



**OCEAN
PROTECTION
COUNCIL**



Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience solicitation

Updated on August 24, 2020

Grant Program Funded by the California Drought, Water Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018

**Grant Proposal Solicitation and Application Instructions
Letters of Intent are due September 14, 2020**

I. Contents

I.	Application Information and Instructions	3
A.	Essential background and information	3
B.	Funding Information:	6
C.	Application process	6
D.	Solicitation Schedule.....	6
E.	Pre-application consultation	7
F.	Environmental Documents and Permitting	7
G.	Research, Planning, and Implementation projects	7
H.	Projects Serving Severely Disadvantaged Communities	7
II.	Phase 1: Letter of Intent.....	8
A.	Template for Letters of Intent.....	8
III.	Phase 2: Full Proposal.....	8
IV.	Evaluation Criteria.....	9
V.	Consultation and Contact Information.....	12

I. Application Information and Instructions

A. Essential background and information

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) protects California's coast and ocean by advancing innovative, science-based policy and management, making strategic investments, and catalyzing action through partnerships and collaboration. OPC's vision is to ensure healthy, resilient and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. OPC is committed to ensuring that policy and management decisions affecting California's ocean and coastal resources are based on the best available science.

The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68 or "Prop 68") was approved by voters in June 2018. Funding from Prop 68 is intended to support projects that provide Californians with access to safe natural spaces and to continue investments in the state's diverse ecosystems to ensure high quality of life for all Californians. Funding is also intended to support greening urban areas to mitigate the effects of climate change and pollution, and to protect and restore the state's natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

Chapter 10 of Prop 68 allocates \$21.2 million to OPC for a competitive grant program for projects that assist coastal communities, including those reliant on commercial fisheries, with adaptation to climate change. Climate adaptation projects may address ocean acidification, sea level rise, or habitat and restoration and protection.

Prop 68 requires that at least 15 percent of the funds provided to OPC be allocated to projects that serve severely disadvantaged communities. Prop 68 also allows for up to 10 percent of funds to be used for technical assistance to disadvantaged communities, and allows for up to 10 percent of funds to be used for the planning and evaluation needed to successfully design projects. Applicants may propose stand-alone technical assistance projects or stand-alone planning and evaluation projects in response to this solicitation, as long as it addresses the specific priorities laid out below.

OPC approved the Prop 68 Grant Guidelines (Grant Guidelines) on May 23, 2019 which are available on the [OPC Prop 68 webpage](#). The Grant Guidelines establish the high-level process and criteria that OPC uses to solicit competitive applications, evaluate and select proposals, and distribute awards using Prop 68 funds. The Grant Guidelines include:

- Broad OPC Priorities for Prop 68 grant funding;
- Eligible grantee organizations;
- Eligible project types;
- Grant application review and evaluation processes;
- Scoring criteria;
- Additional grant requirements; and
- Important appendices, including Prop 68 Chapter 9 and 10 language on OPC appropriations and Prop 68 term definitions.

The OPC Prop 68 webpage includes additional important resources for applicants to use as they develop their projects.

Please review the **Grant Guidelines**, this **Grant Proposal Solicitation and Application Instructions** document, and the **Key Documents** called out below very carefully and thoroughly before proceeding with the grant application process.

Eligible Projects:

This solicitation is for projects or research that will address, create, or implement nature-based solutions and other sea-level rise adaptation strategies to build coastal resiliency.

Applications submitted in response to this solicitation should advance implementation of the OPC’s Strategic Plan to Protect California’s Coast and Ocean 2020-2025 (Strategic Plan) and should support the Principles for Aligned State Action on Making California’s Coast Resilient to Sea Level Rise. Projects should identify and demonstrate quantitative progress in implementing Strategic Plan targets. All projects should show progress in ensuring California’s coast is resilient to a minimum of 3.5 feet of sea-level rise by 2050 and utilize more protective baseline 2050 and 2100 targets for road, rail, port, power plants, water and waste systems, and other critical infrastructure. Project location must benefit the coastal or San Francisco Bay region.

Project types that may be funded through this solicitation include:

- Community capacity building, technical assistance, and planning
- Project site assessment, preliminary design and final project design
- Construction, monitoring, and adaptive management

Projects designed with replicable methods and linked with research questions or monitoring components to inform future projects and adaptive management strategies that will lead to best management practices will be prioritized. When appropriate, projects are encouraged to include a stakeholder advisory group to coordinate and provide project guidance. To be competitive, applicants must demonstrate how their projects meet the evaluation criteria listed in section IV below.

OPC will invest in projects and/or research that cover one or more of the following topic areas and priorities:

Topic area:	Priorities:
Local and Regional planning and coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory and/or assessment of toxic sites vulnerable to sea-level rise and flooding. • Planning for sea level rise adaptation that includes remediation of contaminated sites/materials. • Address sea-level rise through local or regional land-use plans that include specified criteria (e.g. identification of lead planning and implementation agencies, etc.) and plan elements (e.g. vulnerability assessments for infrastructure, natural areas and parks, economic analysis of assets at risk, and adaptation measures to protect them, etc.). • Employ adaptation pathways approach to regional and/or local sea level rise planning that includes trigger points and thresholds.

<p>Nature-based solutions to build coastal resiliency:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize living shorelines on a local and/or regional scale to build coastal resiliency. • Prioritize the use of nature-based adaptation measures that promote biodiversity, conserve habitat, and protect other natural and cultural resources. • Build coastal resilience to sea-level rise through the restoration and/or protection of beach, wetland, and seagrass habitat of variable size and scale. • Promote the beneficial use of sediment and the restoration and enhancement of natural sediment supply to the coast. • Utilize a managed retreat approach to sea-level rise adaptation, where feasible, as opposed to the use of sea walls, groins, or other gray infrastructure.
<p>Socio-economic Impact of Sea Level Rise:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the needs of low-income, disadvantaged, and other underserved coastal populations that will be impacted by sea level rise, including providing enhanced access and protection. • Address the needs of Tribal communities in preparing and adapting to the impacts of sea-level rise. • Incorporate the economic cost-benefit analysis of sea level rise adaptation strategies.

Key Documents guiding OPC priorities for this solicitation include:

- [Strategic Plan to Protect California’s Coast and Ocean 2020-2025](#)
- [State of California Sea-Level Rise Guidance Document](#)
- [Making California’s Coast Resilient to Sea Level Rise: Principles for Aligned State Action](#)
- [Toward Natural Shoreline Infrastructure to Manage Coastal Change in California](#)

Projects must be ready to start work upon approval and be able to be completed within 3 years. Projects must also provide a clearly-articulated, long-term benefit (15 – 30 years) to the public.

Ineligible Projects:

Projects that will not be funded through Prop 68 include the ineligible projects listed in section 2.5 of the Prop 68 Grant Guidelines.

Eligible Applicants:

- Local, state and federal agencies;
- Public or private universities;
- Nonprofit organizations (must be a 501(c)(3) as verified by the Internal Revenue Service)
- Private entities
- Federally recognized Indian tribes, and State Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission’s California Tribal Consultation List.

Please be aware that OPC cannot enter into a grant agreement without governing board approval or other verification that applicant can accept funding from the state. Applicants will be expected to submit this verification before grant execution.

B. Funding Information:

- Maximum Funding Available in this round: \$8,000,000
- Minimum and Maximum Award Amounts: \$100,000 - \$2,000,000
- Maximum Project Length: 3 years
- Application Due: September 14, 2020

C. Application process

Applicants must submit a letter of intent (application) in response to this solicitation. **The deadline for submission is September 14, 2020.** Applicants should use the templates, forms and instructions provided on the [OPC Prop 68 webpage](#) for their submission.

Please note that although OPC’s Prop 68 Grant Guidelines state that applications should be submitted online through the System for Online Application Review (SOAR), OPC is not requiring the use of SOAR for this solicitation in order to increase accessibility and ease of submittal for applicants.

Applications and associated materials must be completed and emailed to: prop68@resources.ca.gov

Applicants must complete the following steps:

1. Carefully review the OPC Prop 68 Grant Guidelines and this entire Grant Proposal Solicitation.
2. Download Letter of Interest template from the OPC Prop 68 Webpage and complete per instructions (no other forms from the Prop 68 webpage are needed at this stage).
3. Submit Letter of Interest (and any maps/photos) to prop68@resources.ca.gov with the subject “Prop 68 Application – Your Organization”.

D. Solicitation Schedule

The schedule for this solicitation is as follows:

Activity	Time Period
Grant Proposal Solicitation Released	August 7, 2020
Letter of Intent Due	September 14, 2020
Application Review and Evaluation	Sept 14 – Oct 1, 2020
Selected Applicants Invited to Submit Full Proposal	October 2, 2020
Full Proposal Due	November 13, 2020
Application Review and Evaluation	Nov 16 – Jan 1, 2021
Select proposals invited for interview or site visit	Jan 4 – Feb 5, 2021
OPC staff recommend selected projects to OPC for approval	February, 2021
Approved project finalize workplans and grant agreements	Spring, 2021

Grants made through this solicitation process must be approved at an OPC Council meeting. The specific meeting when a grant will be considered depends on project readiness and staff capacity. For relevant projects, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) must be complete before a project can be brought by staff to the OPC for consideration.

E. Pre-application consultation

Applicants may consult with OPC Senior Climate Change program manager during the project solicitation period prior to submitting their applications. Consultation will be available to any potential applicant but is not required. OPC staff will be available to discuss projects and proposal related questions, but they will not be able to review applications before they are submitted. To request a consultation, please contact: Justine Kimball, Justine.kimball@resources.ca.gov.

F. Environmental Documents and Permitting

OPC is required to comply with CEQA. Applicants must consider whether their proposed project will require an environmental impact report, negative declaration, or whether a CEQA exemption applies. How CEQA applies to the proposed project and the status of CEQA compliance must be addressed in the application. The project must also comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other environmental permitting requirements. Applicants are solely responsible for receiving and fulfilling all permitting requirements.

G. Research, Planning, and Implementation projects

All projects funded through this solicitation must provide long-term benefits to the state; “long-term benefits” are generally considered to be a minimum of 15 to 30 years. Pilot projects or scientific research projects should provide information, data, and lessons learned that would be valuable to the state over the long term.

Applications for projects that generate data should include in their application any statewide data management system(s) that data from their project may be integrated into, and how this integration will occur. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) open data platform will serve as the formal vehicle for delivery of all data associated with OPC-funded projects. For more information on project data sharing requirements, please see the Prop 68 Grant Guidelines, section 7.4.

H. Projects Serving Severely Disadvantaged Communities

OPC prioritizes projects serving disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities. To determine whether a project is located within or near a disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged community, please use the California State Parks Community FactFinder map viewer: <https://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>. Applicants should provide a map and written description of the project’s geographical proximity to specific disadvantaged communities; a screenshot of the project location on the FactFinder map viewer will satisfy this requirement. OPC will use its discretion to determine whether proposed projects serve disadvantaged communities and expects applicants to describe and justify how the community is served by the proposed project. Generally, OPC considers projects that are within a ½ mile of a disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged community to be close to the community.

This solicitation may fund projects that provide technical assistance to disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities. Technical assistance includes, but is not limited to:

- Capacity building to enable disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities to successfully compete for and implement projects OPC Prop 68 funding;
- Assistance to promote engagement with potential project partners, work through local challenges, and develop competitive proposals for Prop 68 funding;
- Technical expertise to support planning or implementation of future projects; and
- Education for disadvantaged communities consistent with the purposes of this solicitation.

II. Phase 1: Letter of Intent

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent by 5:00 PM on September 14, 2020 to be eligible to submit a full proposal. The application is intended to be an outline of the proposed project and should be submitted by completing the template. Please note that there is a 3-page limit. Please see [OPC Prop 68 webpage](#) for required templates and forms.

OPC will review the applications to check that the proposed project meets the eligibility requirements listed in section A of this solicitation and sections 2.2 and 2.4 of the Grant Guidelines. OPC may consult with members of the expert review committee, or other experts and partners as deemed necessary. OPC will notify applicants on whether they are invited to submit a full proposal no later than October 2, 2020. OPC may provide feedback and/or ask that applicants amend parts of their proposal to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be evaluated and scored according to the evaluation criteria listed in section IV below. Scoring information for all proposals will remain confidential.

A. Template for Letters of Intent

A template with the questions for the Letter of Intent can be found on the [Prop 68 Webpage](#). The Letter of Intent is intended to provide a **brief** summary of the project; more detailed project information will be requested if the applicant is invited to submit a full proposal.

III. Phase 2: Full Proposal

Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will be provided with a template at that time. Full proposals must include a more detailed scope of work, schedule, and budget for the project. Applicants are required to use the provided application template, which will be made available only to applicants invited to submit a full proposal. The full proposal will require a complete description of the project including, but not limited to:

- Detailed description of the proposed scope of work, including long-term results and outcomes.
- Project schedule with explicit task completion dates, including a clear depiction of timing of project phases and components
- Budget that is tied directly to the explicit task list that includes estimated rates, hours, equipment, and potential sub-contractors.
- Resumes or Curriculum Vitae of principal investigators or contractors, including previous projects that reflect sufficient aptitude in the project's focal area.
- Proof that all environmental compliance and permitting requirements will be met before the OPC Council considers approval of the project.
- Letters of support both from within and outside of the community where the project will take place.
- A completed Corps Consultation Review Document or other evidence of consultation with the California Conservation Corps and Local Certified Community Conservation Corps.
- Consistency with, and a description of, how the proposed project aligns with the intent behind Prop 68 and OPC's priorities.

IV. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria provided here will be used to score applications at the full proposal stage. The total points available for any application is 100. These criteria were included in the grant guidelines, and any sections referenced in the criteria refer to sections of the grant guidelines.

SCORING CRITERIA FOR PROPOSALS	
Criteria	Points
<p><u>Clarity and Articulation, Sound Approach</u> Includes complete, reasonable and well thought out proposal elements, including proposed scope of work (3 points), budget (3 points), and schedule (3 points).</p>	9
<p><u>Project Management and Readiness</u> Applicant demonstrates capacity to execute project, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant demonstrates appropriate and necessary partnerships to complete the project. The applicant shows that it can hire or contract with experienced scientific staff in an area of specialty that would improve the potential success of the underlying proposal. (2 points) • Applicant has existing infrastructure or administrative capacity, either in-house or through partnerships, to develop, manage and implement the project successfully. (2 points) • Applicant has identified any permits or CEQA review that may be necessary to complete the project, provides proof that those permits and CEQA documents are already obtained/complete, and lays out a clear and reasonable approach and timeline to receive permits and complete CEQA if they are not already acquired. If the project does not require permits or CEQA review, the applicant must provide sound reasoning to support the assertion that no permits are needed. (2 points) 	6
<p><u>Alignment with Prop 68</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant demonstrates how the project will advance the intent behind Prop 68, as described in the findings and declarations in PRC §80001(a), including, but not limited to, how the project will connect Californians with natural coastal landscapes. 	8
<p><u>Alignment with California’s Climate Policies</u> Climate change is affecting the coast of California and has the potential to limit the success of projects funded by OPC, if not taken into consideration. Applicant describes how they have considered climate impacts and risks in the design or development of their project, and how their project is resilient to those impacts. For example, applicant identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific adaptation strategies and specific actions to remedy identified climate-related vulnerabilities and impacts. 	3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the project may provide or inform resilience benefits, or help ocean and coastal ecosystems to adapt to climate change, including which recommendations from the 2018 Safeguarding California Plan the project works to implement • How the project may generate Green House Gas (GHG) emission reductions or carbon sequestration benefits 	
<p><u>Multi-benefits</u> Applicant demonstrates how the proposed project addresses multiple issues of priority to OPC, as described in Section 1.4. (6 points)</p>	6
<p><u>Informing Management</u> Applicant identifies how any research or project proposed would inform or enable the state to better manage ocean and coastal ecosystems and resources, including whether the project would develop innovative technology and tools and/or provide needed monitoring or scientific data (6 points)</p>	6
<p><u>Disadvantaged Communities</u> Applicant clearly explains how the project serves disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged communities, as described in Section 2.7. Applicant provides the distance between the project and a disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged community and describes and justifies how the community is served by the proposed project, including any opportunities the project provides for workforce education and training, or contractor or job opportunities (8 points max).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project serves a disadvantaged community (6 points) • Project serves a severely disadvantaged community (8 points) 	8
<p><u>Alignment with OPC’s Technical Assistance Requirements</u> Applicant demonstrates how the proposed project will provide a disadvantaged community with technical assistance as described in the solicitation, (3 points) which includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building to complete OPC’s Prop 68 grant applications; • Technical expertise to support project planning and implementation; • Education for disadvantaged communities consistent with the purposes of OPC’s Prop 68 funding. 	3
<p><u>Effectiveness and Innovation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a clear and reasonable method for measuring and reporting project effectiveness (3 points) • Employs innovative methods or technologies or improves upon proven methods or technologies to improve how the state manages ocean and coastal resources. (2 points) 	5

<p><u>Methodology</u> Is consistent with best available science. Applicant demonstrates how relevant science used is up-to-date and appropriate for projects for the specific topic, as well as the feasibility of proposed work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains technical/scientific merit (2 points) • Project completion is feasible in the timeframe and with the budget requested (2 points) • Determining project effectiveness is feasible and project has a high likelihood to fulfill its stated goals and objectives (2 points) 	6	
<p><u>Community Support</u> Has both local community support and greater than local interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project has local community support, as demonstrated by the submittal of letters of support with the application (2 points) • Project also has support from outside of the project area, as demonstrated by submittal of letters of support with the application (2 points) • Applicants submit a community engagement plan that includes how applicants and partner organizations have worked with community stakeholders to design the project, communicate about the project’s results, or ensure long-term maintenance of the project. The community engagement plan should provide the information described in section 2.12 (4 points) 	8	
<p><u>Partnerships</u> Applicant clearly identifies collaboration opportunities with government agencies, either in project implementation or to inform the state’s ocean management, including Tribal Governments, the California Conservation Corps or Local Conservation Corps. (2 points)</p> <p>Applicant clearly identifies collaboration opportunities with conservation, science, or fishing organizations, and other partners. (2 points)</p>	4	
<p><u>Leverage</u> Project leverages private, federal or local funding sources.¹</p>	3	
Total possible points		75

¹ Funds for completing an environmental review process such as CEQA are not considered matching funds.

ADDITIONAL SCORING CRITERIA FOR OCEAN CLIMATE PROPOSALS (CHAPTER 10 FUNDING)	
Criteria	Points
<p><u>Alignment with OPC Priorities for Chapter 10 funding</u> Applicant demonstrates how the proposed project aligns with OPC’s priorities for its Chapter 10 funding, as described in PRC §80133(a), and the specific priorities outlined in the solicitation. Proposals receive up to 18 points for the project’s direct relevance to the priorities listed below, and the specific priorities outlined in the solicitation. Applicant demonstrates how the proposed project addresses at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting coastal communities, including communities reliant on commercial fisheries with adaptation to climate change. • Ocean Acidification, hypoxia, or oxygen-minimum zones, including interactions with local water quality. • Sea Level Rise, including the development of local, regional, or statewide adaptation planning, analyses and implementation. • Habitat Restoration and Protection to adapt to or mitigate climate change, including nature-based infrastructure. 	18
<p><u>Alignment with OPCs Climate Change Program’s Key Documents</u> Applicant demonstrates that the project is aligned and consistent with OPC Climate Change Program’s key documents, and with local planning efforts, such as climate mitigation and adaptation plans, Local Coastal Programs, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, or other related planning efforts, as applicable (7 points). A list of relevant key documents will be included for in the solicitation.</p>	7
Total Possible Points	25

V. Consultation and Contact Information

Please check the OPC Prop 68 webpage regularly for the most recent updates on this solicitation process.

As mentioned above, OPC staff is available for optional pre-application submission consultations. If you would like to schedule a consultation, or if you have further questions about this solicitation and application process, please contact:

Justine Kimball, Senior Climate Change Program Manager
Justine.kimball@resources.ca.gov