



Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program

FY17-18 Solicitation Frequently Asked Questions, Updated August 30, 2017

1. Q. Is the literature cited or references section included in the 6-page limit of the concept proposal narrative?

A. No. Literature cited or references section can be considered supplementary material that is not included in the 6-page limit.

2. Q. Are there estimated costs for Delta Plan Consistency?

A. No. The personnel hours involved in [certifying Delta Plan consistency for covered actions](#) likely vary significantly with the scope of the project and the status of adaptive management and best available science planning. We suggest you first complete the [Covered Action Checklist](#), and if applicable, contact Delta Stewardship Council staff to discuss. State or local agencies may call (916) 445-5511 to schedule a consultation with Council staff, or submit a consultation request via [e-mail](#). Any other questions or concerns may also be e-mailed directly to coveredactions@deltacouncil.ca.gov. Also see page 31 of the Grant Guidelines and Section 4.5 of the Full Application Form.

3. Q. Can a Category 1 and Category 2 grant overlap for the same project?

A. Yes. There is no explicit requirement that a Category 1 grant be completed prior to application or award of a Category 2 grant, although completion of certain Category 1 project potential activities is required. As noted in #7 below, 65% engineering design is required at the time of full application submittal as a Category 2 project, and the applicant must anticipate completing environmental review within six months of the date the Board considers awards. Also, readiness is an evaluation criterion for both concept and full proposals.

4. Q. Can a public agency (federal, state, or county) be included as a subcontractor?

A. Yes. Information on subcontracting is included in Exhibit D (Sections X and XI) of the [example grant agreement template](#).

5. Q. Are there any maximum award amounts for Category 1 or Category 2 projects?

A. *For the FY17-18 grant cycle, there are no caps on the maximum amount for a Category 1 or Category 2 project. The total amount available for this grant cycle is \$9.3 million.*

6. Q. Should applicants contact Delta Conservancy Board members, including those that represent the county in in which their proposed project is located?

A. *Conservancy staff recommend that applicants coordinate with staff for the county in which their project is located, rather than Delta Conservancy Board members, to discuss the project and request a Board of Supervisors resolution of support.*

7. Q. At what point are applicants required to have completed 65% engineering design plans to submit proposal as a Category 2 implementation project?

A. *Category 2 projects are "shovel ready" projects that have advanced to the stage where planning and engineering design plans are near completion. Applicants must, at a minimum, have completed intermediate plans (i.e., design plans at least 65% level of development; see Appendix A: Glossary of Terms for a complete definition of project engineering design terms) by the time of submittal of a full application for a Category 2 project.*

8. Q. Can projects be located outside the Delta?

A. *Yes if the Board makes all of the findings described in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009, Sec. 32360.5. Please see Grant Guidelines pages 5 and 10 (also copied below) for additional criteria that apply for projects located outside the legal Delta and Suisun Marsh.*

B. Where Projects Can be Located

The Conservancy will fund projects within or benefitting the Delta and Suisun Marsh as defined in Public Resources Code Section 85058 (a map can be found at this link: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/dsc-tabloid-size-map-legal-delta>).

C. Geographic Area of Focus

The Conservancy will fund projects within or benefitting the Delta and Suisun Marsh as defined in Public Resources Code Section 85058 (a map can be found at this link: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/dsc-tabloid-size-map-legal-delta>).

The Conservancy may take or fund an action outside the Delta and Suisun Marsh if the Board makes all of the findings described in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009, Sec. 32360.5. Applicants applying for funds for projects outside of the Delta and Suisun Marsh must be prepared to address the following:

- *How the project implements the ecosystem goals of the Delta Plan.*
- *How the project is consistent with the requirements of any applicable State and federal permits.*
- *How the project will provide significant benefits to the Delta.*

In addition, funding recommendations and decisions will be based upon scores and the reasonableness of costs, as well as the diversity of the types of projects and their locations, which together will create the maximum benefit within the Delta as a whole (Grant Guidelines pages 16-17).

9. Q. Is there contact information for Department of General Services (DGS) Appraisers, a link for the specific DGS requirements, and/or an estimate of DGS appraisal costs?

A. *The link to the Department of General Services (DGS) Appraisal review page is <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/resd/AboutUs/AppraisalReview.aspx>. DGS Real Property Services staff contact information is available at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/resd/Programs/RealPropertyServices.aspx>.*

Based on the experience of other state agencies involved with DGS-approved appraisals, appraisals from DGS qualified appraisers typically cost between \$5K and \$10K with an additional \$2-5K for DGS appraisal review. Appraisals for more complex acquisitions were more than \$20K for appraisal and up to \$10K for DGS appraisal review. Costs of appraisals conducted by a DGS-qualified appraiser and the subsequent DGS appraisal review will vary significantly depending on the complexity of the acquisition.

10. Q. For information required as a condition of the Grant Agreement under the Appendix E, Acquisition Checklist, can they occur either before or during the Grant Agreement period?

A. *Yes, although only eligible expenses incurred during the Grant Funding Term may be reimbursed. Cost share may be used between the time that the full proposal is submitted to the Conservancy and the end of the Grant Funding Term.*

11. Q. Does the Delta Conservancy use the CDFW policy on mineral rights or does it use a different assessment procedure?

A. *The Delta Conservancy is currently working on its mineral rights assessment process.*