

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Environmental Enhancement Fund Grant

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A: We anticipate notification of grant awards in the December immediately following the application due date. So, for example, if you applied in July, the notification is anticipated to be in following December.

Q: Who qualifies to apply for this grant?

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

Q: Are there any fees associated with this grant?

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

Q: How many grants will be awarded?

A: The number of grants to be awarded has not been predetermined. In previous years it has varied from two to four recipients per fiscal year that receive grants from the EEF. It is really a function of spending the EEF allotment for a given year, so the number of grants will vary depending on the summed total amount of need for all awarded proposals in a given year.

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

A: The dollar value(s) of the grants to be awarded have not been predetermined. Grants have been approved by the EEC as low as \$7,963, to as high as \$415,500 to a single project, with the current average being \$152,365 per project (figures current through fiscal year 2016-2017).

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

A: Daniel Orr, Senior Environmental Scientist at CDFW-OSPR, at (916) 445-4325 or send it via e-mail to daniel.orr@wildlife.ca.gov.