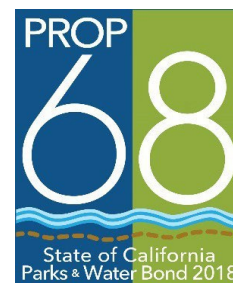




CALIFORNIA
**OCEAN
PROTECTION
COUNCIL**



Proposition 68 Advancing 30x30 in Coastal Waters Solicitation

**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**

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Introduction

Essential Background and Information

Background on OPC and Proposition 68

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) was created to ensure that California maintains healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. OPC works with state, federal, tribal, and local entities to further the Council's goal of protecting, conserving, and maintaining California's healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems and the economies they support. The role of OPC is to recommend policy, lead and promote coordination, seek and leverage funding, inform government decision-making with the best available science, and to operate with transparency and accountability.

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.

Chapter 9 of Prop 68 allocates \$35 million to the California Ocean Protection Council for grants consistent with the California Ocean Protection Act (Section 35650). Priority shall be given to projects that conserve, protect, and restore marine wildlife and healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems with a focus on the state's system of marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries. The funds in Chapter 9 may be allocated through competitive or discretionary grant programs. In addition, Prop 68 requires that at least 15 percent of the funds provided to OPC be allocated to projects that serve severely disadvantaged communities.

OPC approved updated [Prop 68 Grant Guidelines](#) (Grant Guidelines) on September 10, 2024. These Grant Guidelines, which are available on the [OPC Prop 68 webpage](#), 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. Please review the [Grant Guidelines](#), this Solicitation, and the Key Documents called out below very carefully and thoroughly before proceeding with the grant application process.

Background on 30x30

In October 2020, Governor Newsom issued [Executive Order N-82-20](#), advancing environmental conservation as an administration priority and elevating the role of nature in combatting climate change. As part of this Executive Order, California committed to the goal of conserving 30% of state lands and coastal waters by 2030 (also known as the “30 by 30” or “30x30” initiative). In April 2022, the California Natural Resources Agency released [Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature](#), which defines 30x30 Conservation Areas, highlights the breadth of conservation that is consistent with this definition, and establishes 10 pathways for achieving 30x30 in California. 30x30 was codified into state law by Senate Bill 337 in 2023.

Five years into the 30x30 initiative, and halfway to the initiative’s target date, OPC has developed a [Roadmap to Achieving 30x30 in Coastal Waters](#). This roadmap builds on *Pathways to 30x30* and was developed in close partnership with scientific experts. Informed by extensive tribal consultation and public input, the roadmap sets an ambitious and world-leading standard for marine conservation while promoting ways in which people and nature can thrive together. It recognizes 1) tribal stewardship areas, such as the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, 2) marine protected areas (MPAs), such as California’s MPA network, and 3) areas that are not MPAs but are managed in ways that achieve significant biodiversity benefit, such as University of California Natural Reserves, as 30x30 Conservation Areas. Under this definition of 30x30 Conservation Areas, California currently stands at 21.9% of coastal waters conserved.

Moving forward, OPC and partners will continue the effort to conserve an additional 8.1%, or 275,000 acres, of coastal waters by 2030. OPC has identified four key approaches for accomplishing this: 1) sustain ongoing adaptive management of the state’s MPA network, 2) strengthen biodiversity conservation in National Marine Sanctuaries, 3) support tribally-led conservation, and 4) explore the role of other coastal and marine designations in conserving biodiversity.

This solicitation is intended to advance 30x30 in coastal waters by supporting the implementation of these approaches through action-oriented science (Track 1), accelerating environmental restoration and stewardship (Track 2), and revitalizing tribally-led stewardship (Track 3).

Solicitation Overview

Funding Information

The funding information for this solicitation is as follows:

- Anticipated Funding Available: \$10,000,000
- Minimum and Maximum Award Amounts: Varies by track; see below
- Maximum Project Length: 2 years

Solicitation Schedule

The schedule for this solicitation is as follows:

Milestone	Time Period
Grant Proposal Solicitation Released	June 18
Informational Webinar	June 30, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. PDT
Office Hours (Open Q&A Session)	July 9, 11:00 - 12:00 p.m. PDT
Letters of Intent Due	July 18, 5:00 p.m. PDT
Letters of Intent Review and Evaluation	July 21-August 12

Selected Applicants Invited to Submit Full Proposal	August 13
Full Proposals Due	September 19, 5:00 p.m. PDT
Full Proposals Review and Evaluation	September 22-October 24
OPC staff recommend selected projects to OPC for approval at quarterly Council meeting	December 9
Grant agreements executed, work begins	Winter 2026

Solicitation Priorities

The overall goal of this solicitation is to advance 30x30 in coastal waters by:

- Enhancing coastal and marine biodiversity conservation
- Strengthening biodiversity protections in existing 30x30 Conservation Areas
- Supporting the identification of potential new 30x30 Conservation Areas
- Providing direct benefits to coastal and marine biodiversity via restoration or other on-the-ground environmental stewardship activities
- Supporting stewardship of coastal and marine ecosystems by local communities and California Native American tribes

Applications submitted in response to this solicitation should align with the following key documents:

- [Strategic Plan to Protect California's Coast and Ocean 2020-2025](#)
- [Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature](#)
- [Pathways to 30x30 Appendix E: Science Needs for Advancing 30x30 in Coastal Waters](#)
- [Roadmap to Achieving 30x30 in California's Coastal Waters](#)
- [OPC Tribal Engagement Strategy](#)
- [OPC Equity Plan](#)

Details on individual solicitation tracks are provided below.

Track 1: Action-Oriented Science

- Funding Range: \$200,000 - \$1,000,000
- Total Funding for Track 1: \$3,000,000
- Maximum project timeline: 2 years (1-year projects are highly encouraged)

Implementation of 30x30 in coastal waters must be based on best available science and Traditional Knowledges. The objective of this track is to address key scientific knowledge gaps related to 30x30 and marine biodiversity conservation more broadly, as detailed in *Pathways to 30x30 Appendix E: Science Needs for Advancing 30x30 in Coastal Waters*. Project outcomes should directly inform management actions to address threats to coastal and marine biodiversity and include, where appropriate, recommendations for long-term monitoring and evaluation to support coastal and marine ecosystem health.

Examples of priorities for this track include, but are not limited to:

- Assessment of opportunities for strengthening existing and/or identifying potential new area-based conservation measures and initiatives that could address key threats to coastal and marine biodiversity
- Assessments of the intensity and distribution of key threats to coastal and marine biodiversity and how such threats may change in the future
- Identification of areas in California's coastal waters that are particularly sensitive, vulnerable, or important for biodiversity (e.g. climate refugia, estuaries, rare habitat, areas of high genetic diversity, spawning grounds, ecosystems underrepresented in current protected area networks, etc.), and how protections in these areas could be strengthened

A total of \$3,000,000 is available for Track 1. Three to six projects are expected to be selected for funding, with a project minimum of \$500,000 to a maximum of \$1,000,000 (to include indirect costs, if any). The anticipated start date of these projects is winter 2026. The duration of a project should be no more than two years, with one-year projects highly encouraged given the urgency of the 30x30 initiative.

Track 2: Accelerating Environmental Restoration and Stewardship

- Funding Range: \$200,000 - \$1,000,000
- Total funding for Track 2: \$3,000,000
- Maximum project timeline: 2 years

Conserving California's coastal and marine ecosystems will not be achieved simply by protecting intact habitats. Active restoration and stewardship will be required to support the recovery of imperiled habitats and species, to build resilience to climate change, and to ensure that 30x30 Conservation Areas continue to thrive into the future. The objective of this track is to support on-the-ground restoration and other stewardship activities across a broad array of coastal and marine ecosystems. For this track, projects that focus on degraded or threatened coastal and marine habitats, as well as those that provide multiple benefits (e.g. improving biodiversity outcomes while also supporting equitable access and climate resilience), will be prioritized. OPC will support restoration and stewardship activities that occur both inside and outside designated 30x30 Conservation Areas. Examples of priorities for this track include, but are not limited to:

- Restoration of eelgrass beds, kelp forests, and other important coastal and marine habitats
- Restoration that allows for habitats to move inland as sea levels rise and to protect nearshore areas from storm surge or sea level rise
- Water quality improvement
- Management of invasive coastal or marine species

- Restoration and stewardship efforts that improve biodiversity at the land-sea connection

A total of \$3,000,000 is available for Track 2. Three to five projects are expected to be selected for funding and range from a minimum of \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 (to include indirect costs, if any). The anticipated start date of these projects is winter 2026. The duration of a project should be no more than two years.

Track 3: Revitalizing Tribally Led Stewardship

- Funding Range: \$100,000 - \$2,000,000
- Total funding for Track 3: \$4,000,000
- Maximum project timeline: 2 years

California Native American tribes have stewarded the lands and waters of what is now known as California since time immemorial, and meaningful tribal partnership is a cornerstone of the State's 30x30 initiative. This objective of this track is to restore and revitalize tribal stewardship of California's coast and ocean, for the benefit of both people and nature. Examples of priorities for this track include, but are not limited to:

- Ancestral land return to support tribal priorities for biodiversity conservation
- Tribally led research, monitoring, and restoration efforts, including use of Traditional Knowledges to advance biodiversity conservation
- Development, establishment, and stewardship of Indigenous Marine Stewardship Areas

A total of \$4,000,000 is available for Track 3. Three to five projects are expected to be selected for funding and range from a minimum of \$200,000 to a maximum of \$2,000,000 (to include indirect costs, if any). The anticipated start date of these projects is winter 2026. The duration of a project should be no more than two years.

Additional Project Characteristics

Prop 68 funding is intended to prioritize projects that include the following characteristics, to the extent practicable:

- Projects that are innovative; demonstrate new approaches or solutions to ocean and coastal problems; employ community-based approaches; and/or address important unmet needs or gaps.
- Projects impacted by coastal sea level rise shall integrate the latest scientific research and knowledge, including use of the latest [State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance](#).
- Projects that leverage private, federal, or local match funding or produce the greatest public benefit will be ranked higher during scoring. Match funding is not required to receive Prop 68 funds and interested applicants are still encouraged to apply without match funding.
- Projects that have completed and/or demonstrated progress towards acquiring required permits, if applicable to the project type and scope. Note: Unless the scope of the proposed project requests grant funds for environmental assessments, technical studies, and/or permitting, certain projects (e.g. implementation and/or shovel-ready) are required to obtain the necessary permits to implement the project prior to disbursement of grant funds.

Additionally, where relevant, funded projects must include signage, acknowledgement, and/or other communication materials in accordance with [OPC's Signage and Communications Materials Guide](#).

Environmental Documents and Permitting

OPC is required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (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.

On September 23, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 155, adding Section 21080.56 to the California Public Resources Code. This section provides a new CEQA statutory exemption for fish and wildlife restoration projects that meet certain requirements. For more information on the new Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) process, please see the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Cutting the Green Tape SERP webpage](#) or email CDFW staff at RestorationPermitting@wildlife.ca.gov for questions.

Applicants are solely responsible for receiving and fulfilling all permitting requirements. Most research projects are exempt from CEQA and not subject to review, but all projects must have CEQA status solidified prior to project start date.

Long-Term Benefits and Data Management

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.

OPC's [DataONE platform](#) will serve as the formal vehicle for delivery of all data associated with projects funded through this solicitation. OPC will work with project applicants to support data upload and compliance with OPC's data and metadata standards. For more information on project data sharing requirements, please see the [Prop 68 Grant Guidelines, section 7.4](#).

Projects that Benefit Diverse Populations¹

OPC prioritizes projects that demonstrate meaningful and direct benefits to diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations, and tribal communities. OPC also prioritizes projects that demonstrate significant benefits to communities disproportionately burdened by environmental injustice and those historically excluded from decision-making processes.

Prop 68 specifically requires OPC to spend 15% of Prop 68 funds on projects that directly benefit severely disadvantaged communities, defined as a community with a median household income less than 60% of the statewide average. A disadvantaged community is defined as a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80% of the statewide annual median household income. 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. Generally, OPC considers projects that are within a ½ mile of a disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged community to be "near" the community. OPC will use its discretion to determine whether proposed projects benefit communities, and expects applicants to describe and justify how the community is served by the proposed project. Projects can demonstrate intentional community benefits through describing community partnerships and collaboration, community workforce employment, and other forms of [meaningful community engagement](#).

¹ Prop 68 is intended to promote diversity and inclusion, and thus, encourages OPC to give favorable consideration to projects that provide benefits to diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations, and tribal communities.

Partnerships: Tribal Consultation, Community Engagement, and Confidentiality Agreements

Tribal Consultation: OPC encourages California Native American tribes and tribally-led entities to submit eligible projects for consideration. Applications may also be submitted by inter-tribal consortiums, tribal conservation districts, or by a non-tribal entity that is partnering and co-developing the project in partnership with a California Native American tribe. Applications submitted by non-tribal entities on behalf of, or in partnership with, California Native American tribes must show that tribes are actively partnering with and supporting the application (e.g. through a signed letter or resolution from the tribes), and applications must also describe how the project will serve and/or benefit the supporting tribes and community.

Additionally, OPC prioritizes open, inclusive, and regular engagement with California Native American tribes. Applicants should conduct early and meaningful outreach and/or consultation, where applicable for government applicants, with local tribes while developing project proposals and should strive to include local tribal communities in project work. Where appropriate, OPC encourages tribal applicants to connect with potential collaborators, including other tribes, when developing project proposals.

Depending on the nature of proposed projects and potential impacts to tribes, formal government-to-government consultation may need to be pursued. Applicants are encouraged to review the OPC Tribal Engagement Strategy for additional context and guidance on tribal engagement.

Community Engagement: OPC seeks projects that demonstrate strong and meaningful partnerships and encourages applicants to demonstrate collaboration across a broad range of partners. Project applicants should clearly identify collaboration opportunities, where applicable, with government agencies and/or private entities, either in project research and/or implementation, to demonstrate how project outcomes will directly advance 30x30. Project applicants should also

clearly identify collaboration opportunities with community, conservation, science, and/or fishing organizations, and other partners, as applicable.

Examples of effective engagement include, but are not limited to: meaningful engagement and collaboration to inform the design of a project or research questions, direct support throughout the project, including technical assistance and capacity building, and other opportunities the project provides, such as participation and/or access to ocean/coastal planning, research, policy, programs, and decision-making.

Confidentiality: OPC's preference is to NOT receive sensitive or confidential information from California Native American tribes or other applicants. In the event an applicant believes sharing sensitive or confidential information is necessary as part of a letter of intent or full proposal, please contact OPC before submitting the information to discuss potential solutions.

Where privacy issues or other sensitivities may arise as part of a project, these must be noted explicitly in project proposals, along with a proposed remedy to enable delivery of data with appropriate accommodations to account for the sensitivity. This may include, for example, delivering data only to OPC and under protection of a signed nondisclosure agreement, or developing a protocol to anonymize observations as needed to enable sharing collected data with researchers and government agencies.

Confidentiality is especially important to consider when working with socioeconomic information (e.g. information produced through interviews with fishermen), locations of culturally sensitive places, habitats, or species, traditional knowledges, and locations of populations of protected or sensitive organisms (e.g. noted during field surveys).

Applicants should include a description of their anticipated method for protecting confidential and/or sensitive information and must outline measures to protect confidentiality of data or

knowledge if relevant to their proposed project. OPC is committed to working with applicants and partners to design appropriate confidentiality agreements, where appropriate and needed, to protect sensitive information.

Application Process and Requirements

This section contains instructions for proposal submission. It is the responsibility of the applicant to carefully read and follow all proposal requirements within this RFP. Compliance with the RFP instructions is mandatory for your proposal to receive full consideration. Failure to comply with the RFP instructions may cause your proposal to be deemed ineligible.

Grant Eligibility

Eligible Grantees

Applicants that are eligible to apply for Prop 68 funding from OPC consist of:

- 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
- California Native American Tribes
 - Federally recognized tribes: Federally recognized tribes must provide evidence of inclusion in the annually published federal register from the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to 25 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 83, Section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994.
 - Non-profit organizations applying on behalf of non-federally recognized tribes, an inter-tribal consortium, tribal conservation district, or tribal partnerships: Qualified 501(c)(3) organizations must provide an IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter or printout

from the IRS tax-exempt organization search tool on the official IRS website, see <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/>.

As noted above, for any proposals submitted that include tribal partnerships, OPC will require proof of partnership in the form of a signed letter from the tribes' leadership council or chairperson, signed tribal council resolution authorizing and consenting to partnership with entity for the purpose of pursuing the project proposal, or other appropriate documentation. Projects claiming tribal partnership without proof of collaboration or consent will be disqualified and ineligible for funding.

Projects involving federally recognized California Native American tribes may require a limited waiver of sovereign immunity. The need for a waiver will be determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the type and scope of the project. Projects that require a limited waiver include, but are not limited to:

- Land acquisition
- Capital improvement projects
- Advance payment eligibility

OPC is committed to working collaboratively with California Native American tribes to tailor waiver terms in a way that supports tribal priorities while meeting the State's legal obligations. Additionally, OPC is available to meet with a tribe should they wish to discuss this matter further prior to an application submission.

For projects that take place on shared ancestral territory, as identified by the applicant and/or through OPC-led tribal consultation, applicants are strongly encouraged to include a description of outreach with other tribes in the project application.

Please be aware that OPC cannot enter into a grant agreement without governing board approval or other verification that the Applicant can accept funding from the state. Applicants will be required to submit this verification before grant execution. The proposal must adhere to the [Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines](#).

Applicant Capacity

The applicant must demonstrate that it can adequately administer the ongoing management and operation of the project, and that its entire operating budget is not dependent upon the underlying grant. The applicant should address the following organizational capacity and expertise elements, including but not limited to:

- Capacity to manage a state award, including fiscal system and staff dedicated to financial operations
- Ability to address cash flow processing of reimbursement payments. Grantees implementing projects that benefit Priority Populations and/or Communities may be eligible for a small fund advancement. Please see “Advanced Payments” below for details. Aside from the “advanced payments” exception, OPC provides funds on a reimbursement basis, and withholds 10 percent of the funds, to be disbursed upon project completion. There are restrictions on the types of expenses that can be claimed. All expenses are paid on a reimbursement basis within 45 days of receiving a properly submitted “Request for Disbursement” and its associated invoice, receipts, and other required documentation. For more information, see [OPC’s Budget and Invoicing Guide](#).
- Proof of qualified staff or contractors to carry out the project activities
- The applicant’s governance structure, operating procedures, and the commitment to see the project to completion

Please refer to [Section 2.5 Technical Assistance](#) in the Prop 68 Grant Guidelines for applicant capacity and support for DAC, SDAC, tribes, and other Priority Populations and Communities.

Project Eligibility

Prop 68 funds must be spent consistent with the General Obligation Bond Law, Government Code §16727. This means projects must provide long-term benefits to the state; “long-term benefits” are generally considered to be a minimum of 15 to 30 years. OPC Prop 68 Grant Guidelines do not allow funding for costs associated with environmental permitting. OPC has additional information on eligible and ineligible projects in the [Prop 68 Grant Guidelines](#) under section 2.3 and 2.4.

Solicitation Webinar and Pre-Proposal Office Hours

OPC will hold an informational webinar on **Monday, June 30, 2025 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.** The webinar will provide a venue to discuss solicitation priorities, the proposal review process, and any questions prospective applicants may have. If you want to attend, please [register for the webinar](#).

OPC staff will also be available for virtual “office hours” to answer questions and provide technical assistance on **Wednesday, July 9, 2025 from 11:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m.** If you want to attend, please [register for the office hours](#).

For further questions, please contact: 30x30coastalwaters@resources.ca.gov.

Letter of Intent Phase

Applicants must submit a completed Letter of Intent (LOI) in response to this solicitation. The deadline for submission is July 18, by 5:00 p.m. PDT. The LOI is the first phase of the grant application process describing the project proposal and will only be accepted during the solicitation period. The LOI is intended to provide a brief summary of the proposed project and should be concise. Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent to be eligible to submit a full proposal.

Applicants must complete the following steps:

- Carefully review the OPC Prop 68 Grant Guidelines and this entire Grant Proposal Solicitation.
- Download [Letter of Intent template](#) and complete per instructions (no other forms from the Prop 68 webpage are needed at this stage).
- Submit Letter of Intent (including any maps/photos/attachments) to 30x30coastalwaters@resources.ca.gov with the subject “Prop 68 Application – [Your Organization]”.

Letter of Intent Screening and Review

OPC staff will screen LOIs for completeness and project eligibility. If the LOI is incomplete, OPC has discretion to either return the LOI to the applicant or assist the applicant with gathering additional information and modifying the proposal to enable the application to pass the completeness screening. Eligibility screening will ensure:

- The applicant is an eligible entity
- The project can be complete within the funding timeframe
- The project addresses at least one of the Chapter 9 Purposes of Prop 68
- The project consists of work that is eligible for bond funds under the General Obligation Bond Law, in terms of both project activities and long-term benefits; and
- The project does not have any planning component to be funded

LOIs that do not pass the completeness and eligibility screening process will not proceed to the scoring process. Following the LOI review phase, OPC anticipates inviting selected applicants to submit full proposals in August. (Refer to the above Solicitation Schedule in Solicitation Overview for specific dates).

Full Proposal Phase

Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will be provided with a full proposal template, specific instructions, and required forms to be completed. Full proposals must include a detailed scope of work, schedule, and budget for the project. 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 OPC 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

Evaluation of Proposals

Proposals will be reviewed and scored by a minimum of three professionals with relevant expertise. Reviewers may include state and federal agency staff and others with relevant expertise, including consultants, community partners/experts, knowledge holders, and academic professionals. All

reviewers other than OPC staff will be required to document that they do not have a conflict of interest in reviewing any proposals. Reviewers will be selected based on their knowledge of the priority topic areas described in the individual grant solicitation.

When evaluating project proposals, scores will be used to determine initial rankings and facilitate discussion among the review committee. After scores are collected, the review panel will meet to make their final recommendations. Scoring information on all proposals will remain confidential. To ensure a fair distribution of funds, OPC may also consider factors beyond scores such as geographic distribution of funds, previous grant performance, the likelihood of successful project implementation, and feasibility to accept partial funding; OPC retains full discretion in approving projects to be recommended for funding.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated and scored using the evaluation criteria below. Applicants are expected to carefully review the [Prop 68 Guidelines](#) pages 20-23 for more information on evaluation criteria.

SCORING CRITERIA FOR PROPOSALS	Points
Alignment with Prop 68, OPC Priorities, and Key Policy Priorities in the Solicitation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the project advance 30x30 in coastal waters and provide direct benefits to coastal and marine biodiversity?	30
Priority Community Benefits, Access, and/or Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the project directly benefit and meaningfully engage coastal communities and/or California Native American tribes?	25
Project Proposal Scope, Readiness, and Applicant Capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does the project team have the qualifications and capacity necessary to successfully complete the project?	20

Project Methodology, Innovation, and Effectiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are methods appropriate for the goals of the project, and do they include a plan for monitoring and evaluating project effectiveness? 	20
Leveraging of Funding Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any in-kind resources or leveraged funding being provided as match or leverage for the project? (Not required, but encouraged) 	5
Total possible points	100

Solicitation Updates and Contacts

Please check the [OPC Prop 68 webpage](#) regularly, subscribe to our listserv, and follow our social media for the most recent updates on this solicitation process.

Contact Information

If you have further questions about this solicitation and application process, please contact: 30x30coastalwaters@resources.ca.gov.