



DROUGHT RESPONSE OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS PROPOSAL SOLICITATION NOTICE

APPLICATIONS DUE THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015 BY 5:00 P.M.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Financial Assistance is accepting applications for the Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS). The DROPS program will award grants to projects that reduce stormwater pollution and provide multiple benefits including water conservation, water supply augmentation, energy savings, increased awareness of water resource sustainability, and reduced dry weather runoff.

Funding Available

Approximately \$25.5 million of funding is available. Minimum and maximum grant award amounts, along with funding match requirements, are based on a sliding scale according to number of students served by the school district or county office of education (COE).

SCHOOL DISTRICT OR COE SIZE	GRANT AMOUNT		MINIMUM MATCH AMOUNT REQUIREMENT*
	Minimum	Maximum	
Fewer than 2,000 students	\$50,000	\$124,999	10%
Between 2,000 and 10,000 students	\$125,000	\$999,999	15%
Between 10,001 and 50,000 students	\$125,000	\$2,000,000	15% if < \$1,000,000 20% if = or > \$1,000,000
More than 50,000 students	\$200,000	\$2,500,000	15% if < \$1,000,000 20% if = or > \$1,000,000

*Percentage is based on total project costs

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), limited to: K-12 school districts (Districts), county offices of education (COEs), Federally Recognized Tribes in California with Tribal K-12 school(s) (only Proposition 13 Watershed funds), and K-12 charter schools located on publicly-owned property.

Other public agencies or eligible Tribal designees interested in applying on behalf of a school district or Tribe may do so if pre-approved by the Division. Such requests must be submitted to the Division by December 15, 2014 to be considered. Division staff may require documentation of the relationship of the public agency or eligible Tribal designee to the school district or Tribe such as a resolution or Memorandum of Understanding.

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Project Types

Eligible projects must:

- Focus on stormwater pollution reduction, retention, and use or recharge;
- Implement Low Impact Development (LID) strategies and practices that seek to maintain predevelopment hydrology;
- Reduce and/or prevent stormwater contamination;
- Increase understanding of the project's environmental benefits and the sustainability of California's water resources; and,
- Be located on existing school or COE-owned or leased property, Tribal lands or property leased by Tribe(s), or on publicly-owned property immediately adjacent to school or COE-owned or leased property.

Program Guidelines

Eligibility, general program requirements, and the proposal selection process are detailed in the *Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools Guidelines (Guidelines)*, which are available at:

<http://waterboards.ca.gov/drops>.

Solicitation Process

The Proposals will be scored by technical reviewers from the State and Regional Water Boards as well as other State agencies and/or organizations with applicable expertise, using the criteria outlined in the *Guidelines*.

The Proposal application period opens on Thursday, September 11, 2014. All applicants requesting funds from DROPS must submit a complete application by **5:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 15, 2015** using the State Water Board's on-line Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) at: <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov>. In FAAST, locate the DROPS application by selecting the "2014 Drought Response Outreach Program For Schools (DROPS)" from the Active RFP list.

We strongly recommend that applicants submit their applications early to avoid disqualification. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

Proposal Workshops

The State Water Board will hold public workshops to describe the proposal and grant application process. An announcement of the date and location of the workshops will be sent to the DROPS electronic mailing list and posted on the DROPS web page.

FAAST Questions

Please contact FAAST staff by phone at (866) 434-1083, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., or by email at FAAST_Admin@waterboards.ca.gov for questions about the application submittal.

Program Contact

If you require additional information on DROPS, please contact Jeffrey Albrecht (Jeffrey.Albrecht@waterboards.ca.gov or 916-341-5717) or Lori Schmitz (Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov or 916-341-5903).