

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): California Oil Spill Study and Evaluation Program (COSSEP)

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

A: Per legislation, the money for COSSEP projects comes from the Oil Spill Prevention and Administration Fund, which receives money from oil imported into California for refining. No money for COSSEP comes from the State general fund. Legislative authority for this may be found in Government Code §8670.12.

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: Are these awards grants, and who will select the recipients?

A: No, the awards are contracts, not grants, and thus there is a need to identify a department employee sponsor to function as the contract manager on behalf of the State of California. The Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) Administrator selects the recipients and receives recommendations from various staff members on the COSSEP proposals.

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

A: We anticipate notification of grant awards in the January immediately following the application due date. So, if you applied in September of 2015, the notification is anticipated to be in January of 2016.

Q: Who qualifies to apply for funding from this program?

A: Any person or entity in OSPR’s jurisdiction (State of California) that qualifies to contract with the State of California may be awarded funding to perform work for COSSEP.

Q: Are there any fees associated with this proposal submission?

A: There are no fees associated with applying for or receiving COSSEP funding.

Q: How many awards will be made this year, and how much can we apply for?

A: The number of contracts to be awarded has not been predetermined, but the total budgeted for fiscal year 2016-2017 is approximately \$250,000. There is no minimum amount that may be applied for.

Q: What projects have been funded in the past by COSSEP?

A: A list of reports from previously funded projects may be found at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/science/ssep.aspx> .

Q: What must be included in a final report for the COSSEP?

A: The final report, or deliverable, should be presented in a well edited and professional format that is suitable for presentation to the public. Reports must be received by OSPR in an editable format that allows for conversion to an Adobe pdf format and compliant with section 508 and California Government Code 11135 of Section D (commonly referred to as “ADA compliant”).

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

A: Bruce Joab, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), CDFW-OSPR, at (916) 322-7561 or send it via e-mail to bruce.joab@wildlife.ca.gov .