

## **Area of Special Biological Significant (ASBS) Questions and Answers from Guideline Scoping Workshops**

**1. When will the Guidelines be completed?**

We hope to complete and adopt the Guidelines by Spring 2008. Prior to the adoption of Guidelines, we will have a public comment period on draft Guidelines.

**2. Can a local agency apply for funds from both Clean Beach Initiative (CBI) and ASBS funds?**

Yes. An agency could apply for grants under both CBI and ASBS grant programs. There is no restriction under either program that precludes an applicant to apply for one and not the other.

**3. Who is qualified to apply for ASBS grant funds under Proposition 84?**

Under Proposition 84, only Local Public Agencies are eligible for ASBS funding. The Public Resources Code defines Local Public Agency as “any city, county, city and county, or district.”

**4. Can school districts, resource conservation districts, universities and State agencies apply for Proposition 84 funds?**

As indicated above, under Proposition 84 only Local Public Agencies can apply for funds.

- School districts are considered local public agencies and can apply for funds.
- Universities and State agencies are not considered local public agencies and cannot apply for funds.
- Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) can be considered local public agencies and can apply as such. RCDs cannot apply as State agencies.

**5. If CEQA is already completed, can CEQA activities be used as a match?**

Guidelines for this program will define activities and expenses that can be used as match as well as the time period for reimbursement of expenses and use of match. The State Water Board typically allows CEQA expenses to be claimed as match to encourage planning and environmental review.

**6. If the grant fund is limited to one cycle, what stage of readiness do you expect the projects to be?**

Once the Project is awarded a grant, the Grantee should be ready to implement and complete the Project within the terms of the approved grant agreement. The Guidelines will specify the readiness criteria and when the Project planning and CEQA must be completed.

**7. Can Proposition 84 funds be used for dry weather diversions?**

Yes, they can be used for dry weather diversion projects that reduce or eliminate discharges to ASBS.

**8. Can Proposition 84 funds be used for irrigation control measures, such as smart controller projects?**

Yes, provided that they reduce or eliminate discharges to ASBS.

**9. Can Proposition 84 funds be used for the purchase of street sweepers?**

Yes, provided that the project will have a water quality benefit of at least 20years and reduce or eliminate discharges to ASBS.

**10. Does the Water Board have the discretion to waive the Proposition 84 matching fund requirements?**

No, the State Water Board does not have the discretion to waive the match requirement. However, the State Water Board can specify in the Guidelines the percentage of match required and allow for Disadvantaged Communities to have their match reduced.

**11. Can Proposition 84 funds be used for education and outreach type of projects/activities?**

No, education projects do not qualify for bond funds. The State Water Board could allow match funds to be used for education.