

Questions from Grant Writing 101 Webinar 12/11/25

Do you have suggestions for the types of quantitative metrics to include for applications focused on planning and design? Would SCC want to see metrics related to future construction in that application?

Planning projects should use the anticipated quantitative outcomes of the planning project itself, while also ensuring the future construction outcomes are clearly described. Include any community engagement related quantitative outcomes you expect your project to complete such as number of community meetings that will be held, number of volunteer events that will take place, or number of community partners that will be involved. To help you understand what we are looking for, below are examples of both quantitative outcomes for planning and future implementation. These are only samples. You can add additional project outcomes that are relevant to your project.

Quantitative Outcomes

- Number of community members engaged in project
- Number of tribes engaged in project

Metrics below refer to anticipated outcomes from the project being planned:

- Acres of land or water protected
- Acres of habitat restored, breakdown by habitat type if available
- Miles of trail planned or built
- Stream miles of spawning habitat made more accessible
- Number of access amenities and other facilities constructed; specify what the amenities and facilities are

WCB has currently paused accepting pre-applications for Prop 4 projects. Is the State Coastal Conservancy still accepting pre-applications for Prop 4 funds?

Yes, we are still accepting Prop 4 applications, even though we are facing a significant delay moving Prop 4 funding out to projects. We are experiencing delays because there was not an exemption in Prop 4 from rulemaking under the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), as was the case with previous bonds. There was legislation allowing for use of the Emergency Regulation (EReg) process, which procedurally speeds up rulemaking but has all the same requirements in terms of substance or rules/regs. The Conservancy Board approved an EReg package in late November 2025, which we submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). We had discussions with OAL staff and made edits to address many of their concerns. At the end of their review, OAL told us they planned to reject our ERegs. At that point, we withdrew

our EReg package, just like WCB. As of now, we are unable to grant any Prop 4 funding, except for the early action Wildfire Resilience funds, which had an APA exemption.

There is draft legislation (AB-35) seeking an APA exemption for Prop 4 (as there has been for previous bonds). If it passes, we will bring Prop 4 funded projects to our Feb 19, 2026 Board meeting. Otherwise, we will need to revamp our grantmaking program, take a new EReg package to our board and resubmit to OAL. We anticipate that this would take 6-12 months. Our intention is to continue to work with partners to have projects ready when funds become available through our [main ongoing solicitation](#). Once we are able to allocate Prop 4 dollars, we will work swiftly to put these funds to work.

Are chances of getting the grant better if you ask for less than the maximum amount available?

We suggest asking for the amount required to complete the project.

Could universities such as CSUs qualify for these grants?

Yes, eligible applicants include public agencies, federally recognized tribes, non-profit organizations with 50(c)(3) status, and other community-based organization and non-federally recognized tribes with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.

Does this apply to the Prop 68 RFP?

We utilize one general pre-application unless applying to the [Explore the Coast program](#), [Explore the Coast Overnight program](#), [Coastal Stories program](#), [Sea Otter Recovery program](#), or the [Community Wetland Restoration Grant Program](#).

Would using new blue tech to assess health of wildlife (whales) and near coastal habitats in marine protected areas qualify for funding? It includes community and tribal engagement.

The Conservancy's grants will fund projects that support our Strategic Plan (found at this link: <https://scc.ca.gov/about/plan/>) and meet our Project Selection Criteria (found at this link: <https://scc.ca.gov/grants/project-selection-criteria/>). That said, a majority of the Conservancy's funding is now Prop 4 and bond obligation law requires supporting capital projects, which can

include planning, research, and community and tribal engagement required to plan or implement the capital project. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

What type of grants have been submitted in the past year?

Please review our Board Book Archives for projects that were approved by our board.

<https://scc.ca.gov/coastal-conservancy-board-book-archives/>

Map of Conservancy Projects:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0e5226ae75424ee995ffa6ada9bdf5ac/>

Is this a good funding source for the preparation of a CalVTP that covers roughly 8,000 acres?

The Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience Program is focused on funding implementation projects, not the Project Specific Analysis (PSA) associated with CalVTP. However, we can also assist with environmental compliance for wildfire resilience projects that are within our jurisdiction if they meet SCC criteria. This assistance would be provided through an existing SCC retainer contract with a consulting firm and could include help preparing a CalVTP PSA. More info on the Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience program, including links to the program's webinar and slides can be found at: <https://scc.ca.gov/wildfire-resilience-program/>

Can you say more about not overselling your project?

- Be specific about the work that will be done with the grant funding, not just all the work that your organization does that is fundable by the Conservancy.
- If demonstrating consistency with our project selection criteria, do so in a believable way
 - Example: There are multiple ways to demonstrate how a project benefits a systemically excluded community such as passive methods like proximity or active methods like targeted programming. If you're proposing a regional trail project sited in a high-income district and the nearest disadvantaged community is five miles away, you need to show active methods for satisfying that need.

Is the Explore the Coast program looking for projects to support activities in that region or to support bringing participants to that region?

The Explore the Coast grant program seeks to provide enjoyable coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or encounter barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast ("ETC Priority Communities"). Explore the Coast projects can bring participants from throughout the state to the coast, including participants from inland areas. For example, a project could bring ETC Priority Communities from the San Joaquin Valley to the San Francisco Bay for activities such as sailing or kayaking, or bring ETC Priority Communities from the Inland Empire to the coast for whale watching, coastal camping, and more.

How should a program go about applications when funding is much more limited for a specific area. I am speaking specifically about ETC limitations of SF Bay Area.

While it's true that funds for projects with trips to the San Francisco Bay will be much more competitive than outer coast projects, we encourage applicants to apply with the project they feel best meets the goals of the ETC program. Projects should provide participants with joyful or healing experiences that reduce barriers for ETC Priority Communities to access and/or enjoy the coast. Other benefits such as hands-on ecosystem stewardship and environmental education are secondary benefits that can increase project competitiveness. Please see the Selection Criteria for more information.

For location, do we use the location or locations (if multiple) where we will provide services or where we are located? For example, our target population resides in Contra Costa, and we hope to provide services in Pismo Beach

You should specify both locations in your application. Furthermore, consider how transportation costs affect your overall budget. While cost-effectiveness isn't an explicit selection criterion, competitive applications typically feature reasonable budgets that demonstrate high impact for each participant. Please email explorethecoast@scc.ca.gov if you have further questions.