

# California Ocean Protection Council

## Proposition 1 Grant Program: Frequently Asked Questions



Question Type	Question	Answers
Eligibility	1. Are planning projects eligible, or is this opportunity designed only for implementation projects?	Planning projects may be included, as long as they lead to projects that entail the construction or acquisition of capital assets or activities that are incidentally but directly related to construction or acquisition, such as planning, design and engineering. Planning projects are encouraged to include community engagement components that go above and beyond the bare minimum community engagement required by CEQA or permitting processes. Planning projects should also adequately describe the deliverables produced by the project (e.g. 90% design plans). Finally CEQA, technical studies, and other permitting are eligible costs under this solicitation, and may be included as part of planning projects.
	2. Are structural trash control devices eligible?	Structural trash control devices are eligible, however, proposals requesting funding for infrastructure that is required by law may be less competitive.
	3. Are research projects eligible?	Stand-alone research projects are not eligible for this funding opportunity. Prop 1 funds must be used for "capital outlay" projects: this includes planning and construction of on-the-ground projects. However, proposals should include how they will monitor the success of their project, which may include water quality monitoring or research activities as a small portion of a larger project.
	4. Do all projects have to improve water quality?	Yes. Prop 1 requires that all funding have a nexus with improving or protecting water quality. Proposals should describe how the proposed project would address water quality.
	5. Can these funds be used for a site-specific appraisal for a future potential acquisition of a site for restoration/contamination clean up?	Yes, acquisitions and the appraisals that go into acquisitions are eligible for funding.
	6. Are joint applicants eligible?	OPC can only grant funds to one entity, so one agency would be the applicant/main grantee and the other would have to be a subgrantee. This should be included in the narrative when describing the project team and a line in the budget table for "subgrantee or subcontractors", if costs are expected.
	7. Can there be federal partners in the project if other partners meet the guidelines for who is eligible to apply?	Yes, federal partners may be involved in the project if another eligible partner applies to be the grantee.
	8. We need mitigation before starting our project, can that be included in our proposal?	Mitigation that is required as part of a separate development project is ineligible for funding.
OPC Priorities	1. Does a project need to be located within or adjacent to a disadvantaged community to be eligible?	No, but it does need to demonstrate direct benefit to a Community.
	2. Will a project be considered if it is located more than 3 miles from the coast?	The maximum distance from the coast we will consider is four miles, and our priority areas are within three miles. If your project is more than three miles from the coast, please indicate how far from the coast it is. Our priority areas include San Francisco Bay and the outer coast. You can find a map of the OPC priority areas here: <a href="https://cnra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=596ed242b03c4709a603e3fac49b0c50">https://cnra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=596ed242b03c4709a603e3fac49b0c50</a>
	3. Is there a preference between which Communities are being served?	OPC staff are looking for whether the project benefits a Community, or multiple Communities identified in our priority areas. We are not placing additional preference on what characteristics (e.g. income or pollution exposure) enabled the Community to be included in our priority areas.
	4. If the project is not within a Critical Coastal Area, would it be considered?	Project locations are eligible if they're within the coastal areas highlighted in the Prop 1 maps. Not all of these areas are critical coastal areas. However it is critical that the project 1) improves water quality and 2) benefits Communities.
Timing of Permitting	1. Does the CEQA determination and permits need to be completed by the April letter of intent deadline, or another later date in the solicitation/application process?	For implementation projects (proposals that are ONLY seeking funding for restoration, implementation/construction), the CEQA determination must be complete before the OPC considers the project for funding. OPC staff plans to bring projects from this round before the Council on December 7th, 2021. All permits must be in-hand before implementation can start on the project, OPC staff will ask for the status of permits as part of the full proposal. For project proposals seeking funding for planning, design, or engineering, CEQA and permitting does not need to be completed by the December 2021 council meeting.
Budget/Funds	1. How accurate does our budget need to be for the LOI?	We encourage applicants to develop a higher-end estimate amount for their total funding needs in the LOI. We understand that these budgets are preliminary, and that there may be some change between the LOI and the full proposal budget. We are allowing changes in the total budget amount of up to 10% between the LOI and the full proposal.
	2. If you have many projects you want to fund totaling more than the \$7m available, will you ask potential grantees to reduce budget and scope?	Yes, if we have many more projects that we are able to fund, OPC staff may reach out to grantees later in the full proposal review or interview process and ask for reductions in budget and scope to fully leverage our awards.
	3. Can funds pay for food and water for volunteers, interns, or other project personnel?	Funds can pay stipends for interns and other project personnel. However, OPC funds cannot be used to pay for food and beverages (including water) at a meeting or volunteer events. Other funding sources may be used to provide these kinds of amenities.

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<b>Match or Leverage</b>	1. Do you have a minimum percent of non-state funds, or in-kind leverage, required to receive full points?	We do not have a formal minimum outlined in the grant guidelines. In prior scoring efforts, reviewers have generally scored as follows: 25% leverage - 3 points, 50% leverage - 5 points, 100% leverage - 10 points.
<b>Conservation Corps</b>	1. What needs to be done with the Corps by the time of LOI?	Technically, applicants do not need to consult with the conservation corps before turning in the LOI, but we encourage applicants to begin the consultation to assist with developing their budgets. Applicants will be required to show evidence of consultation with the Corps during the full proposal phase. Contact information for the State and Local Conservation Corps is as follows, and links to the formal Corps consultation process can be found on the OPC Prop 1 webpage: CA Conservation Corps: Prop1@ccc.ca.gov CA Association of Local Conservation Corps: Inquiry@Prop1CommunityCorps.org
	2. Does utilizing the CCC fulfill the need to engage underserved work force in the projects?	Utilizing the local CCC is one approach to demonstrate community work force benefits, however it is not the only method that can be used to engage underserved work force. OPC encourages project proponents to collaborate with local community partners that would have a direct connection to the project and its long-term benefits, including but not limited to: schools, community centers, community-based organizations and groups, parks districts, neighborhood merchants, etc. Projects utilizing various methods to communicate, collaborate, and engage underserved community work force would be more competitive.
<b>Demonstrating Long- Term Benefits</b>	1. How can you demonstrate the project would have long-term and sustained benefits for 30 years?	This really depends on the type of project, in some cases applicants can point to the anticipated lifetime of infrastructure, and include assurances that maintenance will be done. For design projects, applicants can point to the expected lifespan of the implemented project.
<b>Applicant Best Practices</b>	1. What are helpful tips to make my project more competitive against others?	Projects that align best with OPC's priorities for this round of funding, as well as Prop 1 requirements, would be most competitive against others. A project that provides several "multi-benefits", as defined by Prop 1 (see Chapter 6 purposes), significantly improves water quality that would otherwise harm community residents and ecosystems, and demonstrates direct and durable Community benefits and collaboration, would be highly competitive. Examples of community engagement and benefits include, but are not limited to: community-led or informed projects; paid employment opportunities for students, community members, or local work force; partnerships with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), local NGOs, or other government agencies; co-management and leadership opportunities with and for Tribes, including elements of traditional ecological knowledge.
	2. Is it critical or advised that the project measure the water quality benefit(s) of the project? In other words, should the project have water quality monitoring built into it?	We recommend that projects measure the water quality benefits and/or improvements in any way that is applicable, doable, and feasible for the proposed project. Including water quality monitoring is certainly desired for all projects, but not required for certain phases of a project, such as planning and/or design. It really depends on the project's specific water quality problem that would determine the best method to measure improvements. For some projects this would be straightforward water quality monitoring before and after project implementation, and for others, it may involve tracking how often infrastructure (e.g. wastewater treatment pipes or facilities) are overwhelmed.
	3. How would a project measure successful community benefits? In other words, what type of deliverables and outcomes would be preferred to fulfill the success metric?	Measuring success for meaningful community benefits will depend on the type of benefit, and engagement conducted for each project. For example, one way to measure success of community outreach and engagement, is to measure participation. Meaningful engagement should result in meaningful participation. Documentation that emphasizes the community's active role in the project's process can also help justify successful community benefits. For example, content derived from meetings, surveys, interviews, workshops or focused groups with CBOs or community members, including information on how their feedback is being integrated into the project, can be examples of deliverables. Projects should document their community engagement process, and can provide a guidance document, or community-engagement model summarizing the process as a deliverable. A supplemental community guidance document can serve to: 1) document the project's engagement methods and results; 2) be a model for future efforts, and 3) demonstrate the community's support and commitment through the duration of the project. Our webpage contains resources under "Developing Partnerships and Engagement Resources for Applicants" that may also help with this. OPC Prop 1 webpage:  <a href="https://www.opc.ca.gov/prop1/">https://www.opc.ca.gov/prop1/</a>
	Will this opportunity be available again next year?	It's anticipated that this will be the last round of funding for our Prop 1 grant program. However, OPC's strategic priorities are focused on providing equitable distribution of funds to Communities and ensuring investments are allocated for those areas most affected by environmental injustice. We recommend interested stakeholders to subscribe to OPC's email listserve to be updated whenever OPC announces new grant opportunities:  <a href="https://listserv.ceqa.ca.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=CNRA_OCEANS_PUBLIC&amp;A=1">https://listserv.ceqa.ca.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=CNRA_OCEANS_PUBLIC&amp;A=1</a>

If you have further questions about this solicitation and application process please email: [OPC\\_Prop1grants@resources.ca.gov](mailto:OPC_Prop1grants@resources.ca.gov).