

Explore the River Grants



ANNOUNCEMENT & APPLICATION





Santa Ana River Conservancy Program

Explore the River Grants

The Santa Ana River Conservancy program of the California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) announces the availability of grants to public agencies, tribes and nonprofit organizations for programs that facilitate and enhance the public's opportunities to explore the Santa Ana River and its tributaries. The Explore the River grant program seeks to provide experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the River ("ETR Priority Communities"). The ETR grant program will focus on the River and its tributaries excluding the coastal areas. Organizations interested in grants should apply to the Conservancy's Explore the River program (see this link: scc.ca.gov/grants/).

ETR Priority Communities may include but are not limited to lower-income individuals and households, people with disabilities, people of color, immigrant communities, foster youth, and others.

Projects should also meet one or more of the following priorities:

- Provides an enjoyable experience at the River.
- Reduces economic, physical, operational, or societal barriers to accessing or enjoying the River.
- Inspires ongoing River stewardship ethic through active learning and interactive activities.

Approximately \$100,000 will be awarded in this grant round. **There is no minimum grant amount, and the anticipated maximum grant amount is \$35,000. Applicants should apply for projects that could start in early 2021 and will be completed by February 2024.** The Conservancy will base the size of the award on each project's needs, its overall benefits, and on the extent of competing demands for funds.

Applications must be submitted via email to grants@scc.ca.gov by Friday, May 29, 2020 (further details below).

Background

The Santa Ana River Conservancy program addresses the resource and recreational goals of the Santa Ana River region including open space, trails, wildlife habitat, agricultural land protection, water quality protection, educational use, and public access. The Santa Ana River Conservancy program undertakes projects and works with public agencies and non-

governmental organizations to accomplish these goals. The Santa Ana River Conservancy is wholly administered and staffed by the Coastal Conservancy.

Increasing public access to the River is a core component of the Santa Ana River Conservancy's work. With the Explore the River Program, the Conservancy seeks to support programs and organizations that work with people and communities who face challenges accessing the coast and/or enjoying the coast. **The Explore the River grants will not fund construction of new facilities.** However, through other grant programs, the Conservancy has funded the construction of hundreds of projects to build new sections of the Santa Ana River Trail, trailheads and other amenities (parks, bathrooms, overlooks, etc.).

Funding for Explore the River grants is expected to come from the California Environmental License Plate Fund.

Eligible Applicants: Public agencies, tribes, and 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.

Eligible Project Locations: Projects must involve visiting the River or its surrounding habitats. The Conservancy is very interested in supporting programs that bring participants to the River from throughout the watershed.

Eligible Projects: Eligible projects include a wide range of programs and activities that will help to bring more people to the River and/or enhance their experience at the River. **At least 50% of participants served by the grant must be from communities who face barriers accessing the River.** Below are some examples of projects that are eligible and ineligible for funding. This is not an exhaustive list:

- Recreational, educational, or stewardship programs that encourage access to the River
- Providing transportation for people from communities who have faced barriers accessing or enjoying the River to take part in recreational, educational, or stewardship programs.
- Projects that reduce economic, physical, or societal barriers to accessing or enjoying the River.
- Projects that maximize barrier-free access to the River for persons with disabilities.
- Festivals, docent programs, or other outreach events to raise public awareness of access opportunities and/or promote recreational uses of the River.
- Projects that provide overnight experiences for participants.
- Projects that support volunteer stewardship of Santa Ana River Trail segments or other access points and habitats.
- Projects that promote the use of public transit to access the River.

Ineligible Projects:

- Projects that only include classroom-based programs and/or curriculum.
- Construction of facilities.
- Projects that are solely River clean-ups.

Questions: Prospective applicants are encouraged to discuss their projects with Santa Ana River Conservancy staff prior to submitting their applications.

Questions about the application process and potential projects may be directed to:

- Greg Gauthier, Santa Ana River Conservancy Program Manager, 760-832-7365, greg.gauthier@scc.ca.gov; or
- Megan Cooper, South Coast Program Manager of the Coastal Conservancy, 510- 286-4172, megan.cooper@scc.ca.gov.

Helpful Resources: The following resources may be helpful for the preparation of your grant application.

- [Sample Grant Terms](#) – Please review the sample grant terms before completing your application. Please note, in particular, the insurance requirements for ETC grants. If the requirements will result in higher insurance premiums for the applicant, this cost can be included in the grant budget.
- [Sample Budget and Budget Narrative](#)

Application Submittal: The Explore the River grant application is attached. Completed applications should be submitted via email to grants@scc.ca.gov. The application should be emailed as a word document. Applicants are welcome, but not required, to attach a small number of relevant photos (preferably as jpgs) and maps (as jpgs or pdfs); these attachments should not exceed 10MB total. Relevant photos and maps should demonstrate the location, context, and proposed outcomes of the project.

Please be aware that all documents submitted to the Conservancy become public documents. The Conservancy will assume that submitted photos are permissible for use by the Conservancy unless the applicant clarifies otherwise.

Submission Dates: Applications must be submitted to grants@scc.ca.gov by Friday, May 29, 2020.

Application Review and Grant Award Process

Project Review: Conservancy staff will evaluate each application based on 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. **Applicants can anticipate being notified as to whether their project will be recommended for funding by mid-summer 2020.**

Selection Criteria: Projects will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- The percentage of participants served who face challenges accessing or enjoying the river (**at least 50% of participants served by the grant must be from communities that face barriers accessing the river**).
- The extent to which the project provides enjoyable experiences at the river.
- The extent to which the project reduces economic, physical, or societal barriers to accessing or enjoying the river.
- The extent to which the project inspires an ongoing river resource stewardship ethic through active learning, interactive exploration, and providing an engaged and authentic river experience.
- The extent to which the project is inclusive of all participants by considering differences in cultural and social backgrounds, past experiences, physical capabilities, knowledge, and comfort levels.
- The extent to which the project provides overall long-term positive impacts on participants (including leadership development opportunities, multi-year or extended touch programs, family or support system involvement, peer-to-peer mentorship, or solutions to overcome ongoing barriers).
- Methodology for evaluating program effectiveness.
- Project description is clear, and budget is reasonable.
- Project is ready to proceed in a timely manner.
- The applicant's overall ability to carry out the proposed project.

Conservancy Board Approval: Projects recommended by staff for funding are subject to approval by the Coastal Conservancy Board at a noticed public meeting. Conservancy staff will present the recommendations for Explore the River grants to the Conservancy Board in September 2020. Applicants are required to provide staff with all pertinent information in a timely manner to ensure Board consideration.

Project funding will not be available until a grant agreement between the Conservancy and the grantee has been executed which will generally take at least eight weeks after Board approval (Fall 2020).



EXPLORE THE RIVER GRANT APPLICATION

CONTACT INFO			
Organization*			
Contact Person		Email	
Position/Title			
Phone		Fax	
Address			
Federal Tax ID#			

***If applicable, Include name of fiscal or project sponsor.** – If applicant qualifies as a 501(c)(3) organization, provide your IRS 501(c)(3) letter and Articles of Incorporation. *Note: Applicants who have submitted these documents in the past two years do not need to resubmit.*

PROJECT INFO			
Project Name			
Amount Requested *round up to nearest hundred	\$	Total Project Cost	\$
Start Date		End Date	

LOCATION INFO	
What <u>specific</u> facility(ies) will the project use/visit (e.g., park name, nature center, nature reserve, etc.)?	

Directions: Please limit your response to the following 13 questions to no more than nine pages. You may delete the instructions for each question if you need more space.

1. **Explore the River Program Priorities.** Briefly describe your project and how it meets one or more of the Explore the Coast Program Priorities below:
 - Provides an enjoyable experience at the river.
 - Reduces economic, physical, operational, or societal barriers to accessing or enjoying the river.
 - Inspires ongoing river resources stewardship ethic through active learning and interactive activities.

2. **Explore the River Priority Communities Served.** The Explore the River grant program seeks to provide coastal experiences to people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the River (“ETR Priority Communities”).
 - A. Provide a brief explanation of the community(ies) that will be served by the project. In your explanation, be as specific as possible about the demographics of the participants served.
 - B. Where and how will you perform outreach to recruit participants (i.e. bilingual flyers, community workshops, working with Title 1 schools, etc.)?
 - C. Describe how your program is inclusive of all participants and takes into consideration differences in cultural and social backgrounds, past experiences, physical capabilities, knowledge, comfort levels, etc. when participating in program activities.
 - D. How will people with disabilities be served through your program? Provide details on how you will address inclusion and accommodation of such participants.

3. **Summary Tables.** To the best of your abilities, please fill out the two tables below **ONLY** with the estimated numbers of participants you expect to serve should you receive Coastal Conservancy funding.

Participants served by Coastal Conservancy Grant in Budget Below	Estimate Number Served by Coastal Conservancy Grant
Total number of participants	
Total number of participants from ETR Priority Communities (including: lower-income individuals and households, people with disabilities, people of color, English as a Second Language (ESL) communities, immigrant communities, foster youth, and others.)	

4. **Participant Experience.** What specifically will the participants do? Describe ways in which the program is designed to have long-term positive impacts on participants. This can include leadership development opportunities, multi-year or extended touch programs, family or support system involvement, peer-to-peer mentorship, or solutions to overcome ongoing barriers.

5. **Program Duration.** Estimate duration of program (e.g. one day event, overnight, weeklong) and the number of hours each participant will spend in your program (e.g. 3-hour surfing lesson, 1.5 hours of classroom science activities, 2-hour sailing trip).

6. **Specific Tasks and Schedule.** Identify the specific tasks that will be undertaken and the work that will be accomplished for each task. Please be specific about the actual work the grant would fund.

#	Task Name	Description	Completion Date
1			
2			

#	Task Name	Description	Completion Date
3			
4			

Add or delete rows as necessary.

7. **Project Evaluation.** What are your organization’s metrics and methods for measuring the success of the project or program?

Does your program conduct pre and/or post surveys of participants? YES NO

8. **Applicant capacity.** Briefly describe the organizational capacity of the applicant. When was your organization established? Will this grant fund an existing program or a new program? Describe how your staff and board reflects the community your project intends to serve through the grant.

If applicant is a nonprofit organization, has your organization submitted the Conservancy’s Nonprofit Pre-Award Questionnaire within the last two years? YES NO

If no, please [complete this questionnaire](#), and submit with your application along with your organization’s IRS 501(c)(3) letter and Articles of Incorporation.

9. **Preliminary Budget.** In the budget table below, relist the tasks identified in question #6 above, and provide the estimated cost (cash amounts) and the funding sources (applicant, Conservancy, and other) for each listed task. Round the cost for each task up to the nearest \$100. **The table will automatically sum the totals for each row and column. To do this, highlight the whole table and hit F9.** See [Sample budget and budget narrative](#).

Note: Describe any in-kind services or contributions in question #13. DO NOT include in-kind services or contributions in the table below.

Task Number	Task	Coastal Conservancy Funds	Other Funds <i>*Do not include In-Kind services in this table</i>	Total Cost
1				\$ 0
2				\$ 0
3				\$ 0
4				\$ 0
	Fiscal Sponsorship Fee (if applicable)			\$ 0
	Indirect costs (if applicable)*			\$ 0
TOTAL		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

* Indirect costs can be up to **15%** of total value of grant

10. Budget Narrative. For each task, explain the basis of the estimated cost listed above. For example, explain what kind of costs the grant will pay for (e.g. participant or subcontractor fees, staff, food, project supplies/equipment, travel).

11. Cost to Participants. Describe costs, if any, to participants in your program. Identify whether grant funding would enable the program to be free or subsidized.

12. Other Funds. Provide information about the specific source of any “Other Funds”, and whether that funding has been secured or is dependent on a future award or authorization.

13. In Kind Services. In-kind services or contributions include volunteer time and materials. Describe and estimate the value of expected in-kind services.

Additional Information (Optional).

Please help us to better understand who the ETR program is serving by filling out the table below to the extent that you are able. Numbers can be approximate.

ETR Priority Communities	Estimated number of participants
Low-income	
People with Disabilities	
English as Second Language Learners	
Foster Youth	
People of Color	
Black	
Asian / Pacific Islander	
Latinx	
Native American	
Multi-Racial	
Other ethnicity, please specify:	
Other ethnicity, please specify:	
Other ethnicity, please specify:	
Other communities facing barriers accessing or enjoying the coast.	
EG: People who were formerly incarcerated	
EG: Veterans	
Other, please specify	
Other, please specify	
Other, please specify	