

Environmental Enhancement Fund Grant

The Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) grant program is administered by the California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR). The objective of this grant program is to award grants to nonprofit organizations, cities, counties, districts, state agencies, and departments; and, to the extent permitted by federal law, to federal agencies to support 'environmental enhancement' projects as that term is defined in statute. Projects must be selected by the Environmental Enhancement Committee (EEC), and **must be located within or adjacent to the marine waters of the state.**

Introduction and Background

The Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act (Act) requires that all penalties collected for violations of the Act (except penalties collected pursuant to Govt. Code Section 8670.64) be deposited in the EEF (Govt. Code Section 8670.70). These penalty monies are associated with oil spills and are to be used only to support environmental enhancement projects approved by the EEC. Projects funded by the EEC must be located within or adjacent to the marine waters of the state. Government Code Section 8670.70 states that "the money is available for appropriation by the Legislature to the administrator for the purposes stated in this (Environmental Enhancement Fund) section." 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 California marine waters, as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 8670.3.
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.

Eligible Applicant

Any nonprofit organizations, cities, 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.

Available Grant Funds

Currently, OSPR is authorized to spend up to \$300,000 per year from the Fund, however after all mandatory deductions including overhead are accounted for, as well as previously committed funds, the amount available this cycle is approximately \$210,000. Disbursement of the grants is contingent on the availability of funds in the EEF and will not occur before 1 July 2013. Multi-year projects are acceptable so long as there is no more than the annual spending authority requested per year.

Grant Application

To participate in this grant program, all applicants must submit a completed grant application package to the Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response by 28 August 2012 at 5:00 PM. Details available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/Science/EEP.aspx>.