2022 Wildfire Resilience RFP Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

Application Questions

- Is there a maximum grant size for the RFP released on December 3?

  There is no maximum or minimum grant size. There is $7 million available for capacity building projects and $10 million available for implementation projects ($5 million of which must be spent in the nine counties of the Bay Area). Previous Coastal Conservancy wildfire resilience grants ranged from $7,000 to over $1 million.

- Could projects be partially funded?

  Yes, the Conservancy may choose to fund the entire project or offer to fund a portion of the project.

- What is included in the final application process? How much time do applicants have to complete the final app?

  Once pre-applications are submitted, some applicants will be asked to submit a full application. Applicants will be given a month to complete the full applications.

- Should we submit one grant proposal to access both implementation and capacity building funds, or two separate proposals?

  If your project is in Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, or Ventura counties and includes both implementation and capacity building elements you may apply under one application.

- Where can we find the pre-application?

  Grant details and links can be found here (HYPERLINK). Specifically, the pre-application is found here (HYPERLINK).

- If we intend to apply with a partner agency(ies), would you like a pre-proposal from each agency or just one from the lead agency?
  Please submit a single pre-application and identify a single lead agency. All other partners should be identified in #3 (Who's Involved section) on the pre-application.

- Is your definition of build capacity with the intent to meet your six priorities?

  There are six Wildfire Resilience general priorities and another five specific capacity building priorities listed in the RFP. The more priorities a given projects addresses the stronger the proposal.

- Our project is a continuation from a project started from a previously awarded grant. How do we illustrate that on the application? (Applying to continue a Chipping Program)

  Please discuss the previous award in your pre-application project description. Consider highlighting successes of current work and how continuing it will meet the State's wildfire priorities.

- Can a public agency, instead of a 501(c)(3), serve as a fiscal sponsor for a non-federally recognized tribe?

  Yes.

- Can the wildfire resilience grant fund multiple on-the-ground activities?

  Yes.

- Is there a competitive advantage to submitting by the January 14 deadline?

  Pre-applications submitted by the January 14, 2022, deadline will be considered first.

Webinar Slides and Recording

- Is it possible for you to share these slides following the webinar?
- How to view the webinar power point?
- Can we obtain a copy of the webinar transcript?

The Wildfire Resilience Grant webinar was recorded on December 16, 2021. The webinar and RFP material is available through these links:

- Webinar recording ([HYPERLINK](#))
  - The transcript can be found on the webinar recording using the 'Open Transcript' button on the YouTube page.
- PowerPoint slides ([HYPERLINK](#))
- Wildfire Resilience RFP ([HYPERLINK](#))
- Pre-application ([HYPERLINK](#))

Pre-consultation

- How do we schedule the pre-application consultation?

  Send us an email requesting a consultation at wildfire.resilience@scc.ca.gov.

Project Eligibility

- Are projects on private land eligible for funding?

  Yes, but there must be a public benefit associated with the project. For example, a project is located on conservation easement.

- Are fire road access improvements eligible for funding?

  Yes, they would qualify for implementation funding.

- Is land acquisition an eligible project type?

  Land acquisition could be eligible under implementation funding but the application would need to make a very strong case that acquiring the property makes a demonstrable reduction in wildfire risk to a community or natural resource.

- Does the project need to have a nexus with a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan? Or Community Wildfire Protection Plan?

  Priority will be given to funding projects identified in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan or another wildfire resilience/prevention plan. In your project description, please state which plan(s) include your project or type project.

- Can defensible space on unimproved parcels surrounding improved parcels be funded?

  Funding is available to create defensible space around public facilities, for example, a park visitor's center or water treatment building.

  Yes, these projects are eligible if they meet the grant program priorities.

- I'm interested in a Arundo removal/maintenance planning grant within a watershed that spans Ventura County and LA County (Santa Clara River). Will this be problematic because it spans beyond the mapped area? Will have a clear benefit in Ventura County if Arundo is removed within both counties as it is ecologically connected.

  If the project location has been identified as a wildfire reduction priority, this project could be eligible for implementation funding.

- Would funding cover retrofits and recommendations based on a home hardening assessment within an entire neighborhood not a single structure. All would be in a high fire severity area.

  No, these grants are not for home hardening.

- Would this funding support post-fire water quality and infrastructure monitoring?

  No.

- Does a CWPP have to be in place for fuel reduction programs?

  No.

- What makes a successful vegetation management proposal?

  One aspect is whether the project is 'sustainable', that is that the work makes a permanent or long-term change to the landscape that reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The project should be located in a high risk area and include threats to human health and property. If possible, please include a discussion of maintenance and long-term management.

- Can we apply to add staff to another funded project if we feel that implementation staff of existing program are insufficient?

  These grants can be used to pay for staff.

- Can funding be used to cover costs associated with existing staff members that are actively carrying out fuel management work?

  Yes.

- There is a recent bark beetle infestation happening within our Napa community, and forests are being destroyed at rapid speed. Can these funds be used to mitigate this situation? If so, who would be the most appropriate applicant—Property owners? County? The local Firewise organization?

  Yes, a project to address this problem is certainly possible under our grant program. Napa County falls under our implementation funding. The entity that manages these forests would be the most logical applicant.

- I'm conducting research on a prescribed burn on plantings of oak seedlings from a variety of origin sites to evaluate whether certain genotypes are more fire resilient than others.

  No, unfortunately this funding cannot be used for research. CALFIRE has a grant program specifically for research such as yours. https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/forest-health-grants/

Capacity Building Project Eligibility Questions

- Do capacity building grants need to support specific, planned implementation or can they support building capacity to identify and prioritize future projects?

Capacity building grants can fund either. The capacity building grants should fall into one or more of the following categories: planning, increasing staff or contractor capacity, and demonstration projects.

- Would capacity funding cover the cost to hire a consultant to develop a plan to address the risks of the unhoused that live in the dry river beds and creek beds that traverse Ventura County? There is an area of heavy vegetation, which is highly flammable. The plan would address fire prevention education for residents and reduce the threat to the unhoused.
  Yes, this project could potentially qualify for capacity building funding depending on project details. The focus of the project must be to reduce fire risk.

- Would an RCD creating a Public Works Plan be an appropriate use of the capacity building funds?

  Yes, the development of Public Works Plans could be funded under the capacity building funding.

- My city is interested in putting together a vegetation management and ecosystem restoration master plan for an open space area (100+ acres). After the plan is developed, we would work through the projects in the master plan in terms of implementation. Would either of the current grants be applicable to creating a master plan such as this?

  This type of project could be eligible for capacity building and implementation funding. The focus of the planning would need to be on prioritizing fire risk reduction. The implementation projects would need to focus on fire risk reduction activities.

- We would like to fund a risk assessment that would ultimately be used to create communication, wildfire spread, and transportation simulation models. The models would then be used to simulate the county's evacuation process under many conditions to determine where we have gaps in our current preparedness. This information would later be used to create a software application to help agencies within our county prioritize implementation projects that are intended to increase the efficiency of our evacuation process. Would something like this project qualify for this grant opportunity?

  Yes, this project would likely qualify for capacity building funds if located in the following counties: Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, or Ventura.

- We would like to create a Forest Management Plan, which is why we are reaching out to seek funding.

  Yes, forest management plan would qualify for capacity building funds if located in the following counties: Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara or Ventura.

- Do you think a post fire long-term recovery planning effort that addresses creating a 'fire safe' landscape and serve as a regional model fit in capacity bucket?

  Yes, if the project is in the following counties: Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, or Ventura.

- Can capacity grant funds be used to pay for TREX training to implement cultural and traditional burn programs?

  Yes, if the project is in the following counties: Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, or Ventura.

- Our urban City contains a 110 acre natural area consisting of Eucalyptus, Monterey Pine, grasslands and beautiful Coast Live Oak woodlands in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. We need to develop and implement a Vegetation Management and Ecosystem Restoration Plan – roughly estimated to cost ~ $150K - and are considering sending a pre-application for the Capacity Grant.
  - Does the development of this Plan sound like it would qualify as an eligible project for award consideration?

    Yes, if the project is in the following counties: Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, or Ventura.

  - If awarded, can the grant pay for the CEQA study?

    Yes, assisting with permitting and CEQA documentation are eligible activities under capacity building grants.

  - Could the grant award go to the City for a sole source consultant to develop the Plan or would an RFP be required for Plan development?

    Yes assuming sole-source contracting is allowed under the City's policies and laws.

Capacity Building vs. Implementation Project Questions

- Would a local government fire agency application for dedicated wildland fire suppression water storage tank be considered capacity building or implementation?

  If you are ready to build the storage tank, the project could qualify for an implementation grant. If the project is in Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara or Ventura counties and you would like to plan the construction of the tank, then it could qualify for capacity building grant.

CEQA Questions

- Does the local lead CEQA agency have to document CEQA status, or can the applicant do that for the application?

  Please describe the project's CEQA status in the pre-application project description. If the applicant does not know their project's CEQA status, they should state that in their project description.

- Can permitting and CEQA be included?

  Yes permitting and CEQA documentation development can be included in capacity building grants.

- Will the preparation of a CEQA-compliant prescribed burn plan (or the amendment of a CEQA-compliant plan to include a Prescribed Burn Plan) be an acceptable task for this program?

  Yes.

- Are community chipping programs that chip what homeowners have cut themselves exempt from CEQA ?

  Probably, we can help you look at possible CEQA exemptions.

Funding Questions

- Can State funds match other State funding?

  Yes SCC funding can match other State funding.

- How many years will grantees have to complete an implementation project? Depending on the kind of fire season we may experience in 2022, some projects like prescribed burning or vegetation work may be delayed due to weather or safety concerns related to fire risk.

  Project should be completed by February 2025.

- Regarding Capacity Grant staff salary payments- for what duration would the funds be available? Would the funds be disbursed over time or in a single (re)payment or...?

  Project should be completed by February 2025. Funding will be distributed as reimbursements or repayments after work is complete. Typically invoices are processed on a monthly or quarterly basis and payment takes 4 to 6 weeks.

- Are matching funds required?

  No.