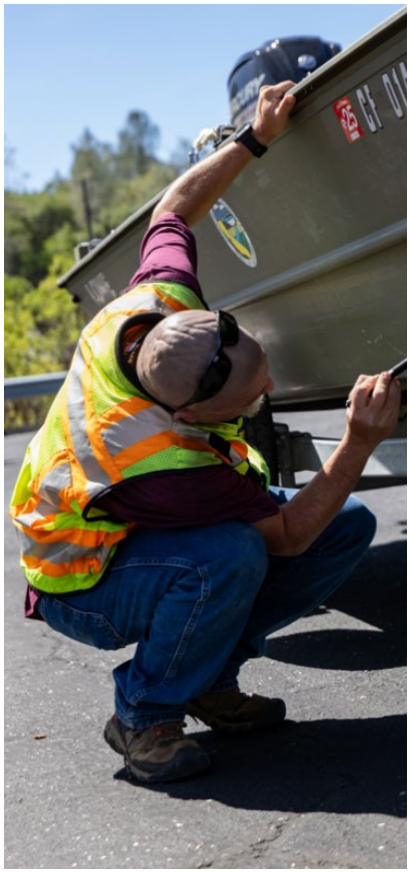

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Delta-Based Decontamination Control Sites to Prevent the Spread of Golden Mussel

CALL FOR PROJECTS & GRANT GUIDELINES

November 2026

Table of Contents

1. Overview 3
2. Consultation 3
3. Program Background 3
4. Schedule and Timing 4
5. Program Eligibility 4
   5.1. Eligible Applicants 4
   5.2. Eligible Projects 4
   5.3. Eligible Costs 5
6. Application Process 5
   6.1. Application Deadline 5
   6.2. How to Apply 5
7. Contacts 6
8. Proposal Review and Selection Process 6
   8.1. Technical Review 6
   8.2. Executive Review or Selection Panel 6
   8.3. Director Review and Action 7
9. Grant Agreement Requirements 7
   9.1. Cost Share 7
   9.2. Indirect Costs 7
   9.3. Advance Payment 8
   9.4. Labor Code Requirements: Prevailing Wage 9
   9.5. Environmental Compliance and Permitting 9
   9.6. Confidentiality 9
   9.7. Land Tenure/Site Control 9
   9.8. Recognition of Funding Source 9
   9.9. Project Approval and Grant Agreement 10
10. Responsibility of the Grantee 10
   10.1. Invoicing and Payments 11
   10.2. Reporting 11
   10.3. Standard Conditions 11

APPENDIX A – STATE AUDITING REQUIREMENTS 12

1. Overview

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is offering $6 million in grant funding to develop or enhance boating decontamination control efforts in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta).

This funding supports projects that help prevent the spread of invasive golden mussel (*Limnoperna fortunei*) from the Delta, ensuring the long-term health of California's waterways.

The complete application and all supporting documentation must be submitted via CDFW's WebGrants System by **4:00 PM, Pacific Daylight Time (PDT), December 15, 2026**.

CDFW will host a webinar to discuss the grant program, application process, and answer questions, on November 18, 2026, at 10 a.m. Webinar details will be posted on the CDFW Public Notices and Meetings page.

2. Consultation

It is strongly recommended that prospective applicants contact CDFW's Invasive Program by email at invasives@wildlife.ca.gov for a consultation prior to submitting a concept application. Consultation is not required to submit a proposal.

3. Program Background

Golden mussel were first detected in North America in the Delta in October 2024. Although this mussel is similar in appearance and impacts to quagga and zebra mussel, it can establish in waters with wider temperature and salinity ranges. Impacts from golden mussel affect the environment, recreational opportunities, and the economy. Funding for these efforts was provided in the California Budget Act of 2026 and builds on continuing efforts to respond to the threat of golden mussel to California's waterways. For more information, please visit CDFW's Golden Mussel website.

4. Schedule and Timing

Proposal Solicitation Schedule

Activity	Dates
Consultation	Open/Continuous
Proposal Application Opens	November 3, 2026
Application Workshop	November 18, 2026, at 10 a.m.
Proposals due by 4:00 p.m., Pacific Time	December 15, 2026
Proposal Evaluation	December 2026 to February 2027
Awards Announcement	Spring 2027
Execute Grant Agreements	April 30, 2027
Complete all grant funded project work and submit deliverables/final invoice	March 15, 2029

5. Program Eligibility

5.1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include entities that own or operate boating facilities, state and local government agencies, California Native American Tribes (Tribes), public entities, private entities, and nonprofit organizations.

5.2. Eligible Projects

CDFW will fund one-time start-up costs to implement efforts to prevent the overland spread of golden mussel from the Delta where they have been detected.

Project types include but are not limited to rapid decontamination systems, boat submersion systems, mobile hot water watercraft/equipment decontamination units, and stationary watercraft/equipment decontamination stations.

Projects must be on or centrally located to Delta waterways and support the five Delta counties (Yolo, Sacramento, Solano, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin).

Fundable costs include, but are not limited to, equipment and supplies, site development and installation, and watercraft inspection training and equipment.

5.3. Eligible Costs

- **Decontamination Stations** – rapid decontamination systems, boat submersion systems, decontamination units, high-pressure wash stations.
- **Equipment Purchases** – field supplies, electronics, and other tools for implementation of decontamination systems.
- **Site Enhancements** – site development, installation, signage, improvements to boat ramps, wash stations, and containment areas.
- **Training and Outreach to Support Operations** – Education and hands-on training for facility staff in boat inspection and decontamination procedures and education and outreach materials.

6. Application Process

6.1. Application Deadline

The complete application and all supporting documentation must be submitted via CDFW's WebGrants System by **4:00 p.m., PDT on December 15, 2026.**

6.2. How to Apply

Applicants may schedule a consultation with CDFW to first discuss their project, potential eligibility prior to submitting an application. To schedule a consultation, contact CDFW's Invasive Program by email at invasives@wildlife.ca.gov.

Applications must be submitted electronically through CDFW WebGrants at: https://watershedgrants.wildlife.ca.gov.

Applicants must register or log in to WebGrants, select "Invasive Mussel Response" under Funding Opportunities, and complete the required application forms.

For assistance with WebGrants, contact: CDFW WebGrants Help Desk CDFWWebgrants@wildlife.ca.gov

7. Contacts

To request a consultation or for general questions, please contact CDFW's Invasive Species Program by email at invasives@wildlife.ca.gov.

For questions regarding CDFW WebGrants, please contact the CDFW WebGrants Help Desk by email at CDFWWebgrants@wildlife.ca.gov.

8. Proposal Review and Selection Process

CDFW will evaluate submitted proposals using a multi-step process, including the review processes described below.

8.1. Technical Review

CDFW technical reviewers, in coordination with Delta counties, will evaluate all eligible and complete proposals. Technical reviewers will consider criteria including overall approach and feasibility of project tasks, readiness (including environmental compliance and permitting), budget, region priorities and regional-scale mussel prevention efforts, and ability to complete project within funding term.

8.2. Executive Review or Selection Panel

CDFW may convene an Executive Review or Selection Panel (Panel) to review the scores and comments from the review process. The Panel may establish subcommittees, organized around funding priorities, to provide a preliminary ranking for their deliberations. The Panel will review and finalize the funding recommendations for CDFW Director approval. When developing the funding recommendation, the Panel will consider criteria such as:

1. Technical Review scores and comments;
2. Regional priority input from CDFW Regional Managers;
3. Project readiness.

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

8.3. Director Review and Action

The Panel's final recommendations will be presented to the Director of CDFW for final approval. The Director will consider the comments and recommendations from all levels of the review process and make the final funding decision. Following approval by the Director, the selected grant recipients will receive a commitment letter officially notifying them of their selection and grant amount.

9. Grant Agreement Requirements

9.1. Cost Share

Cost share is not required to be eligible for funding but is encouraged and will benefit project review and selection. Proposals that include cost share contributions, whether in the form of cash or in-kind services, should clearly specify both the source and dollar amount of the cost share. If a proposal receives funding, the claimed cost share cannot serve as matching funds elsewhere. Cost share may be monetary contributions or non-monetary resources (in-kind contributions) provided by the applicant or their partners involved in project implementation. In-kind contributions must directly benefit the project to qualify as cost share. To remain eligible, cost share must be used during the grant's term.

9.2. Indirect Costs

Indirect costs (administrative overhead) are those that cannot be directly assigned to a particular grant activity but are necessary to the operation of the organization and the performance of the grant project. Indirect costs include operating and maintaining facilities, accounting services, and administrative salaries.

The applicant's indirect cost calculations are limited to actual costs and cannot exceed 20 percent of the direct costs. Direct costs may include up to $25,000 of each subcontract but shall not include equipment costs as defined in CDFW General Grant Provisions. Applicants must itemize indirect costs and may not roll up the indirect costs into direct costs. CDFW may accept a federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement for Tribes and nonprofit organizations only.

9.3. Advance Payment

Assembly Bill 590 and Assembly Bill 3017 authorize CDFW to allow advance payments to qualified nonprofit grantees and federally recognized Tribes, not to exceed 25 percent of the total award, upon determination that an advance payment is essential for the effective implementation of a grant funded project. To be considered for an advance payment, nonprofit grantees must satisfy the following requirements under California Government Code §11019.3(c)(2):

1. Grantee must submit documentation supporting the need for advance payment (e.g., invoices indicating the nonprofit does not have sufficient cash or credit to make payments before state reimbursement, contracts, estimates, payroll records, financial records, etc.).
2. Grantee must demonstrate good standing as a nonprofit under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. *Tribes are exempt from this requirement.*
3. Grantee must submit an itemized budget for the eligible costs to be funded by an advance payment, a spending timeline, and a workplan for spending the advance.
4. Current proof of liability insurance that meets the requirements of the CDFW General Grant Provisions (PDF).

Upon receipt of an advance payment, grantees must meet additional requirements, including:

1. Deposit funds into a federally insured account of the recipient entity that provides the ability to track interest earned and withdrawals. A financial statement shall also accompany each progress report and drawdown documentation while the advance is being spent down.
2. Establish procedures to minimize the amount of time that elapses between the transfer of funds and the expenditure of those funds.
3. Provide progress reports on the expenditure of advance funds, including a summary of work completed, proof of expenditure.
4. Return any unused funding provided as advance payment but not expended within the grant term to CDFW.

Eligible grantees can request advance payment for executed agreements. If

advance payment is approved, the agreement will be amended.

9.4. Labor Code Requirements: Prevailing Wage

The grant terms and conditions for projects that are selected for funding will require that grantees comply with the California Labor Code for their projects. Projects funded in whole or in part with CDFW grant funds may be public works projects under the Labor Code (see section 1720 et seq.). Fish and Game Code section 1501.5 excludes some CDFW-funded projects from being public works projects under the Labor Code. Labor Code compliance may require the payment of prevailing wage. Grantees are responsible for Labor Code compliance, and CDFW cannot provide advice about Labor Code compliance. Before submitting applications, applicants should seek legal counsel regarding Labor Code compliance for their projects and budget accordingly. More information is available at the Department of Industrial Relations.

9.5. Environmental Compliance and Permitting

Projects must comply with all applicable state, tribal, and federal environmental laws and regulations including, the Delta Reform Act, if applicable. Applicants are responsible for obtaining all permits necessary to complete project work. Projects that involve the collection of fish, wildlife, or endangered or rare plants must have a valid collection permit.

9.6. Confidentiality

Once the applicant has submitted a proposal to CDFW, any privacy rights as well as other confidentiality protections afforded by law with respect to the application package will be waived. Submitted proposals are public records under the California Government Code sections 6250-6276.48.

9.7. Land Tenure/Site Control

Applicants for projects that involve access to private property must demonstrate landowner permission to access the site for the term of the agreement.

9.8. Recognition of Funding Source

The grantee must include signage, to the extent practicable, informing the public that

the project received funds through CDFW. Project signs should include the items below. CDFW also strongly encourages that signage includes multiple languages.

1. Project name as it appears in the project agreement;
2. Acknowledgment of project partners including CDFW (logo is preferred).

Recognition of funding under this program extends to publications, websites, and other media-related and public outreach products.

9.9. Project Approval and Grant Agreement

Development of grant agreements will begin following announcement of awards. Successful applicants will work with an assigned CDFW Grant Manager to develop the grant agreement. The applicant must agree to the CDFW General Grant Provisions which will be provided at the time of the award. Awarded applicants must complete, sign, and return these additional forms:

1. Payee Data Record form (STD. 204);
2. Federal Taxpayer ID Number (for non-profit organizations);
3. Drug-Free Workplace Certification (STD. 21); and
4. Authorizing Resolution (if applicable).
5. A Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity for grant agreements with California Native American Tribes.

For a grant to be executed it must be signed by an authorized representative of the grant recipient and CDFW. Work performed prior to an executed agreement will not be reimbursed.

10. Responsibility of the Grantee

The grantee must be responsive during grant agreement development and will be responsible for carrying out the work agreed to and for managing finances, including but not limited to invoicing, payments to subcontractors, accounting and financial auditing, and other project management duties including reporting requirements. Grantee must support all eligible costs with appropriate documentation. See Appendix A for additional state auditing requirements.

Grantees shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and/or ordinances. As may be necessary, the grantee shall be responsible for obtaining the services of appropriately licensed professionals to complete project design plans.

10.1. Invoicing and Payments

CDFW will structure all grant agreements, except for acquisition grants, to provide for payment in arrears of work being performed. CDFW will not disburse funds until there is an executed grant agreement between CDFW and the grantee. Payments will be 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 the required environmental compliance, permitting, and design documents have been received and accepted by CDFW. Grantee must support all expense claims for reimbursement with appropriate documentation including indirect costs. State auditing requirements are described in Appendix A.

10.2. Reporting

Grantees shall submit progress reports as outlined in the executed grant agreement to the CDFW grant manager for the duration of the grant. CDFW may also require annual reports and task-specific reports as project deliverables.

10.3. Standard 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 rights in data. 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-220 Exhibit C).

APPENDIX A – STATE AUDITING REQUIREMENTS

The list below details the documents or records that State Auditors may need to review in the event of a grant agreement being audited. Grant recipients should ensure that such records are maintained for each State funded project.

State Audit Document Requirements

Internal Controls:

1. Organization chart (e.g. Grant recipient's overall organization chart and organization 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 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.