

***Proposition 4***  
***US Mexico Border Grant Program***  
***Guidelines***

FINAL  
[PUBLISH DATE]



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## OVERVIEW

The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Prop 4) was approved by California voters in the general election on November 4, 2024. Among other funds, Prop 4 provided \$50 million for Grants to Projects that will address water quality problems arising in the California-Mexico cross border rivers and coastal waters. Funds may be made available to Projects that are consistent with the Tijuana River Plan (California Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 71107) and the New River Water Quality, Public Health and River Parkway Development Program (PRC Section 71103.6). Proposition 4 allows up to seven percent (7%) for administrative cost and there are additional statewide bond costs. After accounting for these costs, there is \$46,151,000 available for eligible Projects.

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requires state agencies to follow certain procedures when adopting any rule of general application which implements the law, unless an exemption to the APA applies (Government Code section 11340 et seq.). While Prop 4 did not originally provide an exemption to the APA, it did permit the rules and guidelines which govern Prop 4 funds to be adopted as emergency regulations in a streamlined method of APA compliance (PRC section 90135(e)). However, on February 20, 2026, Assembly Bill 107 was signed into law, exempting any guidelines and selection criteria governing the Budget Act of 2025 appropriations of Prop 4 funds from the APA. This exemption applies to the total \$46,151,000 of US Mexico Border Funding, which was appropriated in its entirety by the Budget Act of 2025 (see section 166 of Assembly Bill 105). Therefore, no promulgation of emergency regulations is required for the US Mexico Border Funding Program, and this Guidelines document will serve as the sole legal framework governing project solicitation and evaluation for the Prop 4 US-Mexico Border Funding Program.

### I. SOLICITATIONS

The Division will solicit Applications as outlined in Appendix A and B. All Applications will be evaluated for eligibility, technical merit, and readiness to proceed. The Applications will be ranked by applying the scoring criteria in Appendix C. Applicants with the highest ranked Applications will be recommended for a preliminary funding award and be required to submit the supplemental documentation outlined in Appendix D. For more information, refer to Section III – Project Selection Process of these guidelines.

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#### A. PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

A total of \$46,151,000 in Prop 4 funds will be available under PRC Section 91032 to fund planning, research and implementation Projects. Funding will be awarded to the Projects that score highest until funding has been exhausted. The grant maximums for each Project Type are listed in the table below.

Type of Project	Minimum Grant per Project	Maximum Grant per Project
Research or Planning <sup>1</sup>	\$250,000	\$750,000
Implementation	\$2,000,000	\$10,000,000

<sup>1</sup>Of the total amount available under this program, no more than \$3 million will be utilized for planning or research funding.

### II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Funding eligibility is based on Applicant type, Project Type, and ability to address water quality problems arising in the California-Mexico cross-border rivers and coastal waters. Applications will be evaluated for compliance with the eligibility requirements. Applications that do not meet all eligibility requirements will not be reviewed or considered for funding.

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## A. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants per Prop 4 (PRC Section 90110) include:

- Public agencies;
  - Local agencies;
  - 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations;
  - Special districts;
  - Joint powers authorities;
  - Public utilities;
  - Federally recognized Native American Tribes;
  - Non-federally recognized California Native American Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's Tribal Consultation List;
  - Local publicly owned utilities; and
  - Mutual water companies.
- Funding may be awarded to bilateral financial institutions as a state match only after federally committed funds have been secured and are available for expenditure on a one-to-one basis (Section 91032 (j) (3))

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## B. PROJECT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Projects must address water quality problems arising in the California-Mexico cross-border rivers and coastal waters.

Grants awarded under this subdivision for Projects located outside of California shall have a documented water quality benefit to California and its residents.

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## C. DISADVANTAGED REQUIREMENTS

PRC Section 90140 requires that at least forty percent (40%) of the Prop 4 funds shall be allocated for Projects that directly benefit a DAC or a vulnerable population, and that at least ten percent (10%) of the Prop 4 funds shall be allocated for Projects that directly benefit a severely DAC (SDAC). The 10% SDAC requirement is included within the 40% DAC requirement, not in addition to it. More information on the definitions of DAC, and SDAC, and vulnerable population is provided in Appendix E.

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) has provided guidance on how to demonstrate that Projects are providing a direct and meaningful benefit to DACs or vulnerable populations. The Meaningful and Direct Benefit Guidance document is located:

<https://bondaccountability.resources.ca.gov/docs/Prop4BenefitsAssessment.pdf>

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## D. MATCH

Only bilateral financial institutions must provide a 50% federal match to the committed Grant funds. All other applicants are not required to provide a funding match, but priority will be given to Projects that leverage private, federal, and local funding. If the total Project cost is higher than the maximum grant amount or the grant amount requested, the applicant will need to provide information on the source of the additional funds to complete the Project. Sources of additional funds do not need to be secured at time of Application submittal but will need to be secured prior to the start of construction of an Implementation Project. No disbursement of construction funds will occur until all the additional funding has been secured. The purpose of collecting the information is to ensure that sufficient funds are available for the completion of the Implementation Project.

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Prop 4 states that priority shall be given to Projects that leverage private, federal, and local funding or produce the greatest public benefit. Applicants providing a funding match at a minimum of 5% of the total Project cost will receive additional points during scoring. For bilateral financial institutions that must provide a match of 50% per statutory requirements, the match required to receive additional points must be above the required amount.

### III. PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Projects will be selected through a competitive process. Applications will be evaluated by State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) staff for completeness, eligibility, technical merit, long-term viability, and readiness to proceed. Technical merit will prioritize Projects that achieve load reductions of bacteria or trash, Projects that address public health issues associated with transboundary pollution, restoration and mitigation projects, and sediment management Projects. The scoring criteria are found in Appendix C. DFA's Deputy Director will award funds to the highest ranked Applications until all funding is exhausted. The Deputy Director may partially fund a Project if the review indicates that a Project does not qualify for the full amount of funding sought or when there are more qualified Projects requesting Grant funds beyond what is available.

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#### A. APPLICANT ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS

State Water Board staff will conduct a workshop(s) to address questions and provide general assistance to applicants in preparing their Applications. The workshop will be online and the date will be posted on the Prop 4 US Mexico Border web page ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/swgp/prop4/us-mexico-border](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/swgp/prop4/us-mexico-border)), as well as State Water Board web page ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/calendar](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar)).

Interested parties and potential applicants can sign up for the US Mexico Border electronic mailing list to be notified of future workshops and other Program updates. The sign up for the mailing list is located at the web page below:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/subscribe>

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#### B. SOLICITATION AND SUBMITTAL OF PROPOSALS

The State Water Board staff will issue the solicitation notice after these Guidelines are adopted by the State Water Board. The solicitation notice will include the application period, due date, and detailed instructions regarding the technological aspects of submitting the Proposals through the State Water Board's Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) online system.

The solicitation notice will be e-mailed to all interested parties on the State Water Board's "Mexico Borders Funding Program" electronic mailing list. Interested parties may sign up for the electronic mailing list at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/subscribe>

Applications will be submitted using the FAAST online system. Application details and scoring criteria are available in Appendix B. The FAAST Applications will be available following issuance of the solicitation notices, at:

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

State Water Board staff may make minor changes during final preparation of the Application for the FAAST system. No substantive changes will be made to the Application or the scoring/evaluation criteria. The intent of these Guidelines is to give Applicants an understanding of the types of information that will be required in the solicitation process. **Applicants must rely on the questions as they appear in the FAAST Questionnaire.**

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All Proposals must be submitted in FAAST by the posted date and time deadline. In case of technical problems that prevent an Applicant from successfully submitting an Application, State Water Board staff may use discretion to remedy the situation.

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### C. COMPLETENESS AND ELIGIBILITY REVIEW

Applications must include all required items and be submitted by the deadline. State Water Board staff will screen Applications for completeness. **Incomplete Applications will not be reviewed or considered for funding.** Applicants with incomplete Applications will be notified.

Complete Applications will be assessed for eligibility. All Applications must meet eligibility criteria (Appendix A and B). **Ineligible Applications will not be reviewed or considered for funding.** Applicants with ineligible proposals will be notified.

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### D. TECHNICAL REVIEW

State Water Board staff will conduct a technical review of all complete and eligible Applications based on the criteria in [Appendix C: Application Evaluation](#). State Water Board staff will consult with Regional Water Board staff during technical review.

State Water Board staff may recommend reducing individual Grant amounts from the requested amount. However, such reductions will be considered only if technical reviewers have indicated that the budget is too high, or some tasks are determined to be ineligible for the Grant program or are not necessary. A reduction would also be weighed against whether the reduced funding would impede Project implementation or if the proposed budget is determined inconsistent with similar Projects. A reduction in requested Grant funds can also occur when the Grant funds requested by well-qualified Projects exceed the amount of funding available.

The Applications will be ranked based on a technical review by the State Water Board staff and Regional Water Board staff (Water Board staff); only the highest-ranked Applications will be recommended to the DFA's Deputy Director for funding (Recommended Funding List). The Deputy Director of DFA will ensure that at least one project from each river is represented in the Funding List. If the Deputy Director identifies any potential errors, omissions, or inconsistencies in the Water Board staff's completeness and eligibility or technical review, the Deputy Director will require Water Board staff to address any errors, omissions, or inconsistencies and resubmit the Recommended Funding List to the Deputy Director for consideration. In the event of a tie between projects and insufficient funds for both projects, the Deputy Director will evaluate the cumulative water quality impacts and project benefits to determine which project will be included on the Funding List. After the Deputy Director determines that the Recommended Funding List has been prepared in a manner consistent with these Guidelines, the Deputy Director will approve the Recommended Funding List and establish a corresponding Final Funding List. The Final Funding List will include any final decisions regarding reductions in requested funding. The DFA Deputy Director will also establish a list of eligible standby Projects that may be awarded Grant funds if funding becomes available. Applicants selected for funding will have ninety (90) days after the award to submit all applicable supplemental documentation listed in Appendix D and/or the Preliminary Funding Notification. If all required documentation is not submitted within this timeframe, the funding award may be withdrawn. If funding is withdrawn, the next highest ranked Project may be selected for funding or the Deputy Director of DFA may increase the funding awarded to already selected Projects, depending on which decision will bring about the greatest water quality benefits. Any Project-specific Grant increases must fund activities which complement or further the goals of the already selected Project.

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### E. APPLICANT NOTIFICATION

State Water Board staff will distribute the Recommended Funding List through our electronic mailing list and post it on the Program web page.

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Preliminary Funding Notifications will be sent to those Applicants selected for Grant funds. The Preliminary Funding Notifications will include important information to aid the Funding Agreement process and will include a request for supplemental information needed to proceed to a Funding Agreement. Anticipated Required Supplemental Documentation is included in Appendix D.

#### IV. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All Applicants that are awarded a grant per these Guidelines must comply with the following general program requirements. Before proceeding with the Application process, Applicants should consider their ability to comply with these requirements.

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##### A. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Applicants are subject to State and local conflict of interest laws. Failure to comply with these laws, including business and financial disclosure provisions, may result in an Application being rejected and any subsequent Funding Agreement being declared void. Other legal action may also be taken. Before submitting an application, applicants should seek legal counsel regarding conflict-of-interest requirements. Applicable statutes include, but are not limited to, California Government Code sections 1090 and 87100, and California Public Contract Code sections 10410 and 10411.

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##### B. CONFIDENTIALITY

Any privacy rights, as well as other confidentiality protections afforded by law with respect to the Application package, will be waived to the extent consistent with California law once the Application has been submitted to the State Water Board.

The location of all Projects awarded funding, including the locations of management measures, practices implemented, and monitoring locations, must be reported to the State Water Board and will be available to the public, including internet-accessible databases. See item G of the General Program Requirements Section for additional information on monitoring and reporting requirements.

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##### C. LABOR CODE COMPLIANCE

Recipients are bound by all applicable provisions of the Labor Code regarding prevailing wages and shall monitor all contracts subject to reimbursement from the Funding Agreement to assure that the prevailing wage provisions of the Labor Code are being met.

Before submitting an Application, Applicants should seek legal counsel regarding Labor Code compliance. See the California Department of Industrial Relations website (<http://www.dir.ca.gov/lcp.asp>) for more information.

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##### D. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) COMPLIANCE

All Projects in California funded through the Prop 4 US Mexico Border Program must comply with the CEQA. State Water Board selection of a Project for a grant does not indicate that the consideration of alternatives or mitigation measures that would reduce or eliminate adverse environmental effects of that Project is adequate. **No implementation work may proceed until the State Water Board completes its own CEQA findings.**

During the CEQA process for the release, consideration, and adoption of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report for a Project, the CEQA Lead Agency shall comply with all requirements for notification of and/or consultation with a California Native American Tribe, where the Project is in geographic area traditionally and culturally associated with the Tribe (PRC section 21080.3.1, 75102).

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Prop 4 funding for this Program allows grants for Projects located outside of California. Such projects must have documented water quality benefits to California and its residents. If a Project outside of California is selected for funding, CEQA will not apply and the Project must comply with local environmental regulations.

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#### E. RELATED LITIGATION

A Recipient cannot use funds from any disbursement under a Funding Agreement to pay costs associated with any litigation the Recipient pursues. Regardless of whether the Project is the subject of litigation, the Recipient agrees to complete the Project funded by the Funding Agreement or to repay all Grant funds plus interest.

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#### F. PROJECT ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION PLANS (PAEPS) AND MONITORING PLANS

Recipients are required to assess and report on Project effectiveness, which may include, but is not limited to, qualitative assessments such as determining volume of wastewater diverted from either the Tijuana River or New River, water quality improvement based on monitoring data, volume of sediment removed, or volume of trash removed.

All Projects selected for funding must draft a PAEP table that summarizes how Project performance will be assessed, evaluated, and reported. The goals of a PAEP are to:

- Provide a framework for assessment and evaluation of Project performance;
- Identify measures that can be used to monitor progress towards achieving Project goals and desired outcomes; and
- Provide a tool for Recipients and DFA Project Managers to monitor and measure Project progress and guide final Project performance reporting that will fulfill the Funding Agreement requirements.

Recipients must submit an updated PAEP after the Funding Agreement is executed. Recipients must notify their DFA Project Manager if the submitted PAEP needs revisions during the course of the Funding Agreement. The PAEP must include a summary of Project goals, the appropriate performance measures to track the Project progress, and measurable targets that the Recipient thinks are feasible to meet during the Project period. The PAEP is not intended to be a monitoring plan. A PAEP template that the Recipient may elect to use will be provided by the assigned Project Manager for convenience.

If Project effectiveness is being evaluated through water quality monitoring, the Recipient must prepare a Monitoring Plan (MP). The MP must include a description of the monitoring program and objectives, types of constituents to be monitored, methodology, the frequency and duration of monitoring, and the sampling location for the monitoring activities. Guidance on the MP will be provided by the assigned Project Manager. If the Applicant is relying on data for an established monitoring program that is already in place, such as County Beach water quality monitoring, a new MP will not be required.

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#### G. REPORTING

Each Recipient is required to submit quarterly progress reports that detail activities that have occurred during the applicable reporting period. Reporting is required even if no Grant-related activities took place during the reporting period. At the conclusion of the Project, the Recipient must submit a comprehensive Final Project Report. A Template or an example will be provided by the Project Manager for the Recipient's convenience.

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#### H. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The Recipient shall maintain and operate the facility and structures constructed or improved as part of the Project throughout the useful life of the Project, consistent with the purposes for which this grant was made. The Recipient assumes all operations and maintenance (O&M) costs of the facilities and structures; the State Water Board shall not

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be liable for any cost of such maintenance, management, or operation. Operation costs include direct costs incurred for material and labor needed for operations, utilities, insurance, and similar expenses.

Maintenance costs include ordinary repairs and replacements of a recurring nature necessary to prolong the life of capital assets and basic structures, and the expenditure of funds necessary to replace or reconstruct capital assets or basic structures. DFA may require the Recipient to periodically report on long-term operation and maintenance during the useful life of funded Projects and require the Recipient to submit supporting documentation, photos, or other materials, as deemed appropriate by DFA, and at the Recipient's expense. A Recipient's failure to operate and maintain a Project throughout its useful life may constitute a breach of the Funding Agreement.

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## I. SIGNAGE, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH

As indicated in Public Resources Code section 90050(b) and to the extent practicable, **all Projects must include signage** informing the public that the Project received funds from Prop 4. Other education and outreach costs that are directly related to an Implementation Project may be eligible for reimbursement if a direct correlation between the education and outreach activities, the implementation of the Project, and expected Project benefits from the education and outreach are clearly identified.

## V. ADDITIONAL WATER CODE REQUIREMENTS

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### A. URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING ACT COMPLIANCE

Water suppliers who are required by the Urban Water Management Planning Act (Water Code section 10610 *et seq.*) to submit an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) must have submitted a complete UWMP to be eligible for Grant funding. Applicants and any Cooperating Entities that are urban water suppliers and have Projects that would receive Grant funding through this program must have a UWMP that has been verified as complete by DWR before a Funding Agreement will be executed.

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### B. AGRICULTURE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN COMPLIANCE

Agricultural water suppliers are not eligible for any water grant or loan awarded or administered by the State *unless* the supplier complies with the water conservation requirements outlined in Water Code section 10608, *et seq.* of Division 6, Part 2.55, and Water Code section 10800, *et seq.* of Division 6, Part 2.8, which requires submittal of an Agricultural Water Management Plan (AWMP) to DWR.

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### C. SURFACE WATER DIVERSION REPORTING COMPLIANCE

A diverter of surface water is not eligible for a water grant or loan awarded or administered by the State *unless* it complies with surface water diversion reporting requirements as outlined in Part 5.1 (commencing with section 5100) of Division 2 of the Water Code.

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### D. WATER METERING COMPLIANCE

All Applicants must submit a self-certification form regarding water metering prior to execution of a Funding Agreement. Any Applicant that is an urban water supplier and applies for financial assistance from the State for a water use efficiency Project or for a permit for a new or expanded water supply, shall demonstrate that the Applicant complies with water metering provisions of Division 1, Chapter 8, Article 3.5 of the California Water Code (sections 525 through 529.7).

## VI. FUNDING AGREEMENT

Following funding awards, the State Water Board may execute Funding Agreements with awardees. Funding Agreements are not executed until signed by authorized representatives of the Recipient and the State Water Board.

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It is **HIGHLY recommended** that Applicants review the Funding Agreement template prior to submission of their Application. If Applicants are not able to abide by the terms and conditions contained therein, Applicants should not submit an Application. A copy of a Funding Agreement template will be posted prior to opening the funding solicitations on the US Mexico Border Program webpage.

Applicants with Implementation Projects and some Planning or Research Projects will be required to submit, to the satisfaction of DFA and DFA's counsel, a legal opinion from their legal counsel upon their signature of the Funding Agreement. A sample template for this legal opinion will be available on the US Mexico Border Program webpage.

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## A. REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS

Only costs directly related to a Project and work performed within the terms of a Funding Agreement will be eligible for reimbursement with Grant funds. Indirect Costs may be eligible for reimbursement with Grant funds if the reimbursement takes place in compliance with section 90133 of the Public Resources Code. A Funding Agreement will define a start and end date based on a Project's estimated schedule; expenses must be incurred within this date range to be eligible for reimbursement. The start date for a Project must be on or after November 5, 2024.

For Implementation Projects, eligible costs for construction activities will not be reimbursed until after any CEQA and other environmental review documents, permits, and access negotiations which are necessary for such construction activities are complete and relevant deliverables submitted.

Advance Pay may be requested for projects that benefit DACs or SDACs. A maximum of 25% of the total grant amount may be requested in advance. Recipients requesting Advance Pay must comply with the following document:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/sustainable\\_water\\_solutions/docs/2024/dfa-advance-payment-process-guidelines.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/docs/2024/dfa-advance-payment-process-guidelines.pdf). Costs eligible for reimbursement with Grant funds include the reasonable costs necessary for successful Project implementation, including but not limited to:

- Project administration and management;
- Site assessment and planning;
- Engineering, including preparation of design plans and specifications;
- Permitting and preparation of CEQA and/or other environmental documentation;
- Easement and land purchases, except land acquired through eminent domain;
- Project implementation or construction, including eligible and reasonable costs for:
  - Restoration of site conditions after implementation;
  - Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (section 12101 *et seq.* of title 42 of the U.S. Code);
  - Installation of traffic control features, such as speed bumps, bike lanes, and bulb-outs, if they contribute to a quantifiable benefit, or are necessary to mitigate safety concerns that are caused by implementation of the Project; and
  - Components necessary for long-term monitoring;
- Water quality monitoring and assessment within the term of the Funding Agreement;
- Equipment needed for water quality monitoring and/or project effectiveness;
- Software or programs needed for project implementation and/or monitoring;
- Personal Protective Equipment, tools, and safety supplies;
- Workforce education and training, contractor, and job opportunities for vulnerable populations (PRC section 90610); and
- Education, outreach and coordination necessary for successful Project implementation.

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

- Costs, other than those noted above, incurred outside the terms of the Funding Agreement with the State Water Board;

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- Costs for maintenance, management, and operation beyond initial startup;
  - Education and outreach not directly related to Project implementation;
  - Purchase of equipment not an integral part of the Project or included in the line-item budget;
  - Establishing a reserve fund;
  - Replacement of existing funding sources for ongoing programs;
  - Expenses incurred in preparation of the Application;
  - Payment of principal or interest of existing indebtedness or any interest payments; and
  - Markup.

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## B. PROJECT MANAGER NOTIFICATION

Recipients will be required to notify their DFA Project Manager prior to conducting implementation, monitoring, demonstration, or other implementation activities so that the Project Manager may observe to verify activities are conducted in accordance with the Funding Agreement. The Project Manager may document the inspection with photographs and notes, which may be stored and available to the public, upon request.

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## C. DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY

Funds may become available from Projects which are withdrawn or completed under budget. The DFA Deputy Director is authorized to withdraw Grant funds from Recipients that are non-responsive, or to withdraw funds if there are significant changes to the Project scope, schedule, or budget. The Deputy Director of the DFA is authorized to utilize these funds for standby Projects or for augmenting the scope and budget of Projects previously awarded Grants. Additional activities funded under existing Grants will be subject to these Guidelines, and must complement or further the goals of existing Projects. Award of additional Grant funding is not typical and should not be expected. By entering into a Funding Agreement, the Recipient accepts responsibility for ensuring their Project is completed on schedule and within the budget in the Funding Agreement. The Recipient is responsible for completing the Project notwithstanding any cost overruns.

## APPENDIX A: PROJECT PROPOSAL APPLICATION

### FAAST APPLICATION

The following section includes the information that will be requested within the FAAST Application. Additional documents will be required as attachments to the Application. The required questions and attachments are subject to change by State Water Board staff for the purpose of clarification, editorial discretion, and technical constraints when the Application is made available in the FAAST system. Please refer to the Application in the FAAST system, when the solicitation is opened, for the final list of questions and required attachments. No substantive changes will be made to the evaluation criteria and scoring scheme.

### GENERAL INFORMATION tab

**Project Title** – This will be used to reference the Project throughout its implementation. When choosing a title, consider how it will function for identification and high-level descriptive purposes. Expect the Project title to appear on letters, email subject lines, on the Funding Agreement, on various reports, on lists of Projects sent to elected officials, and in cells of spreadsheets.

**Project Description** – This introduces the Project to reviewers and any other reader. It will not be evaluated.

**Project Location** – Input the coordinates of a representative point of the Project. This is used to associate the Project with a County, watershed, and various political and/or administrative jurisdictions.

### PROJECT BUDGET tab

**Funds Requested (\$)** – Summarize the budget attachment (see below): grant funds requested, match funds if applicable, and total budget. Other costs and funding sources (i.e. not grant or match) should be omitted. Other costs to support or complete the Project, will be entered into the Detailed Budget (**Attachment 2**).

**Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number** – Optional, because this is not a federally funded grant.

### FUNDING tab

**Funding Program** – All applicants must check the “Apply” box, or else the application questions won’t appear.

### LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION tab

**Legislative Information** – The primary districts are automatically determined based on the coordinates on the General Information tab. Additional districts may be identified. Select “Statewide” if the Project is relevant to most or all legislative districts. This information may be used to send information about funded Projects to the elected officials of the selected districts.

### COOPERATING ENTITIES tab

Include relevant staff of the applicant and other individuals who have been involved with Project development and implementation. This information is used to identify individuals who may have an understanding of the Project and in no way indicates an advantage or disadvantage in the ranking process.

**Cooperating Entity** – Please list any organization, co-applicant, consultant, or stakeholder group that is involved in the carrying out the Project.

**Role/Contribution to Project** – Any role or job title may be used but be descriptive enough for a reader to determine who to contact for a given issue. Most funding Agreements identify two roles: an *Authorized*

*Representative* who is authorized to sign and submit an Application, enter into an Funding Agreement, and certify the accuracy of progress reports and invoices on behalf of the Applicant and a *Daily Contact* who can respond to technical questions and requests regarding the Project. Other roles may be defined as appropriate.

**Daily Contact First Name, Last Name, Phone, & Email** – This information will be used to communicate with the Applicant regarding the Application. This information cannot be changed after the Application is submitted. This information is public record: it will be sent to anyone who requests it. The *Phone Number* field cannot include an extension; if a phone number requires an extension, include it with the *Role/Contribution to Project* field.

#### QUESTIONNAIRE tab

#### APPLICANT HISTORY

**Prior funding** – If the Applicant or any Cooperating Entity has received funding from the State Water Board previously, did the Applicant or Cooperating Entity complete the Project(s) in accordance with the Funding Agreement and demonstrate their ability to competently manage the Project?

**Prior terminations, etc.** – Has the Applicant or any Cooperating Entities entered into a contract or funding agreement with the State Water Board: (1) that was terminated; (2) in which funds were withheld by the State Water Board; (3) in which the Recipient was notified of a Breach of Agreement; or (4) that has been the subject of an audit in which there were findings regarding management of the Project or funds by the applicant or Cooperating Entity? If so, explain the actions taken to address the problem(s).

#### ATTACHMENTS tab

Use templates as provided. Avoid files larger than 25 megabytes (they may not be able to be uploaded). Use the suggested file names where practical.

**Attachment 1: Workplan – {Outline in Appendix B}** The workplan should include all information requested in Appendix B. The workplan must be no more than **ten (10) pages** (excluding other referenced attachments). Note: Individual pages exceeding the page limit **may not be reviewed**.

**Attachment 2: Budget {Template Provided}**– Complete the budget, which includes the costs and durations of major components of the Project.

**Attachment 3: Schedule and Scope of Work {Combined template provided}** – Complete the template schedule. The schedule should include the start and end dates, completion dates for major milestones (i.e. CEQA, Feasibility Studies, Permits, Design, Land Acquisition or Access, Bidding, Implementation/Construction, Monitoring, etc.). If this Project will be completed in phases, include a similar schedule for each phase.

**Scope of work** – Please fill out the highlighted parts of the scope of work template. The non-highlighted sections are standard language for our agreements.

- Grouped Project Proposals: Applicants seeking to address regional or cross-border needs may submit "Programmatic Proposals" that group related sites or phases under a single application. This allows for administrative flexibility while ensuring the total project continues to meet the technical and scoring criteria established at the time of award.
- Scope Consistency: Once a funding agreement is executed, the Scope of Work is considered final. Any significant changes to project location, type, or intended benefits that would have altered the original project score are generally not permitted.

## Appendix A: Project Proposal Application

- **Generic Scoping Prohibited:** While the State Water Board allows for broad project descriptions to accommodate minor field adjustments, the application must be specific enough to allow for accurate technical evaluation and scoring. Proposals that are too generic to be ranked against competitive criteria will not be considered.

**Attachment 4: Agreements/MOUs/Letters of Support (Optional)**- The Applicant may submit documents from the public, other Countries, other government agencies, and other non-governmental entities that are involved with the Project. Examples include letters to show coordination between the United States and Mexico, or letters in support of the Project, or agreements and Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with government agencies. **Letters mailed into the State Water Board's offices or e-mailed to State Water Board staff or Board Members will not be considered during application review.** (There is no template.)

**Attachment 5 – Technical Documents (If available)** – Attach supporting technical and planning documents such as geotechnical reports, hydrology studies, surveys, design reports, design plans (whether preliminary or final), design specifications (preliminary or final), and environmental documents. (There is no template.)

### **CERTIFICATION (initials) -**

By initialing the box, the Authorized Representative is certifying that:

The information entered on behalf of Applicant Organization is true and complete to the best of their knowledge;

They are an employee of or a consultant for the Applicant Organization authorized to submit the application on behalf of the Applicant Organization; and

They understand that any false, incomplete or incorrect statements may result in the disqualification of the application. A person who knowingly makes or causes to be made any false statement, material misrepresentation, or false certification in any submittal to the State Water Board relating to an agreement, including, but not limited to, applications, records, reports, certifications, plans, invoices, forms, or other documents that are submitted for purposes of obtaining or administering a financial assistance agreement, may be subject to a civil penalty, criminal fine, or imprisonment, pursuant to Water Code section 13490 et seq.

By signing the application, the Authorized Representative waives any and all rights to privacy and confidentiality of the Proposal on behalf of the applicant, to the extent provided in the RFP.

## APPENDIX B: WORKPLAN OUTLINE

Please fill out the sections that correspond to the type of Project you have (either a Planning/Research Project or an Implementation Project).

### GOALS (ALL PROJECT TYPES)

Describe the Project's goals.

### PLANNING/RESEARCH PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SCOPE (PLANNING/RESEARCH PROJECTS ONLY)

- Provide an in-depth explanation of the Project purpose.
- Provide relevant background information.
- Explain any water quality or public health problems that will be addressed.
- Explain how the Project will provide benefits or contribute to long term water quality goals in the future (i.e. will it provide planning documents for a future implementation Project, or will the research Project provide modeling data that will be used to protect public health, etc.).
- Prepare a write-up explaining the Project tasks and deliverables. List each task to be performed and provide a brief description of the work. Clearly identify deliverables for each task.

### IMPLEMENTATION BACKGROUND AND SCOPE (N/A FOR PLANNING/RESEARCH PROJECTS)

- Describe the elements that will be implemented to achieve Project goals, objectives, and benefits claimed. The elements should match those described in the Scope of Work (**Attachment 3**).
- Describe how the overall Project will operate once implemented.
- Summarize the need for maintenance activities over the life of the Project. Discuss the potential for performance degradation.
- Describe the existing conditions at the site of the proposed Project.

### READINESS TO PROCEED (N/A FOR PLANNING/RESEARCH PROJECTS)

- Have environmental documents been prepared and adopted for the Project? If so, include the document(s) in **Attachment 5**. If the documents have not been adopted and prepared, please describe their current status and what type of document is anticipated.
- Have design plans and specifications been prepared? If so, what percentage completion are they at (50%, 90%, etc.)?
- If design plans and specifications have not been completed, describe their status and anticipated date for completion.
- List the necessary permits, land purchases, land easements, access agreements, water rights issues, and consultations. For each of these items, identify their statuses and potential for causing Project delays.

## Appendix B: Workplan Outline

- Summarize the activities related to Project coordination and outreach by Cooperating Entities (e.g. by applicant's staff, regulatory agencies, other government agencies, other countries, local municipalities, local community, funding partners, landowners, and DAC/EDA communities).
- Describe the entity responsible for the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the Project and the source of funding that will be used for O&M.

### **BENEFITS (ALL PROJECT TYPES)**

- Describe Project Type (i.e., Planning/Research or Implementation and/or Water Quality Improvement, Infrastructure Improvement, Habitat Restoration, etc.)
- Describe the water quality and/or public health benefits of the Project.
- Describe if the project mitigates public health threats.
- If the Project provides multiple benefits, please describe.
- Identify any plan, policy, strategy, or other document published, approved, or adopted by a Federal, State, or local entity which lists or describes the Project as a priority (e.g. the Tijuana River Plan (PRC Section 71107), or the New River Water Quality, Public Health and River Parkway Development Program (PRC Section 71103.6)).
- Describe whether the completion of the Project will correct or prevent a problem listed in a specific plan such as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), policy, permit, or other water quality standard that is being violated or exceeded. Please document the extent of the violations or water quality exceedances.
- Describe how the Project contributes to reducing transboundary pollution or its impacts.

### **BUDGET AND COST EFFECTIVENESS (ALL PROJECT TYPES)**

*(The information in **Attachment 2** does not need to be duplicated here as applications are reviewed as a whole.)*

- Describe the methods used for estimating costs.
- If applicable, describe the source(s) of optional or additional match funds. Describe the present status of these sources and future events that may affect the status of the sources (e.g. funding decisions or due dates).
- If match funds have not been secured, provide a timeline for securing the match and discuss the level of certainty that the funds will be secured within this timeframe.
- Describe any property rights that need to be secured for the Project. Please include a description of how those will be secured and the timing.
- Has a source of funding been secured for O&M of the Project after implementation is complete? How reliable is this source of funding?
- Describe the useful life of the Project. Will it be more than 20 years?

*DAC/VULNERABLE POPULATION (IF APPLICABLE)*

Please utilize the Guidance Document below when answering questions in this section.

<https://bondaccountability.resources.ca.gov/docs/Prop4BenefitsAssessment.pdf>

- What Chapter 2 benefits from the Direct and Meaningful Guidance Document is the project implementing?
- Is the applicant, community, or project benefit area a DAC, SDAC, or vulnerable population?
- Please provide a screenshot or pdf using the mapping tool below that shows the DAC/SDAC status of benefit area (<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/aa723fdf521a44c9a428f1a46cd38a09>)
- Explain the choice of project benefit area and why it's appropriate.
- Identify what community/ies and/or population(s) will benefit from this project.
- Will the project provide meaningful and direct benefits to a DAC, SDAC, or vulnerable population?

**APPENDIX C: APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA**

**ELIGIBILITY REVIEW**

*All eligibility criteria are required. Applications that don't meet the eligibility criteria will not be awarded funding.*

**APPLICATION COMPLETENESS**

- The General Information, Project Budget, Legislative Information, and Cooperating Entities tabs in FFAST are complete.
- All question on the Questionnaire tab in FFAST answered.
- All required attachments (applicable to the Project) are uploaded.

**ELIGIBILITY**

- The Applicant is an eligible entity.
- The Project addresses water quality problems arising in the California-Mexico cross-border rivers and coastal waters.
- If the Project is in Mexico or otherwise outside of California: the Project also provides benefits to water a documented water quality benefit to California and its residents.  N/A

**Project Meets Eligibility?**  YES  NO\*

\*If No, DFA to notify applicant that their application will not be scored.

**PROJECT SCORE**

**Project Score**  
(select the highest score)

<i>Resource or Impact</i>	<b>Purpose</b>		
	Corrective	Preventative	Improvement
<i>Water Quality Improvement</i>	10 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Infrastructure Improvement</i>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Habitat Restoration/Restoration</i>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Planning or Research</i>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
			Score (Max. 10): <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>

**Secondary Score**  
(Select all that are applicable for a sum)

Project Will provide meaningful and direct Benefits to a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severely Disadvantaged Community; or</li> <li>Disadvantaged Community, or Vulnerable Population.</li> </ul>	4 <input type="checkbox"/> - or - 3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Applicant is coordinating/has coordinated with binational or Mexican governmental agencies to make the Project more effective. Proof of coordination or support is presented in Attachment 5 of the application.	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Project mitigates public health threats.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
Project is a multi-benefit project.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
Project is mentioned in a binational agreement or Water Board-adopted implementation strategy.	1 <input type="checkbox"/>

Score (Max. 9):

**Cost Effectiveness Score**

*(Based on status as of application submittal date; Select all that are applicable for a sum)*

Project has a useful life of more than 20 years.	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Project has a useful life of 10-19 years.	- or - 1 <input type="checkbox"/>
The Applicant has a source of funding for operation and maintenance of the system after implementation is complete. The source is secure and consistent.	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
Applicant or another agency is providing a match for the Project. A minimum of 5% of the total Project cost is required to receive additional points during scoring. For bilateral financial institutions that must provide a match of 50% per statutory requirements, the match required to receive additional points must be above the required amount.	2 <input type="checkbox"/>

Score (Max.6):

**Readiness Score**

*(Based on status as of application submittal date)*

<b>Environmental Documents*?</b> <small>* Refers to CEQA documents or any documents submitted to Mexican Government for environmental permits.</small>	Final Documents Uploaded in Attachment 5	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Draft Documents Uploaded in Attachment 5	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Plans and Specification</b>	90% - 100%	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
	30% - 89%	1 <input type="checkbox"/>

Score (Max.4):

### Prop 4 US Mexico Border Scoring Summary

<u>Primary</u>		<u>Secondary</u>		<u>Cost Effectiveness</u>		<u>Readiness</u>		<b>Maximum Score Available</b>
	+		+		+		=	
10		9		6		4		<b>29</b>

## A. Descriptions

### Primary Score Descriptions

#### Purpose

Corrective: To qualify as a corrective Project, the Applicant must identify the specific plan, policy, permit requirement, or water quality standard that is being violated or exceeded, document the extent of the violation or exceedance, and demonstrate a direct connection between Project completion and assisting in correcting the problem. Evidence of enforcement actions or orders may support qualification but is not the sole requirement. Projects that eliminate or mitigate public health threats or existing cross-border discharges or pollutant sources are also considered corrective.

Preventive: To qualify as a preventive Project, the Applicant must demonstrate that failure to complete the Project is likely to result in a violation of a plan, policy, permit requirement, or water quality standard; or likely to cause measurable impairment in the near future. The Applicant must identify the violation or impairment at risk and demonstrate a direct connection between Project completion and assistance in preventing anticipated violations or impairment. Projects that prevent a public health threat can be considered preventative.

Improvement: To qualify as an improvement Project, the Applicant must demonstrate that the Project will provide water quality benefits and provide long-term resilience or operational benefits, or improve efficiency, reliability or sustainability of a water quality Project or operation, even if not required to address an existing or imminent violation. Projects may also qualify as improvement if they anticipate evolving regulatory requirements, support climate resilience, or enhance watershed or habitat conditions beyond baseline.

#### Resource or Impact

Water Quality Improvement: Projects that directly reduce, prevent, or mitigate pollutants or impairments impacting surface water, groundwater, estuaries, coastal waters, or watershed areas along the US–Mexico border. A Project qualifies when it:

- measurably reduces contaminants such as bacteria, nutrients, trash, sediment, toxics, or untreated wastewater;
- prevents or intercepts cross-border pollution or discharges before reaching receiving waters;
- removes pollution, trash, and hazardous waste from a rivers, coastal waters, their , banks or shorelines, and the surrounding land area to improve environmental health, safety, and water quality;
- improves compliance with water quality standards, TMDLs, or binational water quality objectives; and/or
- enhances monitoring or treatment systems that result in water quality improvements.

Note: Projects that do not directly reduce, prevent, or mitigate pollutants affecting surface water, groundwater, or receiving waters are not eligible under this category.

## Appendix C: Application Evaluation Criteria

**Infrastructure Improvement:** Projects that repair, upgrade, replace, expand, or construct physical systems that protect public health, water quality, or watershed integrity within the border region. A Project qualifies when it:

- reduces risk of system failure or spill events (particularly cross-border);
- increases system capacity or resilience to storm events, climate change, or population pressure;
- improves conveyance, collection, or treatment efficiency; and/or
- supports sustainable long-term operation and maintenance.

Note: Projects that are routine maintenance, operational in nature, or do not provide measurable improvements to system performance or water quality protection are not eligible under this category.

**Habitat Restoration/Restoration:** Projects that restore, enhance, or protect natural habitats or ecological functions that contribute to watershed health, pollutant reduction, or ecosystem resilience. A Project qualifies when it:

- restores or enhances riparian, estuarine, wetland, or coastal habitats;
- supports natural filtration, sediment capture, floodplain reconnection, or erosion control;
- improves biodiversity, native vegetation, or wildlife connectivity; and/or
- mitigates impacts from invasive species, channelization, or degraded landscapes.
- removes trash; and/or
- implements floodplain reconnection.

Note: Projects focused primarily on aesthetics, recreation, or landscaping without ecological or watershed function are not eligible under this category.

**Planning or Research:** Projects that provide technical, scientific, or planning foundations necessary to develop, evaluate, or prioritize future implementation projects that advance Prop 4 goals. A Project qualifies when it:

- develops feasibility studies, alternatives analyses, or conceptual designs;
- conducts monitoring, modeling, or data collection to define pollutant sources or solutions;
- prepares environmental documentation, permitting studies, or binational coordination plans; and/or
- identifies needs, gaps, and priorities for implementation in border watersheds.

Note: Projects that do not produce technical deliverables that support future implementation or are unrelated to water quality or watershed protection are not eligible under this category.

**Public Health Project** – Projects where the County Board of Supervisors, City Council, or the County Health Officer has certified that a health problem exists and the State Water Board or a Regional Water Board has (a) adopted a discharge prohibition, (b) approved a moratorium, or (c) adopted a cease and desist order. Alternatively, a project may be a public health project when it is required to comply with a prohibition, posting, limitation, or warning that has been imposed by a responsible health authority and the State Water Board or a Regional Water Board has concurred with the health authority's determination and established a time schedule for correction or elimination of the problem. The applicant must demonstrate a direct connection between completion of the project and correction or elimination of the public health problem.

All other definitions can be found in Appendix E.

If an Implementation Project has multiple components or phases which qualify for more than one Resource or Impact, the Project will be awarded the Project Score that correlates with the component or phase that has the highest estimated cost to complete. If a Project has more than one Purpose, its Project Score shall be awarded based on the highest scoring Purpose available to the Project. For example, if a Project contained a Restoration component with an implementation cost of \$6 million and a preventative Infrastructure Improvement component with a construction cost of \$2 million, the Project would have a Project Score of 8, because the Restoration component was the largest by dollar value. Soft costs such as planning, design, construction management and

## Appendix C: Application Evaluation Criteria

administration will not be factored in as these are usually lump sum values that apply to all components of the Project.

## APPENDIX D: REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The following documents will be requested for Projects selected to receive Grant funding. Once an Applicant's Preliminary Funding Notification is issued, the Applicant must submit the following documents within ninety (90) days in order to receive a Funding Agreement.

- **Authorizing Resolution-** This resolution or ordinance designates the Authorized Representative(s) for the Project who have the authority to sign and submit Application materials, certify compliance with applicable state and federal laws, execute the Funding Agreement and any amendments thereto, and certify disbursement requests.
  - An Authorized Representative must be identified by title, not by an individual's name.
  - State Water Board staff will provide a recommended template that Applicants may elect to use in drafting the Authorizing Resolution.
- **Certification of Compliance with Water Meter Form** - Complete and submit the self-certification form for Water Metering Compliance pursuant to Section V.D. of the Guidelines. State Water Board staff will provide a recommended form that the Applicants may elect to sign.
- **Certification for Water Conservation and Water Management** - All applicants must either certify that they are a water supplier and have complied with the California Water Code and all provisions of Division 6 of the Water Code (sections 10000 through 12999) or certify that they have verified that the water suppliers in its service or Project Area have complied with the provisions of Division 6 of the Water Code (sections 10000 through 12999) and that any ordinances, rules, or regulations have been duly adopted and are in effect as of this date.
- **Payee Data Record (Form STD 204)** – This form is required for any entity that receives funding from the State Water Board. Applicants must submit this form when the entity's name, tax status, or mailing address for receiving the Form 1099 changes. Form STD 204 is available at the following website: <https://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dgs/fmc/pdf/std204.pdf>
- **Payee Data Record Supplement (STD 205) If Needed** – This form only is required when an entity wishes to receive payments from the State Water Board at a mailing address that is different than the address listed on the entity's STD 204. The mailing address supplied on this form is where the submitting entity will receive payments from the State Water Board. Form STD 205 is available at the following website: <https://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dgs/fmc/pdf/std205.pdf>

**APPENDIX E: ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND DEFINITIONS**

**ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS:**

AWMP	Agricultural Water Management Plan
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CLC	California Labor Code
CWA	Clean Water Act
DAC	Disadvantaged Community
DFA	State Water Board’s Division of Financial Assistance
DWR	Department of Water Resources
DWQ	Division of Water Quality
ELAP	California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program
DUNS	Data Universal Numbering System
FAAST	Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool
FY	Fiscal Year
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
MHI	Median Household Income
MP	Monitoring Plan
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OAL	Office of Administrative Law
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PAEP	Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan
PM	Project Manager
PRC	California Public Resources Code
Prop 4	Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.
SB	Senate Bill
SDAC	Severely Disadvantaged Community
SOQs	Statement of Qualifications
State Water Board	State Water Resources Control Board
SWRP	Storm water resource plan
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
USCB	United States Census Bureau
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
Water Boards	State Water Board and Regional Water Boards, collectively
WDRs	Waste Discharge Requirements

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Agricultural Water Management Plan (AWMP)** – plan adopted and submitted by an agricultural water supplier in accordance with the Agricultural Water Management Planning Act (Part 2.8 [commencing with Section 10800] of Division 6; Water Code section 79712(b)(3)).

**Agricultural Water Supplier** – an agricultural water supplier with greater than 25,000 irrigated acres (Water Code section 10608, Division 6, Part 2.55).

**Applicant** – a legal entity with the authority to enter into a Funding Agreement with the State Water Board and which has filed an Application, but has not yet executed a Funding Agreement.

**Application** – the initial set of electronic forms and supporting documentation submitted to the State Water Board to request grant funding for the Project that the Applicant intends to implement. It includes responses to questions included in the FFAST Application and the supporting documentation submitted as attachments thereto.

**Authorized Representative** – the individual designated by an Applicant who has the authority to sign documents pertaining to an Application and Funding Agreement on behalf of the Applicant, including signing and executing the Funding Agreement.

**Beneficial Uses** - the uses of streams, lakes, rivers, and other water bodies have to humans and other life. Beneficial uses are outlined in a Basin Plan. Each body of water in the State has a set of beneficial uses. Different beneficial uses require different water quality control(s). Therefore, each beneficial use has a set of water quality objectives designed to protect that beneficial use. Below is a list of some of the beneficial uses.

Beneficial uses may include: domestic (homes, human consumption, etc.), irrigation (crops, lawns), power (hydroelectric), municipal (water supply of a city or town), mining (hydraulic conveyance, drilling), industrial (commerce, trade, industry), fish and wildlife preservation, aquaculture (raising fish, etc. for commercial purposes), recreational (boating, swimming), stock watering (for commercial livestock), water quality, frost protection (misting or spraying crops to prevent frost damage), heat control (water crops to prevent heat damage), groundwater recharge, and agriculture.

**Binational Agreement** – A formal agreement between two nations, including the Treaty of February 3, 1944, "Utilization of Waters of The Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande" between the United States and Mexico, and the "Minutes" issued by the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) thereunder.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)** – [PRC Division 13](#) and its associated [regulations and guidelines](#).

**Community** – for the purposes of this grant program, a community is a population of persons residing in the same locality under the same local governance.

**Cooperating Entity** – any organization, co-applicant, consultant, or stakeholder group that is involved in proposing, applying for, or carrying out a Project.

**Daily Contact** – the Applicant's/Recipient's first point of contact on a Project, who is able to readily respond to technical questions and informational requests regarding an Application or Project, and

## Appendix E: Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions

who is responsible for coordinating the overall administrative management and technical aspects of the Funding Agreement.

**Disadvantaged Community (DAC)** – a community with an annual Median Household Income less than 80% of the statewide annual Median Household Income (PRC section 90100(d)).

**Evaluation Criteria** – the set of specifications used to select or choose a Project based on available funding.

**Financial Assistance Application Submittal (FAAST)** – online tool which Applicants shall use to apply for Prop 4 US Mexico Border Grant funding.

**Fiscal Year (FY)** – a 12-month period in which an organization plans to use its funds. The fiscal year for the State Water Board begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

**Funding Agreement** – a written agreement between the State Water Board and the Recipient, and any amendments thereto, signed by all parties, which sets forth the terms, provisions, and conditions governing Grant funding and any other State Water Board funding.

**Grant** – non-repayable financing authorized under section 91032(j) of the Public Resources Code and governed by these Guidelines.

**Granting Agency** – the agency that is funding a Proposal and with which a Recipient has a Funding Agreement. The State Water Board will be the granting agency for the Prop 4 US Mexico Border Program.

**Guidelines** – Proposition 4 US Mexico Border Program Guidelines (i.e. this document), unless otherwise specified.

**Impaired Water Body** – surface waters identified by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards as impaired because water quality objectives are not being achieved or where the designated beneficial uses are not fully protected after application of technology-based controls. A list of impaired water bodies is compiled by the State Water Board pursuant to section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

**Implementation Project** – a Project that involves construction of physical structures, improvement of or changes to existing structures, or physical alteration of land. Pilot projects that improve the water quality of the transboundary rivers are also considered implementation projects.

**Indirect Costs** - Costs incurred by a Recipient that are not readily identifiable with a particular Project or program but are necessary to the operation of the Recipient as an organizations and the performance of its programs and activities. Examples include rent, utilities, or insurance.

**Joint Powers Authority (JPA)** – An authority formed by two or more “public agencies”, which includes, but is not limited to, the federal government or any federal department or agency, this state, another state or any state department or agency, a county, county board of education, county superintendent of schools, city, public corporation, public district, regional transportation commission of this state or another state, or a federally recognized Indian tribe. The newly formed authority by agreement may jointly exercise any power common to the contracting parties, including, but not limited to, the authority to levy a fee, assessment, or tax, even though one or more contracting agencies may be located outside this state (Government Code section 6500 et seq.)

## Appendix E: Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions

**Lead Agency** – public agency (usually the applicant) that is responsible for preparation and circulation of environmental documents before Project approval.

**Management Measures** – economically achievable measures for the control of the addition of pollutants from existing and new categories and classes of nonpoint sources of pollution, which reflect the greatest degrees of pollutant reduction achievable through the application of the best available nonpoint pollution control practices, technologies, processes, siting criteria, operating methods, or alternatives.

**Match Funds** - funds made available by or to the Applicant for the Project beyond the Grant amount requested/awarded including, but not limited to, Federal funds (grants or loans), local and private funding, or donated and volunteer (“in-kind”) services. Repayable financing received through the Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program or a Federally sponsored loan program may be used for match. Additionally, externally- or Applicant-funded education and outreach may qualify as a portion of the funding match only if directly linked to construction.

**Median Household Income (MHI)** – the household income that represents the median value for an Applicant’s service area or Project area.

**Monitoring Plan (MP)** – A document that describes the monitoring program, objectives, types of constituents to be monitored, methodology, frequency of monitoring, duration of monitoring, and the sampling locations.

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)** – controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. Point sources are discrete conveyances such as pipes or man-made ditches. Since its introduction in 1972, the NPDES Permit Program has been responsible for significant improvements to our Nation's and State’s water quality.

**Planning or Research Project** – a Project that provides technical, scientific, or planning information, documentation, or deliverables necessary to develop, evaluate, or prioritize future Implementation Projects that advance the goals of section 91032(j) of the Public Resources Code.

**Pollutant Load Reduction** – the decrease of a particular contaminant in the impaired waterbody resulting from the implementation of the Project.

**Project** – refers to the entire set of actions, including planning, permitting, constructing, monitoring, and reporting on all of the proposed activities, including structural and non-structural implementation of management measures and practices, described in an Application or in a Funding Agreement, for which Grant funding is sought.

**Project Area** - refers to the geographical boundaries, as defined by the Applicant, which encompass the area where the Project will be implemented or constructed, including the area where the benefits and impacts of Project implementation or planning activities extend.

**Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan (PAEP)** – A document that lists the goals of the Project. For each goal, the measurement methods are described, and quantitative targets are identified. Methods in a PAEP may overlap with the methods in an applicable monitoring plan, because the PAEP may include goals not related to water resources, such as operational goals or education.

**Project Type** – the categorization of a Project as an Implementation Project or a Planning or Research Project.

## Appendix E: Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions

**Proposition 4 or Prop 4** – the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, codified in Division 50 of the Public Resources Code (sections 90000 et seq.).

**Public Agency** – state agency or department, special district, joint powers authority, city, county, city and county, or other political subdivision of the state (Water Code section 79702[s]).

**Public Works** – Implementation/construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of public funds, except work done directly by any public utility company pursuant to order of the Public Utilities Commission or other public authority (CLC section 1720).

**Recipient** – an Applicant with an executed Funding Agreement signed by all parties.

**Regional Water Board** – the relevant California Regional Water Quality Control Board

**Restore** – to improve physical structures or facilities (Public Resources Code section 75005).

**Restoration Project** – A Project that repairs degraded waterways/rivers and returns them to a more natural, healthy, and self-sustaining condition.

**Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC)** – community with a Median Household Income of less than 60% (sixty percent) of the Project Area average or less than 60% (sixty) percent of statewide Median Household Income

**Small Community** – a community with a population of 20,000 persons or less

**State and Regional Water Boards** – State Water Board and Regional Water Boards, collectively.

**Stakeholder** – an individual, group, coalition, agency, or other entity that is involved in, affected by, or has an interest in the implementation of a specific program or Project.

**Sustainable** - resources must only be used at a rate at which they can be replenished naturally.

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)** – a written plan developed pursuant to section 1313 of title 33 of the United States Code that describes how an impaired water body will meet water quality standards. It contains: (1) a measurable feature to describe attainment of the water quality standard(s); (2) a description of required actions to remove the impairment; and, (3) an allocation of responsibility among dischargers to act, either in the form of actions or through the establishment of water quality conditions for which each discharger is responsible. An established TMDL is one that has been adopted by both the applicable Regional Water Board and the State Water Board, has been approved by the Office of Administrative Law and paid the appropriate fees to the Department of Fish and Game. Additionally, TMDLs developed by and subsequently adopted by the U.S. EPA will be considered established for purposes of the Program.

**Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP)** – plan adopted and submitted by an urban water supplier in accordance with the Urban Water Management Planning Act (Part 2.6 (commencing with Section 10610) of Division 6) (Water Code section 79712(b)(2)).

**Urban Water Supplier** – a supplier, either publicly or privately owned, that provides water for municipal purposes either directly or indirectly to more than 3,000 customers or supplies more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually (Water Code section 10617).

## Appendix E: Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions

**Useful Life** - the estimated period over which the funded Project will serve its intended purpose in a cost-effective manner from the completion of construction/implementation date.

**Vulnerable Population** – a subgroup of population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts.

**Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)** – requirements that are adopted by the Regional Water Boards to protect the waters of the state for the use and enjoyment of the people of California.

**Water Quality Objectives** – the limits or levels of water quality elements or biological characteristics established to reasonably protect the beneficial uses of water or the prevent problems within a specific area. Water quality objectives may be numeric or narrative.

**Water Quality Standards** - State-adopted and U.S. EPA-approved ambient standards for water bodies that prescribe the use of the water body and establish the water quality criteria that must be met to protect these uses. The three components of water quality standards include the beneficial designated use or uses of a water body (for example, drinking water supply, contact recreation (swimming), and aquatic life support), the numerical and narrative water-quality criteria that are necessary to protect the use or uses of that particular water body, and an antidegradation statement (from federal CWA).