



CALIFORNIA  
**OCEAN  
PROTECTION  
COUNCIL**

## Senate Bill 1 Grant Program

### Fact Sheet

Updated on March 1, 2024

#### 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.

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<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 <a href="#">SLR Adaptation Criteria</a> 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 adaptation 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 <a href="#">Solicitation</a> 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>

## 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 <a href="#">OPC's Budget and Invoicing Guide</a> 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?	A total of \$71.4 million is available for both Track 1 and Track 2 proposals. OPC has not allocated a specific set-aside for either Track. Track One proposals (projects in the Pre-planning, Data Collection, and Planning Phases) are now being accepted through a rolling, quarterly process. Track Two proposals (Projects in the Implementation Project Phase) will be accepted through a competitive process starting in mid-late 2024, 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.

## 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"> <li>• Coastal development and hazards</li> <li>• Public access and recreation (such as public facilities, trails, and parks)</li> <li>• Coastal habitats and species, Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA), and wetlands</li> <li>• Agricultural resources</li> <li>• Water quality and supply</li> <li>• Tribal Cultural Resources</li> <li>• Archaeological and paleontological resources</li> <li>• Scenic and visual resources</li> <li>• Socioeconomic vulnerability, including the diverse populations of the community and those who access the coast, as defined by the applicant</li> <li>• Contaminated sites</li> <li>• Critical infrastructure (roads, rail, wastewater, water supply facilities, ports, harbors, airports, power plants, and others as applicable)</li> </ul>

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<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). 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>
<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>
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## Letters of Alignment

<p><b>Question</b></p>	<p><b>Answer</b></p>
<p>Are Letters of Alignment required?</p>	<p>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 <a href="#">SB 1 Funding webpage</a> for the most updated version of documents.</p>
<p>Will the California Coastal Commission (CCC) or Bay Conservation Development Commission (BCDC) still have input on applications?</p>	<p>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 <a href="#">Solicitation</a> under <i>Section IV. B, Technical Evaluation</i>.</p>

## 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.

For additional questions, please email [OPC-SB1@resources.ca.gov](mailto:OPC-SB1@resources.ca.gov)