

Attachment 1

Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319(H) Nonpoint Source (NPS) 2011 Grant Program Guidelines

Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319(H) Nonpoint Source (NPS) 2011 Grant Program Guidelines

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Overview

The California NPS Program is making approximately \$4.5 million of CWA Section 319(h) grant funds available to support the restoration of waters impaired by NPS pollution. Funds under this announcement are available for projects that:

- ❖ Implement activities that contribute to the restoration of NPS impaired waters through reduced pollutant loads as called for in an existing total maximum daily load (TMDL), or nearly adopted TMDL as identified in [Section II](#).
- ❖ Implementation and/or planning/assessment activities that are consistent with watershed plans that address the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) nine required watershed-based plan elements. Guidance on the Required Elements for Watershed-Based Plans, per CWA Section 319, is provided in [Appendix A](#). (Specific terms are defined in [Appendix B](#)).
- ❖ Meet the requirement for non-State match of 25% (for total project cost) or be eligible for a waiver or reduction of the match requirement.

The California NPS Program is specifically seeking Concept Proposals that address the watersheds and impairments identified in the Program Preferences ([Table 3](#)) of this announcement. Applicants are encouraged to contact their Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) to discuss project ideas and determine conformance with the Program Preferences.

Funding is available for two Project Types:

1. Implementation Projects that implement actions to restore impaired surface waters by controlling NPS pollution. Implementation Projects include on-the-ground NPS pollutant reduction projects that achieve quantifiable water quality benefits identified in TMDLs and that are identified in comprehensive watershed plans. Maximum grant project period is three years.

2. Planning and Assessment Projects to improve watershed plans by carrying out targeted planning/assessment efforts to better focus future implementation efforts to achieve water quality goals. These projects should be the final step that leads to implementation activities. Planning and Assessment Projects may include specific activities called for by TMDLs and should improve existing watershed planning efforts toward achieving water quality results. Maximum grant period is two years.

There are two phases of the 2011 solicitation process. The first phase is the submittal of Concept Proposals. The Concept Proposal (CP) will be evaluated by a review panel according to the criteria identified in this announcement. CPs that most appropriately address the criteria and program preferences will be invited to submit a Full Proposal (FP). FPs comprehensively describe the proposed project and its anticipated environmental results in more detail than was presented in the CP. The review and selection process will be the same as the CP.

There is a different application for each Project Type. Applicants should review the Program Preferences, submission requirements and selection criteria for the Project Type they are applying for. The number of CPs and types of projects any one applicant may submit is not limited.

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I. GUIDELINES

A. PROGRAM AND PROJECT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility is based on whether the project fits within the NPS Program Preferences ([Table 3](#)), applicant eligibility, program funding limits, project timing, and match requirements (Tables [1A](#) and [1B](#)). Proposals that do not meet all eligibility requirements will not be reviewed or considered for funding. It is mandatory that applicants contact the Regional Water Boards ([Appendix G](#)) during proposal development to ensure the applicant meets eligibility requirements, and that the project under consideration conforms to program preferences. It is optional to contact the USEPA representative ([Appendix G](#)). The NPS Program Preferences are in [Section II](#) of this announcement. Tables [1A](#) and [1B](#) specify eligible applicants, project timing, maximum and minimum grant amounts, and minimum match requirement. Applicants and the proposed project must meet all the eligibility requirements in order to move forward in the competitive grant selection process.

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TABLE 1A –PROJECT TIMING, MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNTS, AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS.

2011 CWA 319 NPS GRANT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS			
Project Objective	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects	Available Funding and Schedule ³
Implement on-the-ground activities that control NPS pollution to improve water quality and restore beneficial uses.	a. Local Public Agencies b. Public Agencies c. Nonprofit Organizations (501[c][3]) d. Federally Recognized Indian Tribes ² e. State Agencies f. Public Colleges g. Federal Agencies	Eligible projects under the NPS Program (CWA section 319) are projects that must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement activities that contribute to the restoration of NPS impaired waters through reduced pollutant loads as called for in an existing TMDL as identified in the Program Preferences (Table 3); 2. Implement activities that are part of a watershed plan consistent with the USEPA Nine Key Elements of a Watershed Plan (Appendix A); and 3. Meet the requirement for non-State match funding for 25% of the total project cost or be eligible for a waiver or reduction of the match requirement. 	Approximate Total: \$3.5 Million based on annual federal appropriation 319(h) Project Funding Maximum: \$750,000 ³ 319(h) Project Funding Minimum: \$ 250,000 Minimum Match Requirement ¹ : 25% (total project cost) Grant Agreement finalized by: No later than June 30, 2012* Project Grant End Date: No later than June 30, 2015 Final Project Report: No later than June 1, 2015* Final Invoicing: No later than July 31, 2015
¹ THE MATCH REQUIREMENT MAY BE WAIVED OR REDUCED FOR PROJECTS THAT DIRECTLY BENEFIT A DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY(IES) AS OUTLINED IN Appendix D . ² LIMITED TO FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES. TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT AND WITH THE GRANT AGREEMENT, TRIBES MUST WAIVE THEIR SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY. ³ TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT CAN EXCEED \$ 750,000, WITHIN REASON. HOWEVER, 319H FUNDING IS LIMITED TO \$750,000 FOR IMPLEMENTATION. THE MATCH MUST BE AT LEAST 25% OF THE TOTAL PROJECT COSTS. * THESE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. APPLICANTS NOT ELIGIBLE ARE FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, 501(c)(4) LOBBY ORGANIZATION			

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TABLE 1B–PROJECT TIMING, MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNTS, AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS FOR PLANNING/ASSESSMENT PROJECTS.

2011 CWA 319 NPS GRANT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS			
Project Objective	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects	Available Funding and Schedule
Document specific planning/assessment activities that will identify and prioritize implementation measures necessary for restoring water quality in a specific watershed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Local Public Agencies b. Public Agencies c. Nonprofit Organizations (501[c][3]) d. Federally Recognized Indian Tribes² e. State Agencies f. Public Colleges g. Federal Agencies 	<p>Eligible projects under the NPS Program (CWA section 319) are projects that must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Result in, or significantly contribute to comprehensive watershed planning identified in the Program Preferences (Table 3); 2. Consist of planning/assessment activities that are consistent with the USEPA Nine Key Elements of a Watershed Plan (Appendix A); 3. Directly address planning activities specified in adopted TMDLs; and 4. Meet the requirement for non-State match funding for 25% of the total project cost or be eligible for a waiver or reduction of the match requirement. 	<p>Approximate Total: \$1.0 Million based on annual federal appropriation</p> <p>319(h) Project Funding Maximum: \$125,000³</p> <p>319(h) Project Funding Minimum: \$75,000</p> <p>Minimum Match Requirement¹: 25% (total project cost)</p> <p>Grant Agreement finalized by: No later than June 30, 2012*</p> <p>Project Grant End Date: No later than June 30, 2014</p> <p>Final Project Report: No later than June 1, 2014*</p> <p>Final Invoicing: No later than July 31, 2014</p>
<p>¹ THE MATCH REQUIREMENT MAY BE WAIVED OR REDUCED FOR PROJECTS THAT DIRECTLY BENEFIT A DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY(IES) AS OUTLINED IN APPENDIX D.</p> <p>² LIMITED TO FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES. TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT AND WITH THE GRANT AGREEMENT, TRIBES MUST WAIVE THEIR SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.</p> <p>³ TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT CAN EXCEED \$125,000, WITHIN REASON. HOWEVER, 319H FUNDING IS LIMITED TO \$125,000 FOR PLANNING/ASSESSMENT PROJECTS. THE MATCH MUST BE AT LEAST 25% OF THE TOTAL PROJECT COSTS.</p> <p>*THESE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.</p> <p>APPLICANTS NOT ELIGIBLE ARE; FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, 501(C)(4) LOBBY ORGANIZATIONS</p>			

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B. FUNDING MATCH REQUIREMENT

The applicant must provide a funding match. "Funding match" means funds made available by the applicant from non-State sources. The funding match may include, but is not limited to, Federal funds, local funding, or donated, volunteer and in-kind services from non-State sources. A State agency may use State funds and services for the funding match. The funding match is calculated based on total project cost for which funding is requested. Table 2 is an example of the calculated funding match for a project.

The funding match requirement may be waived or reduced for projects directly benefiting a Disadvantaged Community(ies). A Disadvantaged Community is defined as a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income (California Water Code § 79505.5 (a)). The requirements for funding match waivers and reductions are given in [Section C](#) below.

TABLE 2. MATCH REQUIREMENT EXAMPLE

Example Grant Match: Agency A is submitting a proposal with a total project cost of \$750,000, and is required to meet the 25% match for the total cost of the project (\$750,000).		
Total Project Cost	Grant and fund Match Using the Minimum Funding Match Requirement (25% of Total Project Cost ¹)	
	Funding Match	Grant Funds
\$ 750,000	$0.25 \times \$750,000 = \$187,500$	$\$750,000 - \$187,500 = \$562,500$

Note: The State Water Resources Control Board reserves the discretion to review and approve funding match expenditures.

C. FUNDING MATCH/WAIVER REDUCTION REQUIREMENT

Proposals submitted by a disadvantaged community or an organization that is based within and serves a disadvantaged community may be eligible for a funding match waiver. Proposals that directly benefit a disadvantaged community may be eligible for a funding match reduction. Reductions in the required funding match percentage will be in proportion to the percentage of the disadvantaged community population directly benefiting from the project relative to the entire population in the project/planning area.

Information needed to substantiate a request for match waiver/reduction is not required in the CP application, but will be required for the FP. The applicant will be required to identify representatives of the disadvantaged community who have been or will be involved in the planning and/or implementation process. While applicants are asked to identify the intent to apply for a waiver, they are not required to do so when submitting a CP. Information supporting a match waiver/reduction is required when submitting a FP. State Water Board staff will review and make the final determination on funding match waiver or reduction eligibility.

The Grantee may start using their match funding after the Grantee has been notified that their project has been selected for funding. The match funding cannot be used to cover expenses incurred during the development of the FFAST application and proposals.

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II. NPS PROGRAM PREFERENCES

The State Water Board is making CWA Section 319(h) funds available through this 2011 Solicitation for projects that:

- Implement actions to restore impaired surface waters by controlling NPS pollution; or,
- Improve watershed plans by conducting targeted planning/assessment efforts designed to improve and focus future implementation efforts in NPS Program Preference watersheds and to better achieve desired water quality improvements and outcomes.

This solicitation seeks CPs for projects designed to achieve the water quality goals for watersheds and pollutants identified in the NPS Program Preferences ([Table 3](#)), below. Projects that do not address the identified Program Preferences will not be competitive in this solicitation.

The most competitive projects will demonstrate the use of various funding sources to achieve water quality improvements while building sustainable watershed partnerships for ongoing stewardship. Coordination among stakeholders in the watershed is strongly encouraged; water quality goals will most likely be achieved through a variety of sustained, multiple efforts rather than through a single grant funded project.

The NPS Program Preferences are targeted TMDL watersheds that the NPS and TMDL Programs have identified as preferences for Implementation and Planning/Assessment projects for 2011 CWA 319(h) Grant funding. The target watersheds are shown in Table 3 below. Unless otherwise specified, all projects that address source control of any load allocations for the identified constituent may be considered.

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TABLE 3. PROGRAM PREFERENCE TABLE

Region 1 – North Coast Regional Water Board Preferences

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
Klamath River (Middle, Lower Hydrologic Areas), Lost River*	Nutrients: Engineered nutrient treatment/ removal, passive or active; projects pilot scale, or full scale implementation.	Nutrients: Engineered nutrient treatment/ removal, passive or active; projects may include planning/feasibility studies.
Klamath River (Middle, Lower Hydrologic Areas)*	Nutrients: Nutrient management/control projects.	
Shasta River*	Temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO): Upper watershed restoration, enhancement, protection projects targeting temperature and/or DO.	
Klamath (Middle, Lower Hydrologic Areas), Lost, Shasta, Scott Rivers*	Nutrient, temperature, dissolved oxygen, microcystin impairments: Projects assisting in ranch plan implementation.	Nutrient, temperature, dissolved oxygen, microcystin impairments: Projects assisting in ranch plan development.
Klamath River (Middle, Lower Hydrologic Areas)*	Temperature: Thermal refugia improvement/enhancement/ protection projects in high priority areas, as identified in TMDL action plan.	
Klamath River (Middle, Lower Hydrologic Areas)*	Nutrient, temperature, dissolved oxygen, microcystin impairments: Restoration projects targeting one or more TMDL pollutants; preference will be given to projects that have been identified through a systematic, comprehensive assessment/ prioritization process.	
Laguna de Santa Rosa, Stemple Creek, and Estero de San Antonio	Nutrient, sediment, and temperature: Dairy pollutant control, enhancement, or improvement projects; restoration projects associated with water quality impacts from dairies.	Nutrients, sediment, and temperature: Dairy pollutant control, enhancement, or improvement projects; restoration projects associated with water quality impacts from dairies.

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Region 1 – North Coast Regional Water Board Preferences (continued)

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
Laguna de Santa Rosa*	Nutrients, bacteria, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and sediment: Identification and prioritization of potential restoration projects/sites.	Nutrients, bacteria, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and sediment: Identification and prioritization of potential restoration projects/sites.
Scott River	Sediment, temperature	Sediment, temperature
Shasta River	Temperature, dissolved oxygen	Temperature, dissolved oxygen
Lost River	Nutrients, temperature, pH	Nutrients, temperature, pH
Klamath River	Temperature, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, microcystin	Temperature, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, microcystin
Salmon River	Temperature	Temperature
Stemple Creek and Estero de San Antonio	Sediment, nutrients, bacteria	Sediment, nutrients, bacteria
Laguna de Santa Rosa	Ammonia, dissolved oxygen, bacteria	Ammonia, dissolved oxygen, bacteria
Garcia River	Sediment, temperature	Sediment, temperature
Mattole River	Sediment, temperature	Sediment, temperature
Navarro River	Sediment, temperature	Sediment, temperature
Noyo River	Sediment	Sediment
Redwood Creek	Sediment, temperature	Sediment, temperature
Ten Mile River	Sediment, temperature	Sediment, temperature
Albion River	Sediment	Sediment
Big River	Sediment, temperature	Sediment, temperature
Eel River - North Fork, Middle Fork, and South Fork	Sediment, temperature	Sediment, temperature
Gualala River - Upper, Middle, and Lower Main Stem	Sediment, temperature	Sediment, temperature
Trinity River - South fork	Sediment, temperature	Sediment, temperature
Van Duzen River – Main Stem	Sediment	Sediment

* Projects marked with an asterisk are a higher priority for Region 1, and will be weighted accordingly.

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Region 2 – San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board Preferences

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
Tomales Bay (including tributaries)	Pathogens: Implement Management Practices (MPs) according to ranch water quality plans (RWQPs) (grazing and dairy waiver requirements).	Pathogens: Water quality monitoring in Tomales Bay, including West Shore, East Shore, and tributaries, to identify specific pathogen sources, including septic and animal waste (i.e. grazing/horse ranch facilities) that will lead to prioritizing actions for source reduction.
Walker Creek	Mercury: Implement MPs according to RWQPs (grazing and dairy waiver requirements).	
Sonoma Creek	Sediment: Develop and implement vineyard management plans. Specifically, develop third party or technical assistance programs to assist with farm/vineyard plan development and implementation.	
	Sediment: Implement reach-scale habitat and sediment reduction projects.	
	Pathogens, Sediment: Develop RWQPs and implement MPs for grazing lands and dairies. Develop third party or technical assistance programs to assist with RWQP development and implementation.	

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Region 2 – San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board Preferences (continued)

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
Napa River	Sediment: Develop and implement sediment control and habitat enhancement actions. Specifically, develop third party or technical assistance programs to assist with farm/vineyard plan development and implementation.	Sediment: develop third party or technical assistance programs to assist with farm/vineyard plan development and/or to evaluate BMP performance in pilot areas or basin-wide.
	Sediment: Implement vineyard management plans.	
	Sediment: Implement reach-scale projects to restore stream-riparian habitat complexity and connection to floodplains, and to balance fine and coarse sediment budgets.	Sediment and restoring in-stream channel complexity as called for in Sediment TMDL SEP: Develop plans for restoration of the Upper Napa River in reaches that have not yet been addressed.
	Sediment: Channel incision adaptation project at Zinfandel Lane Crossing to address impacts of channel incision on habitat access and sediment transport dynamics.	
	Sediment, Pathogens: Develop RWQPs and implement MPs for grazing lands. Develop third party or technical assistance programs to assist with RWQP development and implementation.	
Guadalupe River (including tributaries)	Mercury: Mining waste remediation and erosion control.	Mercury: Lake oxygenation feasibility study & design.
	Mercury: Stream bank stabilization.	Mercury: Planning, design, and prioritization for bank stabilization, calcine removal where feasible, and restoration of Alamitos Creek.

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Region 3 – Central Coast Regional Water Board Preferences

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
Salinas River	Nutrients: Develop and help implement irrigation efficiency and nutrient management. This will require irrigation evaluations and corresponding actions designed to address pollutant loading from tailwater on farms with willing owners/operators; i.e., shovel ready farms and their owners/operators.	
	Pesticides: Develop and help implement irrigation efficiency and sediment control management. This will require irrigation and sediment evaluations with corresponding actions designed to address pollutant loading from tailwater on farms with willing owners/operators; i.e., shovel ready farms and their owners/operators.	
Santa Maria River, including Orcutt-Solomon Creek and Oso Flaco Creeks and Lake	Nutrients: Develop and help implement irrigation efficiency and nutrient management. This will require irrigation evaluations and corresponding actions designed to address pollutant loading from tailwater on farms with willing owners/operators; i.e., shovel ready farms and their owners/operators.	
	Pesticides: Develop and help implement irrigation efficiency and sediment control management. This will require irrigation and sediment evaluations with corresponding actions designed to address pollutant loading from tailwater on farms with willing owners/operators; i.e., shovel ready farms and their owners/operators.	

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Region 3 – Central Coast Regional Water Board Preferences (continued)

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
	Bacteria: Help develop and assist implementation of RWQPs.	
Pajaro River (including Llagas Creek)	Nitrate: Develop and help implement irrigation efficiency and nutrient management. This will require irrigation evaluations and corresponding actions designed to address pollutant loading from tailwater on farms with willing owners/operators; i.e., shovel ready farms and their owners/operators.	Sediment: Prioritize specific sites for implementation based on existing TMDL prioritized areas and develop site-specific measures to reduce/eliminate quantified amount of sediment load.
Northern Central Coast Region waterbodies: Salinas River, Watsonville Slough, Pajaro River, San Lorenzo River, and Soquel, Aptos, Valencia and Corralitos, Creeks	Bacteria: Implement pathogen-control management measures designed to address pollutant loading from domestic animals in priority areas for compliance with Animal Waste Discharge Prohibitions and adopted TMDLs. This will require implementing management of domestic animal waste, including non-commercial livestock operations on private properties and pet waste on public lands.	Bacteria: Conduct Rangeland Implementation Planning in priority / impaired areas with adopted TMDLs, including an assessment of 1) status of current implementation of rangeland management measures for lands with commercial livestock operations, 2) existing ranch plans, and 3) stakeholder outreach to ultimately achieve compliance with Animal Waste Discharge Prohibitions. This will require developing an Implementation Plan of domestic animal waste management.
San Lorenzo River and impaired tributaries	Sediment: Implement management measures on rural roads (private and public). This will require implementing road improvement projects in priority / impaired areas designed to address sediment loading for compliance with adopted TMDLs.	

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Region 4 – Los Angeles Regional Water Board Preferences

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
Calleguas Creek	<u>Constituents:</u> Nutrients, salts, metals, pesticides and PCBs. <u>Sources:</u> Irrigated agriculture	
Santa Clara River	<u>Constituents:</u> Nutrients, salts, pesticides and PCBs <u>Sources:</u> Irrigated agriculture	
Ventura River	<u>Constituents:</u> Nutrients <u>Sources:</u> Irrigated agriculture	
Dominguez Channel	<u>Constituents:</u> Metals, pesticides and PCBs <u>Sources:</u> Irrigated agriculture, air deposition (potentially)	<u>Constituents:</u> Metals, pesticides and PCBs <u>Sources:</u> Irrigated agriculture, air deposition (potentially)
San Gabriel River	<u>Constituents:</u> metals <u>Sources:</u> Irrigated agriculture, open space runoff	<u>Constituents:</u> metals <u>Sources:</u> Irrigated agriculture, open space runoff
Los Angeles River Reach 6 and Tributaries	<u>Constituents:</u> selenium <u>Sources:</u> erosion, open space runoff	<u>Constituents:</u> selenium <u>Sources:</u> erosion, open space runoff

Region 5 – Central Valley Regional Water Board Preferences

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
Cache Creek	Mercury	Mercury
Sacramento-San Joaquin delta	Mercury, chlorpyrifos/diazinon, dissolved oxygen, salt	Mercury, chlorpyrifos/diazinon, dissolved oxygen, salt
Lower San Joaquin River	Chlorpyrifos, diazinon, dissolved oxygen, selenium, salt	Chlorpyrifos, diazinon, dissolved oxygen, selenium, salt
Clear Lake	Mercury and nutrients	Mercury and nutrients
Sacramento River	Chlorpyrifos and diazinon, metals	Chlorpyrifos and diazinon, metals
Feather River	Chlorpyrifos and diazinon	Chlorpyrifos and diazinon
Grassland Marshes	Selenium	Selenium
Salt Slough	Selenium	Selenium

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Region 6 – Lahontan Regional Water Board Preferences

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
Blackwood Creek	<u>Constituents:</u> sediment. <u>Sources:</u> defunct gravel mining.	<u>Constituents:</u> sediment. <u>Sources:</u> defunct gravel mining.
Carson River (includes Indian Creek Reservoir)	<u>Constituents:</u> nitrogen, phosphorus, sodium, pathogens. <u>Sources:</u> silviculture, septs, roads/highways, erosion/siltation, recreation, streambank modifications, grazing, agriculture (irrigation tailwater, runoff).	<u>Constituents:</u> nitrogen, phosphorus, sodium, pathogens <u>Sources:</u> silviculture, septs, roads/highways, erosion/siltation, recreation, streambank modifications, grazing, agriculture (irrigation tailwater, runoff).
Owens Hydrologic Unit (includes Mammoth Creek, Crowley Lake, Pleasant Valley Reservoir)	<u>Constituents:</u> mercury, DO, ammonia, organic enrichment <u>Sources:</u> unknown sources, natural sources, nonpoint sources, flow modification	<u>Constituents:</u> mercury, DO, ammonia, organic enrichment <u>Sources:</u> unknown sources, natural sources, nonpoint sources, flow modification
Squaw Creek	<u>Constituents:</u> sedimentation/siltation <u>Sources:</u> hydromodification/land development	<u>Constituents:</u> sedimentation/siltation <u>Sources:</u> hydromodification/land development
Susanville Hydrologic Unit (includes Susan River, Honey Lake, Eagle Lake)	<u>Constituents:</u> Unknown toxicity, mercury, nitrogen, phosphorus, arsenic, salinity, TDS, chlorides, metals <u>Sources:</u> agriculture, grazing, silviculture, roads, marinas/boating, septic tanks, recreation, urban runoff, unknown sources, geothermal	<u>Constituents:</u> Unknown toxicity, mercury, nitrogen, phosphorus, arsenic, salinity, TDS, chlorides, metals <u>Sources:</u> agriculture, grazing, silviculture, roads, marinas/boating, septic tanks, recreation, urban runoff, unknown sources, geothermal

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Region 6 – Lahontan Regional Water Board Preferences (continued)

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
Tahoe, Lake	<u>Constituents:</u> nitrogen, phosphorus, fine sediment <u>Sources:</u> urban, forests, atmosphere, stream channel erosion, shoreline erosion	<u>Constituents:</u> nitrogen, phosphorus, fine sediment <u>Sources:</u> urban, forests, atmosphere, stream channel erosion, shoreline erosion
Truckee River	<u>Constituents:</u> sediment <u>Sources:</u> dirt roads, urban areas, legacy erosion sites	<u>Constituents:</u> sediment <u>Sources:</u> dirt roads, urban areas, legacy erosion sites
Walker River	<u>Constituents:</u> Pathogens <u>Sources:</u> grazing	<u>Constituents:</u> Pathogens <u>Sources:</u> grazing

Region 7 – Colorado River Regional Water Board Preferences

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
Alamo River	Sediment	Sediment
New River	Sediment, bacteria, trash	Sediment, bacteria, trash
Imperial Valley Drains	Sediment	Sediment

Region 8 – Santa Ana Regional Water Board Preferences

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
San Jacinto / Canyon Lake	Nutrients: Management of agricultural and rural sources.	Nutrients: Plans and studies required by TMDL.
San Jacinto / Lake Elsinore	Nutrients: Management of agricultural and rural sources.	Nutrients: Plans and studies required by TMDL.
San Jacinto / Canyon Lake		Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB) – <i>Assessment of wet weather FIB loadings into Canyon Lake from non-urban land uses in its northern tributaries.</i>
Big Bear Lake and Tributaries	Nutrients or sediment: Forest road improvements.	Sediments, nutrients, mercury, copper and other metals: <i>Identify and prepare watershed planning elements needed to create a plan that conforms to EPA's 9 key elements for a watershed plan.</i>

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Region 8 – Santa Ana Regional Water Board Preferences (continued)

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
Big Bear Lake and Tributaries	Mercury: soil stabilization; detention basins.	Sediments, nutrients, mercury, copper and other metals: <i>Identify and prepare watershed planning elements needed to create a plan that conforms to EPA's 9 key elements for a watershed plan.</i>
Newport Bay (and tributaries)	Selenium (TMDL under development)	Selenium: <i>Develop selenium management plan for Big Canyon Wash – identify sources and potential remediation options.</i>
Newport Bay (and tributaries)	Organochlorine (OC) compounds	
Newport Bay (and tributaries)	Diazinon, chlorpyrifos	
Newport Bay	Copper, other metals	Copper, other metals: <i>Sediment linkage study to determine source(s) of metals loads in sediment from tributaries, prioritize source areas, and identify potential management measures and sites for management measure (MM) implementation.</i>
Newport Bay (and tributaries)	Sediment : 1. Stabilization of eroding drainages in designated open space areas (Borrego, Bee, Round, and Hicks Canyons). 2. Restoration of native vegetation and “stormproofing” dirt roads and trails in foothill open space areas.	
Newport Bay (and tributaries)	Nutrients	Nutrients

**** IMPORTANT: Specific planning projects identified for this watershed are italicized. Contact Santa Ana Regional Water Board staff for further information about these planning projects**

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Region 9 – San Diego Regional Water Board Preferences

TMDL Watershed	TMDL Constituent(s) Implementation Projects	TMDL Constituent(s) Planning Projects
Shelter Island Yacht Basin	Copper	Copper
Rainbow Creek	Nutrients	Nutrients
Beaches and Creeks in San Diego County	Indicator bacteria	Indicator bacteria
Chollas Creek	Copper, lead, zinc	Copper, lead, zinc
Lagoons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Los Penasquitos • Famosa Slough & Channel • Loma Alta • Santa Margarita Lagoon • San Elijo 	Sediment Nutrients/eutrophication Bacteria/eutrophication Nutrients/eutrophication Nutrients/sedimentation/ Bacteria Bacteria	Sediment Nutrients/eutrophication Bacteria/eutrophication Nutrients/eutrophication Nutrients/sedimentation/ Bacteria Bacteria
Buena Vista		

A. IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

Implementation projects are those occurring on-the-ground in watersheds identified in the NPS Program Preferences, and must be designed to achieve or contribute to achieving compliance with TMDLs and water quality standards. Proposals should conform to the following:

- Projects must address one or more water quality needs of a NPS Program Preference watershed identified in [Table 3](#).
- Activities may include project-level planning, design, construction, construction management, implementation, and monitoring to implement full scale on-the-ground management measures (MMs) and/or management practices (MPs) ([Appendix I](#)).
- Projects must be planned and designed to achieve the water quality goals as identified in TMDLs and watershed plans;
- All projects receiving CWA Section 319(h) funding must be identified through a watershed planning process / watershed plan that addresses USEPA's Nine Key Elements ([Appendix A](#));
- All projects must provide quantifiable water quality benefit information and characterize the pollutant load reduction(s) expected by the project.

B. PLANNING/ASSESSMENT PROJECTS

Watershed Planning/Assessment projects must be associated with the targeted TMDL watersheds identified on the NPS Program Preferences ([Table 3](#)). The most competitive projects will be those that result in planning/ assessment activities that represent the final step in the planning process before implementing management measures/management practices (MMs/MPs) in a TMDL watershed identified in the Program Preferences. Planning work funded through these projects must also result in, or significantly contribute to "comprehensive watershed planning." "Comprehensive watershed planning" is planning that is consistent with USEPA's Nine Key Elements of a Watershed Plan ([Appendix A](#)). Funding cannot be used to prepare new watershed plans. Qualifying proposals may include:

- Projects that prepare studies, strategies, management plans, tools for management plan development, and similar items specified in the Program Preferences ([Table 3](#)) or specified in a TMDL implementation plan for a targeted TMDL watershed.

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- Projects that fill recognized data gaps in existing watershed management plans.
- Projects that lead to completion of comprehensive watershed plans, and/or watershed plan implementation strategies in targeted TMDL watersheds. Projects may include: 1) the systematic consolidation of previously completed planning work in a watershed into a comprehensive watershed planning tool; 2) using a newly created watershed planning tool to identify, prioritize and manage the implementation of the NPS MMs/MPs ([Appendix I](#)) needed to restore water quality in the watershed; and 3) developing and/or incorporating one or more of the missing nine key elements in an existing plan to complete a comprehensive plan
- Projects that examine existing watershed management plans and develop additional information needed to make plans more effective in targeting specific implementation (MM, MPs, etc.), and assessing progress toward achieving water quality goals.
- Watershed assessments that will 1) identify and/or characterize, prioritize and sequence appropriate MMs and/or MPs for implementation, or 2) identify, quantify, and prioritize NPS pollutant load sources for a targeted watershed. If water quality monitoring is needed, the project must either be the last step in a planning process designed to determine and prioritize implementation activities, or there must be a strategy in place to collect additional water quality monitoring beyond the term of the project.

III. PROPOSAL SOLICITATION, REVIEW, AND SELECTION PROCESS

The CWA 319(h) NPS Grant Program will follow a two-step solicitation process: An initial “Concept Proposal” (CP); followed by an invitation-only “Full Proposal” (FP). The solicitation process, review process, and selection process are described below.

A. SOLICITATION, SUBMITTAL, AND REVIEW OF THE CONCEPT PROPOSALS

i. Solicitation and Submittal Process

The CP application will consist of an on-line application submitted using the State Water Board’s Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) System. The on-line FAAST application for the CP can be found at the following secure link:

<https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/>

There are separate applications for Implementation Projects and for Planning/ Assessment Projects. The applicants must select the appropriate application for their project(s). Applicants may submit applications for both Project types.

All applications, including attachments and supporting documentation, must be provided by the submittal deadline. Any material submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

ii. Review, Scoring and Ranking Process for the Concept Proposals

The State Water Board’s staff will assess the CPs for completeness and eligibility. Each complete and eligible CP will be reviewed by a panel representing staff of one or more Regional Water Boards, the State Water Board, and USEPA. Reviewers will use the scoring criteria included in these guidelines, and record reviews with tools in the FAAST System. Following the panel review, all complete and eligible CPs will be ranked by consensus of Regional Water Board, State Water Board and USEPA staff.

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Scoring and ranking will be based on how well the applicant addresses the following criteria:

- Responds to information requested in the RFP
- Describes how the proposed project will contribute to implementation of an adopted or nearly adopted TMDL.
- Describes how the proposed project will make a measurable contribution towards achieving water quality goals in the TMDL(s) and, as applicable, Measure “W” Watersheds ([Appendix J](#));
- Describes how the project will contribute to holistic water quality management in the targeted watershed.
- Identifies the target watershed’s stream miles and area, and the portion of the watershed (percent miles or area) that the project will affect.
- Demonstrates that the project is technically feasible and appropriate;
- Illustrates how the project meets the NPS Program Preferences ([Section II](#));
- Shows readiness to proceed;
- Specifies an estimated measurable pollutant load reduction, if the project is an implementation project;
- Identifies the planning and/or assessment projects (by project name, author, date, and web link) that individually or collectively represent comprehensive watershed planning of projects that, when implemented, are expected to achieve the water quality goals of a TMDL in a NPS Program Preferences watershed ([Table 3](#)).

Following the consensus recommendations of the CP reviewers, State Water Board staff will group the eligible and ranked CPs on the list into two categories:

- a. Applicants who will be invited to submit a FP; and
- b. Applicants who will not be invited to submit FP.

Applicants who submitted the most competitive, eligible CPs will be invited to submit FPs to a level of at least 125% of available grant funds. The list of CPs invited to submit FPs will be posted on the State Water Board’s Division of Financial Assistance, [Federal 319 Program](#) website and notification e-mails will be sent to all applicants.

For each eligible CP reviewed, the CP review panelists will provide specific comments in FFAST. Comments will be provided to applicants who are selected to submit a FP. The applicant will be required to address these comments in their FP, and will have the opportunity to discuss CP comments with the panelists when developing the FP.

B. SOLICITATION, SUBMITTAL AND REVIEW OF THE FULL PROPOSALS

i. Solicitation and Submittal Process of the Full Proposals

Solicitation for FPs will be by invitation only to applicants with the highest ranking CPs. Projects for which FPs are submitted will be ranked based on their ability to either:

- Produce measurable load reduction in an adopted or nearly adopted TMDL watershed identified in the NPS Program Preferences ([Table 3](#)); or
- Complete planning /assessment projects that contribute to a comprehensive watershed plan to implement projects needed to achieve the water quality goals of the TMDL in a watershed identified in the NPS Program Preferences ([Section II](#) and [Table 3](#)).

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The FP review process will also be competitive, since the total amount of funding requested for the projects invited back to submit a FP will exceed the total available funding (approximately \$4.5 million). The FP Solicitation Notice will include information on the due date and time for FP submittals, and will provide detailed instructions on the mechanics of submitting the FP.

The FP will require the applicant to expand upon the information provided in the CP submitted previously, in order to provide the level of detail needed to make final grant award recommendations and funding decisions and to help expedite the grant agreement process. The more detailed, concise, and specific the scope of work in the FP, the more quickly and easily State and Regional Water Boards staff can develop the grant agreement, should the project be selected for funding.

Applications must include all required elements specified in the FP Solicitation Notice. All applications, including attachments and supporting documentation, must be provided by the submittal deadline. Any material submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed. Incomplete FPs will be considered to be non-responsive to the solicitation and will not be reviewed.

Applications may include attachments with supplemental materials such as watershed plans, design plans and specifications, detailed cost estimates, feasibility studies, pilot projects, additional maps, geographic information system (GIS) shape files, diagrams, letters of support, copies of agreements, or other applicable items. All supporting documentation is required in an electronic format through FFAST, unless specified otherwise.

ii. Review, Scoring, and Ranking Process for the Full Proposals

At the FP stage, proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the information provided in the FP, without regard to the original CP score. However, the FPs will be evaluated for consistency with the information submitted in the CP. Major changes to the scope of work may disqualify the FP or affect its competitiveness.

Review of FPs will consist of substantially the same process outlined for the review of the CPs. Each complete and eligible FP will be independently reviewed by staff of each participating Regional Water Board, State Water Board and USEPA. Following independent reviews of the FPs, NPS staff from Regional Water Board, State Water Board and USEPA will form a FP Selection Panel who will collectively evaluate and rank FPs and make recommendation for grant selection. Staff will review, evaluate and recommend projects based on the following criteria:

- Project's potential to make a significant contribution toward implementation of an adopted or nearly adopted TMDL;
- Project's proposal clearly describes water quality and NPS-related land use issues in the watershed;
- Proposed project will improve water quality in a watershed identified in the NPS Program Preferences ([Table 3](#));
- Project's proposal includes thorough information demonstrating that the project is technically feasible and appropriate,
- Proposal describes how the project will contribute to holistic water quality management in the targeted watershed.
- Proposal identifies the target watershed's overall land area and stream miles, and the portion of the watershed (percent miles or area) that the project will affect;
- Proposed project will make a measurable contribution toward achieving water quality goals specified in one or more TMDLs and address a Measure "W" Watershed ([Appendix J](#));

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- Proposed project's Scope of Work, Budget and Timeline are thorough, detailed and consistent with one another;
- For implementation projects:
 - The applicant specifies the proposed project's estimated pollutant load reduction;
 - The applicant has a method for operating and maintaining the project following the term of the grant;
- For planning/assessment projects:
 - The proposed project will contribute to completion of comprehensive watershed planning needed to implement a TMDL or address known NPS water quality impairments; and/or,
 - The proposed project includes filling identified information gaps necessary to complete the comprehensive watershed planning needed to implement a TMDL or address known NPS water quality impairments; and/or,
 - The proposed project will conduct assessment(s) necessary to complete comprehensive watershed planning needed to implement a TMDL or address known NPS water quality impairments.
- Applicant's readiness to proceed (e.g., secured match, California Environmental Quality Act requirements in process, and landowner access approval obtained [if required for the project, etc.]).
- Thoroughness of the draft Grant Agreement
- The applicant's past grant performance and track record.

The Selection Panel may recommend reducing individual grant awards from the requested amount. Reductions will be considered if reviewers have indicated in their review comments that the proposed project's budget is excessive, that some tasks are not necessary or eligible, or if the Selection Panel considers and decides that some portions of the project are more ready to proceed or more appropriate for the CWA 319(h) grant program than other portions of the project. A recommendation for reduction would also be weighed against whether the reduced funding would impede successful project implementation.

C. GRANT AGREEMENT

Successful grant applicants will work with their Regional Water Board's NPS program and grant coordinators, assisted by State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance staff, in the development of the grant agreements for their project. Procedures and rules for developing the grant agreement are located in the template on the Financial Assistance Program – Grant and Loans webpage (See [Appendix H](#)). See [Grant Agreement Information](#) for more details.

D. REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS

Only direct costs related to the project are allowed. Only work performed within the terms and Scope of Work of the grant agreement will be eligible for reimbursement. Education/outreach is an eligible reimbursable expense only if it is a secondary component of a project. Reimbursable costs include the reasonable costs for engineering, design, legal fees, preparation of environmental documentation, environmental mitigation, and project implementation.

Costs that are not reimbursable with grant funding include, but are not limited to:

- a. Costs, other than those noted above, incurred outside the terms of the grant agreement with the State;
- b. Operation and maintenance costs;
- c. Purchase of equipment not an integral part of the project;

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- d. Establishing a reserve fund;
- e. Replacement of existing funding sources for ongoing programs;
- f. Expenses incurred in preparation of the CP and FP; and
- g. Payment of principal or interest of existing indebtedness or any interest payments unless the debt is incurred within the terms of the grant agreement with the State, the granting agency agrees in writing to the eligibility of the costs for reimbursement before the debt is incurred, and the purposes for which the debt is incurred are otherwise reimbursable project costs.

Advance funds will not be provided. Funding match requirements are discussed in [Section I.B.](#)

IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

General requirements are located on the Financial Assistance Program – Grant and Loans webpage. General requirements include Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality, CEQA Compliance, Basin Plan Consistency, Related Litigation, Project Assessment and Evaluation Plans, Monitoring and Assessment, Data Management, and Grant Manager Notification. (See [General Requirements](#))