



SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY

Agenda Item

Item: G-3

June 17, 2015

TO: San Joaquin River Conservancy
Governing Board

FROM: Melinda S. Marks, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Approve Proposition 1 Multi-Benefit Water Quality, Water Supply, Ecosystem and Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Program Guidelines and Draft Proposal Solicitation Package

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Board approve the final proposed Grant Guidelines (Attachment 1) and the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) (Attachment 2) for the Conservancy's Multi-Benefit Water Quality, Water Supply, Ecosystem and Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Program.

SUMMARY:

The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) was approved by voters in November 2014. The total amount of funding authorized in Proposition 1 for the San Joaquin River Conservancy's watershed protection and restoration grant program is \$10 million, of which a maximum of ten percent (\$1.0 million) may be expended on planning projects. The Governor's proposed 2015-2016 budget includes a first-year appropriation of \$2.8 million for Conservancy grants. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis using the application and evaluation process contained in the Grant Guidelines and PSP.

Proposition 1 requires the development and adoption of grant guidelines prior to soliciting proposals and disbursing grant funds.

The purpose of the Guidelines is to establish the process, procedures, and criteria through which the Conservancy will administer its competitive Multi-Benefit Water Quality, Water Supply, Ecosystem and Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Program in accordance with the provisions of Proposition 1. The Guidelines include the following information: eligibility requirements, program and project requirements, and procedures for soliciting and evaluating applications and awarding funds.

Proposition 1 also requires the Conservancy to provide the opportunity for public review and comment on the draft Guidelines. The draft Guidelines and PSP were presented to the Board at the February 18, 2015, meeting prior to the public review period, which ended on May 1. The comments and questions that were received during the comment period and workshops

comments and questions that were received during the comment period and workshops resulted in minor changes to the draft Guidelines and PSP. The revisions to the March public review draft are shown in the mark-up of the proposed final Guidelines and PSP, attached. The California Natural Resources Agency approved the proposed final Guidelines and PSP for consistency with Proposition 1 requirements on May 27, 2015.

DISCUSSION:

Proposition 1 requires a minimum 30-day review period of the draft Guidelines and PSP, and requires the Conservancy to conduct three public meetings to consider public comments prior to finalizing the Guidelines.

The Conservancy mailed a Notice of Public Meetings and Opportunity to Comment to 42 responsible and trustee agencies and interested parties; and another 122 were sent in the form of an email. The Notice, draft Guidelines, and initial PSP were posted on the Conservancy's website www.sjrc.ca.gov. The public comment period was from March 13, 2015, through May 1, 2015. During the comment period, the Conservancy held three public meetings—April 14 in Madera, April 15 in Fresno, and April 16 in Friant—to inform the public about the grant program and to secure public comments.

During the public comment period, the Conservancy received two comments from responsible and trustee agencies and three comments from interested parties. The Conservancy staff also received questions about the draft Guidelines and PSP during the three workshops. Comments, questions, and responses to those comments and questions are provided in Attachment 3.

The Conservancy staff will post this staff report and attachments at www.sjrc.ca.gov prior to the Board meeting. Staff will send emails to the attendees of the workshops and commenters to inform them that the report is available on the website.



Rebecca Harris
Staff Services Analyst

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Proposed Final Grant Guidelines

Attachment 2: Proposed PSP

Attachment 3: Comments and Questions Received During the Public Review Period

Attachment 3 Public Comment Responses

Comment Period:

March 13 through May 1, 2015.

Workshops:

- April 14th in Madera, 200 W. Fourth Street, Second Floor, Room 2005, from 9:00-10:30am; and
- April 15th in Fresno, 5469 E. Olive, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District Board Room, from 10:30-12:00pm; and
- April 16th in Friant, 5290 Millerton Road, Millerton Lake Courthouse, Millerton Lake State Recreation Area, from 3:30- 5:00pm. (Parks fees will be waived)

Workshop attendees:

Amy Duncan (California Conservation Corps), Richard Woo (Interested Party), Chris Stevens (Interested Party), Louis Moosios (Interested Party), Jessica Lizak (Interested Party), Shawn Riggins (Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission), Bethany Soto (Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board), Sal Terry (EOC, Local Conservation Corps), Sharon Weaver (San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust), Michelle Tucker (Construction Industry Force Account Council), and Kent Gresham (California Department of Parks and Recreation).

Written Comments received (attached)

- Louis Moosios
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Construction Industry Force Account Council
- The Trust for Public Land
- Chris Stevens

Questions, Comments, and Responses

Question/Comment: Consider the ability for applicants to apply for both the Watershed Restoration Grant Program and the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program with one application if the proposal benefits fish.

Response: The San Joaquin River Conservancy (Conservancy) has only one Proposition 1 grant program.

Question/Comment: Are there funding restrictions for each of the various objectives (e.g., no more than \$1.2 million may be used on habitat restoration; \$3 million on water quality management)?

Response: Funding source, availability, and limits are presented in the draft Guidelines and may be further limited in each Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP). Ideally, projects will provide multi-benefits and meet multiple objectives.

Question/Comment: Will any additional Proposition 1 funds be provided to the Conservancy in the future?

Response: The maximum amount authorized in Proposition 1 for the Conservancy is \$10 million.

Question/Comment: Providing grant funds on a reimbursable basis can be challenging for large projects. We suggest either allowing for the advancement of funds, or creating a mechanism for protecting grantees from loss.

Response: While the Conservancy understands the challenges, State bond funds may only be provided to Grantees on a reimbursement basis.

Question/Comment: Provide information on the targeted annual distribution of the funding program.

Response: The Conservancy's Proposition 1 bond funds will be disbursed to eligible projects that are favorably ranked by the Evaluation Panel and approved by the Conservancy Board and Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).

Question/Comment: Are there any projects the Conservancy is aware of that might qualify for the grant program?

Response: As noted in the draft Guidelines, "Anticipated Project Types" include but are not limited to habitat restoration, San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) related projects such as off-stream fishing, floodplain enhancements, gravel pit isolation, and storm water quality management.

Question/Comment: Can Proposition 1 bond money be used to construct trails, if they are used as a barrier to keep the public out of the habitat?

Response: Habitat restoration projects benefiting the watershed are eligible; however, unless direct benefits to habitat can be generated by a trail project, then other Conservancy bond fund programs may be more appropriate.

Question/Comment: Can you provide clarity on the maximum project duration?

Response: Projects may be multiyear efforts as necessary and appropriate. Each PSP will specify the term allowed for projects. See revised Guidelines, page 8.

Question/Comment: Under Anticipated Project Types in the draft guideline we suggest changing the second bullet to "watershed *protection* and restoration" to reflect the priorities of the California Water Action Plan and Proposition 1.

Response: Revised as recommended, see revised Guidelines page 8.

Question/Comment: How can members of the public suggest projects when they will not be eligible to sponsor projects or submit grant applications?

Response: Members of the public can present their suggested projects to an eligible project sponsor. The commenter may present the suggestions in his letter to Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and/or other possible sponsors.

Question/Comment: Does DFW have plans to apply for grant funds?

Response: The Conservancy does not know which agencies or organizations will be applying for grants. The Conservancy and DFW have been brainstorming collaborative projects, including projects related to the SJRRP.

Question/Comment: Is the planning area limited to just the Fresno or Madera side of the San Joaquin River?

Response: The Conservancy's jurisdictional planning area encompasses the river's floodplain from Friant Dam to State Route 99 in both Fresno and Madera counties. The draft Guidelines and PSP have been edited to make this more clear throughout the documents.

Question/Comment: How far outside of the Conservancy planning area might a project be to still be considered under the grant program?

Response: Since a watershed's protection and restoration is intrinsically interconnected with its tributaries, the Conservancy's draft Guidelines allow for projects within the watershed immediately tributary to the planned Parkway reach, the Conservancy's jurisdictional planning area. All projects must demonstrate a specific nexus and direct benefits to the Conservancy planning area. See revisions to the Guidelines page 10.

Question/Comment: How should an applicant contract/sub contract with the Corps?

Response: The PSP includes specific forms and check lists for consulting with the California Conservation Corps and Local Conservation Corps.

Question/Comment: Regarding assisting with recovery of sensitive species, do projects have to increase and identify benefits for a specific species, or are general habitat benefits eligible?

Response: Proposition 1, and the Conservancy's Guidelines, provide that projects that provide overall habitat benefits in the watershed are eligible, as well as projects that assist in recovery of sensitive species.

Question/Comment: For projects benefiting salmonids, the Conservancy should focus funds on those geographic areas and limiting factors of greater importance to salmonid viability and persistence. Priority watersheds for anadromous fisheries and factors limiting their recovery are identified in federal recovery plans.

Response: The draft Guidelines and PSP include: watershed and associated habitat projects that assist in the recovery of sensitive species among the eligible projects, and advancing the goals of species recovery plans among the proposal evaluation criteria. To better indicate that actions prioritized in species recovery plans are among the eligible and anticipated project types, the draft Guidelines, page 8, and PSP, page 9 are revised.

Question/Comment: Isolation of the quarry ponds/pits may degrade the water quality, within those ponds/pits, because it would inhibit the flow from the main river channel and would likely result in higher overall water temperatures. The warmer water temperatures could lead to overwhelming algal blooms, decreased O2 saturation, and even fish/plant death.

Response: All proposed projects, including any proposed gravel pit isolation projects, will be subject to compliance with CEQA, and the potential environmental impacts will be analyzed and considered by the Lead Agency prior to project approval.

Question/Comment: We encourage the Conservancy to also include language that supports and encourages the use of a competitive bid process for capital improvements that require licensed contractors to perform the work. Each agency that submits a proposal should outline the competitive procedures they intend to use for their capital improvements projects. This will help to provide oversight and ensure checks and balances in the system. This also helps to instill confidence that these projects are performed economically and by construction industry members experienced in the type of work performed.

Response: Project sponsors must comply with applicable contracting law. Applicants are required to describe their contracting process in section E-2 of the PSP. See revisions in Guidelines, page 13.

Question/Comment: The Public Contract Code should be inserted into the guidelines. The code includes clarification of bid requirements, ensuring a transparent, uniform and objective bid process that will stimulate competition to ensure that the public is getting the best value for every public dollar spent, and eliminating favoritism.

Response: Proponents must comply with all laws applicable to their projects. Detailed requirements in law are beyond the intended scope of the guidelines. The applicant is required to describe how contractors will be selected in section E-2 of the PSP.

Question/Comment: Which entity is the CEQA lead agency?

Response: The Conservancy may act as Lead or Responsible Agency, depending on the project.

Question/Comment: What long-term commitment is required for projects on private property?

Response: Landowner agreement requirements are described in the draft Guidelines.

Question/Comment: Is CEQA required prior to San Joaquin River Conservancy approval?

Response: CEQA compliance is required prior to awarding grants for restoration, construction, and implementation.

Question/Comment: The NOAA Restoration Center's Northern California Office *Restoration Programmatic Biological Opinion for Restoration Projects* has developed streamlined permitting processes with an estimated cost savings for taxpayers ranging from \$25,000 to \$64,000 per project. The Conservancy should consider using existing permitting efficiencies that are already in place such as the RGP 12 and RGP 78 for Proposition 1-funded projects that fit within those programs. If this is not feasible, work with the National Marine Fisheries Services and others to streamline permitting to reduce permitting costs and bring more dollars to on-the-ground restoration.

Response: The opportunity to streamline permits and costs is appreciated. Through the prospective applicant's compliance with CEQA, regulatory agency consultation will be accomplished, and permit and regulatory requirements pertaining to the proposed project will be identified in advance of the Conservancy awarding funds for implementation and

construction. The project sponsor is responsible for securing and complying with appropriate permit requirements.

Question/Comment: Provide information in the solicitation notice regarding potential permits required for implementation projects, such as agency websites and/or regional contact information. This small detail can help reduce the number of projects that are delayed or unable to implement funded projects because of failure to meet all the environmental compliance requirements.

Response: Prospective applicants must demonstrate expertise, including knowledge of environmental compliance requirements for their proposed project. Through the prospective applicant's compliance with CEQA, regulatory agency consultation will be accomplished, and permit and regulatory requirements pertaining to the proposed project will be identified in advance of the Conservancy awarding funds for implementation and construction. A number of website links are provided in the Guidelines.

Question/Comment: We suggest that this program prioritize projects on protected lands. Conservation ensures that restoration projects can be sustained over time. Restoration and improvements on protected lands facilitates long-term monitoring, research and adaptive management of project sites. The Conservancy can better leverage and sustain the positive impacts of investments if there is already site control or permanent conservation, or if those investments include the permanent conservation of the project site.

Response: The draft Guidelines include requirements related to long-term commitment to ensure conservation. Evaluation criteria have been revised to include long-term land conservation, Guidelines page 17.

Question/Comment: A statewide grant program that aims to produce on the ground projects for environmental benefits will require a high degree of oversight to ensure projects are designed and implemented correctly to provide targeted benefits. Regional coordinators committed to the grant program will be vital to program success.

Response: The Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board staffs are responsible for overseeing grantees' performance in compliance with the requirements of the Grant agreements.

Question/Comment: How much time will be allowed between the solicitation notice and proposal deadline?

Response: Commenters indicated at least two months at a minimum should be provided. See revised Guidelines, page 16.

Question/Comment: The Trust for Public Land recommends that pre-consultation with Conservancy staff or a pre-application be required prior to the submittal of a grant application. This step helps applicants in putting the best projects forward and makes the application process more efficient for all parties. Furthermore, this assistance can provide invaluable information to prospective applicants with less capacity or experience to become more competitive for these funds, including those located within disadvantaged communities.

Response: The draft Guidelines have been revised to make it clear that prospective applicants may contact the Conservancy in advance, see page 10.

Question/Comment: Program guidelines, solicitations, and review criteria should: (1) make specific reference to anadromous fishes and their habitats and the associated state and federal recovery plans, (2) utilize recovery plan information, and (3) include website links to recovery plans as appropriate to program objectives. Encourage grant applicants to develop projects that support actions specified in recovery plans or require salmonid projects to align with recovery actions in a state or federal recovery plan (e.g., The Fisheries Restoration Grant program requires all projects link directly to a state or federal recovery action). Develop a mechanism to track projects that are implementing federal recovery plan priorities and actions to improve state and national reporting to Congress on progress.

Response: The Conservancy Proposition 1 grant program is a multi-benefit program, which may include fisheries benefits and may address species recovery plans. The SJRRP is specifically identified in the draft Guideline and Proposition 1. Prospective applicants for projects to benefit anadromous fisheries must demonstrate their expertise and appropriate science-based approach to their project. If the Conservancy receives proposals related to anadromous fish recovery, the evaluation and panel and monitoring and reporting requirements will be focused accordingly. See revisions to Guidelines, page 8.

Question/Comment: How will the evaluation panel members be selected?

Response: The Executive Officer will invite panel members consistent with the Guidelines and as required by Proposition 1.

Question/Comment: How many people will serve on the evaluation panel?

Response: As presented in the Guidelines and as required by Proposition 1, the evaluation panel will consist of a minimum of five members, including at least two technical reviewers. Others may serve as appropriate to the scope of the proposals received.

Question/Comment: Does the Conservancy plan on using someone from the private sector to serve as a panel member?

Response: The evaluation panel may include qualified professionals from the private sector.

Question/Comment: Stakeholders/landowners should participate on the proposal review committee. There are several prominent land owners on both sides of the river.

Response: The draft Guidelines have been revised to allow for the participation of stakeholders, landowners, or local citizens, as appropriate to the scope of the proposals received; see revised Guidelines page 18 and revised PSP page 12.

Question/Comment: A person from the “private” sector that is an actual San Joaquin River user that knows the preferred areas/habitats for fish, wildlife, and knows the river itself should be on the grant evaluation panel. This private sector person could be a fishing guide, aqua culturist, or other professional, not affiliated with any government agency, the SJRRP or Conservancy.

Response: As noted in the draft Guidelines, the panel may include outside experts, dependent on the scope of the proposals received.

Question/Comment: Are any of the Conservancy’s Board members going to sit on the evaluation panel?

Response: Proposition 1 and the draft Guidelines require panel members to have expertise and be at supervisory, management, or policy levels. Board members, who by definition have policy expertise, may participate in the panel.

Question/Comment: Ensure public transparency and reporting on criteria, scoring, and technical and selection panel process and the monitoring and assessment reports of funded projects.

Response: The Guidelines and Conservancy practices provide for public participation and transparency, including agendas, website info, and staff reports. CEQA compliance provides for public participation and transparent decision-making. Monitoring and assessment reports are required where applicable and shall be publicly available.

Question/Comment: Invite NMFS as a technical reviewer or member of the grant program evaluation panel on salmonid and sturgeon related projects, provided technical review participation by NMFS does not exclude NMFS from potential selection panel membership.

Response: The draft Guidelines accommodate NMFS' participation as technical evaluators and independent scientific reviewers as appropriate.

Question/Comment: The Conservancy should disseminate public meeting notices/flyers regarding the grant program to local businesses such as Fisherman's Warehouse and Herb Bauer.

Response: As required in the draft Guidelines, any person that requests to receive Grant and board meeting notices is added to the mailing/e-mailing lists. Where the Conservancy is Lead Agency for a proposed project with wide stakeholder and citizen interest, it may distribute notices at recreation businesses, community centers, etc. as well as through project-specific distribution lists.

Question/Comment: When will the applications be released, and what will the submittal deadline be?

Response: As soon as the Board adopts the final guidelines, the 2015/16 budget is adopted, and the Board authorizes the first cycle, the PSP will be released, likely in the early fall of 2015.

Question/Comment: Reimbursement in "arrears" is not clear.

Response: The grantee will be reimbursed for allowed costs it has incurred. The draft Guidelines have been revised for clarity, page 19.

Question/Comment: Does San Joaquin River Conservancy consider reach 1A of the San Joaquin River to be a navigable river?

Response: Yes, the State considers the San Joaquin River in the Parkway reach (SJRRP Reach 1A) to be a navigable river.

Question/Comment: The State of California recognizes the San Joaquin River as a navigable waterway. As such, do the Subdivision Map Act and Public Trust Doctrine apply to the river? If so, wouldn't those laws preclude projects that close-off/isolate the ponds from the river, since closing them would impede public navigability? If not, please explain.

Response: The San Joaquin River Restoration Program, a federal and state-approved plan to recover threatened spring-run Chinook salmon, proposes to isolate gravel ponds from the river channel in the Parkway reach; therefore, such projects are mentioned among the anticipated project types. The draft Guidelines do not attempt to analyze the potential

impacts and regulatory requirements for any potential project; these issues must be analyzed by the Lead Agency in compliance with CEQA prior to the Conservancy awarding funds for construction or implementation. As noted, the San Joaquin River in the Parkway reach is a navigable river under the jurisdiction and management authority of the California State Lands Commission (CSLC). Revisions are incorporated in the draft Guidelines and PSP to address SLC jurisdiction and coordination; see Guidelines page 12, and PSP page 12.

Question/Comment: Is there a list of reference web-links to codes, statutes, plans, and the Parkway?

Response: Useful web links are in Appendix A of the Guidelines.

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Comments for the Multi-Benefit Water Quality, Water Supply, and Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Program Public Meeting

1. After asking at a recent meeting, it was confirmed that the Conservancy considers the San Joaquin River to be a “navigable waterway”. As such, do not the Subdivision Map Act and the Public Use Doctrine apply to the River? If so, wouldn’t the Act and the Doctrine preclude the ponds/pits from being closed off/isolated from the river, because closing them would impede the public navigability? If they do not apply, please explain why.
2. I believe that the isolation of the quarry ponds/pits would degrade the water quality, NOT improve it, within those ponds/pits because inhibiting the flow from the main river channel would likely result in higher overall water temperatures. The warmer water temperatures could lead to overwhelming algal blooms, decreased O2 saturation, and even fish/plant death.
3. I believe a person from the “private” sector that is an actual San Joaquin River user that knows the preferred areas/habitats for fish, wildlife, and knows the river itself should be on the grant approval panel. This private sector person could be a fishing guide, aquaculturist, or other professional, not affiliated with any government agency, SJRP or SJRC.
4. I do have a project I’d like to suggest that would include a partnership between the San Joaquin River Parkway and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (as the primary land owners of the project area):
 - a. The project would be based on seasonally allowing water to flow THROUGH the Millburn Unit
 - i. This could be done by installing a solid gate that can be open/closed on the Millburn road/levy where in the past the river flowed through (but does not now).
 - ii. A second gate WEST of the Millburn Unit (approx ½ mile) would then allow the water to reconnect with the main river channel
 - b. Both gates would be on Parkway property. These gates would provide for improved wetland areas as suggested in the Salmon Restoration Project guidelines and would therefore benefit developing young Salmon prior to their return to the main river channel for migration downstream
 - c. Please contact me directly for additional specifics on this Millburn Unit flow idea.

Respectfully,

Louis Moosios

Landowner, Reach 1

Owner, San Joaquin Guide Service

(559) 351-9500 lmoosios@hotmail.com



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region

RECEIVED

APR 14 2015

April 8, 2015

Ms. Melinda Marks
San Joaquin River Conservancy
5469 E. Olive
Fresno, California 93727

Dear Ms. Marks:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) appreciates the many years of collaboration with the State to further salmon and steelhead (salmonid) recovery in California. This letter serves to advance the State and Federal collaboration in accordance with Proposition 1 and provide comments on the draft guidelines outlining the process, procedures, and prioritization criteria to fund watershed protection and restoration including water storage and conservation.

To achieve the Proposition 1 objectives of assisting in recovery of endangered or threatened species and ensuring funds are used for projects that provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits, it is our recommendation all program entities utilize the best available information found in formalized species or watershed plans such as State and Federal recovery plans. In California, there are 10 salmonid species, one green sturgeon southern population segment and one eulachon southern population segment that are federally listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act. NMFS is required to prepare recovery plans for these federally listed species and plans are now final for:

- Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon;
- Central California Coast coho salmon;
- Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon;
- Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon;
- Central Valley steelhead;
- South-Central California Coast steelhead; and
- Southern California Coast steelhead.

The Coast Multispecies recovery plan (Central California Coast steelhead, Northern California steelhead, and California Coastal Chinook), the green sturgeon plan and the eulachon plan are under development. The Federal recovery plans for California's salmonids were developed in cooperation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and many others, and reflect the best available information, and bring significant new information into the public domain.



Recovery plans can be used by Proposition 1 project applicants as well as the program administering entities to identify:

- priority watersheds which have a greater influence on long-term salmonid viability;
- the intrinsic potential of stream reaches to support spawning and rearing salmonids which can guide actions to areas more likely to respond to restoration;
- priority recovery actions for estuarine and freshwater habitats that address factors limiting salmonid recovery, including water conservation;
- priorities for green sturgeon recovery; and
- research and monitoring needs and priorities that refine recovery goals and track and assess the effectiveness of recovery activities.

For projects benefiting salmonids, NMFS recommends a geographic and limiting factor focus of funds to those areas of greater importance to salmonid viability and persistence in California. Priority watersheds for California's anadromous salmonids and green sturgeon, and factors limiting their recovery, are identified in the aforementioned recovery plans and summarized in the enclosed tables¹. Decisions to focus funds to specific areas do not imply other areas are less important or not needed for recovery. Rather, decisions to focus are necessary to ensure funds are optimizing benefits to fisheries and ecosystem processes. Should Proposition 1 program funds be tracked to priorities and actions identified in Federal recovery plans, NMFS would be able to more explicitly report to Congress in 5-Year Status Reviews and Biennial Reports to Congress on our collective efforts and successes to recover California's native anadromous fishes.

We have the following additional recommendations on solicitations, review criteria, and program processes:

- Provide information on the targeted annual distribution of the funding program.
- Ensure public transparency and reporting on criteria, scoring, and technical and selection panel processes to include the monitoring and assessment reports of funded projects.

¹ The watersheds ranked priority "A" are highest priority for species recovery and may include key areas supporting monitoring and/or conservation hatchery programs. Watersheds ranked as a priority "B" or "C" are other watersheds that may be needed for recovery but are considered lower in priority, relative to "A" watersheds. The intent is not to exclude watersheds but request that priority "A" watersheds are weighted more heavily if competing with priority "B" or "C" watersheds. Similarly, "B" watersheds should be weighted more than "C" watersheds. Also note the priority watersheds are grouped into Diversity Strata or Diversity Groups in the attached tables. Salmon and steelhead restoration and recovery efforts must be occurring across all groups to make meaningful strides in the recovery of the species'.

- Program guidelines, solicitations, and review criteria should: (1) make specific reference to anadromous fishes and their habitats and the associated state and Federal recovery plans, (2) utilize recovery plan information, and (3) include website links to recovery plans as appropriate to program objectives.
- Encourage grant applicants to develop projects that support actions specified in recovery plans or require salmonid projects align with recovery actions in a state or Federal recovery plan (e.g., The Fisheries Restoration Grant program requires all projects link directly to a state or Federal recovery action).
- Develop a mechanism to track projects that are implementing Federal recovery plan priorities and actions to improve State and national reporting to Congress on progress.
- Invite NMFS as a technical reviewer or member of the grant program selection panel on salmonid and sturgeon related projects, provided technical review participation by NMFS does not exclude NMFS from potential selection panel membership.
- Consider the ability for applicants to apply for both the Watershed Restoration Grant Program and the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program with one application if the proposal benefits fish.
- Clarify that resource conservation districts are eligible for the programs.
- The NOAA Restoration Center's Northern California Office *Restoration Programmatic Biological Opinion for Restoration Projects* provides an estimated cost savings for taxpayers ranging from \$25,000 to \$64,000 per project. Consider using existing permitting efficiencies that are already in place such as the RGP 12 and RGP 78 for Proposition 1-funded projects that fit within those programs. If this is not feasible, work with NMFS and others to streamline permitting to reduce permitting costs and bring more dollars to on-the-ground restoration.
- Provide information in the solicitation notice regarding potential permits required for implementation projects such as agency websites and/or regional contact information. This small detail can help reduce the number of projects that have to delay or are unable to implement funded projects because of failure to meet all the environmental compliance requirements.
- A statewide grant program that aims to produce on the ground projects for environmental benefits will require a high degree of oversight to ensure projects are designed and implemented correctly to provide the targeted benefits. Regional coordinators committed to the grant program will be vital to program success. Consider allocating staff or funding dedicated coordinators to the various regions to improve communication, coordination and implementation of Proposition 1 funds with cooperating entities.

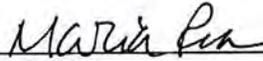
Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to a higher level of collaboration to ensure the continued protection and restoration of the States anadromous fisheries resources.

If you have questions please direct them to Charlotte Ambrose, California Programs Coordinator, at 916-930-3704.

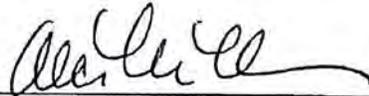
Sincerely,



Patrick J. Rutten
NOAA Restoration Center
Southwest Region Supervisor



Maria Rea
Assistant Regional Administrator
California Central Valley Office



Alecia Van Atta
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
California Coastal Office

Enclosure

Priorities for Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon*Federal Status:* Federally Threatened*Key Limiting Factors:*

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
 - Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
 - Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
 - Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
 - Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
 - Predation
 - Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
 - Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Strata	SONCC Coho Salmon Populations	Priorities
Central Coastal	Smith River	A
	Elk Creek	B
	Wilson Creek	B
	Lower Klamath River	A
	Redwood Creek	A
	Maple Creek/Big Lagoon	B
	Little River	B
	Strawberry Creek	B
	Norton/Widow White Creek	B
	Mad River	B
Interior Klamath River	Middle Klamath River	A
	Upper Klamath River	A
	Salmon River	B
	Scott River	A
	Shasta River	A
Interior Trinity River	Lower Trinity River	A
	Upper Trinity River	A
	SF Trinity River	B
Southern Coastal	Humboldt Bay Tributaries	A
	Lower Eel and Van Duzen	A
	Guthrie	B
	Bear River	B
	Mattole River	B
Interior Eel River	SF Eel River	A
	Mainstem Eel	A
	Middle Fork Eel River	B
	North Fork Eel River	B
	Middle Mainstem Eel River	A
	Upper Mainstem Eel River	B

Priorities for Central California Coast coho salmon

Federal Status: Federally Endangered

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
- Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Predation
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Strata	CCC Coho Salmon Populations	Priorities	Notes
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Usal Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Cottaneva Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Juan Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	DeHaven	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Wages Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Ten Mile River	A	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Pudding Creek	A	Long-Term Monitoring of Coho
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Noyo River	A	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Hare Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Jug Handle Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Casper Creek	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Russian Gulch	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Big River	A	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Little River	B	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Albion River	A	
Lost Coast - Navarro Point	Big Salmon Creek	B	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Navarro River	A	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Greenwood Creek	B	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Elk Creek	B	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Alder Creek	B	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Brush Creek	B	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Garcia River	A	
Navarro Point - Gualala Point	Gualala River	A	
Coastal	Russian River	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Coastal	Salmon Creek	B	

Coastal	Pine Gulch	B	
Coastal	<i>Walker Creek</i>	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Coastal	Lagunitas Creek	A	Long-Term Monitoring of Coho
Coastal	Redwood Creek	B	
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Gregorio	B	
Santa Cruz Mountains	Pescadero Creek	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Santa Cruz Mountains	Gazos Creek	B	
Santa Cruz Mountains	Waddell Creek	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Santa Cruz Mountains	Scott Creek	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Vicente Creek	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Santa Cruz Mountains	Laguna Creek	B	
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Lorenzo River	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock
Santa Cruz Mountains	Soquel Creek	B	
Santa Cruz Mountains	Aptos Creek	A	Outplanting for Captive Broodstock

Priorities for Central California Coast steelhead

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Dams blocking access to historical habitat
- Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
- Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Levee maintenance actions that reduce the conservation value of migration and rearing corridors
- Predation
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds"

Diversity Strata	CCC Steelhead Populations	Priorities
Coastal S.F. Bay	San Francisco Bay Estuary	N/A
Coastal S.F. Bay	Guadalupe River	A
Coastal S.F. Bay	San Francisquito Creek	A

Coastal S.F. Bay	Corte Madera Creek	A
Coastal S.F. Bay	Stevens Creek	A
Coastal S.F. Bay	Miller Creek (Marin Co.)	B
Coastal S.F. Bay	San Mateo Creek	B
Coastal S.F. Bay	Novato Creek	B
Interior	Upper Russian River	A
Interior	Maacama Creek	A
Interior	Dry Creek	A
Interior	Mark West Creek	A
Interior	Miller Creek (Russian)	B
Interior	Crocker Creek	B
Interior	Gill Creek	B
Interior	Sausal Creek	B
Interior S.F. Bay	Codornices Creek	B
Interior S.F. Bay	Pinole Creek	B
Interior S.F. Bay	Wildcat Creek	B
Interior S.F. Bay	Alameda Creek	A
Interior S.F. Bay	Napa River	A
Interior S.F. Bay	Coyote Creek	A
Interior S.F. Bay	Petaluma River	A
Interior S.F. Bay	Green Valley/Suisun Creek	A
Interior S.F. Bay	Sonoma Creek	A
Interior S.F. Bay	San Lorenzo Creek	B
Interior S.F. Bay	San Leandro Creek	B
Interior S.F. Bay	San Pablo Creek	B
North Coastal	Austin Creek	A
North Coastal	Lagunitas Creek	A
North Coastal	Green Valley Creek	A
North Coastal	Salmon Creek	A
North Coastal	Walker Creek	A
North Coastal	Sheephouse Creek	A
North Coastal	Redwood Creek (Marin Co.)	A
North Coastal	Willow Creek	A
North Coastal	Freezeout Creek	A
North Coastal	Pine Gulch	A
North Coastal	Hulbert Creek	A
North Coastal	Porter Creek	A
North Coastal	Dutch Bill Creek	A
North Coastal	Drakes Bay	B
North Coastal	Americano Creek	B
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Pedro Creek	B
Santa Cruz Mountains	Scott Creek	A

Santa Cruz Mountains	Pescadero Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Lorenzo River	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	Aptos Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	Pilarcitos Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Gregorio Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	Soquel Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	Waddell Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	San Vicente Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	Tunitas Creek	B
Santa Cruz Mountains	Gazos Creek	A
Santa Cruz Mountains	Laguna Creek	B

Priorities for Northern California steelhead

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor and ecological processes
- Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
- Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Predation
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Strata	NC winter steelhead Populations	Priorities
Central Coastal	Brush Creek	B
Central Coastal	Elk Creek	B
Central Coastal	Garcia River	A
Central Coastal	Gualala River	A
Central Coastal	Navarro River	A
Central Coastal	Schooner Gulch	B

Lower Interior	Bell Springs Creek	B
Lower Interior	Bucknell Creek	B
Lower Interior	Chamise Creek	A
Lower Interior	Outlet Creek	A
Lower Interior	Soda Creek	B
Lower Interior	Tomki Creek	A
Lower Interior	Woodman Creek	A
North Mountain Interior	Dobbyn Creek	B
North Mountain Interior	Larabee Creek	A
North Mountain Interior	Middle Fork Eel River	A
North Mountain Interior	North Fork Eel River	A
North Mountain Interior	Upper Mainstem Eel River/ Upper Middle Mainstem Eel River (Summer)	A
North Mountain Interior	Van Duzen River	A
North-Central Coastal	Albion River	B
North-Central Coastal	Big River	B
North-Central Coastal	Caspar Creek	B
North-Central Coastal	Cottaneva Creek	B
North-Central Coastal	Noyo River	A
North-Central Coastal	Pudding Creek	B
North-Central Coastal	Ten Mile River	A
North-Central Coastal	Usal Creek	A
North-Central Coastal	Wages Creek	A
Northern Coastal	Guthrie Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Maple Creek/Big Lagoon	A
Northern Coastal	Oil Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Bear River	A
Northern Coastal	Big Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Big Flat Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Howe Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Humboldt Bay	A
Northern Coastal	Jackass Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Little River (Humboldt County)	A
Northern Coastal	Lower Mainstem Eel River	B
Northern Coastal	Mattole River	A
Northern Coastal	McNutt Gulch	B
Northern Coastal	Shipman Creek	B
Northern Coastal	South Fork Eel River	A
Northern Coastal	Spanish Creek	B
Northern Coastal	Telegraph Creek	B
Northern Coastal/North Mountain Interior	Mad River	A
Northern Coastal/North Mountain Interior	Redwood Creek (Humboldt Co)	A

Priorities for California Coastal Chinook salmon

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors:

- Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor and ecological processes
- Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Predation
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or “Watersheds”:

Diversity Strata	CC Chinook salmon Populations	Priorities
Central Coastal	Gualala River	B
Central Coastal	Navarro River	B
Central Coastal	Garcia River	A
Central Coastal	Russian River	A
North Coastal	Bear River	A
North Coastal	Humboldt Bay	A
North Coastal	Little River (Humboldt County)	A
North Coastal	Lower Eel River	A
North Coastal	Mad River	A
North Coastal	Mattole River	A
North Coastal	Redwood Creek (Humboldt Co)	A
North Coastal	South Fork Eel River	A
North Mountain Interior	Larabee Creek	A
North Mountain Interior	Upper Eel River	A
North Mountain Interior	Van Duzen River	A
North-Central Coastal	Albion River	B
North-Central Coastal	Big River	A
North-Central Coastal	Noyo River	A
North-Central Coastal	Ten Mile River	B

Priorities for Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon

Federal Status: Federally Endangered

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Keswick and Shasta Dams blocking access to historical habitat
- Flows and water temperatures below Keswick and Shasta Dams affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration

- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Levee maintenance actions that reduce the conservation value of migration and rearing corridors
- Predation
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Unnatural flow regimes through the Delta pulling juvenile salmonids towards the south Delta pumps
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults in the Yolo bypass, Colusa Basin Drain, and the Sacramento Deepwater Ship Channel

Priority Populations or “Watersheds”:

Diversity Group	Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook Salmon Populations	Priorities
Basalt and Porous Lava	Sacramento River (below Shasta Dam)	A
	Little Sacramento River (above Shasta Dam)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Battle Creek	Primary Reintroduction Area
	McCloud River	Primary Reintroduction Area

Priorities for Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Dams blocking access to historical habitat
- Unnatural flow patterns below dams
- Low flows and warm water temperatures
- Small passage impediments in Antelope, Mill, Deer, and Big Chico, and in the Feather and Yuba Rivers
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Levee maintenance actions that reduce the conservation value of migration and rearing corridors
- Predation
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Unnatural flow regimes through the Delta pulling juvenile salmonids towards the south Delta pumps
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults in the Yolo bypass, Colusa Basin Drain, and the Sacramento Deepwater Ship Channel

Priority Populations or “Watersheds”:

Diversity Group	Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon Populations	Priorities
Basalt and Porous Lava	Sacramento River (below Shasta Dam)	B
	Little Sacramento River (above Shasta Dam)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Battle Creek	A
	McCloud River	Primary Reintroduction Area
Northwestern California	Stony Creek	C
	Thomes Creek	C
	Cottonwood/Beegum	B
	Clear Creek	A
Northern Sierra Nevada	Mokelumne (below Comanche)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Mokelumne (above Pardee)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	American River (above Folsom)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	American River (below Nimbus)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Feather River (below Oroville)	B
	West Branch Feather (above Oroville)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	North Fork Feather (above Oroville)	Candidate
	Middle Fork Feather (above Oroville)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	South Fork Feather (above Oroville)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Yuba River (below Englebright)	B
	North Yuba River (above Englebright)	Primary Reintroduction Area
	Middle Yuba River (above Englebright)	Primary Reintroduction Area
	South Yuba River (above Englebright)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Butte Creek	A
	Big Chico	B
Deer Creek	A	
Mill Creek	A	
Antelope Creek	B	
Southern Sierra Nevada	Stanislaus River (below Goodwin)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Upper Stanislaus River (above New Melones)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Tuolumne River (below La Grange)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Upper Tuolumne River above La Grange and Don Pedro)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Merced River (below Crocker Huffman)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Upper Merced River above New Exchequer)	Candidate Reintroduction Area

Diversity Group	Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon Populations	Priorities
	San Joaquin River (below Friant)	Primary Reintroduction Area
	San Joaquin above Friant	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area

Priorities for Central Valley steelhead

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Dams blocking access to historical habitat
- Unnatural flow patterns below dams
- Low flows and warm water temperatures
- Small passage impediments in Antelope, Mill, Deer, and Big Chico, and in the Feather, Yuba, Mokelumne, Calaveras, and San Joaquin Rivers
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Levee maintenance actions that reduce the conservation value of migration and rearing corridors
- Predation
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Unnatural flow regimes through the Delta pulling juvenile salmonids towards the south Delta pumps
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults in the Yolo bypass, Colusa Basin Drain, and the Sacramento Deepwater Ship Channel
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or “Watersheds”:

Diversity Group	Central Valley Steelhead Populations	Priorities
Basalt and Porous Lava	Sacramento River (below Shasta Dam)	B
	Little Sacramento River (above Shasta Dam)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Battle Creek	A
	Cow Creek	B
	McCloud River	Primary Reintroduction Area
Northwestern California	Putah Creek	B
	Stony Creek	C
	Thomes Creek	B
	Cottonwood/Beegum	B
	Clear Creek	A
Northern Sierra Nevada	Cosumnes River	C
	Mokelumne River (below Comanche)	B

Diversity Group	Central Valley Steelhead Populations	Priorities
	Mokelumne River (above Pardee)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	American River (below Nimbus)	B
	Upper American (above Folsom)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Auburn Ravine	B
	Dry Creek	C
	Feather River (below Oroville)	B
	West Branch Feather (above Oroville)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	North Fork Feather (above Oroville)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Middle Fork Feather (above Oroville)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	South Fork Feather (above Oroville)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Bear River	C
	Yuba River (below Englebright)	B
	North, Middle, South Yuba Rivers (above Englebright)	Primary Reintroduction Area
	Butte Creek	B
	Big Chico	B
	Deer Creek	A
	Mill Creek	A
Antelope Creek	A	
Southern Sierra Nevada	Calaveras River (below New Hogan)	A
	Upper Calaveras River (above New Hogan)	Non-Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Stanislaus River (below Goodwin)	B
	Upper Stanislaus River (above New Melones)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Tuolumne River (below La Grange)	B
	Upper Tuolumne River (abv La Grange and Don Pedro)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Merced River (below Crocker Huffman)	B
	Upper Merced River (above New Exchequer)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	San Joaquin River (below Friant)	Candidate Reintroduction Area
	Upper San Joaquin (above Friant)	Candidate Reintroduction Area

Priorities for southern DPS green sturgeon

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of historical spawning and rearing habitat on the Sacramento, Feather, and Yuba rivers

- Unnatural seasonal flow and water temperature patterns on the Sacramento, Feather, and Yuba rivers
- Restricted passage caused by the Sunset Pumps diversion structure on the Feather River
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Unnatural flow regimes through the Delta pulling juvenile salmonids towards the south Delta pumps
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults in the Yolo bypass, Colusa Basin Drain, and the Sacramento Deepwater Ship Channel
- Limited understanding of the species' biological requirements

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Group	sDPS Green Sturgeon Watersheds	Priorities
Not applicable for green sturgeon	Sacramento River (below Shasta/Keswick Dams)	A
	Feather River (below Oroville Dam)	A
	Yuba River (below Englebright Dam)	A

Priorities for South-Central California Coast steelhead

Federal Status: Federally Threatened

Key Limiting Factors: Dams blocking access to historical habitat

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
- Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Levee maintenance actions that reduce the conservation value of migration and rearing corridors
- Predation
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Group	So.-Cent. Steelhead Populations	Priorities
Interior Coast Range	Pajaro River	A
Interior Coast Range	Salinas River	A
Carmel River Basin	Carmel River	A
Big Sur Coast	San Jose Creek	B
Big Sur Coast	Little Sur River	A
Big Sur Coast	Big Sur River	A

San Luis Obispo Terrace	San Carpoforo Creek	B
San Luis Obispo Terrace	Arroyo de la Cruz	B
San Luis Obispo Terrace	San Simeon Creek	A
San Luis Obispo Terrace	Santa Rosa Creek	A
San Luis Obispo Terrace	San Luis Obispo Creek	A
San Luis Obispo Terrace	Pismo Creek	A
San Luis Obispo Terrace	Arroyo Grande Creek	A

Priorities for Southern California steelhead

Federal Status: Federally Endangered

Key Limiting Factors:

- Loss of diversity in habitats, life-histories, genetic vigor, and ecological processes
- Simplification and loss of estuarine and offchannel or floodplain habitats
- Flows and water temperatures affecting all life stages
- Loss of riparian habitat and instream cover affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Loss of floodplain habitat affecting juvenile rearing and outmigration
- Levee maintenance actions that reduce the conservation value of migration and rearing corridors
- Predation
- Juvenile fish injury and mortality at unscreened or poorly screened water diversions
- Degraded water quality from agricultural and urban runoff
- Fish passage impediments/barriers for immigrating adults
- Lack of abundance and distribution data

Priority Populations or "Watersheds":

Diversity Strata	So. Calif. Steelhead Populations	Priorities
Monte Arido Highlands	Santa Maria River	B
Monte Arido Highlands	Santa Ynez River	A
Monte Arido Highlands	Ventura River	A
Monte Arido Highlands	Santa Clara river	
Conception Coast	Goleta Slough Complex	A
Conception Coast	Mission Creek	A
Conception Coast	Carpinteria Creek	A
Conception Coast	Rincon Creek	B
Santa Monica Mts.	Arroyo Sequit	B
Santa Monica Mts.	Malibu Creek	A
Santa Monica Mts.	Topanga Creek	A
Mojave Rim	San Gabriel River	A
Mojave Rim	Santa Ana River	A
Santa Catalina Gulf	San Juan Creek	A
Santa Catalina Gulf	San Mataeo Creek	A
Santa Catalina Gulf	Santa Margarita River	A
Santa Catalina Gulf	San Luis Rey River	A
Santa Catalina Gulf	San Dieguito	B



RECEIVED

March 10, 2015

MAR 12 2015

Melinda Marks, Executive Officer
San Joaquin River Conservancy
5469 E. Olive Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727

Re: Draft Competitive Grant Guidelines for the Conservancy's Grant Program funded through Proposition 1

Dear Ms. Marks,

The Construction Industry Force Account Council (CIFAC) is a non-profit organization that works with governmental agencies to assist them in following the California Public Contract Code and is available as a resource. We represent contractors, contractor organizations and various building trades.

The Public Contract Code outlines the procedures that a public agency must follow when contracting out construction work.

The intent of the Public Contract Code is found in Section 100. This includes clarification of bid requirements, ensuring a transparent, uniform and objective bid process that will stimulate competition to ensure that the public is getting the best value for every public dollar spent, and eliminating favoritism, fraud or corruption and misuse of public funds.

We wish to formally comment on the draft competitive grant guidelines for the Conservancy's multi-benefit water quality, water supply and watershed protection and restoration grant program funded by the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 Bond Funds: Prop. 1.

In reviewing this document, we noted that proposal evaluation criteria and scoring may include language that allows for the consideration of cost efficient strategies, such as the use of California or Community Conservation Corps to implement projects. We applaud the Conservancies intent to ensure publicly funded projects are completed in the most cost efficient manner.

We encourage the Conservancy to also include language that supports and encourages the use of a competitive bid process for capital improvements that require licensed contractors to perform the work. Each agency that submits a proposal should outline the competitive procedures they intend to use for their capital improvements projects, this will help to provide oversight and

ensure checks and balances in the system. This also helps to instill confidence that these projects are performed economically and by construction industry members experienced in the type of work performed.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to further discussions with you regarding this matter. You may also contact me if you have any questions at (209) 532-2942.

Sincerely,



Michelle Tucker, CIFAC Central Region Representative
mtucker@cifac.org
19815 Rough and Ready Trail
Sonora, CA 95370

Cc San Joaquin River Conservancy Board



April 15, 2015

Ms. Melinda Marks
Executive Officer
San Joaquin River Conservancy
5469 E. Olive Ave.
Fresno, CA 93727

RECEIVED

APR 16 2015

Re: Multi-Benefit Water Quality, Water Supply, and Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Program

Dear Melinda:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) Multi-Benefit Water Quality, Water Supply, and Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Program (Prop 1 Guidelines) which establish the competitive process and criteria that the SJRC will use to solicit applications, evaluate proposals, and award grants. The Trust for Public Land looks forward to working with SJRC through this program.

Overall, these guidelines seem very comprehensive, and we are pleased to see that real property acquisitions (including easements) are eligible projects and that acquisitions are exempt from the Conservation Corps consultation requirements. Our specific comments are summarized below. We would be happy to discuss these comments with you or answer any questions you may have.

Requirements to Match and/or Leverage Funds, p.7: Providing grant funds on a reimbursable basis can be challenging for large projects. We suggest either allowing for the advancement of funds, or creating a mechanism for protecting grantees from loss.

Duration of Projects, p.8: Can you provide clarity on the maximum deadline?

Anticipated Project Types, p.8:

- **First bullet:** We are pleased to see land acquisition for Parkway riparian habitat and floodplain conservation and restoration.
- **Second bullet:** We suggest changing this bullet to "watershed *protection* and restoration" to reflect the priorities of the California Water Action Plan and Proposition 1.

Landowner Agreement: We suggest that this program prioritize projects on protected lands. Conservation ensures that restoration projects can be sustained over time. Restoration and improvements on protected lands facilitates long term monitoring, research and adaptive management of project sites. SJRC can better leverage and sustain the positive impacts of investments if there is already site control or permanent

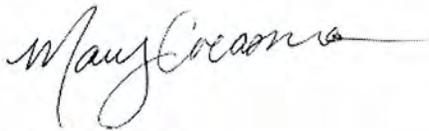
conservation, or if those investments include the permanent conservation of the project site.

PROPOSAL SELECTION

Competitive Program, p.15: The Trust for Public Land recommends that pre-consultation with SJRC staff or a pre-application be required prior to the submittal of a grant application. This step helps applicants interested in putting the best projects forward and makes the application process more efficient for all parties. Furthermore, this assistance can provide invaluable information to prospective applicants with less capacity or experience to become more competitive for these funds, including those located within disadvantaged communities.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require further information. I can be reached at 415-495-4014 x 309 or via e-mail at Mary.Creasman@tpl.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Creasman". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mary Creasman
California Director of Government Affairs

San Joaquin River Conservancy

Comment Card

Comments: I would propose that stakeholders/canals owners
should sit on ^{REVIEW} proposal committees. There are several prominent
canal owners on both sides of the river.

Name: CHRIS STEVENS

Organization: _____

Address: 7800 N. VAN NESS BLVD

Email: CHRIS.STEVENS@TOLARE.K12.CA.US

Check to be added
to the grant program
email distribution list

Please submit your comment today or return via mail or email to: Melinda Marks, Executive Officer, San Joaquin River Conservancy, 5469 E. Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727, Email: Rebecca.Harris@sjrc.va.gov by Friday, May 1, 2015.