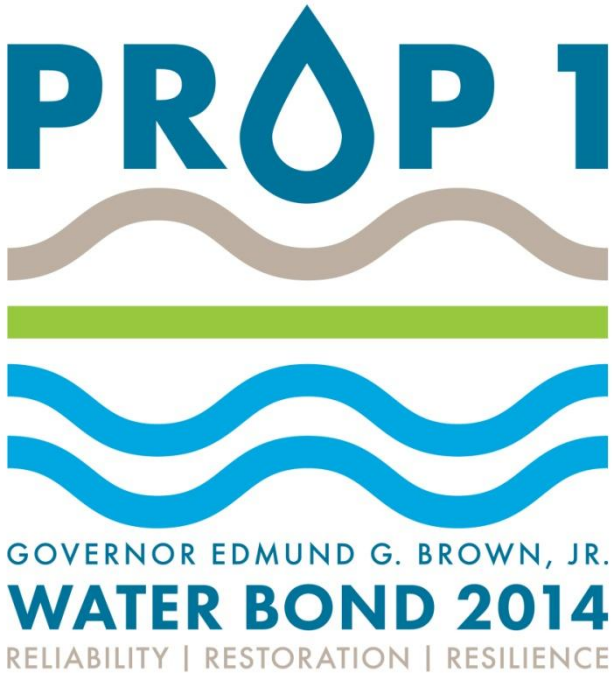

CALIFORNIA STATE
COASTAL CONSERVANCY

PROPOSITION 1
GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Grants Funded by the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014

May 2015

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I. Introduction

A. The State Coastal Conservancy

The State Coastal Conservancy ("Conservancy") is a state agency, established in 1976, to work proactively with local communities to implement multi-benefit projects that protect and enhance coastal resources. The Conservancy's enabling legislation is Division 21 of the Public Resources Code. Division 21 authorizes the Conservancy to undertake projects and award grants to achieve the goals set forth in Division 21. The Conservancy works along the entire length of California's coast, within the watersheds of rivers and streams that extend inland from the coast, and throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

The Conservancy provides technical assistance through its staff and provides grant funds to help develop and implement projects that achieve its goals. The Conservancy develops and supports multi-benefit projects that advance a number of goals, including:

- protecting the natural and scenic beauty of the coast;
- improving water quality;
- enhancing wildlife habitats;
- helping people get to and enjoy beaches and parklands;
- keeping farmland and timberlands in production;
- revitalizing working waterfronts;
- assisting communities to prepare for the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise.

The Conservancy has adopted *Strategic Plan 2013-2018*, which identifies the Conservancy's goals and objectives through 2018. The Conservancy Board will consider adopting an update to the Strategic Plan to address Prop 1 priorities on June 25, 2015. All Conservancy funded grants must advance specific objectives in the Conservancy's Strategic Plan.

B. Proposition 1

The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 ("Prop 1") was approved by voters in November 2014. Prop 1 is codified as Division 26.7 of the Water Code. The purposes of Prop 1 include generating funding to address water quality, water supply and watershed protection and restoration. Chapter 6 of Prop 1 allocates $100.5 million to the Conservancy for competitive grants for multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects, Water Code Section 79731(j).

II. Program Purposes, Required Criteria and Eligibility

A. Purpose of Proposition 1 Grant Program Guidelines

These Proposition 1 Grant Program Guidelines ("Prop 1 Guidelines") establish the process and criteria that the Conservancy will use to solicit applications, evaluate proposals, and award grants, pursuant to Prop 1. All projects funded by the Conservancy with Prop 1 must be consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation, its Strategic Plan and its existing project selection criteria and Prop 1. These Prop 1 Guidelines identify the additional requirements applicable to Prop 1 funded projects and the project evaluation process for those projects. These Prop 1 Guidelines are adopted pursuant to Water Code Section 79706(a) and may be updated periodically.

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B. Conservancy Required Project Selection Criteria

The Conservancy has adopted *Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines*, last updated on October 2, 2014 ("Conservancy Program Guidelines"), which set forth the evaluation criteria that the Conservancy uses for all of its grant programs. (See Appendix B.) The Conservancy Program Guidelines consist of required criteria that must be satisfied by all projects and additional criteria that are not mandatory but are taken into account for purposes of priority. The required selection criteria are:

- **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes** (Division 21 of the Public Resources Code);
- **Consistency with purposes of the funding source;**
- **Promotion and implementation of state plans and policies** (specific plans and policies and the specific goals or objectives within those plans and polices that would be furthered by the project);
- **Support from the public;**
- **Location** (must benefit coastal, ocean resources, or the San Francisco Bay region);
- **Need** (desired project or result will not occur without Conservancy participation);
- **Greater-than-local interest;**
- **Sea level rise vulnerability.** (Consistent with Executive Order S-13-08, for new projects located in areas vulnerable to future sea level rise, planning shall consider a range of sea level rise scenarios in order to assess project vulnerability and, to the extent feasible, reduce expected risks and increase resiliency to sea level rise.)

C. Purposes of Proposition 1, Chapter 6

The funding from Prop 1 allocated to the Conservancy comes from Chapter 6, "Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters and Watersheds" (See Appendix A). Chapter 6 of Prop 1 sets forth 13 specific purposes of the allocation of funds to the Conservancy ("Chapter 6 purposes"), Water Code Section 79732(a). All Prop 1 grants funded by the Conservancy must achieve at least one of these Chapter 6 purposes.

1) Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources and in-stream flow.
2) Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems.
3) Restore river parkways throughout the state, including but not limited to projects pursuant to the California River Parkways Act of 2004 and urban river greenways
4) Protect and restore aquatic, wetland and migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for in-stream flow.
5) Fulfill the obligations of the state of California in complying with the terms of multiparty settlement agreements related to water resources.
6) Remove barriers to fish passage.
7) Collaborate with federal agencies in the protection of fish native to California and wetlands in the central valley of California.
8) Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities and promote watershed health.

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9) Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, storm water resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.
10) Protect and restore coastal watersheds including but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and near shore ecosystems.
11) Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.
12) Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.
13) Assist in water-related agricultural sustainability projects.

D. Promotion and Implementation of State Plans and Policies

The Conservancy Program Guidelines require that projects be consistent with statewide plans and priorities; Prop 1 requires that projects be consistent with the goals indentified in the California Water Action Plan. Links to key plans can be found in Appendix C.

E. Eligible Grantees

Eligible applicants for Prop 1 grant funding from the Conservancy are:

- Public agencies as defined in Prop 1: any state agency or department, special district, joint powers authority, city, county, city and county, or other political subdivision of the state.
- Any private, nonprofit organization that qualifies under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Division 21 of the Public Resources Code).
- Indian Tribes that are either federally recognized or listed on the Native Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List.
- Public utilities and mutual water companies; projects proposed by this type of applicant must have a clear and definite public purpose and must benefit the customers of the water system and not the investors. Additional eligibility requirements apply to any eligible grantee that is also an urban water supplier or an agricultural water supplier, as set forth in Prop 1, Water Code Section 79712(b).

F. Project Eligibility

To be eligible for Prop 1 funding, projects must be consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation, meet the Conservancy's required project selection criteria, support the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and advance at least one of the purposes of Chapter 6 of Prop 1.

Prop 1 funds must be spent consistent with the General Obligation Bond Law, Government Code Section 16727. In general, this means projects must entail the construction or acquisition of capital assets and/or activities that are incidentally but directly related to construction or acquisition, such as planning, design and engineering.

Prop 1 contains additional provisions that may make some projects ineligible, these include:

- All projects funded by Prop 1 must be consistent with the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Division 7 of the Water Code) and the State's five-year infrastructure plan prepared pursuant to Government Code section 13100.
- Prop 1 cannot be used to fund acquisitions of land by eminent domain. Water Code Section 79711(g).
- Prop 1 funds may only be used for projects that will provide benefits or improvements that are greater than required applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations.

Land acquisition projects, including acquisition of conservation easements, are eligible if they are consistent with the purposes of Chapter 6 of Prop 1.

III. Grant Application Process and Timeline

A. Project Solicitation

A Request for Proposals to be funded with Prop 1 will be posted on the Conservancy's website and may be updated periodically. The Conservancy may elect to solicit targeted proposals for a specific type of project for some of the solicitation periods.

B. Project Solicitation Periods

There will be four project solicitation periods each year: August 1-September 30, November 1-December 31, February 1-March 31, and May 1-June 30. Grant applications must be submitted during the solicitation periods.

C. Optional Pre-Proposal Consultation

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with Conservancy staff prior to submitting their applications. Pre-proposal consultation will be available to any potential applicant but will not be required.

D. Application Review and Evaluation

1. Completeness

Grant applications will be initially reviewed for completeness. Incomplete grant applications will be returned to the applicant. Grantees may choose to complete the application and resubmit.

2. Screening

Conservancy staff will screen complete grant applications to ensure that:

- the project meets the Conservancy's required grant selection criteria of the Conservancy Program Guidelines;
- the project is consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan;
- the project consists of work that is eligible for bond funds under the General Obligation Bond Law;
- the grantee is an eligible entity; the project meets at least one of the Chapter 6 Purposes; and
- for restoration and ecosystem protection projects, the grantee has consulted with the state and local conservation corps and included their services if feasible. Grantees must submit a

completed Corps Consultation Review Document. The process for obtaining this required consultation is described in Appendix D.

Applications that do not pass the screening process will not proceed to the scoring process. The Conservancy has discretion to either return the application or assist the applicant with gathering additional information and modifying the proposal to enable the application to pass the screening process.

3. Scoring

Complete applications that have passed the screening process 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 and academics. All reviewers other than SCC staff will be required to document that they do not have a conflict of interest in reviewing any proposals.

All reviewers will score each proposal in accordance with Part IV. "Grant Evaluation and Scoring." Applications with an average score of 75 or better will qualify for grants. If there is a significant discrepancy in the scoring by the three reviewers, additional reviewers may score the proposal. The average score will be the average of all reviews.

E. Grant Award

Conservancy staff will determine which qualified applications to recommend to the Conservancy Board for funding and the amount of funding, taking into account the project's score relative to other eligible projects, the total amount of funding available for Prop 1 projects, the urgency of the project relative to other eligible projects, the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, and the application of the Conservancy's Required and Additional Project Selection Criteria.

The Conservancy expects that it will take an average of six months from application submittal to Conservancy board approval and an additional month for execution of the grant agreement.

F. Board Meetings

No grant shall be awarded unless the Conservancy Board has approved the grant at a public meeting. The Conservancy typically holds five public meetings per calendar year. The meeting schedule will be published on the Conservancy's website. The agenda for each public meeting will be published on the Conservancy's website ten days in advance of the meeting. Conservancy staff will prepare a report for each proposed grant presented to the Conservancy Board at a public meeting. The staff report will describe the project and explain how the project is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation, the Conservancy Program Guidelines, the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and the evaluation criteria in these Prop 1 Grant Program Guidelines.

G. Grant Agreement

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 conditions in order to receive funds.

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IV. Grant Evaluation and Scoring

A. Scoring

Complete grant applications that have passed the screening process will be evaluated and scored using the evaluation criteria set forth below. An application must achieve an average score of 75 or better to qualify for a grant.

B. Evaluation Scoring Criteria:

Criteria	Points
The extent to which the project achieves one or more of the purposes of Chapter 6 of Prop 1.	15
The extent to which the application includes a complete, reasonable and well thought out proposed scope of work, budget and schedule.	15
The extent to which the project provides multiple benefits.	10
The extent to which the project benefits a disadvantaged community as defined in the Water Code § 79702(j).	8
The extent to which the project promotes and implements the California Water Action Plan, other state plans and policies, and relevant regional water plans.	8
The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience successfully implementing similar projects or demonstrates appropriate and necessary partnerships to complete the project.	8
The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that project goals have community support.	8
Whether the project is consistent with best available science.	8
The extent to which the project leverages the resources of private, federal or local funding sources. Projects that have at least 25% matching funds will receive 3 points. Projects with greater than 50% matching funds will receive 8 points. Bonus points for projects with greater than 100% matching funds, see below.	5
The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a clear and reasonable method for measuring and reporting the effectiveness of the project.	5
The extent to which the project employs new or innovative technology or practices.	5
The extent to which the project will deliver sustainable outcomes in the long-term.	5
	100
Bonus Points	
Matching funds >100%	5

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V. Additional Information

A. Available Funding

The Conservancy expects to expend Prop 1 funds in five to ten years. However, the amount of funding available will depend upon the amount appropriated to the Conservancy by the State Legislature each year. The amount awarded will also depend on the quality of the proposals submitted.

B. Additional Project Considerations

- For wetland and watershed restoration and protection projects, monitoring should be consistent with the State's Wetlands and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan (WRAMP), as applicable.
- Agencies acquiring land may use the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000 (Division 28 of the Public Resources Code. Water Code Section 79711(h).
- Where appropriate, grantees will be required to provide signage informing the public that the project received Prop 1 funding. This requirement will be addressed in the grant agreement.
- In administering Prop 1 funds, the Conservancy will take into account the state's policy that every human being has a right to "safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes" (Water Code Section 106.3).

C. Grant Provisions

Following Conservancy Board approval of a grant, staff will prepare a grant agreement with detailed conditions specific to the project. The grant agreement must be signed by the grantee before funds will be disbursed. Several typical grant agreement provisions are:

- Actual awards are conditional upon funds being available from the state.
- Grantees must submit a detailed project work program and budget.
- Grant funds will only be paid in arrears on a reimbursement basis.
- Grantees may be required to reimburse the Conservancy for some or all of the disbursed grant funds if the project is not completed.
- Grantees must have liability insurance.

D. Environmental Documents

The Conservancy is required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Grant applicants should consider whether their proposed project will trigger the need for an environmental impact report or negative declaration or whether a CEQA exemption applies. How CEQA applies and the status of CEQA compliance must be addressed in the grant application.

E. Project Monitoring and Reporting

All grant applications must include a monitoring and reporting component that explains how the effectiveness of the project will be measured and reported. The monitoring and reporting component will vary depending on the nature of the project. The grant application evaluation will assess the robustness of the proposed monitoring program. In addition, Conservancy staff will work with grantees to develop appropriate monitoring and reporting templates and procedures.

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F. Leveraging Funds

The Conservancy will award additional points to applicants with significant matching funds. The amount of leveraged funding will be specifically identified in every staff recommendation for potential approval by the Conservancy Board. The Conservancy will provide a summary of the total leverage of Conservancy funds from all its grant programs in an annual financial report to the Conservancy Board.

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Appendix A: Chapter 6 of Proposition 1

Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters, and Watersheds

79730.
The sum of one billion four hundred ninety-five million dollars ($1,495,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature from the fund, in accordance with this chapter, for competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities.

79731.
Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, the sum of three hundred twenty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars ($327,500,000) shall be allocated for multibenefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) Baldwin Hills Conservancy, ten million dollars ($10,000,000).
(b) California Tahoe Conservancy, fifteen million dollars ($15,000,000).
(c) Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, ten million dollars ($10,000,000).
(d) Ocean Protection Council, thirty million dollars ($30,000,000).
(e) San Diego River Conservancy, seventeen million dollars ($17,000,000).
(f) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, thirty million dollars ($30,000,000).
(g) San Joaquin River Conservancy, ten million dollars ($10,000,000).
(h) Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, thirty million dollars ($30,000,000).
(i) Sierra Nevada Conservancy, twenty-five million dollars ($25,000,000).
(j) State Coastal Conservancy, one hundred million five hundred thousand dollars ($100,500,000). Eligible watersheds for the funds allocated pursuant to this subdivision include, but are not limited to, those that are in the San Francisco Bay Conservancy region, the Santa Ana River watershed, the Tijuana River watershed, the Otay River watershed, Catalina Island, and the central coast region.
(k) Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, fifty million dollars ($50,000,000).

79732.
(a) In protecting and restoring California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds, the purposes of this chapter are to:

(1) Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources, and instream flow.
(2) Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems.
(3) Restore river parkways throughout the state, including, but not limited to, projects pursuant to the California River Parkways Act of 2004 (Chapter 3.8 (commencing with Section 5750) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code), in the Urban Streams Restoration Program established pursuant to Section 7048, and urban river greenways.
(4) Protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems, including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow.
(5) Fulfill the obligations of the State of California in complying with the terms of multiparty settlement agreements related to water resources.
(6) Remove barriers to fish passage.

(7) Collaborate with federal agencies in the protection of fish native to California and wetlands in the central valley of California.

(8) Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health.

(9) Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.

(10) Protect and restore coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and nearshore ecosystems.

(11) Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.

(12) Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.

(13) Assist in water-related agricultural sustainability projects.

(b) Funds provided by this chapter shall only be used for projects that will provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits or improvements that are greater than required applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations.

79733.

Of the funds made available by Section 79730, the sum of two hundred million dollars ($200,000,000) shall be administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board for projects that result in enhanced stream flows.

79734.

For restoration and ecosystem protection projects under this chapter, the services of the California Conservation Corps or a local conservation corps certified by the California Conservation Corps shall be used whenever feasible.

79735.

(a) Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, one hundred million dollars ($100,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7048, and its tributaries, pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600) of, and Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000) of, the Public Resources Code and Section 79508.

(b) (1) Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, twenty million dollars ($20,000,000) shall be made available to the secretary for a competitive program to fund multibenefit watershed and urban rivers enhancement projects in urban watersheds that increase regional and local water self-sufficiency and that meet at least two of the following objectives:

(A) Promote groundwater recharge and water reuse.

(B) Reduce energy consumption.

(C) Use soils, plants, and natural processes to treat runoff.

(D) Create or restore native habitat.

(E) Increase regional and local resiliency and adaptability to climate change.

(2) The program under this subdivision shall be implemented by state conservancies, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the state board, or other entities whose jurisdiction includes urban

watersheds, as designated by the secretary. Projects funded under the program shall be a part of a plan developed jointly by the conservancies, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the state board, or other designated entities in consultation with the secretary.

(c) At least 25 percent of the funds available pursuant to this section shall be allocated for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

(d) Up to 10 percent of the funds available pursuant to this section may be allocated for project planning.

79736.

Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, four hundred seventy-five million dollars ($475,000,000) shall be available to the Natural Resources Agency to support projects that fulfill the obligations of the State of California in complying with the terms of any of the following:

(a) Subsection (d) of Section 3406 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Title 34 of Public Law 102-575).

(b) Interstate compacts set forth in Section 66801 of the Government Code pursuant to Title 7.42 (commencing with Section 66905) of the Government Code.

(c) Intrastate or multiparty water quantification settlement agreement provisions, including ecosystem restoration projects, as set forth in Chapters 611, 612, 613, and 614 of the Statutes of 2003.

(d) The settlement agreement referenced in Section 2080.2 of the Fish and Game Code.

(e) Any intrastate or multiparty settlement agreement related to water acted upon or before December 31, 2013. Priority shall be given to projects that meet one or more of the following criteria:

(1) The project is of statewide significance.

(2) The project restores natural aquatic or riparian functions, or wetlands habitat for birds and aquatic species.

(3) The project protects or promotes the restoration of endangered or threatened species.

(4) The project enhances the reliability of water supplies on a regional or interregional basis.

(5) The project provides significant regional or statewide economic benefits.

79737.

(a) Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, two hundred eighty-five million dollars ($285,000,000) shall be available to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for watershed restoration projects statewide in accordance with this chapter.

(b) For the purposes of this section, watershed restoration includes activities to fund coastal wetland habitat, improve forest health, restore mountain meadows, modernize stream crossings, culverts, and bridges, reconnect historical flood plains, install or improve fish screens, provide fish passages, restore river channels, restore or enhance riparian, aquatic, and terrestrial habitat, improve ecological functions, acquire from willing sellers conservation easements for riparian buffer strips, improve local watershed management, and remove sediment or trash.

(c) For any funds available pursuant to this section that are used to provide grants under the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, a priority shall be given to coastal waters.

(d) In allocating funds for projects pursuant to this section, the Department of Fish and Wildlife shall only make funds available for water quality, river, and watershed protection and restoration projects of statewide importance outside of the Delta.

(e) Funds provided by this section shall not be expended to pay the costs of the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of Delta conveyance facilities.

(f) Funds provided by this section shall only be used for projects that will provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits or improvements that are greater than required applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations, except for any water transfers for the benefit of subsection (d) of Section 3406 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Title 34 of Public Law 102-575).

79738.

(a) Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, eighty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars ($87,500,000) shall be available to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for water quality, ecosystem restoration, and fish protection facilities that benefit the Delta, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Projects to improve water quality or that contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Delta, including projects in Delta counties that provide multiple public benefits and improve drinking and agricultural water quality or water supplies.

(2) Habitat restoration, conservation, and enhancement projects to improve the condition of special status, at risk, endangered, or threatened species in the Delta and the Delta counties, including projects to eradicate invasive species, and projects that support the beneficial reuse of dredged material for habitat restoration and levee improvements.

(3) Scientific studies and assessments that support the Delta Science Program, as described in Section 85280, or projects under this section.

(b) In implementing this section, the department shall coordinate and consult with the Delta city or Delta county in which a grant is proposed to be expended or an interest in real property is proposed to be acquired.

(c) Acquisitions pursuant to this section shall be from willing sellers only.

(d) In implementing this section state agencies shall prioritize wildlife conservation objectives through projects on public lands or voluntary projects on private lands, to the extent feasible.

(e) Funds available pursuant to this section shall not be used to acquire land via eminent domain.

(f) Funds available pursuant to this section shall not be expended to pay the costs of the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of Delta conveyance facilities.

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Appendix B: State Coastal Conservancy Project Selection Criteria

Project Selection Criteria

As Adopted by the Coastal Conservancy on October 2, 2014

REQUIRED CRITERIA

- **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes**
- **Consistency with purposes of the funding source**
- **Promotion and implementation of state plans and policies** (specific plans and policies that are being considered or implemented)
- **Support from the public**
- **Location** (must benefit coastal, ocean resources, or the San Francisco Bay region)
- **Need** (desired project or result will not occur without Conservancy participation)
- **Greater-than-local interest**
- **Sea level rise vulnerability** (Consistent with Executive Order S-13-08, for new projects located in areas vulnerable to future sea level rise, planning shall consider a range of sea level rise scenarios in order to assess project vulnerability and, to the extent feasible, reduce expected risks and increase resiliency to sea level rise.)

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

- **Urgency** (threat to a coastal or ocean resource from development or natural or economic conditions; pressing need; or a fleeting opportunity)
- **Resolution of more than one issue**
- **Leverage** (contribution of funds or services by other entities)
- **Conflict resolution**
- **Innovation** (for example, environmental or economic demonstration)
- **Readiness** (ability of the grantee and others to start and finish the project timely)
- **Realization of prior Conservancy goals** (advances previous Conservancy projects)
- **Return to Conservancy** (funds will be repaid to the Conservancy, consistent with the Conservancy's long-term financial strategy)
- **Cooperation** (extent to which the public, nonprofit groups, landowners, and others will contribute to the project)
- **Minimization of greenhouse gas emissions** (project design and construction methods include measures to avoid or minimize greenhouse gas emissions to the extent feasible and consistent with the project objectives)
- **Vulnerability from climate change impacts other than sea level rise** (project objectives, design, and siting consider and address vulnerabilities from climate change impacts other than sea level rise)

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Appendix C: Key State, Federal, and Regional Plans and Priorities

The following identifies and provides detail about statewide plans and policies that are consistent with the Conservancy's mission and strategic plan objectives. This listing is not intended to be exhaustive. There may be other existing statewide plans or policies that are consistent with the Conservancy's mission and objectives. Moreover, in the future new statewide plans and policies will be adopted that will also be relevant to Prop 1 implementation.

Governor's Executive Orders –

- **Executive Order S-13-08** directed all state agencies planning construction projects in areas vulnerable to future sea level rise to plan and consider a range of sea level rise scenarios for the years 2050 and 2100 in order to assess project vulnerability and, to the extent feasible, reduce expected risks and increase resiliency to sea level rise.

- **Executive Order B-30-15** established a new interim statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. This order also directed state agencies to make climate change into account in their planning and investment decisions and to give priority to actions that both build climate preparedness and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

California Water Action Plan

California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture developed this Water Action Plan to meet three broad objectives: more reliable water supplies, the restoration of species and habitat, and a more resilient, sustainably manager water resources system. It lays out the state's challenges, goals and actions needed to put California's water resources on a safer, more sustainable path. The plan identifies ten overarching strategies to protect our resources

Safeguarding California Climate Adaptation Plan

The Safeguarding California Plan provides policy guidance for state decision makers, and is part of continuing efforts to reduce impacts and prepare for climate risks. This plan highlights climate risks in nine sectors in California, discusses progress to date, and makes sector-specific recommendations.

California @ 50 Million: The Environmental Goals and Policy Report ***(2013 Draft)*** : This report contains a 20- to 30-year overview of projected growth in the state, along with goals and objectives for land use, population growth and distribution, development, natural resources, conservation, and air and water quality. The goals are consistent, as required, with state planning priorities identified in AB 857.

State and Federal Species and Habitat Protection Plans

- ***California Wildlife Action Plan*** (2015 update underway). The Wildlife Action Plan creates a vision for fish and wildlife conservation, identifies species of greatest conservation need, and recommends actions that are implementable, measurable, and time bound.

- ***California Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan*** (2008) This California DFW plan proposes 163 actions to address the environmental and economic threats cause d by aquatic species in California. The Conservancy supports invasive species control actions when the invasive is a serious threat to coastal resources.

- ***California Essential Habitat Connectivity Strategy for Conserving a Connected California*** (2010) This Plan was produced by California Department of Transportation, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife in collaboration with many other agencies, including the Coastal Conservancy, as well as non-governmental organizations. The plan and associated map identifies 850 natural landscape blocks and 192 essential connectivity areas. It focuses attention on large areas important to maintaining ecological integrity at the broadest scale, and recommends regional and local analysis to refine the linkages map and to identify additional areas important to sustaining ecological connectivity.

State and Federal Species Recovery Plans

- ***Central California Coast Coho Salmon Recovery Plan***. NOAA Fisheries published this collaboratively developed in September 2012. Based on the biological needs of the fish, it provides the foundation for restoring the populations to healthy levels.
- ***Draft Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Salmon: 2014 Recovery Steps for California Fisheries Restoration Grant Program***. NOAA Fisheries is preparing to adopt a collaboratively developed recovery plan for Northern California Coast Coho Salmon in the near future.
- ***South-Central/Southern California Coast Steelhead Recovery Plan.*** NOAA Fisheries adopted a collaboratively developed recovery plan for Southern California Coast steelhead in 2012 and a recovery plan for South-Central California Coast Steelhead in 2013.
- ***Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan.*** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife completed this plan in 1996, the plan focuses on restoration of native and naturally produced (wild) stocks because these stocks have the greatest value for maintaining genetic and biological diversity. Goals for steelhead restoration and management are:
    - Increase natural production as mandated by The Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act of 1988, so that steelhead populations are self-sustaining and maintained in good condition; and
    - Enhance angling opportunities and non-consumptive uses.
- ***Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon.*** The California Department of Fish and Wildife completed this report to the California Fish and Game Commission in February 2004**.** The CDFW collaboratively developed the Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch) as a guide for the process of recovering coho salmon on the north and central coasts of California.
- ***Recovery Plan for Tidal Marsh Ecosystems of Northern and Central California.*** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released this plan in 2013, focused on federally-listed species that depend on tidal marshes in San Francisco Bay and tidal marshes along the Northern and Central California coast.
- ***Recovery Plan for the Southern Sea Otter***. U.S. Fish and Wildlife revised this recovery plan in 2003 for the endangered sea otter. Key objectives address range expansion, response to oil spills, contaminants, and threats from fishing debris.
- ***Recovery Plan for California Red Legged Frog***. This 2002 recovery plan by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identifies seven priority actions for recovery including protect suitable habitat, corridors, and core areas; and protect known populations and reestablish populations.

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State Supported, Collaboratively Developed Eco-Regional and Watershed Plans:

- ***Natural Community Conservation Plans and Habitat Conservation Plans*:** As of June 2013, there were 45 regional conservation plans. Habitat Conservation Plans integrate land-use activities and conservation goals to reduce conflicts between listed species and economic development, and are required for incidental take permits. Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs) are broader in their orientation and objectives than the California and Federal Endangered Species Acts, which focus on individual species rather than natural communities. The primary objective of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) program is to conserve species and the ecosystems they depend on while streamlining permitting under the endangered species act. Conservancy may support implementation actions called in the plans located within its jurisdiction.
- **Pacific Coast Joint Venture – Strategic Plan Northern Coastal California (2004).** The Pacific Coast Joint Venture facilitates and coordinates public and private partners in accomplishing activities that support the goals for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan along the Pacific Flyway, and includes member organizations from Alaska, Canada, Washington, Oregon, Hawaii and Northern California. The Northern California Component of the Strategic Plan provides recommended conservation actions for important bird habitat in Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties.
- ***San Francisco Estuary Watersheds Evaluation***, by the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration (2007). This report, funded by the State Coastal Conservancy, assembles for the first time all readily available information regarding steelhead habitat in tributaries of the San Francisco Estuary. Watersheds are screened for "anchor watershed" status, indicating their relative importance in restoring the regional steelhead population.
- ***San Francisco Estuary Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan*** (approved by the Governor and U.S. EPA Administrator in 1993, updated in 2007, a new update scheduled for 2016). Representatives from state and federal agencies and private and community groups in the twelve-county Bay Delta region came together and through a consensus-based process developed this plan, a blueprint for restoring and maintaining the estuary through corrective actions in nine program areas. It seeks to achieve high standards of water quality, including restoration and maintenance of a balanced indigenous population of fish and wildlife, and to support recreational activities. The Conservancy assists in implementing five of the nice program areas, including aquatic resources, wildlife, wetlands management, and watershed management.
- ***San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals 50 Year Conservation Plan*** (2010). The purpose of this plan is to achieve a net improvement of the subtidal ecosystem in the San Francisco Bay through science-based protection and habitat restoration. Led by state and federal agencies, more than 75 scientists and others contributed to the development of science, protection, and restoration goals for six subtidal habitats including soft substrate, rock, artificial structures, shellfish beds, submerged aquatic vegetation, and macro-algal beds. The Conservancy is assisting with implementing many of the goals including sea grass and oyster restoration, and removal of creosote pilings.
- ***San Francisco Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report*** (1999) and ***San Francisco Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Technical Update*** (2015) These reports were each prepared by a large consortium of public agencies and scientists and resulted in specific goals for acreages and habitat types for baylands around the San Francisco Bay. The Conservancy has been a

major implementer of the goals through its support and leadership in wetland restoration projects including the Napa Salt Marsh, Hamilton, and the South Bay Salt Ponds. The technical update contains a set of far-reaching management recommendations for Bay Area shorelines to restore and maintain these vital ecosystems in the face of climate change, including their role in building resilience to sea level rise.

- ***San Francisco Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals Project*** and ***Conservation Lands Network(2011)***. The Upland Goals Project is a project of the Bay Area Open Space Council funded in part by the Coastal Conservancy. It is a collaboratively developed science-based landscape-level conservation plan for the nine-county Bay Area region. Multiple factors, including conservation targets, goals, land use, adjacency to protected lands, and the ecological integrity of the landscape were assessed to identify "essential" and "important" areas. These are depicted on a web-based map, the *Conservation Lands Network,* that can be used by agencies and organizations to prioritize conservation activities within the region. Climate change impacts to the habitat goals has been a major focus of the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Climate Change Collaborative (TBC3), a group of university, nonprofit and governmental researchers in the San Francisco Bay Area that conducts research, monitoring and outreach to enhance conservation and land management in the face of climate change. The Open Space Council has participated in the project since the beginning and is incorporating the results into the Conservation Lands Network Explorer.
- ***Critical Linkages: Bay Area and Beyond Project (2013)***. Led by Science and Collaboration for Connected Wildlands, with the participation of the Bay Area Open Space Council and others, this project complements the statewide essential connectivity plan by incorporating the habitat movement needs of over 60 species and animals for priority landscape linkages within the counties of the San Francisco Bay Area and San Benito, Monterey, Mendocino, and Lake. It identifies 14 landscape level connections that together with the Conservation Lands Network provide a comprehensive plan for such a regional network.
- ***Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.*** Prepared initially in 2006 and updated in 2014 with assistance from the Conservancy in collaboration with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), this plan identifies major regional water resource needs and priorities for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area region.
- ***Santa Cruz Integrated Watershed Restoration Program***. Developed by the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (RCD), Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), Coastal Watershed Council, and the City and County of Santa Cruz as a voluntary framework in 2002, this program is heralded as a model for collaborative, integrated watershed conservation. Since IWRP's inception, the RCD and its partners have been able to design, permit, and construct over 80 water quality improvement and habitat restoration projects throughout the County. The Conservancy has supported many of these projects, as well as expansion of the program into San Mateo and Monterey Counties.
- ***Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project***. The Wetlands Recovery Project is a partnership of 18 state and federal agencies working together to acquire and restore rivers, stream, and wetlands in Southern California from Point Conception to the border with Mexico. The Regional Strategy, currently being updated, articulates the long-term goals and specific implementation strategies to guide the efforts of the WRP and its partners. The WRP identifies wetland acquisition and restoration priorities, prepares plans for priority projects, pools funds to undertake these projects and coordinates post-project maintenance and monitoring. The WRP is

chaired by the Resources Agency and staffed by the Coastal Conservancy, which implement many of the high priority projects.

- ***South Coast Missing Linkages*** (2008 and ongoing). This project, led by Science and Collaboration for Connected Wildland, addresses fragmentation at the landscape scale. It identifies and prioritizes linkages that conserve essential biological and ecological processes. The linkages project has served as a catalyst for protection of ecological connectivity for the south coast ecoregion. There have been 11 detailed and implementable linkage designs developed using focal-species based analysis. The Conservancy can support implementation of some of these designs.

California Coastal Sediment Management Master Plan. A multi-agency work group is engaged in an on-going collaborative effort to evaluate California's coastal sediments management needs and to promote regional system-wide solutions. The master plan is being developed through a series of region-specific sediment master plans. The Conservancy has contributed to development and implementation of some of the regional plans.

State Agency and Multi-Agency Strategic Plans – In addition to the Coastal Conservancy strategic plan, many Conservancy supported projects implement elements of other agency strategic plans.

- California Coastal Commission
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- Ocean Protection Council
- San Francisco Estuary Partnership Strategic Plan – This strategic plan identifies goals and objectives for implementing the *San Francisco Estuary Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.*

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Appendix D – Conservation Corps Consultation

Applicants for grants from the Coastal Conservancy for funds to complete restoration and ecosystem protection projects shall consult with representatives of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC), the entity representing the certified community conservation corps, (collectively, "the Corps") to determine the feasibility of the Corps participation. Unless otherwise exempted, applications without this consultation will be considered incomplete.

Grantees are encouraged to contact the CCC/CALCC representatives to discuss feasibility early in the project development process. The Corps will complete its review in 5 business days, but will not be able to review project applications in less than 5 business days.

The process for consultation is provided below:

Step 1: Prior to submittal of an application, the Grantee will compile the following information:

- ☐ Project Title
- ☐ Project Description (identifying key project activities and deliverables)
- ☐ Project Map (showing project location)
- ☐ Project Implementation estimated start and end dates

Step 2: Grantee submits the forgoing information via email concurrently to the CCC and CALCC representatives:

California Conservation Corps representative:
Name: CCC Prop 1 Coordinator Email: Prop1@ccc.ca.gov
Phone: (916) 341-3100

California Association of Local Conservation Corps representative:
Name: Crystal Muhlenkamp Email: inquiry@prop1communitycorps.org
Phone: 916-426-9170 ext. 0

Step 3: Within five (5) business days of receiving the project information, both the CCC and CALCC representatives will review the submitted information, contact the Grantee if necessary, and respond to the applicant with a Corps Consultation Review Document (template attached) informing them:

(1) It is NOT feasible for CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project; or

(2) It is feasible for the CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project and identifying the aspects of the project that can be accomplished with Corps services.

Step 4: Grantees submits application to the Conservancy that includes Corps Consultation Review Document.

NOTES:

1. The Corps already have determined that it is not feasible to use their services on restoration and ecosystem protection projects that *solely* involve either planning or acquisition. Therefore, applicants seeking funds for such projects are exempt from the consultation requirement and should check the appropriate box on the Consultation Review Document.

2. An applicant that has been awarded funds to undertake a project where it has been determined that Corps services can be used must thereafter work with either the CCC or CALCC to develop a scope of work and enter into a contract with the appropriate Corps. Unless otherwise excused, failure to utilize a Corps on such a project will result in Funding Entities assessing a scoring penalty on the applicant's future applications for Chapter 6 Funds.

Attachment – Corps Consultation Review Document

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Corps Consultation Review Document

Unless an exempted project, this Corps Consultation Review Document must be completed by California Conservation Corps and Community Conservation Corps staff and accompany applications for projects or grants seeking funds through Proposition 1, Chapter 6, Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters and Watersheds. Non-exempt applications that do not include this document demonstrating that the Corps have been consulted will be deemed "noncompliant" and will not be considered for funding.

1. Name of Applicant: Project Title:

Department/Conservancy to which you are applying for funding**:**

To be completed by Applicant:
Is this application solely for planning or acquisition?

- ☐ Yes (application is exempt from the requirement to consult with the Corps)
- ☐ No (proceed to #2)

To be completed by Corps:
This Consultation Review Document is being prepared by:

- ☐ The California Conservation Corps (CCC)
- ☐ California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC)

2. Applicant has submitted the required information by email to the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC):

- ☐ Yes (applicant has submitted all necessary information to CCC and CALCC)
- ☐ No (applicant has not submitted all information or did not submit information to both Corps – application is deemed non-compliant)

3. After consulting with the project applicant, the CCC and CALCC has determined the following:

- ☐ It is NOT feasible for CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project (deemed compliant)
- ☐ It is feasible for the CCC and/or certified community conservation corps services to be used on the project and the following aspects of the project can be accomplished with Corps services (deemed compliant).

  _____

  _____

CCC AND CALCC REPRESENTATIVES WILL RETURN THIS FORM AS DOCUMENTION OF CONSULTATION BY EMAIL TO APPLICANT WITHIN FIVE (5) BUSINESS OF RECEIPT AS VERIFICATION OF CONSULTATION. APPLICANT WILL INCLUDE COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT AS PART OF THE PROJECT APPLICATION.

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