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# OPC Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program

## Track 2 Fact Sheet

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## General Program Information

Question	Answer
<p>How do Track 1 and Track 2 relate to each other?</p>	<p>Track 1 and Track 2 are designed to be complementary. Track 1 funds sea level rise adaptation planning, while Track 2 funds implementation of nature-based sea level rise adaptation projects identified through planning efforts.</p> <p>Together, the tracks support a planning-to-implementation pipeline, where adaptation plans and related deliverables inform the identification of priority implementation projects, which may be funded under Track 2.</p>
<p>Why must Track 2 projects be identified in a sea level rise (SLR) adaptation plan?</p>	<p>Track 2 is intended to fund implementation of nature-based sea level rise adaptation projects that advance local and regional adaptation planning efforts. Requiring projects to be identified in a completed or in-progress plan helps ensure projects reflect community priorities, align with long-term adaptation strategies, and have local jurisdictional support.</p> <p>This requirement is also consistent with the intent of Senate Bill 1 (Atkins, 2021) and Senate Bill 272 (Laird, 2023) to support coordinated sea level rise planning and to prioritize funding for the implementation of strategies and projects identified in a local sea level rise adaptation plan. An exception may be considered for projects that advance a strategic relocation strategy, at OPC's discretion.</p>

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<p>If an applicant received Track 1 funding, can they apply for Track 2?</p>	<p>Yes. Applicants that have received Track 1 funding are eligible to apply for Track 2 funding, provided they meet all Track 2 eligibility requirements.</p> <p>Given that many Track 1 projects are still in the early stages of grant implementation during this first funding round for Track 2: Implementation Projects, projects may be identified through other completed or in-progress planning efforts. Applicants should clearly describe the relationship between the proposed Track 2 project and any ongoing planning efforts in the jurisdiction to comply with SB 272 through a Local Coastal Program Update or San Francisco Bay Area Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plan.</p>
<p>Is there a list of sea level rise adaptation plans funded through Track 1?</p>	<p>Most Track 1 projects are still in the early stages of grant implementation and have not yet produced final adaptation plans. Information on previously funded Track 1 projects is available on the <a href="#">SB 1 Grant Program webpage</a> under “<b>Previously Awarded Projects</b>,” including the <a href="#">SB 1 Grant Program map</a>, past staff recommendations, and the California Grants Portal.</p>
<p>What is meant by the “Outer Coast,” and does this limit eligibility?</p>	<p>The “Outer Coast” refers to the open California coastline and is used to distinguish it from shoreline areas within San Francisco Bay. Eligibility is not limited to either geography and Track 2: Implementation Projects is open statewide to eligible applicants (see <i>Section III.A</i> of the solicitation for applicant eligibility) with proposed projects that address areas vulnerable to sea level rise.</p>

## Eligible Applicants

Question	Answer
What entities are eligible for funding via Track 2?	<p>The following entities are eligible to apply as the lead applicant for Track 2 funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local governments</li> <li>• Regional governments</li> <li>• Special districts, joint powers authorities, public utilities, local publicly owned utilities, and mutual water companies</li> <li>• California Native American tribes, including federally recognized and non-federally recognized tribes</li> <li>• State agencies</li> <li>• Public or private universities</li> <li>• Nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations</li> </ul> <p>Nonprofit organizations must be verified as 501(c)(3) organizations by the Internal Revenue Service.</p>
Are private entities eligible to apply as lead applicants?	<p>Private entities are not eligible to apply as lead applicants unless they are verified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.</p> <p>For-profit private entities may participate as part of an applicant team (for example, as consultants or subcontractors), but may not serve as the lead applicant.</p>

## Funding & Availability

Question	Answer
Is there a breakdown of the \$7 million available for Track 2 in Round 1, and how many projects does OPC anticipate funding?	<p>For Round 1 of Track 2, OPC does not have a predetermined allocation of the \$7 million across project types. The distribution of funds will depend on the number and type of projects that advance through the solicitation process.</p> <p>OPC has not established a target number of projects for Round 1. Eligible projects will be evaluated and competitively scored during the full proposal phase. Funding recommendations for Council approval will be based on proposal scores relative to other eligible projects, adherence to the Solicitation Priorities, and the total funding available for the round.</p>
Will Proposition 4 funding support both Track 1 and Track 2 projects?	<p>Yes. Proposition 4, pursuant to Pub. Res. Code section 92030, directs \$75 million to OPC to implement the California Sea Level Rise Mitigation and Adaptation Act of 2021 (SB 1, Atkins, 2021). OPC implements this Act through the SB 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program. Through the Budget Act of 2025 (SB 105), OPC received \$20 million in Proposition 4 funds to support the SB 1 Grant Program, \$7 million of which is available for the first round of Track 2: Implementation Projects.</p>
Does applying for or receiving other funding affect eligibility for Track 2?	<p>Applying for or receiving other funding does not, by itself, affect eligibility for Track 2. Leveraging additional funding sources is not required but is encouraged.</p> <p>However, Track 2 funds may not be used to duplicate costs supported by other funding sources. Applicants should be prepared to clearly describe how Track 2 funds would be used in relation to other funding sources and demonstrate that funding is not duplicative.</p>

## Application Process & Timing

Question	Answer
How many projects are expected to advance to the full proposal phase?	OPC expects to invite all projects that meet the required eligibility criteria during the Letter of Intent (LOI) phase to advance to the full proposal phase. Please see <i>Section III.D</i> and <i>III.E</i> of the <a href="#">Track 2: Sea Level Rise Implementation Project Solicitation</a> for further details regarding the eligibility criteria and evaluation of LOIs.
Do applicants who previously submitted a Track 2 Letter of Intent through an interim or urgent project process need to resubmit for Round 1?	Yes. To be considered for this round of Track 2 funding, applicants must submit a new Letter of Intent (LOI) using the updated LOI template available on the <a href="#">SB 1 Grant Program webpage</a> .  LOIs submitted prior to the formal launch of the Track 2 Solicitation will not be reviewed as part of the Round 1 solicitation.
Is a Governing Board Resolution required to be submitted with the Letter of Intent (LOI)?	No. A Governing Board Resolution is not required and should not be submitted during the LOI phase.  A Governing Board Resolution is only required for projects that are selected and approved for funding by the Ocean Protection Council. If a project is approved for funding, the resolution will be requested at that time, prior to grant agreement execution.
Should letters of support be included with the Letter of Intent (LOI)?	No. Letters of support should not be submitted during the LOI phase.

## Technical Assistance

Question	Answer
Will Technical Assistance be available during the Track 2 application process?	<p>Technical Assistance (TA) will be available to Track 2 applicants during the full proposal phase of the solicitation. TA will not be offered during the Letter of Intent (LOI) phase.</p> <p>Applicants interested in learning more about the SB 1 Technical Assistance Program, including available services and the intake process, may contact the SB 1 TA team at <a href="mailto:OPCSB1TA@coastal-quest.org">OPCSB1TA@coastal-quest.org</a> to express interest. Additional information will be shared on the <a href="#">SB 1 Grant Program webpage</a> as it becomes available.</p>

## Planning Requirements

Question	Answer
What planning requirements must a project meet to be eligible for Track 2?	<p>Eligible Track 2 projects must be identified as a priority in a completed or in-progress sea level rise (SLR) adaptation plan, coastal resilience plan, or other comparable land-use planning effort.</p> <p>Applicants must provide a link to the relevant plan and describe how the proposed project is identified and supported through the planning process. Applicants should also describe the status of SB 272-related planning efforts, if applicable, for the jurisdiction(s) in which the project is located.</p>

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<p>Does the plan identifying the project need to be formally approved, such as through a Local Coastal Program (LCP) update or Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) process?</p>	<p>For this first round of Track 2 funding, projects do not need to be identified in a plan that has completed approval through the California Coastal Commission, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, or a similar regulatory process to be eligible. Although, projects identified in an approved plan are highly encouraged.</p> <p>Projects may be identified in in-progress plans or plans that have been approved at the local or regional jurisdictional level, provided the planning effort has advanced far enough to demonstrate meaningful community engagement, jurisdictional consideration, and a clear intent to include the project in the final plan.</p> <p>Additional information about eligibility for projects identified in in-progress planning efforts is provided below.</p>
<p>Can projects identified in in-progress planning efforts be eligible?</p>	<p>Yes. Projects identified in in-progress planning efforts may be eligible if the planning process has advanced far enough to demonstrate meaningful community engagement and local jurisdictional consideration, and to reasonably ensure that the proposed project will be included in the final plan.</p> <p>Applicants should describe the status of the planning effort, how the project was identified as a priority through that process, and how community and local jurisdictional support has been incorporated.</p>

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Can projects identified in regional planning efforts be eligible?	<p>Yes. Projects identified in regional planning efforts may be eligible, provided the planning effort demonstrates coordination with the affected local jurisdiction(s) and alignment with applicable local adaptation planning efforts.</p> <p>Applicants should describe how the regional plan informed project identification and how the project is supported by the relevant local jurisdiction(s), including how it relates to ongoing or planned SB 272 compliance efforts where applicable.</p>
Are there exceptions to the planning requirement for strategic relocation projects?	<p>Yes. An exception to the planning requirement may be considered for projects that advance a strategic relocation strategy. This exception recognizes that strategic relocation opportunities may arise at critical moments of community planning, local buy-in, and political will, and may not always align with the timing of formal plan adoption.</p> <p>Strategic relocation generally involves the intentional realignment or relocation of development to allow natural coastal processes, such as rising seas and migrating shorelines, to occur and may include restoration of natural areas and relocation of vulnerable infrastructure.</p> <p>Projects seeking an exception to the planning requirement should clearly justify the need for strategic relocation at this time, describe the community and jurisdictional support for the proposed approach, and explain how the project advances a strategic relocation outcome and aligns with the Solicitation Priorities. Strategic relocation exceptions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis at OPC's discretion.</p>

## Eligible Project Types & Activities

Question	Answer
<p>What types of project activities are eligible for Track 2 funding?</p>	<p>Track 2 provides funding for nature-based sea level rise adaptation implementation projects. Eligible activities include the following project types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Site Assessment and Preliminary Design</b> (e.g., feasibility studies, technical studies, preliminary design)</li> <li>• <b>Final Design and Permitting</b> (e.g., final design, engineering plans, permitting activities)</li> <li>• <b>Construction</b></li> </ul> <p>Projects may request funding for Site Assessment and Preliminary Design and Final Design and Permitting within the same grant.</p> <p>Generally, Track 2 does not fund both pre-construction activities and construction within the same grant. Construction projects in the final phases of design may be considered if both pre-construction and construction activities can be completed within the grant term.</p>
<p>Are feasibility studies that include hydraulic modeling of streams or creeks eligible for Track 2 funding?</p>	<p>Track 2 may fund site assessment and feasibility study activities, including hydraulic modeling, when they are clearly focused on addressing sea level rise impacts. Feasibility studies that primarily address riverine flooding or general stormwater management are not eligible.</p> <p>To be eligible, the proposed study must demonstrate that the modeling is necessary to understand or address sea level rise-related impacts (such as tidal influence, backwater effects, or coastal-fluvial interactions) and is critically needed to advance a project toward implementation.</p>

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<p>Do Track 2 projects need to include Local Coastal Program (LCP) amendments?</p>	<p>No. Projects seeking funding to incorporate sea level rise policies into an LCP update should apply for Track 1: Planning, which funds sea level rise adaptation planning.</p> <p>While Track 2: Implementation Projects must be identified in a completed or in-progress planning effort, the plan does not need to be codified through an adopted LCP amendment.</p>
<p>Are monitoring activities eligible for Track 2 funding?</p>	<p>Standalone or ongoing monitoring projects are not eligible for Track 2 funding. Limited monitoring may be eligible only when it is directly tied to an implementation project, required by permits or approvals, and conducted within the grant term.</p>
<p>Are research-only projects eligible for Track 2 funding?</p>	<p>No. Projects that are solely research-focused are not eligible for Track 2 funding. Track 2 is intended to support implementation of nature-based sea level rise adaptation projects rather than standalone research efforts.</p>
<p>Can you provide examples of projects that may be a good fit for Track 2?</p>	<p>Track 2 funding is intended to support implementation of nature-based sea level rise adaptation projects that have been identified as priorities through a comprehensive planning process.</p> <p>Requiring projects to be identified in a completed or in-progress adaptation plan helps ensure that proposed projects reflect local conditions, have undergone technical analysis and community engagement, and represent a deliberate prioritization among adaptation strategies. Eligible Track 2 projects may therefore vary in approach and scale, provided they are nature-based, aligned with the Solicitation Priorities, and advance implementation of an identified adaptation priority.</p>

## Grant Administration & Budget

Question	Answer
Are there restrictions on what can be included in the project budget?	<p>Yes. Only direct, project-related costs incurred during the performance period and included in the approved grant budget are eligible for reimbursement. All costs must support the approved scope of work and deliverables and be supported by appropriate documentation.</p> <p>Applicants should refer to OPC's <a href="#">Budget and Invoicing Guide</a> for detailed guidance on eligible and ineligible costs, documentation requirements, and other budget considerations.</p>
Will Track 2 grants be reimbursement-based or provide advance payments?	<p>Track 2 grants are generally reimbursement-based, with payments made after eligible project costs are incurred and invoiced in accordance with OPC requirements.</p> <p>OPC recognizes that some grantees may face cashflow challenges and may offer alternative payment options under certain circumstances, subject to OPC approval. Proposition 4, pursuant to Pub. Res. Code section 90130 authorizes advanced payments in the amount of 25 percent of the award to recipients, subject to administering agency requirements. Applicants should refer to the <a href="#">Proposition 4 Coastal and Ocean Resilience Grant Program: Emergency Regulations</a> regarding advance payment requirements.</p>

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