

Frequently Asked Questions Sheet



PROPOSITION 84 STORMWATER GRANT PROGRAM (SWGPP) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) SHEET

GUIDELINES

1. When were the revised Round 2 Guidelines adopted?

The [Proposition 84 Stormwater Grant Program Round 2 Guidelines](#) were adopted on August 20, 2013.

2. Where can I get a copy of the [Guidelines](#)?

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/prop84/docs/swgp_guidelines_final_082013.pdf

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) eligible to apply?

Only Local Public Agencies are eligible for SWGP funding. The Public Resources Code (PRC) defines Local Public Agency as “any city, county, city and county, or district.” If a JPA is comprised entirely of local public agencies, then the JPA will be eligible for the SWGP. JPA applicants will need to explain the composition of their organization to demonstrate eligibility.

2. Is a stormwater project that discharges directly to a beach, bay, or coastal water considered eligible?

No, Chapter 5 of the Proposition 84 (Prop 84) language states that the SWGP funding is for the reduction and prevention of stormwater contamination of rivers, lakes and streams.

3. Is a stormwater project that discharges directly to a wetland or marsh adjacent to a bay eligible for funding?

If the wetland or marsh is a fresh water body, the proposed project may be eligible. The State Water Board will be working with the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) to help make a determination where discharge locations are not well defined.

4. How does habitat or stream restoration in an urban stream fit in?

The project is eligible if it is a Low Impact Development (LID) project type.

5. Is a proposed project located on private land eligible?

A proposed project on private land is eligible so long as the applicant can demonstrate through an access agreement, easement, or other means that the applicant will have access to the project for a twenty (20) year period. It is the applicant's responsibility to operate and maintain the project for a 20-year term.

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6. Does a proposed project need to be identified in an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan in order to be considered for funding?

No, a proposed project does not need to be identified in an IRWM Plan. However, projects that are consistent or coordinated with an IRWM Plan may receive additional points in the Concept Proposal/Full Proposal evaluation.

7. Are projects that have received California water bond funding in the past eligible for future funding to continue/extend those projects?

Yes, as long as there is a clear delineation between project funding sources and components being funded for tracking purposes. The proposed project for the SWGP must be capable of providing a water quality benefit within the term of the grant, so it cannot be reliant on completion of a separate portion of a large project to provide the benefit.

8. Does every proposed project have to include an education/outreach component?

Yes, all proposed projects must contain an education/outreach component. Up to 10% of the grant amount may be used to fund education and outreach activities that are directly related to implementation of the eligible project.

9. Are maintenance practices such as increased sweeping practices or manual trash cleanup for prevention of stormwater contamination eligible for funding?

No, all proposed projects must demonstrate the capability of contributing to sustained, long-term water quality benefits for a period of 20 years, and address the causes of degradation rather than the symptoms. Increased sweeping or manual trash cleanup are both considered operation and maintenance costs. These costs are not eligible for reimbursement; they cannot be used for required match.

10. If our proposed project is under legal challenge, is it still eligible?

Yes, however, your project may score low on the Schedule portion of the application.

REQUIRED MATCH

1. What is the required match for implementation projects?

The required match is 20% of the total project cost. Disadvantaged communities (DACs) may request a reduction of funding match as outlined below in Appendix A of the [Guidelines](#).

2. The total project cost is significantly more than the Prop 84 funds requested. Is the match requirement based on total project cost or only the grant funds requested?

Project match is calculated based upon total project cost.

3. If a local public agency or agencies submit one grant application with multiple projects, and one of the projects will directly benefit a DAC, will the project be eligible for reduced funding match.

The entire application would not receive the reduced match. However, if the applicant is able to provide adequate documentation of the total project cost for the DAC's portion of the project, then that portion of the project could request a match reduction (see Question 1 above).

4. What types of funding are eligible for the required match? How far back can I go to claim match?

Eligible reimbursable expenses incurred after adoption of the SWGP Guidelines (August 20, 2013) and prior to the project completion date can be applied to the funding match (e.g., preparation of plans and specifications, development of CEQA documents, etc.). **Regardless of the source, grant funds cannot be used for the required match.** Federal or State loans, local and private funding, or donated and volunteer ("in-kind") services may be eligible for match.

5. Can Federal grant funds be used as match?

No, regardless of the source, grant funds cannot be used as match.

6. Can Federal Cooperative Work Agreement funding be used towards match?

No. A Federal Cooperative Work Agreement is still considered federal grant under different requirements thus cannot be used towards match.

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7. Can donated land be used towards match?

Donated land may be used towards match so long as it was purchased/donated after August 20, 2013 and at fair market value.

8. Can local funds be used as match for two different state grants (i.e., DWR, SWRCB, etc..)?

Yes.

9. Can an applicant apply for other funding for the project?

Yes, the applicant may fund the project with multiple funding sources. However, no other grant funds may be used for the required match.

PROJECT TIMELINE

1. Are the dates for implementation projects fixed?

The deadline for submitting the Round 2 Concept Proposal application is October 17, 2013. The timeline for the Full Proposal process will be updated as the process continues. The current tentative schedule targets Spring of 2014 for execution of grant agreements with the State Water Board for Round 2 funding. In addition, the bond funding for the SWGP has disbursement obligations. Based on the current bond fund allocation, the Round 2 projects MUST have all required monitoring, reporting and invoicing completed by May 2017. Please see the SWGP webpage for schedule updates: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/prop84/index.shtml

2. When does construction need to be complete in order to capture one dry and one wet season of monitoring before the Final Report is due in January 2017?

In order to capture water quality data for both one dry season and one wet season, the proposed project would need to be complete in the early Fall 2015. This would allow monitoring to begin in Fall 2015 and be completed in Fall 2016 followed by completion of the Final Report by January 2017.

3. How is Round 2 different from Round 1?

Only LID implementation projects will be eligible for Round 2 funds. All funds for Planning and Monitoring and stormwater-related TMDL projects (not using LID to address the TMDL) were expended in Round 1. During Round 2, eligible projects must implement the requirements of a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit.

PROJECT TYPES

1. What types of implementation projects are eligible for funding?

Eligible projects for the SWGP are projects designed to reduce and prevent stormwater contamination of rivers, lakes, and streams. Eligible project types include those implementing LID. Further information is found in Section E of the Eligibility Requirements in the Guidelines.

2. Are proposed, but not adopted, TMDLs eligible?

In Round 2, funds are no longer available for solely TMDL projects. Projects implementing LID to address a TMDL will be awarded points in the Multiple Benefits section of the Concept and Full Proposals.

3. What are some examples of LID?

For more information of LID, you may visit the following webpages:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/low_impact_development/index.shtml

www.epa.gov/nps/lid

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4. Are non-infrastructure TMDL implementation projects, such as workgroups and trainings, eligible under any part of the SWGP?

No, TMDL projects that do not implement LID to address the TMDL are not eligible in Round 2.

5. Are detention basins an eligible LID project?

Detention basins may be eligible if their primary use is to treat impacted surface water for a river, lake, or stream. Detention basins constructed solely for stormwater capture or flood control are not eligible.

APPLICATION

1. Can multiple agencies submit a joint proposal?

A project may have multiple partners; however, one eligible agency will be the responsible agency for the project and will be subject to the terms of an agreement with the State Water Board, if approved for funding.

2. Is there a limit on the number of projects one entity can apply?

No, entities may apply for as many projects as they can manage within the term of the SWGP.

3. Will reviewers look at the variety of projects?

The reviewers will be interested in projects that improve water quality. Varied projects may add points in the multiple benefits portion of the application.

4. Can projects be phased?

Yes, projects may be phased so long as project implementation is completed by project completion date.

5. How do we report benefit terms: the life of the project or the term of the agreement?

Your application should evaluate your project's short-term and long-term benefits.

6. Does California Environmental Protection Act (CEQA) have to be complete prior to submittal of the application?

No, all projects funded from state funds are subject to CEQA and must be complete prior to construction of the project. The Concept Proposal must provide the type of CEQA required (Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), Negative Declaration, Notice of Exemption (NOE)), process(es) required to complete CEQA, and a timeline for completion. Please note that if your project requires an EIR or MND and these documents have not been started, this may influence the Schedule score during the evaluation process.

7. Is there a cost-benefit analysis?

The SWGP Implementation solicitation does not require a cost-benefit analysis of your project.

8. Who will be reviewing the applications?

State Water Board staff is responsible for the technical review of the concept and final applications. The recommended funding list will be distributed to the Regional Water Boards and Stormwater Advisory Task Force (SWATF) members for review and commenting purposes only.

9. How do we determine if a community is a disadvantaged community (DAC)?

See Appendix A of the Guidelines.

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CONCEPT PROPOSAL

1. What is the Concept Proposal Concept Proposal application period?

The Concept Proposal application period for Round 2 funding opens on September 9, 2013. Applicants will complete their applications using the State Water Board's on-line Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool ([FAAST](#)). Concept Proposal applications must be submitted to [FAAST](#) by 5:00 PM on Thursday, October 17, 2013.

2. How do I submit my Concept Proposal?

Your entire Concept Proposal application will be submitted on-line through [FAAST](#).

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

Please try the following website: <http://maps.google.com/>.

Find your location, right click and select "What's here". Your coordinates should be provided in the address bar. There is also a link in [FAAST](#) that you can use to look up the latitude and longitude for your project location.

FULL PROPOSAL

1. How are applicants invited back to complete a Full Proposal Full Proposal?

State Water Board staff will initially evaluate and screen each Concept Proposal application for completeness. Applications must contain all required items listed in the application. All applications, including attachments and supporting documentation, must be provided by the submittal deadline. All proposals must meet the Eligible Applicants and Eligible Project Types requirements listed in Eligibility Requirements section of the [Guidelines](#). Applications that are determined to be ineligible will not be reviewed or considered for funding, and applicants will be notified.

The criteria outlined in the *Concept Proposal Evaluation: Scoring Criteria Form* (Appendix B-2 of the [Guidelines](#)) will be used to score Concept Proposals. Applicants with the highest-ranking Concept Proposal will be invited to submit Full Proposals. Notification emails will be sent to all applicants.

2. What is the Full Proposal application period?

The anticipated Full Proposal application period will be in Spring 2014. Applicants with successful Concept Proposals will be notified by email of the opening of the Full Proposal application period.

3. Will there be Full Proposal Applicant Assistance workshops?

At this time, there are no Full Proposal workshops scheduled. However, if Full Proposal workshops are scheduled in the future, the dates and locations of the workshops will be available on the State Water Board website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/prop84/index.shtml

4. What is a Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan (PAEP) and how does it relate to the project?

A PAEP is a document that will help you determine if the project is heading toward success and includes a project summary, a list of your goals and desired outcomes, and your project performance measurement tables. For more information on PAEP development, go to http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/paep/index.shtml

5. To whom should letters of support be addressed and sent to?

Letters of support will be accepted for Full Proposal applications only. Submit all letters electronically as attachments to your proposal in [FAAST](#). General letters of support or opposition will not be considered. Letters of support or opposition must clearly state how the implementation of the proposal/project will benefit or adversely affect the individual or entity providing the letter.

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GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. **Can the cost to prepare CEQA documents be reimbursed as part of the project?**

Yes. CEQA documents prepared within the terms of the grant agreement are eligible for reimbursement.

2. **If an Urban Water Supplier (UWS) participates in the grant process, but is not the applicant, does the UWS have to comply with AB 1420?**

No, the UWS only has to comply when they are the applicant.

3. **Would a project with a 2-year wet weather water quality monitoring component score higher than a project that only proposes one year or water quality monitoring?**

No, your application will have to demonstrate that the monitoring requirement can be completed after project completion and before the January 2017 Final Report deadline.

PROJECT COSTS

1. **Can grant funds be used for land acquisitions?**

Yes. Reimbursable costs include the reasonable costs of easement and land purchases. The minimum required acreage necessary to operate as an integral part of the project, as set forth and detailed by engineering and feasibility studies, is reimbursable.

2. **Can grant funds be used to meet permit requirements?**

Yes, as long as the project meets the eligibility requirements outlined in the Guidelines.

3. **Can you receive money for the same project in both Round 1 and Round 2?**

Projects may be related or affiliated, but must implement projects with independent goals and achieve measureable outcomes in their own right.

4. **Are contingencies eligible for grant reimbursement or match?**

No, only actual direct costs are eligible for reimbursement and match.

5. **A project includes a roadway widening with LIDs. Is the roadway eligible for reimbursement or match?**

No. Only the direct cost associated with the LIDs are eligible for reimbursement or match. However, discuss the project with State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance to determine if some portion of the roadway widening could be eligible for match.

6. **What does total project cost entail?**

Total project costs should include all direct costs related to the project and include the costs of engineering, design, easement, preparation of environmental documentation, environmental mitigation, project monitoring within the term of the agreement, project implementation, and education and outreach activities.

OTHER

1. **How should coordination with Regional Board staff proceed? Should they be involved in the concept phase and how involved should we expect them to be? With which program at the Regional Board should we coordinate?**

Applicants should contact their Regional Water Board staff to discuss their projects. Regional Water Board staff can help applicants with regional priorities and provide technical guidance. There is a list of Regional Water Board contacts for the SWGP in the Reference Material of the SWGP webpage:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/prop84/index.shtml

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2. What is environmental justice community?

An environmental justice community is a community that is disproportionately impacted by environmental harms and risks with regard to race, national origin, or income.