



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency

GENERAL GRANT GUIDELINES

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A. Introduction

A1. Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) is a primary state agency in the implementation of ecosystem restoration in the Delta and supports efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents. The Conservancy works collaboratively and in coordination with local communities, leading efforts to protect, enhance, and restore the Delta’s economy, agriculture and working landscapes, and environment, for the benefit of the Delta region, its local communities, and the citizens of California.

A2. Purpose of Grant Guidelines

These General Grant Guidelines (General Guidelines) establish the process and criteria that the Conservancy will use to solicit and select grants. Each grant funding opportunity will be based on these General Guidelines and be further defined by a specific grant solicitation. The General Guidelines supersede all previous grant guidelines. Individual funding sources may also establish additional limitations or require additional guidance as mandated per statute which will be included in the specific grant solicitation notice. More information can be found at: <http://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/grant-program/>.

A3. Contact Information

More information is available on the Conservancy’s website at www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov. For questions or assistance, please contact the Delta Conservancy at (916) 375-2084 or grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov.

B. Funding Priorities

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) is a primary state agency in the implementation of ecosystem restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and Suisun Marsh and supports efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents. The Conservancy’s mission is “working collaboratively and in coordination with local communities, leading efforts to protect, enhance, and restore the Delta’s economy, agriculture and working landscapes, and environment, for the benefit of the Delta region, its local communities, and the citizens of California.” All funded projects will support the Conservancy’s mission.

The Conservancy has three focus areas: Nature Based Solutions (NBS), community enhancement and access, and ecosystem restoration. NBS goals are to support restoration, conservation, and

climate projects that will stop or reverse ongoing subsidence and reduce greenhouse gas emissions occurring on highly organic soils. NBS projects provide technical assistance and financial support for crop conversion, restoration of managed wetland, research, education and outreach on related topics, land acquisition or easement, and technical assistance to access the Voluntary Carbon Market. Community enhancement and access projects will benefit Delta communities through public access, recreation and tourism, historic and cultural preservation, environmental education, and community engagement or education. Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation projects will restore and conserve the Delta and Suisun Marsh's natural resources, environment, and biodiversity. Current projects restore, research, plan or educate about landscape health or reduce the risks of climate change impacts upon natural resources, fish, and wildlife.

Priorities within these programs include:

1. Protecting and enhancing habitat and habitat restoration.
2. Protecting and preserving Delta agriculture and working landscapes.
3. Providing increased opportunities for tourism and recreation in the Delta.
4. Promoting Delta legacy communities, historical preservation and economic vitality in the Delta.
5. Mitigating the impacts of climate change and increasing climate change resilience.
6. Increasing the resilience of the Delta to the effects of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, in coordination with the Delta Protection Commission.
7. Protecting and improving water quality.
8. Protecting, conserving, and restoring the region's physical, agricultural, cultural, historical, and living resources.
9. Promoting environmental education.
10. Other projects that show a significant benefit to the environment, economy, culture or agriculture in the Delta.
11. Projects that plan for or provide capacity for any of the priorities in this list.
12. [Research projects that provide a scientific foundation or inform the priorities listed above.](#)

The Conservancy will not fund activities associated with regulatory compliance or mitigation responsibilities.

C. Funding Considerations

The Conservancy evaluates proposals based on how well they align with its mission, strategic plan, and the objectives of the specific funding source, as well as broader state, federal, and regional policies. Proposals are expected to use state resources effectively and responsibly,

supported by clear budgets, feasible project designs, capable teams, and an approach that addresses the needs of historically underserved communities.

Projects should also demonstrate readiness to begin and include planning that ensures long-term resilience and sustainability of benefits. Strong, meaningful community engagement is essential, including early collaboration, culturally responsive practices, and accessible participation. In addition, proposals are expected to meaningfully involve tribal leadership and perspectives, respect tribal sovereignty, and integrate traditional ecological knowledge where appropriate.

Finally, projects should offer clear value and multiple meaningful benefits to natural, agricultural, recreational, or cultural resources. They should be grounded in the best available science or traditional ecological knowledge and present achievable, well-supported outcomes.

D. Grant Information

This section provides basic information on the types of grants, eligible applicants, and projects.

D1. Grant Categories

Depending upon the limitations and allowances of a particular grant program, the Conservancy may grant funds for the types of activities in the following categories:

Capacity Building

Capacity building is the process of strengthening an organization's skills, systems, resources, and partnerships so it can successfully plan, design, fund, and implement projects. Capacity building must be tied to the mission of the Conservancy and will be prioritized for [disadvantaged communities](#) (DACs) and [severely disadvantaged communities](#) (SDACs) seeking technical assistance and projects for vulnerable populations that include workforce education, training, contractor, and job opportunities.

Feasibility Studies

Feasibility studies are pre-planning activities that assess alternatives, funding sources, laws and regulations, benefits, desirability, location, and scope of potential projects. They result in conceptual plans, cost/benefit analyses, and information on the practicality of a project with low investment of resources. The purpose of feasibility projects is to provide information to project proponents, potential funders, and the community on whether a project would realistically move past the planning phase into implementation.

Planning

Planning projects advance design, permitting, environmental review including California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), community support, and interested party partnership of proposed implementation projects. These activities include design plans (up to 65 Percent Design Plans), resource assessments, public workshops, baseline monitoring, agency outreach, and community and tribal engagement. Planning does not include any construction or implementation of projects. It is recommended that community outreach, engagement, and some level of feasibility assessment have been completed prior to formal planning.

Pilot Projects

Pilot projects are projects that implement an experimental practice to inform larger scale implementation. Pilot projects must be directly related to and inform eligible implementation activities. Pilot projects that are large in scale or duration may be considered implementation activities. The Conservancy recommends that applicants proposing a pilot project consult with the Conservancy to determine the most applicable activity type.

Implementation

Implementation includes activities such as construction or improvement of a capital asset. Planning for implementation activities that include a construction component must, at a minimum, have design plans completed to 65 percent level of development and have completed environmental analysis related to the level of design. Implementation activities that do not have a construction component must have completed plans at a level that the Conservancy determines to be appropriate to the activities to be implemented. Implementation activities may include final design and permitting activities. The Conservancy may require that the outputs of implementation specific to capital assets be maintained for a minimum number of years after conclusion of the Grant Funding Term.

CEQA and NEPA review must be completed prior to grant award. CEQA and NEPA-related activities are not eligible for implementation funding, except in rare instances (e.g., new information requires subsequent analysis).

Land Acquisition or Easement

Land acquisition is the purchase of real property. An easement is a real estate ownership right (and encumbrance on the title) granted to an individual or entity to make limited, but typically indefinite, use of the land of another. Activities that the Conservancy may choose to fund

include, but are not limited to, purchase, appraisals (including water rights appraisals), negotiation, due diligence, surveys, escrow fees, title insurance, and closing costs.

Research, Analysis, or Support

Research, analysis, and technical support ~~activities~~ projects provide information, data, or technical or capacity assistance. Research, analysis, and support projects that ~~contributes~~ to the Conservancy's mission, adaptive management, contributes to ~~problem solving,~~ solution-based scenario analysis to inform restoration or management, or decisions or ~~advances~~ best available science to enable advancement of high priority initiatives and projects. Research, analysis, and support projects should advance the stated aims of key state, federal, or regional plans and policies that are relevant to the project such as the Delta Stewardship Council's Science Action Agenda, the Delta Plan, CA's Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets, Pathways to 30X30, CA Outdoors for All, Delta Adapts Climate Adaptation Strategy, CA Water Resilience Portfolio, Delta Adapts, Suisun Marsh Habitat Preservation Plan, National Heritage Area Management Plan, and Delta Protection Commission Land Use and Resource Management Plan.

D2. Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Geography

The Conservancy may fund activities within or benefitting the Delta and Suisun Marsh as defined in Public Resources Code section 85058 (a map can be found at this link: <https://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/delta-plan/figure-1-1-delta-boundaries.pdf>).

The Conservancy may fund an action outside the Delta and Suisun Marsh if the Board makes all the findings described in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009 (CWC, div. 35, §§ 85000 – 85350). Applicants applying for funds for activities outside of the Delta and Suisun Marsh must address the following:

- How the activities implement the ecosystem goals of the Delta Plan.
- How the activities are consistent with the requirements of any applicable state and federal permits.
- How the activities will provide significant benefits to the Delta.

Eligible Grant Recipients

Grants may be awarded to:

- Federal, State and local public agencies including special districts and joint powers authorities (when authorized by specific funding sources)
- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status

- Native American Tribes, tribal entities and organizations (when authorized by specific funding sources)

Ineligible Activities and Projects

Activities that are not eligible for grant funding include, but may not be limited to:

- Design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of water conveyance facilities
- Activities dictated by a legal settlement or mandated to address a violation of, or an order (citation) to comply with, a law or regulation
- Activities that subsidize or decrease the pre-existing mitigation obligations of any party
- Monetary donations
- Endowments
- Food or refreshments (meals included as part of reimbursable travel expenses are eligible)
- Fees or expenses related to tours
- Activities related to eminent domain processes
- Any other activities or expenses that the Conservancy deems an inappropriate use of grant funding

D3. Eligible Expenses

To be eligible for grant funding, activities must be conducted, and expenses must be incurred during the Grant Funding Term. Other than land acquisition costs, grant funding will be paid in arrears on a reimbursement basis.

Direct Costs

Direct costs are for work specified in the scope of work, terms, and conditions of the grant agreement, and that are distinctly related to tasks and expenditures to implement activities as described in the grant agreement. The Conservancy will fund direct costs related to personnel services, general operating expenses, subcontractor operating expenses, equipment, land acquisition, and land easement costs.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs do not have a specific direct relationship to the project but are required for completion of the grant activities. The Conservancy may include or exclude indirect costs as an eligible expense for a specific funding opportunity as agreed upon in advance.

E. Grant Proposal and Determination Process

A grant solicitation, instructions, application forms, announcement of public workshops or templates specific to each opportunity will be available through the Conservancy's website.

Grants may be competitive or non-competitive in nature. The Conservancy may define a timeframe in which it accepts proposals or may accept proposals on a continuous basis. If a timeframe for proposals is specified, only proposals submitted by the submission deadline will be considered.

The Conservancy may use a two-step process which consists of a concept proposal and a full proposal.

E1. Concept Proposal

Step 1 Concept Proposal Submittal

The applicant submits a concise proposal that describes at a high level the proposed activities and budget that will form the basis for a full proposal. Applicants should use the [Concept Proposal Application and Instructions](#) (available on the Conservancy website) and submit by email to grants@deltaconservancy.ca.gov. Applicants may, and are encouraged to, consult with the Conservancy during the drafting of their concept proposal.

Step 2 Concept Proposal Review

Concept proposals will be assessed based on the criteria in the specific funding solicitation. While reviewing the concept proposals, the Conservancy may confer with the applicant to discuss the project or request additional information. An in-person meeting or a site visit may also be deemed necessary. The Conservancy will review proposals and will invite the proposals deemed to be the most competitive to submit a full proposal. The total of all applications invited back for a full proposal may exceed the total funding available. Applicants invited for a full proposal may be provided with feedback regarding their concept proposals and may be requested to meet with Conservancy staff to discuss feedback if it is relevant to staff review.

E2. Full Proposal

Step 1 Full Proposal Submission

The applicant submits a proposal that comprehensively describes the proposed activities, timeline, budget, and implementation team.

Step 2 Administrative Review

The Conservancy will conduct an administrative review of all full proposals to check for eligibility, consistency with grant requirements, and completeness. Proposals that fail to meet the administrative review requirements may not receive further consideration.

Step 3 Site Visits

At its discretion, the Conservancy may conduct site visits. Applicants may be required to accompany Conservancy staff on site visits.

Step 4 Full Proposal Evaluation

Full proposals will be evaluated using evaluation criteria that will be specified in the solicitation of each funding opportunity and based on the information provided in Sections B and C above. The Conservancy may specify a minimum score that must be obtained for staff to consider recommending the Board fund the proposal. Achieving the minimum score does not guarantee that the proposal will be recommended for funding, that a grant award will be made, or that an applicant will receive the requested funding. The Conservancy may specify key evaluation criteria, each of which must be deemed adequate by reviewers, regardless of the adequacy of other components of the proposal, to be considered for funding.

The Conservancy may utilize independent reviewers with technical or subject matter expertise.

Proposals that do not provide enough information to allow reviewers to adequately evaluate them may not be considered.

E3. Board Consideration

All final determinations regarding grant funding will be made by the Conservancy Board at a public meeting. The Delta Conservancy Executive Officer, with coordination of the Conservancy Board Chair or Vice Chair, may award grant funding for projects within the Board's delegation of authority to the Executive Officer. Staff recommendations regarding grant funding will be included in the publicly accessible Board Meeting materials. All applicants and members of the public will have the opportunity to appear before the Board at the public meeting.

The Conservancy may choose to award partial funding to one or more proposals. If the Conservancy receives additional funding, the Board may choose to revisit the submitted applications later without reopening a solicitation or may open a new solicitation. The Conservancy reserves the right to not fund activities that are controversial or to require that any conflict is satisfactorily resolved before awarding funding. The Board may, within its discretion, approve a conditional award of funds.

E4. Grant Agreement

If funding for a grant proposal is approved, Conservancy staff will coordinate with the applicant to complete a grant agreement that specifies the scope of work, reporting requirements, specific performance measures, invoicing protocols, funding disbursement, and other terms and conditions of the grant. The specific funding amount, deliverables, or other aspects of the project may be negotiated at this time either by direction of the Board or with minor changes within a scope that would not have affected the competitiveness of the grant if they were included in the original application.

F. Proposal Requirements

Required components of all full proposals include, but are not limited to:

- Financial Management System Questionnaire and Cost Allocation Plan
- [Description of](#) project, schedule, and list of deliverables
- Line-Item budget by task
- Justification of expenses and how determined to be fair and reasonable
- Funding by source
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan

The following attachments are required if relevant to the proposed activities:

- California Conservation Corps consultation
- Acquisition table
- Performance measures table

The following supplementary materials are required if relevant to the proposed activities:

- Authorization or resolution to apply
- Organizational documents
- Acquisition information (see F12. Land Acquisition for more information)
- Maps and site plans
- Letter from landowner/water rights holder (if not the applicant)
- Final environmental review documents
- Covered action checklist
- Letters of support and cost share commitment letters
- Resolutions of support from applicable local government agencies

F1. Conflict of Interest

Applicants are subject to state and federal conflict of interest laws. If an applicant has formerly worked for the Conservancy, presently works with the State of California, or has an existing or previous contract with the Conservancy and is contemplating applying for a grant, the applicant should consult with Conservancy staff to determine eligibility. Applicable statutes include, but are not limited to, Public Contract Code sections 10365.5, 10410, and 10411.

All proposals must identify current and prior relationships of all individuals or entities that will directly or indirectly receive grant funding or be responsible for substantive decision-making responsibility.

F2. Privacy Rights

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

F3. California Conservation Corps

Funding opportunities may require applicants to consult with the California Conservation Corps and the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (Corps) to determine the feasibility of using their services to implement activities unless noted exceptions apply. If so, information will be included in the solicitation notice. Planning activities and acquisition activities are generally exempt. If an applicant submits a proposal to the Conservancy for activities for which it has been determined that Corps services can be used, the applicant must identify in the proposal the appropriate Corps and the component(s) of the activities in which they will be involved, and include estimated costs for those services, and enter into a contract with the Corps if awarded a grant. Even if not required, applicants are encouraged to consult with the Corps to explore opportunities for collaboration.

F4. Environmental Compliance

Grant-funded activities must comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including CEQA, NEPA, the Delta Plan, and other environmental permitting requirements. While Conservancy staff may assist, applicants are responsible for demonstrating compliance and providing all necessary documentation. If no other agency can act, the Conservancy may serve as the CEQA lead agency, and early coordination is required.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has established the Cutting the Green Tape Program that provides a suite of tools to reduce unnecessary barriers for conservation projects. This includes the CEQA Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) that can save significant time and cost for restoration projects. Note that SERP concurrence for Delta restoration projects will require a letter of support from the Delta Counties Coalition. For additional information on the tools available within the Cutting the Green Tape Program, applicants can visit the [Cutting the Green Tape webpage](#).

For proposed activities that include an action that is likely to be deemed a covered action pursuant to the California Water Code section 85057.5, applicants must ensure Delta Plan consistency, consult with the Delta Stewardship Council as needed, and submit a covered action checklist with their full proposal. Activities requiring certification must describe how consistency will be achieved, including any needed adaptive management tasks, and must be certified before funds can be released for construction or implementation.

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 requires the involvement of California Native American Tribes in the CEQA environmental review and decision-making process. It mandates early project notification and, if requested, Tribal consultation to evaluate potential impacts on tribal cultural resources. Applicants are responsible for meeting all AB 52 requirements and ensuring that tribal input is appropriately incorporated into the CEQA process. For additional information on AB 52, applicants can visit the [Native American Heritage Commission website](#).

F5. Water Rights

Funded activities that address stream flows and water use shall comply with the Water Code as well as any applicable state or federal laws or regulations. If applicable, applicants must provide a letter of support from the entity providing water for implementation activities. The letter must verify that the water rights holder has the right to deliver water to the property on which the proposed activities will be implemented, and that the water rights holder recognizes its obligation to provide water to that property for the purposes of implementing the proposed activities. The Conservancy may at any time request that an applicant or grantee provide additional proof that it has a legal right to divert water and sufficient documentation regarding actual water availability and use.

F6. Best Available Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) or Traditional Knowledge (TK)

All proposals with a scientific component will be evaluated on the scientific basis of the proposed activities, including TK and TEK when applicable. Applicants must provide a description of the scientific foundation of their activities, including scientific literature, studies, or expert opinion that they have consulted. Applicants must use the best available science

when planning and implementing their proposed activities. A more complete review of best available science can be found in [Appendix 1A of the Delta Plan](#).

The Delta holds deep cultural significance for Native American Tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the region. As partners in restoration efforts, Native American Tribes can offer Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and/or Traditional Knowledge (TK) that enhances ecological outcomes while honoring cultural values and properties. To ensure meaningful integration, tribal input should be sought early and maintained throughout project planning and implementation, ideally through a coordinated and collaborative approach that embeds tribal perspectives in core design decisions.

Applicants proposing ecosystem restoration and enhancement activities or Nature Based Solutions are encouraged to take into account the landscape considerations and guidelines discussed in [A Delta Renewed: A Guide to Science-Based Ecological Restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta \(A Delta Renewed, SFEI-ASC, 2016\)](#) when determining appropriate habitat restoration or enhancement actions. All applicants are encouraged to consult relevant climate change related resources, which include, but are not limited to: [California Natural Resources Agency's Safeguarding California Plan: 2018 Update](#) (particularly the Biodiversity and Habitat Section), [Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy Draft for Public Comment](#) (for nature-based solutions projects), [California's Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets](#) (includes targets for re-wetting peat soils in the Delta and for restoration of tidal wetlands), [Cal-Adapt](#) (includes climate tools, data, and resources), the [California Climate Commons](#), Point Blue Conservation Science's [Climate-Smart Restoration Toolkit](#), Adapting to Rising Tides ([Bay Area](#), [Eastern Contra Costa County](#), and [Contra Costa County](#)), [Delta Adapts](#), and the [Ocean Protection Council's guidance on sea level rise. 2017 Rising Seas in California: An Update on Sea Level Rise Science.](#)

Grantees must add projects into [EcoAtlas Project Tracker](#) as relevant and provide periodic updates. [For research projects, a project page on the Delta Science Tracker should be created if relevant.](#)

Environmental data and information collected through Conservancy grants must be made visible, accessible, and independently understandable to general users in a timely manner, except where limited by law, regulation, policy, or security requirements, [or where not appropriate such as tribal or proprietary knowledge](#). All data collected and created is required to be a deliverable.

F10. Long-Term Management

The Conservancy may require applicants to describe future management activities, explaining how the activities, once implemented, will be stewarded for a specified timeframe for capital assets. Properties restored, enhanced, or protected, and facilities constructed or enhanced with funds provided by the Conservancy shall be operated, used, and maintained consistently with the purposes of the grant.

F11. Land Tenure

For activities conducted on land that is not owned by the grantee, the grantee may be required to demonstrate that they have adequate site control prior to the disbursement of grant funds.

F12. Land Acquisition

The Conservancy may award grant funds for land acquisition. Land acquisitions must adhere to the following requirements.

- Property must be acquired from a willing seller and in compliance with current laws governing acquisition of real property by public agencies in an amount not to exceed fair market value as approved by the state.
- Once a proposal is submitted, another property cannot be substituted for the property specified in the application. Therefore, it is imperative that the applicant demonstrate that the seller is negotiating in good faith, and that discussions have proceeded to a point of confidence.
- The Department of General Services (DGS) must review and approve all appraisals of real property. Appraisals must comply with section 5096.510 of the Public Resources Code. The Conservancy will not directly pay the Department of General Services to review and approve the required appraisal; the grantee must pay DGS directly for this expense and seek reimbursement from the Conservancy.

F16. Demonstration of Local Support

Applicants are expected to demonstrate local support by describing both public and institutional support for the activities, including how the community and Tribes are engaged in the activities. Letters of support may also be included. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact, seek support from, and coordinate with applicable state agencies, cities, counties, local districts, Native American Tribes, other public and private community members and organizations, and surrounding landowners. If an applicant has a specific resolution of support from the affected city, county, tribe or local district, or Native American Tribe, it should be included with the full proposal to facilitate the overall assessment process. A resolution of

support from the Board of Supervisors from the county in which the activities are proposed to be conducted may be required as part of the full proposal.

F17. Local Notifications

The Conservancy will notify local government agencies – such as counties, cities, and local districts – and tribal organizations about eligible grant activities in their area being considered for funding. The Conservancy will also notify the applicable public water agency, levee, flood control, or drainage agency (when appropriate). The individual Conservancy Board members representing each of the five Delta counties will also be notified and may wish to communicate with the affected entities. For land acquisitions, the Conservancy will coordinate and consult with the Delta Protection Commission and the city or county in which a grant is proposed to be implemented or an interest in real property is proposed to be acquired. The Conservancy will work with the grantee to make all reasonable efforts to address concerns raised by local government entities.

F18. Consultation and Cooperation with State and Local Agencies

It is the responsibility of grantees to coordinate and cooperate with the appropriate state and local agencies with interests in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. State Departments may include but are not limited to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, the Delta Stewardship Council, the California Natural Resources Agency's EcoRestore program, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Delta Protection Commission (grantees are encouraged to utilize their Good Neighbor Checklist as relevant). It also may include applicable Native American tribal governments.

If activities are proposed to be funded by multiple agencies or entities, the Conservancy strongly encourages applicants to contact the applicable agencies or departments prior to applying for funding to discuss options for funding activities. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that proposals submitted to each potential funder describe the specific work that will be funded by all applicable entities. The proposed scope of each proposal must be distinct and without overlap. Applicants must describe the overall project and how the proposals relate.

F19. Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities and Vulnerable Populations

Many communities in the Legal Delta and Suisun Marsh are considered disadvantaged communities (DAC) or severely disadvantaged communities (SDAC) or vulnerable populations. A DAC is a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide

average (based on the U.S. Census). Applicants must identify any disadvantaged communities that overlap with the footprint of the proposed activities or would be served by the proposed activities. A vulnerable population is a subgroup within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts.

Mapping resources available for the purpose of identifying SDACs and DACs by census tract or block group are available on the Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities [Mapping Tool](#). The Conservancy may consider other means of identifying SDACs, DACs, and vulnerable populations and the specific funding sources may specify alternative definitions or specify methods for identification which will be included in the solicitation notice.

F20. Coordination with Native American Tribes, Communities of Color, and other Underrepresented Groups

Applicants are strongly recommended to engage in early, often, and meaningful, ~~and often~~ coordination with Native American Tribes and tribal communities and when possible, ~~communities of color, SDACs and DACs and other underrepresented groups as well as~~ involve leadership from ~~these groups~~ the Tribes in the planning, design, leadership, and execution of projects. ~~If the proposal is citing benefit to one or more community, the applicant must demonstrate how they are working with that community to ensure community support. It is strongly recommended that the community is engaged in the design and leadership of the project.~~ Extra consideration will be given for projects that demonstrate inclusion of Native American Tribes.

F21. Coordination with Communities of Color and Other Historically Underrepresented Groups

Applicants are strongly recommended to engage in early, often, and meaningful coordination with communities of color, SDACs, DACs, and other underrepresented groups and when possible, to involve leadership from these groups in the planning, design, leadership, and execution of projects. If the proposal is citing a benefit to one or more community, the applicant must demonstrate how they are working with that community to ensure community support. It is strongly recommended that the community is engaged in the design and leadership of the project. Extra consideration will be given for projects that demonstrate inclusion of historically underrepresented groups, DACs, and SDACs.