

# Climate Ready Grant Round #2

## FAQs

*Last Updated: July 11th, 2014*

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**GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE: August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**

### Purpose of FAQ:

The purpose of this Climate Ready Program FAQ is to provide answers to frequently asked questions posed during the first month after the second Climate Ready Program grant announcement was released on May 23, 2014. The below questions and answers are not meant to be an exhaustive list, but the most frequently asked questions thus far.

All policies and decisions are subject to approval by the Conservancy at a public meeting.

### **Project Eligibility**

#### **Agriculture projects: What are additional considerations for creating a strong agricultural operation climate adaptation project?**

- Multiple benefits (including, but not limited to):
  - Enhanced water quality and increased water filtration; Enhanced water use efficiency and reduced on farm water demand; Restored ecosystem services; Vegetation buffers; Habitat; Watershed protection; Reduced runoff and soil erosion; Flood protection; and Soil conservation; Management practices to capture and store carbon in soils;
- Potential to influence other agricultural operators to adopt climate adaptation practices; and
- Potential to use implemented project as a model elsewhere.

#### **Sea level rise projects: For sea level rise projects, is there a set preference for a habitat-only project versus a project that provides direct community flood protection benefits?**

- Priority will be given to sea level rise projects that provide the most public benefits. Public benefits are provided by restoration and protection of habitat, water quality, and public trails and recreational uses. Generally, the highest level of public benefits would be derived from projects that incorporate several of these project elements.

**All projects: For this grant round, it is worth it to apply for land acquisition for projects that will require restoration in the future to reach their potential for climate change mitigation?** (for example, acquiring a riparian corridor that connects to the ocean in an area vulnerable to sea level rise).

- Yes, if a strong case can be made that the particular parcel proposed for acquisition would, when restored, provide exceptional or strong climate benefits to human and natural communities.

- Additionally, the acquisition should have already been identified as key to achieving particular adaptation strategies, and a credible case would need to be made that restoration funds would be available within a limited (few years) period of time.
- On the other hand, it is conceivable that protection of a particular piece of land could provide significant benefits, such as a parcel identified as a valuable wildlife migration corridor, without restoration.

**All projects: Will the Coastal Conservancy fund restoration activities prior to acquisition?**

- Yes, we could fund restoration on a property that is not yet acquired, but there would have to be a credible case made that the acquisition funds would be available in a short (one year) time.
- Our goal is to support on the ground projects, and if we have other high priority projects that are ready to go, we would give preference to them, unless there is a strong case to be made that this type of project would provide more benefits.

### Project Location

**All projects: Do projects need to be within the state's coastal zone?**

- No. The Conservancy's geographic jurisdiction extends beyond the coastal zone as defined by the California Coastal Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. On the coast we work within coastal watersheds, and within the San Francisco Bay we work throughout the entire nine-county region.

### Budget

**All projects: What percentage of the budget can be used for design of implementation projects?**

- There should be minimal design required as we are at most funding final detailed designs as a small component of project implementation. A project would have to have preliminary designs completed to be eligible for this Climate Ready grant round. In no circumstance should design work comprise more than 10% of the proposed budget.

**All projects: What percentage of the budget should be targeted toward outreach, education, and dissemination of results?**

- The transfer of knowledge and project results can be accomplished electronically through the internet with a minimal budget, not to exceed 5%. Documenting project outcomes is necessary in order to quantify project success. A small portion of the budget (less than 10 %) may be used for this purpose.

### Matching Funds

**All projects: Are matching funds required, and are federal matches eligible?**

- Yes, Federal matches are eligible.
- Matching funds (including in-kind) are not essential, but will make proposals more competitive. Strong proposals from public agencies with highly limited discretionary funds and outside

matching fund options will not be penalized for providing limited cash as matching funds, but should have a robust in-kind contribution. This is reflected in bullet point #3 under the “Additional Conservancy-Adopted Criteria” section of our Project Selection Criteria: <http://scc.ca.gov/project-selection-criteria/#more-204>

## Timeline for Project Completion

### **All projects: What is the period to complete the project?**

- Higher priority will be given to projects that can be completed within 2 years.
- If more specific information is needed on this topic, please contact Conservancy staff, as grant periods are dependent upon specific funding sources.

### **Agriculture projects: What about the useful life term of 20 years for agriculture projects?**

- Projects funded through bond funds require 20-year agreements. However, there may be potential for shorter agreements through other fund sources.

## Concerning Multiple Projects

### **All projects: Are multiple projects allowed?**

- Yes.
- If you plan to propose two different projects, you are encouraged to reach out to Conservancy staff to discuss the proposed projects’ scope and alignment with Conservancy priorities for this current Climate Ready grant round.

## Resolutions

### **All projects: Would you accept a draft resolution?**

- The Conservancy can be flexible with this, on a case by case basis, though a passed resolution is needed before projects go before the Conservancy’s board, which would be in January or February 2015 for this current grant round.

## Reporting

### **All projects: Is there a target length for post project monitoring and reporting?**

- The target length for post project monitoring and reporting will be equal to the duration of the contract.

### **All projects: Are there reporting requirements?**

- Yes. Reporting requirements depend on the nature of the project (i.e. a planning project versus implementation, construction, or acquisition), and the source of funding (i.e. bond funds other than from Proposition 84 are subject to monitoring and enforcement of prevailing wage requirements by the Compliance Monitoring Unit).
- Examples of a few reporting requirements for all Conservancy projects can be found below. Additional reporting is required for implementation, construction, and acquisition grants.

- Given that the variations in reporting requirements depend upon each specific project, it is best to consult with a Conservancy Project staff person to determine the reporting requirements for your particular project.

### Standard Reporting For All Projects

- Request for Disbursements:
  - Monthly to quarterly reporting is required when submitting invoices to request disbursements from the Conservancy. In the 'Request for Disbursement' Form, the grantee will submit: name, address, the number of the grant agreement, date of submission, amount of the invoice, period during which the work was actually done, and an itemized description, including time, materials, and expenses incurred, of all work done for which disbursement is requested.
  - The 'Request for Disbursement' form will be accompanied by all receipts and any other source documents for direct expenditures and costs, invoices from contractors that the grantee engaged to complete any portion of the work funded under the agreement, and a supporting progress report.
- Financial Reporting:
  - Grantees must maintain financial accounts, documents, and records relating to the grant agreement and in accordance with the guidelines of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
- Time and Effort Reports:
  - Time and effort reports are also required. Grantees must maintain adequate supporting records in a manner that permits tracing from the request for disbursement forms to the accounting records and to the supporting documentation.
- California Environmental Information Catalog Entry:
  - Grantees must prepare and submit an entry to the California Environmental Information Catalog ("CEIC") for all geographic information products and reports which characterize site specific conditions with regard to vegetation, wildlife populations, species occurrences and other measures of biological diversity, environmental and ecological condition. The CEIC is available on the Internet at:  
<http://ceic.resources.ca.gov/contribute.html>.

For additional questions, please see the [Conservancy's Grant Application Instructions](#), or contact Kelly Malinowski: [kmalinowski@scc.ca.gov](mailto:kmalinowski@scc.ca.gov)