



# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Proposition 68

San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program

Climate Adaptation Funds

## I. Purpose

The State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) is a State agency established in 1976 to protect and improve natural lands and waterways, help people access and enjoy the outdoors, and sustain local economies and agriculture. Under its authority to work in the nine bay area counties and to address climate change, the Conservancy seeks to support planning, implementation, and technical assistance for projects that carry out the Conservancy's [Strategic Plan](#) while also helping improve a community's ability to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change, including very hot weather, drought, flood, wildfire, and sea level rise.

In June 2018, California voters approved Proposition 68, a bond funding measure that allocated funds to the Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Program for climate change adaptation. (Prop 68 added Division 45 to the Public Resources Code; the specific section is 80133(b)).

**This grant round will award competitive grants for projects that plan, develop, and implement climate adaption and resiliency projects.**

## II. Eligibility and Award Amounts

### A. Eligible Grantees

Government agencies, federally-recognized tribes, and nonprofit organizations approved by the IRS as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code are eligible for funding.

### B. Eligible Projects

Project Purpose/Content: Eligible projects will be consistent with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and will plan, develop, or implement actions to help natural resources or human communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. Eligible projects shall improve a community's ability to adapt to the

unavoidable impacts of climate change; improve and protect coastal and rural economies, agricultural viability, wildlife corridors, or habitat; develop future recreational opportunities; or enhance drought tolerance, landscape resilience, and water retention. Projects could include, for example, land conservation for wildlife corridors, enhancement of bay area agriculture to increase carbon sequestration or protect farmworkers from extreme heat, or urban greening. Projects that use natural infrastructure and provide multiple benefits will be prioritized.

Tidal wetlands restoration projects will **not** be considered under this round, as there are ongoing funding sources at this time that are specifically for baylands restoration (for example, see the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority [grant opportunities](#) ;applications accepted in the fall of each year). Other sea level rise adaptation projects (including subtidal, intertidal, upland transition zones) will be eligible.

Project Type: Projects must be one of the following types:

- Project planning and design: Actions that will lead to construction, such as environmental review and permitting, development of engineered designs.
- Project implementation: On-the-ground construction or installation.
- Project development: Technical assistance for disadvantaged communities\* and support for activities that will help identify specific solutions and projects. Technical assistance refers to the process of providing necessary education and resources for project scoping and development and project implementation assistance. Examples of such activities include:
  - Education
  - Resource sharing
  - Convening of partners and stakeholders for project scoping and development
  - Technical workshops
  - Community visioning meetings
  - Contracting with expert consultants to identify or refine potential capital projects

\* Per Prop 68, a “disadvantaged community” means a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average.

All Prop 68 funds must be spent consistent with the provisions of the General Obligation Bond Law, including Government Code Section 16727. In general, this means projects must entail the planning, development, 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. Capital assets are tangible physical property acquisitions or improvements with a useful life of at least 15 years. These grant funds cannot pay for activities that exclusively involve communication, policy development, or government services.

Project Location: Projects must be located within one of the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area.

### C. Total Funding and Individual Award Amounts

The Conservancy has approximately \$11.5M of Prop 68 SF Bay Climate Funds; \$5.7M is available now, with the remainder available in the coming three years. Pursuant to Prop 68 requirements, 15% of these funds will be awarded to projects that serve severely disadvantaged communities (SDACS). An SDAC is defined as a community with a median household income less than 60% of the statewide average.

Applications may include requests up to \$1M maximum; there is no minimum award amount.

## III. Application and Award Process

### A. Pre-Proposal and Full Proposal

Pre-Proposal: All grant applicants must submit a short [pre-proposal grant application](#) [can also be accessed under the “Reference Documents” on the Grants Page of the Conservancy website]. Pre-proposal grant applications will be accepted on a rolling basis starting on January 1, 2021 until further notice via the [Grants Page](#) of the Conservancy’s website. **Completed proposals should be emailed to [grants@scc.ca.gov](mailto:grants@scc.ca.gov).**

Applicants are also welcome to request an initial project phone or zoom consultation prior to submitting a pre-proposal, to help determine if a project idea is eligible (contact: [moira.mcenesty@scc.ca.gov](mailto:moira.mcenesty@scc.ca.gov)). New applicants are highly encouraged to request a consultation prior to pre-proposal submission.

Within 60 days of receipt of a pre-proposal: The Conservancy will notify the applicant in writing (email) that either (1) their pre-proposal is not eligible/competitive, (2) further information or clarifications about the proposed project is required for further consideration, or (3) they are invited to submit a full proposal.

For projects that align well with the purposes of Prop 68 SF Bay Climate Funds and the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan goals but are not adequately developed in the pre-proposal stage, Conservancy staff may provide guidance to applicants in further developing their project concepts and re-submitting the pre-proposal. Guidance will be prioritized for projects that serve severely disadvantaged communities as defined in Prop 68 (see the “Evaluation Criteria” section below).

Within 60 days of receipt of a full proposal: The Conservancy will notify the applicant in writing (email) that either (1) their full proposal will not be considered further, (2) their full proposal will require additional time for review, or (3) their proposed project will be recommended for funding at a future Conservancy Board meeting.

### B. Grant Award

Prop 68 SF Bay Climate Grants must be authorized by the Coastal Conservancy board at a public meeting. The Conservancy meets approximately five times a year, usually at various coastal locations

statewide or in Sacramento, but will meet in a virtual setting such as “Zoom” until at least fall 2021. Conservancy staff will provide details about the board meeting and following steps (such as entering into a grant agreement). Please refer to the Conservancy website for [typical Conservancy grant agreement terms](#).

## IV. Funding Criteria and Priorities

### A. General Conservancy Criteria

All projects funded by the Conservancy with Prop 68 SF Bay Climate Funds must help achieve the goals of the Conservancy’s Climate Ready Program and the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, and must be consistent with the [Conservancy’s enabling legislation](#), [selection criteria](#), and [Strategic Plan](#).

### B. SF Bay Area Climate Fund Priorities

SF Bay Climate Funds shall be awarded to **plan, develop, and implement climate adaption or resiliency projects**. Projects shall help natural resources and/or human communities adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change such as sea level rise, extreme events such as very hot weather, drought, flood, and wildfire.

The Conservancy’ Climate Ready Program in this round seeks to advance multi-benefit projects that will lead to lasting change. Priority will be given to projects that:

- Establish, expand, and/or strengthen potentially ongoing relationships and alliances among various communities, tribal groups, and sectors (e.g., school districts, health-focused organizations, private landowners, business associations) to accelerate effective problem-solving. Cross-sectoral alliances are especially encouraged (e.g., including entities not necessarily focused on “conservation” or “restoration”).
- Establish the project’s connection with climate-related impacts (such as shoreline loss, extreme heat)
- Include meaningful community engagement and community benefit, i.e. collaborate with community members in developing or implementing a climate adaptation or resiliency project, and ensure that the project contains actions and outcomes that are clearly linked to a community’s ability to prepare for, reduce impact from, or withstand impacts from climate change. [Reference: [Conservancy Tips for Meaningful Community Engagement](#)]
- Include job skills development or job creation elements (or explain why not applicable); could include use of the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps.
- Describe how the project was selected and prioritized to achieve multiple partners’ goals and objectives, how it fits in the context of “greater than local interest,” and show partnership with a long-term maintenance entity.
- Prioritize natural infrastructure where possible.
- Include a public education element (e.g., for a project that addresses wildfire resiliency, include actions to explain how the project implements best practices, or to improve understanding of a policy evolution from a regime of suppressing 100% of all fires).

## V. Evaluation Criteria

**20 points** - The extent to which the project achieves the purposes and priorities of the Conservancy's [Climate Ready Program](#), [Proposition 68](#) (scroll to Section 80133), the Conservancy's [Project Selection Criteria](#), and the Conservancy's [Strategic Plan](#) (which include the goals of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program).

**5 points** - The extent to which the project provides multiple benefits (include but are not limited to the following):

- Increases resilience to sea level rise in order to safeguard coastal communities from future risks from impacts of climate change;
- Promotes on-the-ground demonstration projects that implement innovative approaches or enhance understanding of effective coastal management strategies and will potentially lead to broader change to policies, regulations, or to duplicating the effort elsewhere;
- Promotes collaboration among various stakeholders and multiple sectors to advance climate change adaptation. Establishes or expands non-traditional alliances to accelerate effective problem-solving between and among public and private resource managers, scientists, and decision-makers;
- Restores or protects ecosystem processes;
- Provides educational opportunities;
- Develops or expands coordinated efforts to promote youth engagement and empowerment, including fostering new partnerships with diversity-serving and youth-serving organizations, urban areas, and programs.

**10 points** - The extent to which the project benefits community(ies) who are disproportionately affected by climate impacts.

**10 points** - The extent to which the applicant demonstrates the project has meaningful and appropriate community outreach and engagement, and that the project goals have community support. For example:

- Conducts active, meaningful outreach to diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations and tribal communities;
- Creates new partnerships with state, local, tribal, private, and nonprofit organizations;
- Expands the use of multilingual and culturally appropriate materials in public communications and educational strategies;
- Mentors new environmental, outdoor recreation, and conservation leaders to increase diverse representation across these areas.

**5 points** - **The project is consistent with best available science. Examples include:**

- Project employs best management practices as identified by a credible organization
- Project is based on existing planning document prepared with input from relevant technical experts, or project was developed with input from relevant technical experts;

- Applicant has consulted with relevant State and Federal agencies;
- Scientific assumptions or underpinnings of project are explained in proposal.

**5 points** - Project includes use of the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps.

**25 points** - Extent to which the application is complete, reasonable, and well thought out.

**10 points** - Extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience successfully implementing similar projects or demonstrates appropriate and necessary partnerships to complete the project.

**5 points** - 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 5 points.

**5 points** - Extent to which the applicant demonstrates a clear and reasonable method for measuring and reporting the effectiveness of the project.

## VI. Further Information

- [Prop 68 SF Bay Climate Guidelines](#) adopted by the Conservancy on August 22, 2019, which contain detailed information about project priorities and eligibility.
- SCC Climate Ready Program: <https://scc.ca.gov/climate-change/climate-ready-program/> and Public Resources Code Section 31113.
- Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs): Pursuant to Prop 68 requirements, the Conservancy will spend 15% of Prop 68 SF Bay Climate Funds on projects serving SDACS, which are defined as a communities with a median household income less than 60% of the statewide average. The Conservancy has defined projects serving an SDAC to include those that: (a) are located in an SDAC, (b) are located within one mile of an SDAC, or (c) provide direct benefits to SDAC residents (including training and workforce education, job opportunities, recreational amenities, educational and recreational opportunities, increased resilience to climate change, reduced flooding, or reduced pollution burden). There are various online mapping tools to view SDACs, including this one: <http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities#>.

## VII. Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact Moira McEnespy, Regional Manager, San Francisco Bay Area Program (moira.mcenespy@scc.ca.gov).