



## **Climate Ready Grant Announcement**

### **Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Adaptation**

*Funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund*

**Applications due July 2, 2018**

The California State Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Program is soliciting proposals for projects that use nature-based solutions to adapt to impacts of climate change. These grants seek to encourage local governments and non-governmental organizations to take action to prepare for a changing climate by advancing planning and implementation of projects that lessen the impacts of climate change, especially within disadvantaged communities.

The State Coastal Conservancy has \$3.8 million available for Climate Ready grants. There are no set minimum or maximum grant amounts, but the Conservancy anticipates funding 5-10 projects.

#### **Background**

The State Coastal Conservancy ("Conservancy") is a state agency that works with local communities to implement multi-benefit projects that enhance coastal resources.

The Climate Ready program was launched in 2013 to help California communities meet the challenge of a changing climate. The program has awarded grants to more than 40 projects to assist communities in increasing their resilience to climate change impacts such as sea level rise, urban heat islands, extreme weather events, wildfire, and poor air quality. More information and examples of projects that have been funded by the Climate Ready program in the past can be found here: <http://scc.ca.gov/climate-change/climate-ready-program/>.

This round of Climate Ready grants is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment— particularly in disadvantaged communities. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: [www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov](http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov).

## Eligibility

### **Eligible Projects – Purpose of this Solicitation**

The Conservancy seeks to support multi-benefit projects that use natural systems to assist communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change impacts. The unavoidable impacts of climate change are well-documented and include: sea level rise, extreme heat, wildfire, poor air quality, drought, flooding and other extreme weather events.

Climate adaptation is a response to these impacts that reduces their effect on vulnerable communities and the natural resources we all depend upon. This solicitation seeks to support climate adaptation projects, with an emphasis on projects that enhance natural systems and benefit disadvantaged communities.

Examples of the kinds of projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

#### *Nature in Cities*

Projects that create more sustainable and livable communities by improving natural areas and expanding green spaces. These projects can infiltrate storm water, recharge groundwater, improve water quality, sequester carbon, and enhance ecological function of creeks, streams, and wetlands. Projects may reduce urban heat island effects, improve air quality, increase walkability, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and create safe public green spaces and trails.

#### *Wetland Restoration*

Projects that restore coastal and riparian wetlands. These projects can create wildlife habitat, enhance the ability of marsh species to migrate inland, improve recreational opportunities, and improve water quality. Wetland restoration can reduce risk of coastal flooding from sea level rise. Floodplain restoration can reduce river flooding caused by increased storms.

#### *Nature-Based Solutions for Shoreline Protection*

Projects that increase shoreline resilience to sea level rise while restoring ecological function and creating habitat. These projects may involve installation of dunes, relocating development, conserving open space, and subtidal restoration including kelp, eelgrass and oyster beds.

The Conservancy seeks to implement on-the-ground projects, especially projects that can serve as pilots or models for future climate adaptation efforts. Planning grants will be considered when the planning is an essential step to develop a specific project and there is a clear plan for future project implementation.

## **Eligible Grantees**

Nonprofit organizations, tribes and public agencies are eligible for funding. To be eligible, a nonprofit organization must qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and the organization's purposes must be consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, the Coastal Conservancy's enabling legislation.

## **Eligible Project Locations**

The Conservancy supports projects within coastal draining watersheds, in the entirety of the nine-county Bay Area region, and in the jurisdiction of the Santa Ana River Conservancy. This includes the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. A map of the Coastal Conservancy's jurisdiction is posted here:

<http://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/grants/Jurisdiction1.pdf>

## **Funding Requirements**

### **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Requirements**

Projects in this Climate Ready Round will be funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), which is being administered by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). In order to meet GGRF's legislative purposes, projects must facilitate the achievement of reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and further the purposes of AB 32. As an example, a project that achieves net GHG reductions by increasing carbon sequestration through restoring wetlands or planting trees would be consistent with GGRF's purposes. Other projects might facilitate GHG reductions by reducing vehicle miles traveled by constructing bicycle paths, bicycle lanes, or pedestrian facilities that provide safe routes for travel between residences, workplaces, commercial centers, and schools. The Conservancy will work with applicants to document compliance with GGRF requirements and quantify these GHG and other co-benefits consistent with CARB guidance and quantification methodologies.

Funding recipients will be required to work with the Conservancy to meet reporting requirements in accordance with CARB guidance ([www.arb.ca.gov/cci-fundingguidelines](http://www.arb.ca.gov/cci-fundingguidelines)). Some reported project information will be publicly available on the CARB website.

### **Disadvantaged or Low-Income Communities**

At least 75 percent of the total funds will support projects that are located in **and** provide benefits to disadvantaged or low-income communities that fall under the criteria put forth by SB 535 (De León, Chapter 830, Statutes of 2012), which directed state and local agencies to make investments that improve California's most vulnerable communities, and AB 1550 (Gomez, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016), which increased investment minimums from GGRF to these communities. For more information, please see <https://calepa.ca.gov/envjustice/ghginvest/>.

A map showing what are considered disadvantaged and low-income communities as defined by SB 535 and AB 1550 can be found at: [www.arb.ca.gov/cci-communityinvestments](http://www.arb.ca.gov/cci-communityinvestments). Applications

for projects that benefit AB 1550 communities will be verified using the geographic coordinates provided in the application.

Benefits to disadvantaged and low-income communities must be clearly identified in the proposed project. Examples of benefits include:

- Project preserves a site that allows public access
- Project significantly reduces flood risk to households within one or more disadvantaged or low-income communities
- Project significantly reduces fire risk to households within one or more disadvantaged or low-income communities
- Project maintains water quality and health of watersheds serving priority populations through avoiding the conversion of forest lands or wetlands that would have resulted in impacts to nearby water bodies located in the same or a directly adjacent disadvantaged or low-income community as the project
- The majority (>50 percent) of trees planted by the project are located within one or more disadvantaged or low-income communities, and the project terms provide for maintenance of the trees and related vegetation
- Project expands or improves the usability of existing active transportation routes (e.g., walking or bicycle paths) or creates new active transportation routes that are publicly accessible by walking within one or more disadvantaged or low-income communities, or improves open spaces, parks, greenbelts, and recreational areas publicly accessible by walking within one or more disadvantaged or low-income communities
- Project provides regular and ongoing educational opportunities through partnerships with schools or non-profit organizations located in disadvantaged or low-income communities and site access to residents of these communities
- Project includes recruitment, agreements, policies, or other approaches that are consistent with federal and state law and result in either:
  - at least 25 percent of project work hours performed by residents of a disadvantaged or low-income community, or by residents of low-income households
  - at least 10 percent of project work hours performed by residents, as described above, participating in job training programs which lead to industry-recognized credentials or certifications.

Projects claiming to benefit priority populations must be designed to avoid substantial burdens (e.g., displacement of low income disadvantaged community residents and businesses or increased exposure to toxics or other health risks).

The remaining 25 percent of funds will be available to all eligible locations and may include, but are not limited to, projects that provide benefits to disadvantaged or low-income communities.

## Application

### Solicitation Period

The proposal solicitation period for this round of funding will be from April 20 until July 2, 2018. Grant applications must be submitted during the solicitation period.

### **Grant applications must be received by July 2, 2018.**

The Conservancy will hold an informational webinar on May 9 at 10 am. If you are interested in attending this webinar, please register at this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1290737980708041218>

The Climate Ready grant application materials are posted on the Conservancy's website (<http://scc.ca.gov/climate-change/climate-ready-program/>).

All information that you submit to the Conservancy becomes public record, and is subject to the disclosure, publication, and inspection by the public pursuant to the Public Records Act unless an exemption in law exists. In addition, CARB funding guidelines require the Conservancy to publicly post a list of all submitted applications, including certain application content, received through this solicitation on our website prior to awarding any grants. For more information please see the CARB funding guidelines available at the link above.

### Pre-Proposal Consultation

Applicants are welcome to consult with Conservancy staff during the project solicitation period, prior to submitting their applications. Pre-proposal consultation will be available to any potential applicant but is not required. Conservancy staff will be available to discuss projects and proposal-related questions, but they will not be able to review full proposals before they are submitted.

For a consultation, please email a short description of your project (1-2 paragraphs including specific location information) and a consultation request to appropriate Regional Manager from the list below. The Regional Managers are listed from North to South:

North Coast: Del Norte County to coastside Sonoma and Marin Counties - Karyn Gear:  
[karyn.gear@scc.ca.gov](mailto:karyn.gear@scc.ca.gov)

San Francisco Bay Area: Nine Bay Area Counties, excluding the coastside of Sonoma, Marin, and San Mateo Counties - Matt Gerhart: [matt.gerhart@scc.ca.gov](mailto:matt.gerhart@scc.ca.gov)

Central Coast: coastside San Mateo County to Santa Barbara County - Trish Chapman:  
[trish.chapman@scc.ca.gov](mailto:trish.chapman@scc.ca.gov)

South Coast: Ventura County to San Diego County - Joan Cardellino:  
[joan.cardellino@scc.ca.gov](mailto:joan.cardellino@scc.ca.gov)

## Grant Application

The Climate Ready grant application materials are posted on the Conservancy's website (<http://scc.ca.gov/climate-change/climate-ready-program/>).

Completed applications should be emailed to [grants@scc.ca.gov](mailto:grants@scc.ca.gov). If you are unable to email your application, you may send the electronic files on a CD or other common electronic storage device. Mail the files to: State Coastal Conservancy – 1515 Clay Street Suite 1000 - Oakland, CA 94612.

A complete application will consist of the following files/documents:

- Grant application cover page (pdf)
- Grant application form (in Microsoft word or rtf format)
- Project maps, design plans, and photos (one pdf file, 10 MB maximum size, and one shapefile or kmz of project footprint)
- For Nonprofit Organizations, please submit completed [Nonprofit Organization Pre-Award Questionnaire](#). If your organization submitted this questionnaire to the Conservancy in the past 24 months, you can skip this step, please just tell us the date it was last submitted.

## Selection Criteria

### Screening

Projects will first be screened by Conservancy staff to confirm eligibility. The screening requirements will include:

- Is the applicant an eligible grantee?
- Is the proposed project located within the Conservancy's jurisdiction?
- Does the proposed project meets the purposes of this solicitation?

### Scoring

After the screening process, applications will be reviewed by Conservancy staff using the following criteria:

Criteria Overview	Points
<p>1. The extent to which the project achieves purposes of this round of Climate Ready Grants. The Conservancy seeks to support multi-benefit projects that use natural systems to assist communities in adapting to climate change impacts such as sea level rise, urban heat islands, extreme weather events, wildfire, poor air quality and changing precipitation. <i>Purposes include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Safeguard communities, reduce future risks from impacts of climate change</i></li><li>• <i>Use nature-based solutions that provide co-benefits for people, wildlife, and the economy</i></li><li>• <i>Facilitate GHG emission reduction or sequestration of carbon</i></li><li>• <i>Address the needs of low-income and other underserved coastal populations that will be highly impacted by climate change</i></li></ul>	15

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Promote on-the-ground demonstration projects that implement innovative approaches or enhance understanding of effective coastal management strategies and will potentially lead to broader change to policies, regulations, or to duplicating the effort elsewhere</i></li> <li>• <i>Promote collaboration among various stakeholders and multiple sectors to advance climate change adaptation. Establish and expand non-traditional alliances to accelerate effective problem-solving between and among public and private resource managers, scientists, and decision-makers</i></li> </ul>	
<p>2. The extent to which the project maximizes benefits and/or provides multiple benefits. <i>Examples of benefits include (but are not limited to) the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reduces urban heat island effect (e.g. increases vegetation in a built environment)</i></li> <li>• <i>Increases shoreline ability to accommodate future sea level rise</i></li> <li>• <i>Increases water supply, availability, and sustainability</i></li> <li>• <i>Significantly reduces flood and/or fire risk to households</i></li> <li>• <i>Improves soil health and promotes soil conservation</i></li> <li>• <i>Maintains water quality and health of watersheds through avoiding the conversion of forest lands or wetlands that would have resulted in impacts to nearby water bodies</i></li> <li>• <i>The majority (&gt;50 percent) of trees planted by the project are located within one or more disadvantaged or low-income communities, and the project terms provide for maintenance of the trees and related vegetation</i></li> <li>• <i>Restores or protects ecosystem processes, restores or protects multiple habitats, provides connection to adjacent habitats, benefits foundational and/or state/federally listed species</i></li> <li>• <i>Expands or improves the usability of existing active transportation routes (e.g., walking or bicycle paths) or creates new active transportation routes that are publicly accessible by walking, or improves open spaces, parks, greenbelts, and recreational areas publicly accessible by walking</i></li> <li>• <i>Creates jobs and/or provides other notable economic benefits to community</i></li> <li>• <i>Provides regular and ongoing educational opportunities</i></li> <li>• <i>Reduces asthma/respiratory disease incidence</i></li> <li>• <i>Reduces vehicle miles traveled; reduces transportation user costs</i></li> <li>• <i>Preserves a site that allows public access</i></li> <li>• <i>Reduces energy and fuel costs (e.g. reducing building energy use by planting trees to shade building)</i></li> <li>• <i>Promotes self-maintenance and repair, limiting the need for on-going project management</i></li> <li>• <i>Supports air pollutant emission reductions and removal</i></li> </ul> <p><i>CARB provides additional guidance on documenting direct, meaningful, and assured benefits in its funding guidelines: <a href="http://www.arb.ca.gov/cci-fundingguidelines">www.arb.ca.gov/cci-fundingguidelines</a>.</i></p>	20
<p>3. Whether the project is consistent with best available science, technology, and practices. <i>Here are some examples of how a project can demonstrate this:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Project uses published, locally appropriate climate projections</i></li> </ul>	5

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Project is consistent with Ocean Protection Council Sea Level Rise Guidance: <a href="http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20180314/Item3_Exhibit-A OPC SLR Guidance-rd3.pdf">http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20180314/Item3_Exhibit-A OPC SLR Guidance-rd3.pdf</a></i></li> <li>• <i>Project employs best management practices as identified by a credible organization</i></li> <li>• <i>Project is based on existing planning document prepared with input from relevant technical experts or project was developed with input from relevant technical experts. Project will make use of relevant studies and related work to incorporate best practices. Plan will incorporate input from relevant technical experts (i.e., there will be a technical advisory committee, peer review, or other mechanism for technical review)</i></li> <li>• <i>Applicant has consulted with relevant State and Federal agencies</i></li> <li>• <i>Scientific methodology, assumptions, or underpinnings of project are explained in proposal</i></li> <li>• <i>Project employs innovative or appropriate technology or practices</i></li> <li>• <i>Account for a high degree of uncertainty by developing and implementing strategies that provide the greatest benefits across a range of possible future climate and sea level rise scenarios</i></li> <li>• <i>New approaches include an experimental design, a robust monitoring plan, and/or a technical advisory committee</i></li> </ul>	
<p>4. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates meaningful community engagement and support. <i>Here are some examples of how a project can demonstrate this:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Proposal shows that there has been meaningful and appropriate community outreach or engagement</i></li> <li>• <i>Project includes participation or direct engagement from the community (as participants on the project, as members of a community advisory group, etc.)</i></li> <li>• <i>Project has matching funds</i></li> <li>• <i>Project has broad community support</i></li> </ul>	20
<p>5. The extent to which the project will deliver sustainable outcomes in the long-term and the applicant demonstrates a clear and reasonable method for measuring and reporting the effectiveness of the project. <i>Some suggestions for how to demonstrate this:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Proposal clearly explains what will be measured to demonstrate success</i></li> <li>• <i>It is clear how the things measured will show that the project achieved its objectives</i></li> </ul>	7
<p>6. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience successfully implementing similar projects or demonstrates appropriate and necessary partnerships to complete the project.</p>	8
<p>7. The extent to which the application includes a complete, reasonable and well thought out proposed scope of work, budget and schedule</p>	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>



## **Conservancy Board Approval**

Projects recommended for funding are subject to Coastal Conservancy Board approval of a staff recommendation. Project funding will not be available until after approval of the grant award by the Conservancy Board at a noticed public meeting, and upon the execution of a funding agreement between the Conservancy and the grantee. The likely Board meeting at which projects will be considered is in December 2018.

## **Schedule**

Applicants should assume that the project could start as early as January 2019. Funds must be spent by March 1, 2022. If the Conservancy does not receive adequate applications, we will hold a new grant round.

## **Typical Grant Agreement Terms**

Once the Conservancy has approved a grant at a public meeting, Conservancy staff will prepare a grant agreement setting forth the terms and conditions of the grant. The grantee must sign the grant agreement and comply with all of its conditions in order to receive funds. The grant agreement describes requirements in greater detail and will be the controlling document. Close review of and compliance with the grant agreement is essential and is the grantee's responsibility.

## **Typical Conditions and Requirements of Conservancy Grants**

- The Conservancy usually limits overhead to 15%.
- Expenses incurred before the grant agreement with the Conservancy is executed cannot be billed to the grant.
- The Conservancy reimburses grantees for expenses after they are incurred. This means the grantee will have to cover the costs of the project between the time the expenses are incurred and they get paid by the Conservancy. It takes about 6 weeks between the time an invoice is received at the Conservancy and the payment is received by the grantee.
- Grantees are responsible for operation, maintenance and monitoring of completed projects for 20 years.
- Grants to nonprofit organizations for work on property not owned by the nonprofit, the Conservancy will require an agreement between the landowner, the nonprofit and the Conservancy to protect the public interest in the project.

All Conservancy grantees should expect to be audited by the State of California. It is the grantee's responsibility to maintain all necessary records to substantiate and document all payments made pursuant to a Conservancy grant. If a grantee cannot provide adequate records when they are audited, they may be required to repay grant funds.

The Conservancy requires nonprofit grantees to submit the [Nonprofit Organization Pre-Award Questionnaire](#) with their application to help flag any potential issues with accounting and record keeping before the grantee begins work. Technical assistance may be available to help grantees meet all of the state's accounting requirements. The Coastal Conservancy requires that all

nonprofit organizations complete a pre-award questionnaire every two years. If your organization has submitted the questionnaire within 24 months, you may indicate that in your application.

### **Questions**

Questions about the application or process may be directed to Carrie Boyle, Climate Ready Sea Grant Fellow: 510-286-4167, [Carrie.Boyle@scc.ca.gov](mailto:Carrie.Boyle@scc.ca.gov)