliance measures. Similarly, any project that is under enforcement action by a regulatory agency will not be considered for funding.

**Why is my waterway and/or watershed not included in the FRGP Focus Watershed Table? How can I get the watershed added to the table?**

CDFW and NOAA developed the Regional Focus Watershed Tables (see the Guidelines, Part III) as priorities for restoration. Projects can be submitted in other watersheds and must explain why that project will be important for species recovery.

**Can I use Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act (HREA) approval in lieu of a Lake and Streambed Alteration if my project includes dewatering and fish exclusion/relocation?**

Yes. An applicant may use HREA approval for a qualified project. If awarded funding, the applicant/grantee will also need to obtain any additionally required permits.

**Is cost share or match required for me to apply to FRGP?**

No. Neither cost share nor match is required. However, the proportion of cost share/match relative to the total project cost is assessed points in the scoring criteria (see the Guidelines, Appendix B).

**What criteria are used to score proposals?**

The criteria used to score proposals are in Appendix B of the Guidelines.

**Can I charge less overhead in my budget than allowed through my federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) and use the unclaimed portion as cost share or match ?**

No. An applicant or subcontractor that already has a NICRA should use the approved rate. If the applicant does not have a NICRA, then the prevailing federal de minimis rate

(currently 15%) should be used. It is the responsibility of the applicant to comply with all applicable laws and regulations for their project.

**Is it possible to increase the requested funding amount after proposal application or before, during, or after the grant execution?**

If awarded, FRGP does have a process for grantees to request contingency funds for their project. Cost must be attributed to unforeseen increases for existing budget line items. Each request will be reviewed independently and is subject to available funds.

**If awarded a grant, are subrecipients/subcontractors required to follow the same indirect rules as the grantee?**

Yes. All recipients of the grant fund including subrecipients/subcontractors must follow the same federal uniform guidance.

**Where can I find more guidance on interpreting the Federal Uniform Guidance?**

The Federal Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200) is available on the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](#).