



STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION
September 2023

The California State Coastal Conservancy (“Conservancy”) anticipates a need for environmental, engineering, architectural, landscape architectural, construction project management, and the other consulting services listed below for Conservancy projects and programs over the next twelve months. Further, the Conservancy anticipates a need for its grantees to contract for graphic design services for interpretive signage.

The Conservancy also welcomes information on community groups and non-profits that provide resources that may be useful to share with our grantees, including information about local community groups, community engagement groups and evaluation practitioners, tribal engagement groups and consultants, local labor and training programs, and other topics. The Conservancy seeks to identify individuals, firms, and community groups providing these services.

The Conservancy acts to preserve, restore and enhance California’s coastal and marine resources, collaboratively plan with state and local municipalities for climate resilience and sea level rise, and to work with local communities to develop and implement restoration and adaptation projects on the coast and around San Francisco Bay. The Conservancy promotes environmental equity and justice for historically excluded communities, persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples and Tribal nations, and others, through our work to restore habitats and watersheds, provide public access and recreational opportunities, and increase resilience to climate change. The Conservancy plans and implements innovative projects to demonstrate the effectiveness of natural habitats and nature-based approaches to combat the impacts of climate change impacts, including sea level rise, heat waves, storm events and flooding, and others. As climate change increases the need for restoration and resilience, the Conservancy hopes to increase the scale and pace of these projects.

The Conservancy has developed working relationships with a number of public and private entities as through its work on coastal and watershed restoration efforts over the past 45 years. Through grant funding and projects directly led by the Conservancy, we work with a broad range of partners, consultants, and grantees to build awareness between diverse sectors and interests. We facilitate stakeholders and partners to collaboratively develop creative solutions to complex coastal issues. Advancing environmental protection and climate adaptation work at the scale that’s needed requires diverse collaborations of public and private agencies, Indigenous peoples and Tribal Nations, landowners, and community members. Many projects are designed as demonstration projects meant to address climate change impacts and test new methods in climate adaptation as well as habitat restoration, flood control, urban greening, community open space, and other benefits. They often include education and outreach with landowners, community groups, tribes, and local partners, with a focus on transparency and sharing of new data with all partners and the public. We integrate lessons learned and results from these demonstration projects with multiple agencies and local stakeholders, so that these techniques can be incorporated into future restoration projects that further enhance endangered



species habitat, pilot climate adaptation techniques, and integrate habitat connectivity and different functions and services. It's critical to connect Indigenous peoples and Tribal Nations, local community organizations, and historically excluded communities to landowners and agency partners, to facilitate input and work towards shared goals of human health and environmental protection on our shorelines.

The Conservancy strives to promote equitable outcomes for all Californians through all its existing programs. Our Explore the Coast program aims to increase access to the coast for all Californians, reduce barriers to coastal access, and provide coastal experience for youth and adults that may face challenges getting to or enjoying the coast. The Conservancy's coastal habitat protection and enhancement programs aim to ensure the benefits of healthy ecosystems, clean water, wetlands, working lands, urban parks, and open space are provided to all Californians. Conservancy projects aim to increase both social and ecological resilience to climate change and reduce climate change impacts on underserved and/or frontline communities.

Conservancy projects fall within the following categories:

- (1) Public access including trails, stairways, bridges, parking, recreational and interpretive facilities;
- (2) Revitalization of urban waterfronts and shoreline facilities and commercial fishing facilities;
- (3) Resource conservation and enhancement, including:
 - i. Restoration, enhancement, and protection of rivers, wetlands and other coastal habitats;
 - ii. Natural and nature-based design solutions such as multi-benefit living shoreline projects that restore riparian, estuarine and coastal habitats (e.g. rivers, dunes, native oyster reefs, eelgrass beds, seaweed beds, and freshwater and tidal marsh vegetation that protect shorelines from erosion and flooding)
 - iii. Hybrid combinations of green and grey approaches, such as horizontal levees and living seawalls, with targeted goals of enhancing habitat values in areas of unavoidable hard infrastructure
- (4) Coastal preservation, such as lot consolidation; transfer of development rights; coastal land acquisition;
- (5) Agricultural land preservation, including acquisition of interests in coastal agricultural land and resolution of land use problems such as greenhouse gas emissions;
- (6) Watershed restoration to improve water quality and sediment availability;
- (7) Marine and coastal resource education;
- (8) Climate change adaptation and mitigation, such as:
 - i. Removing or relocating hard infrastructure such as derelict creosote pilings and structures
 - ii. Restoring carbon rich ecosystems such as wetlands, eelgrass beds, and redwood forests
 - iii. Green-grey hybrid approaches to coastal adaptation such as dune restoration with cobble and rock elements;
 - iv. Wildfire resilience and management
 - v. Watershed restoration and floodplain restoration
- (9) Urban greening, such as replacing impervious surfaces with habitat elements designed to recapture stormwater and reduce heat islands created by urban infrastructure;



(10) Building capacity for local communities to plan and implement climate justice programs and projects.

(11) Increasing public access to the Coast through access-related environmental programming.

(12) Lower-cost Coastal Accommodations that increase the availability of affordable overnight options along the coast.

(13) Coastal Stories Program that supports the promotion of inclusive coastal spaces for tribal and BIPOC communities through creation of culturally relevant storytelling and interpretive materials.

In connection with projects in these areas, we are soliciting consultants with experience and expertise in:

1. Surveying and mapping;
2. Construction project management;
3. Civil and hydrological engineering;
4. Habitat restoration design, permitting, construction, and monitoring; with a focus on designing for integrated habitats and multiple benefits; including specific expertise and project experience in specific habitat types and mixes of habitat palettes- marine, estuarine, riparian, upland, and watershed areas
5. Natural and nature-based shoreline protection design; including experimental techniques and work in less common habitat types such as rocky intertidal areas and oyster beds;
6. Wildfire risk reduction and management
7. Landscape architecture; with a focus on native and environmentally oriented designs,
8. Trail planning, design, and engineering;
9. Water quality assessment;
10. Geotechnical and geomorphic assessment;
11. Structural analyses;
12. Pre-project feasibility analyses;
13. Economic analyses;
14. Hazardous or toxic substance investigations;
15. Wetland, creek, watershed, intertidal and subtidal assessments;
16. Archaeological studies;
17. Environmental documentation and assessment under the California Environmental Quality Act and other environmental laws and regulation;
18. Climate change issues such as urban heat island effect, species migrations, seasonal coastal and fluvial flooding, and sea-level rise;
19. Botanical studies;
20. Agricultural studies;
21. Soil analyses;
22. Carbon analyses;
23. Biological investigations;
24. Natural resource permitting;
25. Site and land use planning;



26. Sea-level rise, marsh migration, and coastal erosion modeling;
27. Environmental monitoring;
28. Graphic design for interpretive signs; and
29. Other program-related environmental services, such as appraisals for resource conservation purposes.

The Conservancy also seeks to identify individuals, firms, and community groups providing these services:

1. Community engagement planning and implementation
2. Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) training and resources
3. Community engagement evaluation
4. Community-focused media and storytelling
5. Community-based restoration
6. Community-inclusive design planning
7. Local labor development and training
8. Traditional Ecological Knowledge

To submit your qualifications and/or organizational information, fill out [the online form located here](#) and linked at www.scc.ca.gov/public-meetings/ under the Public Notices header. The form is used to identify firms with appropriate qualifications for Conservancy consultant needs, and also includes sections for organizational information submittals that may be helpful resources for statewide grantees. Specific requests for more detailed submittals on Conservancy consultant needs will be issued for specific projects over the coming year.

All information received will be kept on file for at least one year from the date of this request. Conservancy staff will use this information in soliciting services, as needed, for upcoming Conservancy projects. We will also share organizational information and resources with grantees. Specific project details including contract identification numbers are not available at this point. Any resulting contract will be awarded without discrimination based on race, color, ethnic group identification, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or national origin.

State certified Small Businesses (“SB” including small business, minority and women-owned businesses) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (“DVBE”) are encouraged to submit. The Conservancy requires DVBE participation in every contract, unless specifically exempted by the Executive Officer. Determining factors for exemption include but are not limited to: (1) little or no DVBE subcontracting opportunities; (2) subcontracting work is not standard in the industry; and (3) work is so specialized that there are few or no DVBEs that can perform the work. The Conservancy encourages all potential contractors to proactively engage with potential SB and DVBE subcontractors.