

“Helpful Hints” for Proposition 1 (Prop 1) Groundwater Grant Program (GWGP) Round 3 Solicitation for Implementation Projects

General Information

This document is intended to provide a snapshot of useful information, but is not all encompassing. Applicants are expected to review the [Prop 1 GWGP Guidelines](#) before submitting a Concept Proposal through the [Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool \(FAAST\)](#).

If you do not already have the Concept Proposal attachments, please send an email request to gwquality.funding@waterboards.ca.gov and include “Prop 1 Concept Proposal (Attachments and Templates) Request” in the email subject line.

Applicants are also advised to sign up for [email notifications](#) to receive program updates.

Eligibility

In general, projects that will cleanup or prevent contamination of groundwater that serves or has served as a source of drinking water are eligible for Prop 1 GWGP funds. Please note the following, and refer to the section of the [Prop 1 GWGP Guidelines](#) noted in parentheses for more information:

- Eligible applicants include public agencies, non-profit organizations, public utilities, tribes, and mutual water companies (Section 4).
- Contamination in groundwater is defined, and is typically tied to exceedances of a primary Maximum Contaminant Level or notification level (Appendix A).
- Costs that identified responsible parties are able and willing to pay are not eligible (Section 9).
- Typical match is 50% of the total project cost, with reductions considered for disadvantaged communities (Section 5).

For Round 3, DFA staff is not accepting applications for planning projects. Implementation proposals should demonstrate positive, quantifiable environmental outcomes, and consistency with the Prop 1 GWGP Guidelines. Full design is not necessarily required for the award of implementation funds but the intent, scope, and budget for the project should be reasonably well developed, at least at a conceptual level.

Examples of Eligible Projects Funded in Round 1 and 2

Implementation projects awarded funds during Rounds 1 and 2 include primarily extraction and treatment systems, as well as seawater intrusion prevention projects, and well abandonment projects. Applicants are encouraged to review the [list of awarded projects](#) for more information.

Project Timelines

In completing Concept Proposals, applicants should assume that Round 3 projects must be completed by March 2024. As needed, DFA will provide further direction to applicants in the invitation for Full Proposals.

Cost Eligibility

Eligible costs incurred after November 4, 2014 may be claimed for match. Reimbursement of eligible costs will not occur until after agreement execution. The grant agreement will indicate the eligible start date, after which eligible reimbursable costs may be incurred. For the purposes of the Concept

Proposal, applicants can assume an eligible start date of July 1, 2022. Keep in mind that indirect costs, overhead, contingency, as well as operations and maintenance costs are not eligible expenses. See more on ineligible costs in Section 10 of the Prop 1 GWGP Guidelines.

Coordination with Regulatory Agencies

Division of Financial Assistance staff will coordinate with regulatory agencies in reviewing proposals to ensure that proposed projects are considered a high priority. In developing projects, potential applicants are encouraged to coordinate with local regulatory staff, including the Division of Drinking Water, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Department of Toxic Substances Control, etc.

Other Related Funding Sources

Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP)

The Prop 1 GWGP is closely coordinated with the [SCAP](#). SCAP funds can also be utilized to remediate groundwater contamination, but for human-made contaminants only. Typically work must be implemented consistent with a regulatory agency issued directive, and projects are only SCAP-eligible if the responsible party lacks financial resources to complete the work. Eligible recipients differ from the Prop 1 GWGP, and may include individuals or businesses.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

Prop 1 GWGP eligibility is largely focused on funding projects that will cleanup or prevent contamination in the aquifer, but additionally allows for grants to eligible disadvantaged communities for implementation projects that treat groundwater for direct potable use, with no cleanup or remediation of the aquifer. Typically this is only considered if the nature and extent of contamination is not conducive to cleanup in the aquifer. These projects are considered “drinking water treatment” projects, and may also be eligible for grants and loans through the DWSRF. Applicants for these projects should not complete the Prop 1 GWGP solicitation and should instead apply to the [DWSRF Program](#). DFA staff will coordinate on Prop 1 GWGP eligibility and joint funding opportunities.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

The Prop 1 GWGP can also provide grants to disadvantaged communities for wastewater projects, including septic-to-sewer projects that will prevent or reduce contamination of groundwater. These projects may also be eligible for grants and loans through the CWSRF. Applicants for these projects should not complete the Prop 1 GWGP solicitation and should instead apply to the [CWSRF Program](#). DFA staff will coordinate on Prop 1 GWGP eligibility and joint funding opportunities.