

California State Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Grant Announcement - Round 3

Application deadline November 17, 2014.

The California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) announces the availability of funding through its Climate Ready program. This round of Climate Ready grants is made possible by an appropriation into the new California Climate Resilience Account, created by legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Gordon, to address the risks and impacts of climate change, sea level rise, and associated extreme events to coastal and bay communities and natural resources.

Up to \$1,350,000 is available for award through this competitive grant program. The minimum grant amount is anticipated to be \$50,000; the maximum grant amount is anticipated to be \$500,000. Due to our expectation that the need for assistance will exceed the funding available at this time, there will be a two-step application process. Initially all applicants must submit a concept proposal application. Concept proposals will be evaluated and the top-ranked proposals will be invited to complete a second submittal providing additional information to support the Conservancy's final evaluation and grant selection. Projects awarded funding must be able to enter into an agreement with the Conservancy no later than June 30, 2015.

**The [concept proposal application](#) is provided at the end of this document.
Applications are due November 17, 2014.**

The California Climate Resilience Account seeks to support planning and implementation activities to address the risks and impacts of climate change, sea level rise, and associated extreme events to coastal and bay communities and natural resources. This round of Climate Ready grants is made possible by a one-time appropriation of Environmental License Plate Funds (ELPF) into this account. These funds can be used for the following types of projects:

- Control and abate air pollution, specifically by reducing greenhouse gases;
- Acquire, preserve, or restore natural areas or ecological reserves at risk due to climate change;
- Protect nongame species and threatened and endangered plants and animals from the impacts of climate change;
- Protect, enhance, and restore fish and wildlife habitat and related water quality where impacted by climate change;
- Acquire real property containing sensitive natural areas for parks to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Projects will be evaluated for consistency with the funding source, the Climate Ready Programmatic Priorities, the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, and the Conservancy's Strategic Plan 2013-2018. The Conservancy will base awards on each project's overall benefits, need, and the extent of competing demands for funds.

Background

The Conservancy is a non-regulatory state agency that works to preserve, improve, and restore the natural resources, agricultural lands, watersheds, urban waterfronts, public access and recreation along the Pacific coast and the San Francisco Bay shoreline and its adjacent counties. The Conservancy is the implementation agency within the state's Coastal Zone Management Program and it works with partner organizations to plan and implement projects that achieve the state's goals. The Conservancy's work complements the regulatory role of the California Coastal Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

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 the natural resources which support our economy and way of life.

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](#)). The [Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risks](#) (July 2014) report identifies numerous strategies that can be used today to reduce short and long term risk. 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, flood and heat-related 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 (Public Resources Code Section [31113](#)).

Additional tools were made available to the Conservancy in 2014 to increase the support we are able to provide to communities in addressing the impacts of climate change. The Climate Resilience Account was established to provide funds that can be spent on “coastal zone management planning and implementation activities to address the risks and impacts of climate change, sea level rise, and associated extreme events to coastal and bay communities and natural resources” (Public Resources Code Section 32012(d)). The first appropriation of funds to this account was made from the Environmental License Plate Fund, which must be spent on the purposes identified in Public Resources Code section 21190.

Grant Application Process

This grant round will have a two step application. All applicants must submit a [concept proposal application](#), provided at the end of this document. Top ranked applicants will be invited to submit a second, more detailed application. That form will be emailed to applicants with high ranking concept proposals.

Submission Dates: Concept proposals received by 5:00 pm on November 17, 2014 will be evaluated and ranked by a committee of Conservancy staff, and by outside reviewers where appropriate.

Application Submittal: Please submit the completed three page conceptual proposal application form, via email to Kelly Malinowski, kelly.malinowski@scc.ca.gov (entire email can not to exceed 10 MB). If you are unable to submit via email, you may mail a CD to:

State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th 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 and the maximum anticipated grant amount is \$500,000. A maximum of \$1,350,000 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 maximum \$500,000 award cap.

Eligible Project Locations: Projects must be located along the coast or 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: This grant round of the Climate Ready program seeks to support planning and implementation activities to address the risks and impacts of climate change, sea level rise, and associated extreme events to coastal and bay communities and natural resources. At this time, Climate Ready grants will support projects that:

1. Control and abate air pollution, specifically by reducing greenhouse gases;
2. Acquire, preserve, or restore natural areas or ecological reserves at risk due to climate change;
3. Protect nongame species and threatened and endangered plants and animals from the impacts of climate change;
4. Protect, enhance, and restore fish and wildlife habitat and related water quality where impacted by climate change; or
5. Acquire real property containing sensitive natural areas for parks to reduce the impacts of climate change.

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 conceptual proposal [application](#) begins on page 9 of this document.

Questions: Questions about the application process may be directed to Kelly Malinowski, 510 286 5203 or kelly.malinowski@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 Karyn.Gear@scc.ca.gov
- Matt Gerhart, SF Bay Deputy Program Manager (San Francisco Bay Area), 510 286 0317 or Matt.Gerhart@scc.ca.gov

- Trish Chapman, Central Coast Program Manager (Coastal San Mateo to Santa Barbara), 510-286-0749, Trish.Chapman@scc.ca.gov
- Joan Cardellino, South Coast Program Manager (Ventura to San Diego), 510-286-4093, Joan.Cardellino@scc.ca.gov

Funding Requirements, Project Selection & Programmatic Criteria

Conservancy staff will review concept proposals for eligibility for funding using the ELPF (Public Resources Code Section 21190), and will evaluate and rank eligible concept proposals based on the project's relative significance and how well it meets the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria, the Climate Ready Programmatic Priorities and the Conservancy's Strategic Plan. Applicants may be contacted to provide additional information during the review process. Conservancy staff may seek review assistance from outside experts, as appropriate.

Environmental License Plate Funding Requirements

This funding source can be spent on the purposes identified in Public Resources Code section 21190. A subset of these purposes is pertinent to this Climate Ready grant round include:

1. The control and abatement of air pollution, in this case the reduction of green house gases.
2. The acquisition, preservation, restoration, or any combination thereof, of natural areas or ecological reserves.
3. Protection of nongame species and threatened and endangered plants and animals.
4. Protection, enhancement, and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat and related water quality.
5. The purchase of real property consisting of sensitive natural areas for parks.

Conservancy Project Selection Criteria

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, examples of relevant plans listed below)
- **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- Please note that not all of these additional criteria will or need to be relevant to your project.

- **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)

Climate Ready Programmatic Priorities

The 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](#)) are:

1. Safeguard wildlife by using nature-based solutions that provide co-benefits for people, wildlife, and the economy.
2. Prioritize projects that maximize public benefits.
3. Avoid poor or inadequate adaptation.
4. 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.
5. Incorporate the best available science by utilizing peer-reviewed and well-documented climate science, climate adaptation strategies, and management practices.
6. Focus on future climatic and ecological conditions rather than the past.
7. Design actions from a landscape, ecosystem, watershed or regional perspective to factor in significant natural processes.
8. 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.
9. Minimize energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Enhance the ability of natural systems to sequester greenhouse gases.

10. Address the needs of low-income and other underserved populations that will be highly impacted by climate change.
11. 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;
12. Incorporate a project-appropriate 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 likely Board meeting at which projects will be considered is in March 2015. Projects that are not developed sufficiently to be able to enter into a funding agreement by June 30, 2015 will not be funded under this grant round.

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*".

Examples of Key State Plans Include:

- *Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk.* An update to the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy. Natural Resources Agency (July 2014): http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/Final_Safeguarding_CA_Plan_July_31_2014.pdf
- *2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy: A Report to the Governor of the State of California in Response to Executive Order S-13-2008.* California Natural Resources Agency (2009): http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/Statewide_Adaptation_Strategy.pdf
- California Water Action Plan. California Natural Resources Agency; California Department of Food & Agriculture; and California Environmental Protection Agency: http://resources.ca.gov/california_water_action_plan/
- *Climate Change Scoping Plan: Building on the Framework,* Pursuant to AB 32 The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Governor Brown; California Environmental Protection Agency; and Air Resources Board (May 2014): http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/2013_update/first_update_climate_change_scoping_plan.pdf
- Vision for Confronting Climate Change in California (September 2011); California Department of Fish and Game: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=37647&inline=1>
- Regional Sustainable Community Strategies, included in Regional Transportation Strategies, (regions covered by one of the State's metropolitan planning organizations):

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/orip/index_files/Updated%20Files/MPO-RTPA_1-10.pdf), including:

- **MTC:** Metropolitan Transportation Commission:
http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/plan_bay_area/
- **AMBAG:** Association of Monterey Bay Governments:
<http://www.ambag.org/programs-services/planning/metro-transport-plan>
- **SLOCOG:** San Luis Obispo Council of Governments:
<http://www.slocog.org/programs/regional-transportation-plan-sustainable-communities-strategy>
- **SBCAG:** Santa Barbara County Association of Governments:
http://www.sbcag.org/uploads/2/4/5/4/24540302/finaleir_2040rtp-scs.pdf
- **SCAG:** Southern California Association of Governments:
<http://rtpscs.scag.ca.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- **SANDAG:** San Diego Association of Governments:
<http://www.sandag.org/index.asp?projectid=360&fuseaction=projects.detail>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Provide a clear, detailed description of the project proposed for Conservancy funding. Include: 1) specific need for the project; 2) the project's goals and objectives; 3) specific tasks that will be undertaken, 4) work products or other deliverables, and 5) your approach to measuring and reporting your project's effectiveness. Please limit description to one page.

CONSISTENCY WITH FUNDING REQUIREMENTS, PROJECT SELECTION AND PROGRAMMATIC CRITERIA

Provide a clear description of how the project proposed for Conservancy funding is consistent with the funding requirements, relevant project selection and programmatic criteria. Projects selected to submit a full proposal will be required to substantiate this consistency. Please limit description to one page.