



CALIFORNIA  
**OCEAN  
PROTECTION  
COUNCIL**

## Offshore Wind General Fund: Frequently Asked Questions

Updated on June 22, 2023

### Eligibility

Question	Answer
What is the definition of California applicants?	Project funding must demonstrate a benefit to the state of California. “California applicants” generally refers to California-based entities. However, staff residing in California, project funding expended in California, or subgrantees partnering with California-based entities will also be considered.
Are international partners allowed?	No, international partners are not eligible to be grantees.
If we are based in California, but have international members within our team, can those team members participate on this project with us?	International members that are part of a team with a California-based grantee are eligible to participate on the project.
Do private entities include for-profit enterprises?	Private entities are considered for-profit enterprises and are eligible to participate in this solicitation; however, they are prohibited from generating profits using state funding.
Would OPC be open to a kind of a process model where we contract with a series of independent panelists who are not employees of our firms, but are rather subcontractors?	Yes. OPC is open to funding a grantee with a project scope that includes subcontractors to advance a portion of the work.
Is there only one project team that will be selected?	Yes, only one grantee will be selected.

## Funding

Question	Answer
Is the term "overhead" in fact the multiplier on top of direct costs?	Overhead is direct costs times 0.15 (a typical multiplier). Overhead typically includes non-project costs necessary for general operations of an organization. Overhead cannot be applied to equipment or subgrantees unless previously approved by the Administration & Finance Manager or Deputy Director.
As a subcontractor, could we have our regular overhead as long as the prime contractor doesn't exceed 15%?	Overhead charged between a grantee and subgrantee is not controlled or regulated by OPC.
Are we required to pay subs prior to invoicing OPC?	The State follows an arrears payment system, meaning that all payments will be made after the grantee has accrued the costs. All invoices are required to be submitted to OPC on a quarterly basis, and upon acceptance, grantees will be reimbursed.
If the funding is paid out on a quarterly reimbursable basis, will reimbursement be within 30 or 60 days of invoice approval?	Payment is made through a paper check issued by the State Controller's Office, typically within 45 days of an approved invoice. In addition to paying in arrears, all invoices are subject to a 10% withholding, which will be released at the completion of the project and the submission/acceptance of final deliverables.
Recognizing that the State pays in arrears, and how that can be a burden on smaller organizations, are there any considerations for bridge funding or other financial arrangements?	OPC may consider providing advanced funds to entities that can demonstrate a proven financial hardship. Approval of advanced payments will be made by the Executive Director upon selection of the final grantee. If approved, the advanced payment will not exceed 25% of the project award; no additional payments will be issued until the grantee demonstrates that previously advanced funds are fully spent. Advanced payments cannot be used to support personnel costs.
Is OPC committed to funding a monitoring project that lasts the life of the windfarms?	This project is a two-year project only for developing guidance. OPC is committed to supporting science that can help inform our offshore wind decision making. This project will serve as a foundational step towards the establishment of a comprehensive long-term monitoring program.

## Monitoring Guidance

Question	Answer
Can you provide more details on the scope of the monitoring?	OPC seeks comprehensive guidance that identifies key monitoring needs at both project level and statewide/regional levels, during all phases of development and operation. The guidance will serve as a roadmap for prioritized monitoring needs and methodology to inform permitting and adaptive management.
Could the scope of the project include monitoring guidance for impacts from port development?	Yes, it is reasonable to incorporate port activities within the scope, considering their potential impact on the marine and coastal environment, particularly during the construction phase.
Can you provide more definition on the monitoring guidance that you are looking for. Is it specific to species, or all encompassing?	Comprehensive monitoring guidance should encompass various topics including, but not be limited to, oceanographic processes, marine mammals and sea turtles, birds and bats, marine ecology and habitat, and fisheries.
Could you provide more detail on the scope of these two tasks: 1) facilitating a transparent process, and 2) public outreach and engagement?	Outreach and engagement with tribes, fishermen, NGOs, agencies, the offshore wind industry and other partners is important to inform guidance development and share final recommendations. Appropriate scale and scope of this effort should be proposed by the applicant.
Is there an opportunity for industry to be a part of the advisory committee?	OPC is open to the role, size and membership of the advisory committee; as such, there is potential for experts from industry to be included.
How would this RFP effort align with a future regional science entity that could be created?	One of the objectives outlined in the RFP is to facilitate coordination among key players in the OSW sector. A regional science entity could be a potential approach to achieve this objective.
Regarding format guidelines for our submission, would it be acceptable to have some of our pages be oriented horizontally and vertically? For maps and images etc.	Changing page orientations would be acceptable. However, OPC requests that applicants refrain from reducing the font size to a smaller font.