



Senate Bill 1 Grant Program

Fact Sheet

Updated on January 16, 2025

Eligibility/Evaluation Criteria

Question	Answer
Are state agencies eligible for funding under the SB 1 Grant Program?	State agencies are not eligible for funding as the lead applicant under the SB 1 Grant Program, as Section 30973(a) of Senate Bill 1 specifically states that grants shall be made to local and regional governments for the purposes of updating local and regional land use plans to take into account sea level rise.
Even though state agencies are not eligible for funding, could a non-government organization or contractor submit a proposal on behalf of state agencies for a location where the state owns or manages the property?	While organizations or consultants can apply on a local, regional, or tribal government's behalf, organizations and consultants may not submit a proposal on behalf of state agency as a lead applicant. The intent of Section 30973(a) of Senate Bill 1 is to further local and regional government sea level rise planning. Projects must be designed with deliverables that further local or regional plans.

<p>State-owned land is a part of many coastal counties and cities. If state agencies are not eligible to be the lead applicant, how should this be addressed in SB 1 projects?</p>	<p>It is not the intent of this funding opportunity to fragment the coast or shoreline into an unnecessary number of sections and plans. The SLR Adaptation Criteria requires local and regional coordination with state agencies, as necessary. A local or regional government, as the lead agency, may choose to partner with a state agency to address and incorporate state-owned land in the adaption planning or implementation project.</p>
<p>Are non-federally recognized tribes eligible for funding under the SB 1 Grant Program?</p>	<p>Eligibility to serve as a lead applicant for a SB 1 Grant is limited to federally recognized tribes. Considering the objectives of both Senate Bill 1 and Senate Bill 272, SB 1 Track 1 projects are ultimately intended to be integrated into land use plans. Therefore, grantees must possess (or represent an entity that possesses) legal purview over the land involved in the project.</p> <p>However, OPC strongly encourages projects that are co-created with California Native American tribes and through tribal partnership, rather than only through consultation. This partnership can be inclusive of non-federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations. More information about this can be found in the Solicitation under Section IV. B, <i>Tribal Consultation and Partnership</i>.</p>
<p>Are special districts eligible for funding under the SB 1 Grant Program?</p>	<p>Yes, special districts qualify as local and/or regional governments and are eligible for funding under the SB 1 Grant Program.</p>

<p>Is it necessary for applicants to apply for Track 1 before applying for Track 2 when the process is open?</p>	<p>While it is not mandatory for applicants to go through Track 1 prior to applying for Track 2, there is a preference for having a vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan (either from Track 1 or through previous planning work) in place before pursuing general implementation funding for coastal resilience under Track 2. However, OPC recognizes the urgency of funding timely implementation projects and will consider projects on a case-by-case basis to meet local jurisdictions where each are in the planning and adaptation process.</p>
<p>What qualifies as a regional government for the purposes of the SB 1 Grant Program?</p>	<p>A regional government generally refers to an authority that manages and/or coordinates policies, planning, and administrative functions across multiple local governments within a defined geographic area. This type of government entity is often responsible for addressing issues and providing services that cross the boundaries of individual local governments, such as transportation, environmental protection, economic development, and public safety. These entities may also oversee resources and infrastructure that benefit a larger region rather than a single community or municipality. Regional governments can take various forms, including regional planning districts consistent with Cal. Government Code sections 65060 <i>et seq</i>, regional councils, regional commissions, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), councils of governments (COGs), through joint powers agreements pursuant Cal. Government Code section 6500, or other special districts. For further clarification on whether your organization qualifies as a regional government, email OPC-SB1@resources.ca.gov.</p>

<p>What documentation is required if an organization or consultant is applying for funding on behalf of a government?</p>	<p>If the applicant is an organization or consultant applying on a government's behalf, a Letter of Commitment (or in the case of a tribal government, a letter or resolution signed by the chairperson) is required from the local, regional, or tribal government, that demonstrates effective support and collaboration between the two entities. The letter should be provided by those with authority to speak on behalf of the local, regional, or tribal government who will benefit from the project. There is no requirement that a letter be provided by specific department or official, as each jurisdiction is unique (the jurisdiction's planning department, sustainability department, mayor's office, county supervisor's office, etc., would all be acceptable examples). The content of the letter should demonstrate how the jurisdiction will use the project outcomes and deliverables in planning/SLR adaptation and resiliency efforts, specifically efforts that will support the development of land use plans (LCPs) and the requirements set forth in SB 272. Overall, letters that demonstrate the entity's awareness and support for the project and provides an overview of how the project results will be utilized, will be accepted. If an organization has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the government that specifically addresses collaborative efforts related to the project (e.g., fundraise, write grants, and serve as their grant administrator for resilience and adaptation projects), that would also be acceptable to take the place of a Letter of Commitment from the government.</p>
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<p>What level of signoff is required from local tribes? Is there a protocol for communication with tribes for this program?</p>	<p>The SB 1 Grant Program encourages projects to include meaningful engagement with California Native American tribes to the fullest extent possible. OPC defers to each tribe on how they prefer to be engaged in projects that may affect them, and project applicants should conduct robust outreach, and where applicable, offer consultation, to local tribes to understand tribal preferences regarding the level and method of engagement in the project and tribal priorities. At a minimum, grantees should communicate and coordinate with local tribes throughout the duration of the project and consider compensation for tribal consultation and engagement in the project.</p> <p>Additionally, OPC strongly encourages projects that are co-created and developed in equal partnership with local California Native American tribes. The SB 1 Grant Program will allocate a minimum of 5% of available SB 1 funds to support proposals by federally recognized tribes or proposals co-created between local governments and California Native American tribes. Partnership must be demonstrated through a Letter of Commitment or resolution signed by the chairperson from the tribe with a point of contact identified to work closely with the project lead/grantee. Where applicable, a budget that clearly demonstrates how tribal members will be compensated their work should be included.</p>
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Funding

Question	Answer
Is a match in funds required for applications?	No, while the use of leveraged or matched funds is appreciated and encouraged, it will not be given priority in the evaluation process.
Are there restrictions on what can be included in the budget?	Yes, please refer to OPC's Budget and Invoicing Guide for the list of budget restrictions.
How much funding is available for the SB 1 Grant Program? Has any specific amount been set-aside for Track 1 versus Track 2 projects?	As of December 2024, a total of \$19.97 million remains for both Track 1 and Track 2 proposals. OPC has not allocated a specific set-aside for either Track. Track 1 proposals (projects in the Pre-planning, Data Collection, and Planning Phases) are now being accepted through a rolling, quarterly process. Track 2 proposals (Projects in the Implementation Project Phase) are anticipated to be accepted through a competitive process starting in mid 2025, subject to availability of funding.
Can governments apply for the SB 1 Grant Program while receiving a grant through the California Coastal Commission's Local Coastal Program Local Assistance Grant Program? Or should governments choose only one Grant Program?	Local and regional governments are eligible to have a grant under both programs simultaneously. In such cases, it is encouraged that applications are complementary to both existing awards or future proposals.
When are grantees expected to commence work on the project following selection for funding?	Grantees can typically expect to begin work on their projects between 2-4 months following approval at an OPC Meeting, depending on the time taken to execute the grant agreement.

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<p>If a proposal is approved for funding, can the performance period be set to begin before grant approval and/or before the Grant Agreement is executed?</p>	<p>The performance period for a grant starts on the date the grant agreement is signed by all parties and cannot be backdated. Expenses incurred before the execution of the grant agreement are not eligible for reimbursement. The grant execution process typically takes 2-4 months after Council approval.</p>
<p>How did the FY 24-25 Budget impact the SB 1 Grant Program?</p>	<p>The FY 24-25 Budget maintained \$77 million in funding for the SB 1 Grant Program, with \$36.8 million delayed for allocation in 2026. As of December 2024, \$19.97 million is available for funding SB 1 projects.</p>
<p>When will Track Two proposals be accepted?</p>	<p>Track Two proposals (Implementation Project Phase) are anticipated to be accepted through a competitive process starting in mid-2025, subject to the availability of funding. This delay from the originally planned mid-late 2024 opening is due to adjustments in the SB 1 Grant Program's funding allocation, with \$36.8 million delayed until 2026, reducing the immediate funds available for Track Two. In the interim, OPC is accepting Track Two Letters of Intent (LOI) for urgent implementation projects that address near-term sea level rise threats. See the SB 1 Grant Program Solicitation (PDF) under "Track 2 Proposals & Urgent Phase 4 Projects" for more details.</p>

Project Priorities

Question	Answer
<p>What is a Sector Specific SLR Adaptation Plan?</p>	<p>Sector Specific SLR Adaptation Plans are those that pertain to a specific core sector with significant vulnerability and adaptation needs, and thus should have a more localized approach. These plans may be necessary if a core sector was omitted from a previously completed SLR adaptation plan, require a more detailed or complex adaptation planning process, or demonstrate recently intensified vulnerability to the impacts of SLR.</p> <p>Core sectors are based on the 2018 Local Coastal Program Guidance with some additions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal development and hazards • Public access and recreation (such as public facilities, trails, and parks) • Coastal habitats and species, Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA), and wetlands • Agricultural resources • Water quality and supply • Tribal Cultural Resources • Archaeological and paleontological resources • Scenic and visual resources • Socioeconomic vulnerability, including the diverse populations of the community and those who access the coast, as defined by the applicant • Contaminated sites • Critical infrastructure (roads, rail, wastewater, water supply facilities, ports, harbors, airports, power plants, and others as applicable)

<p>Why do applicants submitting proposals for Sector Specific SLR Adaptation Plans first have to complete a Letter of Intent (LOI)?</p>	<p>OPC anticipates very few instances where a Sector Specific SLR Adaptation Plan is the appropriate type of project, due to its narrow definition (see above question). The goal of the LOI is to understand why the Sector Specific Plan may not fit into regional planning efforts and/or why the project cannot proceed directly to the implementation phase (e.g. a feasibility assessment). Sector-Specific plans are not intended to be the first step of an adaptation project.</p> <p>Further, if a project has a location- or site- specific footprint or focuses on a specific building or area, it is most likely that the project should apply under Track 2, rather than Track 1 which is intended for community or regional-scale planning. By initially submitting a brief LOI, OPC staff aim to prevent unnecessary work for potential applicants to prepare full proposals for projects that may not align with the definition of Sector Specific plans and purpose of this solicitation.</p>
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<p>If a jurisdiction has developed an Adaptation Plan or Vulnerability Assessment prior to the release of the SLR Adaptation Criteria, what is the best way to determine what parts of the assessment or plan are compliant and what parts are not?</p>	<p>To determine compliance with the SLR Adaptation Criteria for a pre-existing Adaptation Plan or Vulnerability Assessment, a qualitative evaluation is recommended. This involves comparing components of the assessment or plan with the specified criteria to identify any gaps or unaddressed criteria.</p> <p>The SB 1 Grant Program is designed to avoid duplicating planning efforts already undertaken. Applicants must determine whether missing criteria in previously completed assessments or plans should be addressed. Within the provided Proposal Template, applicants have the opportunity to provide justification as to why certain criteria will not be incorporated into the final assessment or plan. To address critical gaps in a previously completed assessment or plan, applicants are encouraged to consider incorporating Phase 2: Data Collection into the project.</p>
<p>Can a Vulnerability Assessment be Sector Specific?</p>	<p>Yes, provided the project still meets the SLR Adaptation Criteria's vulnerability assessment criteria, and sound justification for any missing criteria is provided within the application.</p>
<p>Are SB 1 Grant Funds permitted to augment current sea level rise adaptation plans or projects funded with other funds?</p>	<p>Yes, the SB 1 Grant Program is designed to meet jurisdictions where each are in the sea level rise planning process and can be used to augment existing plans or projects that are already funded by other sources. This allows for the enhancement of ongoing efforts and the leveraging of additional funds to increase the impact and scope of coastal resilience projects. If an SB 1 project is augmenting an ongoing project, a comprehensive description of that effort, and how it aligns with the SLR Criteria, should still be included in the proposal in order for reviewers to understand how the project augmentation fits into the larger SLR planning efforts.</p>

<p>Is submission of multiple applications for different projects at different times permitted, or is it recommended to bundle different projects together into one application?</p>	<p>While bundling projects (ex. Phase 1 + Phase 2 + Phase 3) is recommended to streamline the review process and potentially increase funding efficiency, applicants are free to submit multiple applications if projects are at different stages of readiness. However, combining projects from different tracks (Track 1 and Track 2) is not permitted.</p>
<p>Whose resumes/CVs are required to be provided with the Track 1 proposal?</p>	<p>CVs and resumes should be provided for anyone who will be part of the project team. This includes staff from the government or lead organization and any subcontractors that have already been identified for the project.</p>
<p>Can funding for monitoring activities be included in Track 1 projects?</p>	<p>Although monitoring is recognized as crucial for informing adaptation pathways, Track 1 funds cannot be used for ongoing monitoring activities. Track 1 projects have a maximum duration of two years with the purpose of developing sea level rise plans and informing adaptation strategies. Monitoring requires sustained funding and longer timelines to provide valuable data and insights, which Track 1 does not support at this time.</p>

<p>Is beach nourishment eligible for funding under the SB 1 Grant Program?</p>	<p>Beach nourishment may be eligible for SB 1 funding under both planning (Track 1) and implementation (Track 2) projects. However, projects should incorporate long-term adaptation pathways that emphasize more sustainable, nature-based solutions, given the typically short-term benefits of nourishment. Applicants should justify the use of nourishment as a short-term solution, and include plans describing how other long-term adaptation solutions to address sea level rise (SLR) impacts will be implemented. Additionally, nourishment projects should demonstrate significant benefits for coastal habitats and public access points.</p>
<p>What is a Multi-jurisdictional San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Plan?</p>	<p>According to The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan and Guidelines, San Francisco shoreline adaptation plans can fall into two categories: a multi-jurisdictional shoreline adaptation plan, or a single jurisdiction subregional shoreline adaptation plan. Both types of planning projects are a part of the OPC SB 1 Grant Program's Track 1, Phase 3 project category. Multi-jurisdictional San Francisco Bay Shoreline Adaptation Plans allow for a streamlined and collaborative approach to planning, often with a focus on landscape scale vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies. These plans are typically led by a county government, and coordinate planning efforts for the cities or other management agencies within the county. These plans are intended to satisfy the requirements of SB 272 for all involved cities and counties and should be developed with the goal of adoption by each participating city council and county Board of Supervisors.</p>

For Adaptation Plans within the San Francisco Bay Area, are multi-jurisdictional plans preferred over single jurisdiction County or City plans?	In an effort to streamline state and local resources, especially funding and capacity, and ensure coordinated consideration of SLR impacts across multiple jurisdictions, multi-jurisdictional plans are encouraged by BCDC to achieve compliance with SB 272 and are the preferred approach for the use of SB 1 Grant Program funds. Single jurisdiction plans are encouraged to demonstrate how these plans will align and integrate in multi-jurisdictional or regional planning.
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Letters of Alignment

Question	Answer
Are Letters of Alignment required?	No. A Letter of Alignment was originally a required component of all Track 1 proposals. However, after careful consideration and review of feedback, this requirement has been removed. Applicants wishing to apply for the SB 1 Grant Program are no longer required to submit a Letter of Alignment from the California Coastal Commission (CCC) or Bay Conservation Development Commission (BCDC) with their Track 1 proposal. This change has been updated across all SB 1 materials. Please check the SB 1 Funding webpage for the most updated version of documents.
Will the California Coastal Commission (CCC) or Bay Conservation Development Commission (BCDC) still have input on applications?	Yes. To ensure the proposed project complies with the requirements and intent of Senate Bill 1 (Atkins, 2021) and Senate Bill 272 (Laird, 2023), submitted Track 1 applications will undergo evaluation by California Coastal Commission (CCC) staff for projects along the outer coast, or Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) staff for projects along the San Francisco Bay Shoreline. More information about this can be found in the Solicitation under <i>Section IV. B, Technical Evaluation</i> .

Miscellaneous

Question	Answer
Is a Board Resolution required for Track 1 Proposals?	OPC cannot enter into a grant agreement without governing board approval verifying that the Applicant can accept funding from the state. However, applicants will not be required to submit this until after the project has been approved for funding at an OPC Meeting. The Board Resolution will be required prior to grant execution.
Are project letters mandatory for submission with a Track 1 application?	If an organization is applying on behalf of a local, regional, or tribal government, a Letter of Commitment (or resolution, if the organization is applying on behalf of a tribe) from the respective government entity is required. If an applicant is applying for a multi-jurisdictional plan, Letters of Commitment are required from each participating jurisdiction. While additional Letters of Support are strongly encouraged for all projects to demonstrate broad-based backing and community engagement, they are not mandatory.
Will there be a list available of SB 1 grant recipients and their collaborating partners?	Yes, following each OPC Meeting where SB 1 projects are brought forward for approval, the SB 1 Funding webpage will be updated to link to the Staff Recommendations containing details on each project and applicant.

For additional questions, please email OPC-SB1@resources.ca.gov