

319h NPS Implementation Grant Program FAQs

1. **What if my proposed project is being undertaken pursuant to a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System NPDES permit, including a municipal stormwater permit?**

Projects which include activities required under a NPDES permit are not eligible for 319(h) funding. Please contact your Regional Board representative if you have questions regarding your project's eligibility.

2. **When completing my Concept Proposal on-line in the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST), how do I determine the amounts to list for the "Project Budget," "Funds Requested," and "Local Match" fields?**

The Match is calculated as a percentage of the total project budget, not as a percentage of the grant funds requested. See the example below for reference.

Example:

Project Budget (total project): \$1,000,000

Local Match: \$250,000 (25% of \$1,000,000)

Funds Requested: \$750,000 (\$1,000,000 - \$250,000)

3. **What types of funding match can be used if the applicant is a Resource Conservation District (RCD)?**

The answer depends on whether the RCD applies as a state agency or a local public agency.

If the RCD applies as a state agency, they can use state funds and services for the funding match. If the RCD applies as a local public agency, they need to use other sources of matching funds, such as Federal funds, local funding, or donated and volunteer services from non-state sources.

4. **What kind of documentation is needed for in-kind match?**

Document match activities with photos and invoices for costs associated with match activities. Provide information in progress reports, which are generally submitted with invoices.

5. **Where can I find the latitude and longitude coordinates for my project location?**

Please try the following website: <http://www.topozone.com>, enter the name of a place nearest to your project location, and run a search for it. The results will include the latitude and longitude for the location.

6. What is the Board looking for in response to Question #16, "have we applied for other funds?"

In response to Question #16, please let us know if you have applied for other funds for this SPECIFIC project. For example, if you applied for funding for the same project under the Integrated Regional Water Management Program, provide that information here. If you intend to use other grant funds for your match, make sure they meet the match requirements outlined on Pages 1 and 2 of Attachment 1 of the Solicitation Notice.

7. What are the nine elements of a watershed-based plan?

The nine key elements of watershed-based plans, which are explained in detail in Appendix F in Attachment 1, are:

1. CAUSES AND SOURCES;
2. EXPECTED LOAD REDUCTIONS;
3. MANAGEMENT MEASURES;
4. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE;
5. INFORMATION/EDUCATION;
6. SCHEDULE;
7. MEASURABLE MILESTONES;
8. EVALUATION OF PROGRESS; AND
9. MONITORING

8. What are the funding match requirements for the 319(h) NPS Implementation Grant Program?

This program requires a minimum match of 25%. The match requirement may be waived or reduced for projects that directly benefit a disadvantaged community(ies) as outlined in Appendix D (Page 17) of [Attachment 1](#) of the [Full Proposal Solicitation Notice](#).

"Funding match" means funds made available by the applicant from non-state sources, unless the applicant is a state agency. State agencies can use state funds and services for the funding match.

Applicants who are not state agencies can use, but are not limited to, Federal funds, local funding, or donated and volunteer services from non-state sources.

9. Can 319(h) funds be used to pay for project monitoring since the guidelines state that operation and maintenance, including post construction project performance and monitoring costs are not reimbursable costs?

Short-term Monitoring for project performance and effectiveness is an eligible cost under the 319(h) program if it is within the grant period. Long-term monitoring after the grant period is not a reimbursable cost.

10. Can we start implementing our project before the grant agreement is finalized?

You can start implementing reimbursable activities from August 8, 2008 until your grant agreement has been executed. You will be reimbursed for completed work once your grant agreement has been finalized.

11. Can time spent preparing a proposal be reimbursed?

No, the expense of preparing proposals cannot be reimbursed.

12. What is required for Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates?

For 319(h), GPS coordinates only need to be reported for the location of the stream reach, not for the exact location of the Best Management Practice (BMP).

13. How will projects be selected for funding?

A review team consisting of State Water Board, EPA and Regional Board staff will participate in the selection of projects. The 319(h) NPS Grant Program Solicitation will be a two-step process. Each proposal will receive a review from at least 3 different organizations; one of those organizations will be the Regional Board where the project is located. In the first step, applicants will submit brief Concept Proposals (CPs) using the State Water Board's on-line Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST). Applicants with the highest-ranking CPs will be invited to submit a Full Proposal. After a thorough review of all full proposals, a recommended funding list will be developed and presented at State Water Board meetings for public comment and adoption.

14. To whom should we send letters of support for our concept proposals?

Letters of support are not required in order to be considered for grant funding, and are not considered in the technical evaluation of the proposal. The concept proposal attachment is limited to 2 pages. It is up to you to use these two pages for letters of support or to further describe your project.

15. What types of landowner access agreements are needed?

If your project requires landowner access and you are selected for funding, you will need to provide adequate access to State Water Board, Regional Water Board and U.S. EPA staff to inspect and verify the project is being implemented according to the grant agreement.

16. After the project is implemented, what type of access to the project site needs to be provided?

Grantees must allow access to the project site to both State Water Board and U.S. EPA for the service life of any practices installed. The service life of the practice can range from one to twenty years.

17. Are there any specific guidelines on determining the service life of the practice?

There is a Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Conservation Practice Service Life Manual that is posted on the 319(h) website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/awqgp/docs/nrcs_practicelife.pdf