



## **California State Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Grant Announcement**

**June 13, 2013**

The California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) announces the availability of funding for projects through its Climate Ready program. Climate Ready grants are intended to encourage local governments and non-governmental organizations to act now to prepare for a changing climate by advancing planning and implementation of on-the-ground actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lessen the impacts of climate change on California's coastal communities and natural resources. Grant applications are due **August 28, 2013**.

A total of \$1,500,000 is available for awards through this competitive grant program. The minimum grant amount is anticipated to be \$50,000. The maximum grant amount is anticipated to be \$200,000. The Conservancy will base the size of the award on each project's needs, its overall benefits, and the extent of competing demands for funds.

Climate Ready grants can support a wide range of activities including vulnerability assessments, development and implementation of adaptation strategies, science-based scenario planning, and demonstration projects that help inform others about successful and cost-effective adaptation strategies. Successful applications will maximize public benefits to the coast while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing hazards that threaten coastal communities or public infrastructure, preserving and enhancing coastal wetlands and other natural lands, conserving biodiversity and providing recreational opportunities that support greenhouse gas reduction goals. Projects will be ranked according to how well they meet three sets of criteria and the Conservancy's Climate Ready Programmatic Priorities (See Project Selection Criteria and Process).

### **Background**

The Conservancy is a non-regulatory state agency that works to preserve, improve, and restore public access, natural resources and agricultural lands along the Pacific coast and the San Francisco Bay shoreline and its adjacent counties. The Conservancy's work complements the work of the California Coastal Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) by undertaking projects and working with public agencies and non-governmental organizations to accomplish these goals.

Since the passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32) in 2006, the State of California has led the nation in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions. While the state is well on the

way to meeting the AB 32 emissions reduction goals for 2020, emissions worldwide continue to rise dramatically. Impacts from a changing climate are already being documented. In recent decades, California has experienced the impacts of a changing climate with higher winter and spring temperatures and an earlier melting snowpack. Along the state's coastline the sea level has been rising. At the Golden Gate Bridge sea level has risen by at least 7 inches over the past century. Ocean currents have shifted and resulted in altered food chains, and warmer temperatures have caused shifts in the distribution of plants and animals to higher elevations and to cooler northward slopes and ranges.

Over the next century the California coastal region will experience more severe impacts from the combined effects of higher air and water temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, sea-level rise, salinity changes, ocean acidification, more severe El Niño climate events, increased storm frequency and intensity, higher coastal erosion rates, saltwater intrusion, and greater fire intensity and frequency. These impacts will in turn increase vulnerabilities of our coastal infrastructure, public health and safety, and our natural resources which support our economy and a vast number of other services.

Recent study findings show that the climate-related choices we make today and in coming years can have a profound impact on future conditions ([California Energy Commission Reports on the Third Assessment](#)). Over the next decade, decisions made about where new development is located and where open space is preserved will affect our ability to protect buildings and humans from increased fire and flood hazards. Similarly, land use planning and acquisition now will determine whether or not there will be open space that supports migration corridors for plant and animal range shifts. Coastal marshes that are restored today will be more resilient as sea level rises, thereby maintaining the flood protection and ecological benefits they provide. Studies also indicate that building in early adaptation measures can result in overall lower cost ([The Bay Institute, 2013](#)). It is therefore urgent that we act now to protect our coastal communities and economy as well as our natural resources, public health, agricultural resources, and recreational amenities.

In recognition of the urgent need to help local governments, ports and non-governmental organizations to prepare for a changing climate, SB 1066 (Lieu) was signed into law in 2012, giving the Conservancy explicit authority to assist others in addressing the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on resources within the Conservancy's jurisdiction. The Conservancy may award grants for projects that reduce GHG emissions or address extreme weather events, sea level rise, storm surge, beach and bluff erosion, salt water intrusion, flooding, and other hazards that threaten ports, harbors, coastal communities, infrastructure and natural resources. Priority is to be given to projects that maximize public benefits. See Public Resources Code Section [31113](#).

The Climate Ready grants program is being coordinated with the Local Coastal Program Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program ([LCP Grant Program](#)) funded by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC). The LCP Grant Program is being cooperatively managed by the Conservancy, the California Coastal Commission and the OPC. The purpose of the LCP Grant Program is to encourage and assist local governments and other entities responsible for planning under the Coastal Act to update their plans to account for impacts of sea level rise and related climate

change impacts. The Climate Ready grant program will fund a broader array of grantees and projects than the LCP Grant Program.

Funding for the Climate Ready grant program will come from the voter-approved California Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84).

## Grant Application Procedure

**Submission Dates:** Proposals received by **August 28, 2013** will be evaluated and ranked by a committee of Conservancy staff.

**Application Submittal:** Please submit the completed application form, including all attachments, via email to Jessica Watson, [jwatson@scc.ca.gov](mailto:jwatson@scc.ca.gov). If you are unable to submit via email, you may mail a CD to the Coastal Conservancy:

State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Refer to the **Applying for Grants** section of the Conservancy's Grant Application Instructions for additional information on submitting your grant proposal. Additional resources, such as guidance for grantees and links to reports and useful websites are located on the Conservancy's website at: <http://scc.ca.gov/category/climate-change/>.

Please note: all information that you submit is subject to the unqualified and unconditional right of the Conservancy to use, reproduce, publish, or display, free of charge. Please indicate if crediting is requested for any of the photos and/or maps.

**Grant Amounts:** The minimum anticipated grant amount is \$50,000. The maximum anticipated grant amount is \$200,000. A total of \$1,500,000 is available for awards through this competitive Climate Ready grant program.

**Eligible Applicants:** Public agencies and certain nonprofit organizations 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 its articles of incorporation must demonstrate that the organization's purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, the Coastal Conservancy's enabling legislation.

Regional projects to be carried out by multiple partners/entities are eligible. An entity that meets the requirements of the above paragraph may submit on behalf of the partnership; each collaborating entity should include as part of the application a letter of participation/support (may include partners from academia and the private sector). Note that multi-entity partnership applications remain subject to the anticipated maximum \$200,000 award cap.

**Eligible Project Locations:** Projects must be located along the coast and coastal watersheds of California (within the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los

Angeles, Orange, or San Diego) or within the San Francisco Bay Area (including the entirety of the counties of Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, or San Francisco).

**Eligible Projects:** The Climate Ready program seeks to support actions that enhance the resiliency of coastal communities and ecosystems to a changing climate. Climate Ready grants will support a wide range of activities including the development of science-based vulnerability assessments and adaptation responses, and implementation of activities that reduce impacts. Given the uncertainty of how atmospheric, oceanic and ecologic systems will respond to a warming climate, the program can also support science-based scenario planning to develop management responses for a range of possible climate change outcomes. On-the-ground demonstration projects that can inform others about successful and cost-effective responses are also encouraged.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of some examples of types of eligible projects:

1) **Vulnerability and Risk Assessments**

- ♦ A systematic assessment of the vulnerability and risks from predicted climate change to natural resources, coastal communities and public infrastructure. Vulnerability assessments should focus on assessing climate exposure, sensitivity to exposure, impacts from exposure, the capacity of the resource to adapt, and the level of risk to the resource. Assessments can be for a significant site specific location, or may include a comprehensive coastal resilience assessment on a regional scale. For additional information and examples of projects refer to: [the Adaptation Planning Guide](#) and [Climate Ready Projects](#). Coast-wide assessments are not being funded at this time.

2) **Scenario Planning**

- ♦ Scenario planning is a process designed for considering a range of plausible trends or future conditions and developing management alternatives for situations where there is a high degree of uncertainty (economic, ecologic, social or political) and a lack of control over the magnitude and rate of change. Stakeholders engage in a scenario planning process to develop effective management responses to a variety of potential climatic futures. Responses are developed and prioritized for each potential future and this enables an organization to recognize, adapt to and take advantage of changes over time. For additional information on scenario planning see: [Scenario Planning for Climate Change Adaptation](#), by Sara S. Moore, Nathaniel E. Seavey, and Matt Gerhart.

3) **Development of Adaptation Responses**

- ♦ Prioritize adaptive needs based on defined project goals and the results of a systematic vulnerability assessment. Develop an implementation plan that includes phasing of strategies and a monitoring system to assess effectiveness. Adaptation responses should accomplish one or more of the following goals:
  - Reduce greenhouse gases by increasing carbon sequestration, or by supporting land uses that reduce energy consumption, through strategies such as:
    - Developing multi-use trails with clearly identified GHG reduction goals;

- Protecting and managing open space lands with clearly identified GHG reduction goals;
- Reducing urban heat islands and providing other benefits including water quality, habitat, and energy reduction through implementation of tree and vegetation planting projects;
- Restore urban waterfronts using innovative adaptation approaches like living shorelines to increase resilience to sea level rise and climate change related impacts;
- Protect lands adjacent to shoreline habitats that will allow for migration of shoreline habitats as sea level rises;
- Provide buffers from shoreline erosion through setbacks, rolling easements and planned retreat;
- Protect and restore coastal watersheds and their floodplains to reduce flood damage, increase water infiltration, and provide wildlife habitat as well as help protect communities from flood damage;
- Increase adaptive capacity of species by protecting and enhancing migration corridors and through other enhancement and management measures;
- Improve regional sediment management to enhance the resilience of shoreline habitats as sea level rises and/or to reduce GHG emissions related to dredged material disposal; and
- Enhance the resilience of agricultural operations through projects and practices that:
  - Restore ecosystem services that support crop productivity,
  - Increase net water filtration, reduce runoff and soil erosion, increase carbon sequestration in soils, provide vegetation buffers and capture and re-use water for multiple benefits.

#### **4) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Projects**

- ◆ Reduction of greenhouse gases by increasing carbon sequestration, or by supporting land uses that reduce energy consumption:
  - Development of multi-use trails with clearly identified GHG reduction goals;
  - Protection of open space with clearly identified GHG reduction goals; and
  - Tree and vegetation planting projects that tangibly reduce urban heat islands or increase streamside vegetation while providing water quality, biologic, or public health benefits.

#### **5) Implementation of Demonstration Projects**

- ◆ Implementing and testing and documenting the effectiveness of innovative adaptation responses and designs that:
  - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, by increasing carbon sequestration, or by supporting land uses that reduce energy consumption;
  - Implement adaptation approaches that reduce risk, provide benefits to public resources and respond to changing conditions, including through planned retreat and living shorelines;
  - Increase the adaptive capacity and resiliency of species by protecting or enhancing plant community and wildlife migration corridors, and by reducing stressors through management measures;

- Reuse sediment for beneficial purposes and improve regional sediment management; and
- Enhance the resilience of agricultural operations by:
  - Restoring ecosystem services that support crop productivity; and
  - Increasing water filtration, improving runoff and soil erosion, providing vegetation buffers, and capturing and re-using water for multiple benefits.

Additional information, resources, and summaries of previously funded Coastal Conservancy Climate Ready projects are available on the Conservancy's website at: <http://scc.ca.gov/category/climate-change/>.

**Application Form:** The Conservancy's grant application form can be downloaded from the Conservancy's website at <http://scc.ca.gov/applying-for-grants-and-assistance/forms/>.

**Questions:** Questions about the application process may be directed to Nadine Peterson, 510-286-4176 or [npeterson@scc.ca.gov](mailto:npeterson@scc.ca.gov). Questions about potential projects may be directed to:

- Karyn Gear, North Coast Program Manager (Del Norte to Coastal Marin), 510-286-4171 or [kgear@scc.ca.gov](mailto:kgear@scc.ca.gov)
- Amy Hutzell, SF Bay Area Conservancy Program Manager (San Francisco Bay Area), 510-286-4180 or [ahutzell@scc.ca.gov](mailto:ahutzell@scc.ca.gov)
- Trish Chapman, Central Coast Program Manager (Coastal San Mateo to Santa Barbara), 510-286-0749, [tchapman@scc.ca.gov](mailto:tchapman@scc.ca.gov)
- Joan Cardellino, South Coast Program Manager (Ventura to San Diego), 510-286-4093, [jcard@scc.ca.gov](mailto:jcard@scc.ca.gov)

## Project Selection Criteria and Process

**Project Review:** Conservancy staff will review, evaluate and rank the applications based on the project's relative significance and how well it meets the Selection Criteria stated below. Applicants may be contacted to provide additional information during the review process. Conservancy staff may seek assistance in evaluating the proposals from individuals and/or technical experts with pertinent expertise from other governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and other entities.

**Selection Criteria:** Projects selected for funding will be those that best meet the Conservancy's following three standard sets of criteria:

- ◆ The Conservancy's "*Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines*" (See the Conservancy's Grant Application Instructions, Exhibit A <http://scc.ca.gov/applying-for-grants-and-assistance/forms/> ).
- ◆ The Conservancy's Strategic Plan 2013-2018 (see the Conservancy's Grant Application Instructions, Exhibit B); and,
- ◆ For acquisition and restoration projects, there are specific criteria pertaining to acquisition and restoration projects funded under Proposition 84 pursuant to Section

75071 of the Public Resources Code (See the Conservancy's Grant Application Instructions, Exhibit C).

In addition, projects selected for funding under the Climate Ready program will be those that best incorporate the following Climate Ready Programmatic Priorities (adapted in part from climate-smart principles developed by the [National Wildlife Federation Climate Change Adaptation Principles, 2011](#), [Resource Legacy Fund, 2012](#) and [Climate Smart Practices by Point Blue, 2013](#)):

1. Safeguard people and wildlife by using nature-based solutions that provide co-benefits for people, wildlife, and the economy.
2. Prioritize projects that maximize public benefits and avoid maladaptation.
3. Promote collaboration among various stakeholders and multiple sectors. Establish and expand non-traditional alliances to accelerate effective problem-solving between and among public and private resource managers, scientists, and decision-makers.
4. Incorporate the best available science by utilizing peer-reviewed and well-documented climate science, climate adaptation strategies, and management practices.
5. Focus on future climatic and ecological conditions rather than the past.
6. Design actions from a landscape, ecosystem, and watershed perspective on a regional scale.
7. Account for a high degree of uncertainty by developing and implementing strategies that provide the greatest benefits across a range of possible future climate scenarios.
8. Minimize energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Enhance the ability of natural systems to sequester greenhouse gases.
9. Address the needs of low-income and other underserved populations that will be highly impacted by climate change.
10. Promote on-the-ground demonstration projects that implement innovative approaches or enhance understanding of effective management strategies and will potentially lead to broader change to policies, regulations, or to duplicating the effort elsewhere;
11. Incorporates a project-appropriate outreach or educational component.

**Conservancy Board Approval:** Projects selected 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 earliest possible Board meeting at which projects will be considered is February 2014. Applicants are required to provide staff with all pertinent information in a timely manner to ensure Board consideration.

For additional detail on the process once a Conservancy grant has been awarded, please see Exhibit D of the Conservancy's Grant Application Instructions (<http://scc.ca.gov/applying-for-grants-and-assistance/forms/>, "Typical Sequence of Activities for Grant Funding from Application through Project Completion").