



Frequently Asked Questions

Cannabis Restoration Grant Program (CRGP)
2021 Watershed Remediation and Enhancement Solicitation (Solicitation)
April 14, 2021

Below you will find frequently asked questions and their answers organized by topic. This list may be updated periodically during the open solicitation.

Project Eligibility based on Solicitation Priority

Q: What lands will qualify under the cleanup and remediation of illicit cannabis cultivation impacts on qualified lands priority (Cleanup and Remediation)?

A: Eligible land under the priority of cleanup and remediation of illicit cannabis cultivation impacts is defined as qualified government land. Qualified government land includes land owned in fee simple title and managed by a federal, state, or local government, or California Native American tribal government. It also includes land held by the United States in trust for a California Native American tribe.

Q: Would sites that are on private land that have a close nexus to public land or next to a conservation easement be eligible for funding under the Cleanup and Remediation priority?

A: Funding under the Cleanup and Remediation priority is limited to qualified government land. Applicants may use cleanup and remediation efforts on other lands as cost-share when applying under the watershed and community enhancements priority.

Q: Can road related proposals under the watershed and community enhancement priority occur on private timberland in watersheds that have that have been previously impacted by cannabis cultivation?

A: Yes. Projects under the watershed and community enhancements priority may take place in different land ownership scenarios provided they are necessary due to cannabis cultivation activities.

Q: Does a proposal have to be directly on a cannabis cultivation site for the Cleanup and Remediation priority or can the work be anywhere in a watershed?

A: Projects need to address impacts of a site that has been directly impacted by illicit cannabis cultivation.

Q: Can funds be granted to cover the cost of road improvements or stream crossings that are required by the Clean Water Act Section 401 General Order and/ or LSAA requirements?

A: Under the Enhance Watersheds and Communities priority, road improvements or stream crossing upgrades may be eligible, and CDFW will evaluate Solicitation priorities on a project-by-project basis. However, CRGP will not fund projects required by compensatory mitigation as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15370(e), or mitigation pursuant to a court order or settlement agreement.



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Applicant Eligibility

Q: Is this grant opportunity accessible to active businesses that are not non-profits?

A: Private entities are ineligible to apply for a grant but can perform work as a subcontractor of a grantee. Please refer to eligible applicant types in Section 4.1 Eligible Entities of the Solicitation for further details.

Q: Can you please clarify the requirements around non-profit organizations qualifying?

A: Nonprofit organizations qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code are eligible to apply under this Solicitation.

Funding

Q: How much funding is available?

A: \$2 Million is available and provided through the Environmental Restoration and Protection Account pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 34019(f)(2).

Q: Is there a maximum or minimum dollar amount a proposal can request for funding?

A: There is no maximum or minimum grant amount that can be requested by an applicant, however under the 2021 Watershed Remediation and Enhancement Solicitation there is \$2 million available in total funding.

Q: Is CDFW looking to fund a larger diversity of projects, or fewer, more well-funded projects?

A: CDFW's CRGP is looking to fund projects that best address the Solicitation's priorities.

Solicitation Conditions and Requirements

Q: Will this solicitation require long-term landowner agreements with landowners to maintain the benefits of the public funding?

A: Yes. Applicants for implementation projects that involve access to private property must demonstrate landowner permission to access the site. Land tenure agreements must provide CDFW access to the project site at least once every 12 months for 10 years. See Section 4.7 of the Solicitation for more details.



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Q: What are the long-term management and maintenance requirements for projects?

A: Implementation and Refuse and Infrastructure Removal projects shall summarize long-term management and maintenance planning for at least five years for implementation and two years for refuse and infrastructure removal, or the life of the project, whichever is longer. See Section 4.11 of the Solicitation for more details.

Q: What type of coordination is required with law enforcement for implementation and road improvement projects?

A: Prior to submitting a proposal under the Cleanup and Remediation priority, applicants must coordinate with CDFW Law Enforcement Division and other law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over the geographic scope of the proposal to identify potential project overlap. Proposals submitted under the priority to enhance watersheds or communities are not required to coordinate with law enforcement. See Section 4.17 of the Solicitation for more details.

General

Q: Can an eligible applicant submit more than one proposal in response to the Solicitation?

A: Yes. Each submitted proposal will be evaluated based on the individual merit.

Q: Are there any geographic restrictions for this grant? Or higher priority geographic areas?

A: No, the geographical focus of the Watershed Remediation and Enhancement Solicitation is statewide.

Q: Is there a score sheet available?

A: Details regarding the review, scoring, and selection process can be found in Section 6 of the Solicitation.

Q: Do implementation activities need to be in the same watershed? How close geographically do sites need to be?

A: Implementation projects must demonstrate that any CEQA-related obligations will be completed 15 days prior to CDFW Director approval of applications. CDFW will use the project definition in the CEQA document as a guideline for the geographic proximity and project activities. Additionally, CDFW will conduct an independent review of the general geographic scope on a project-by-project basis and evaluate its applicability to the Solicitation's priorities.



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Q: Will the CRGP consider administrative efficiencies for projects focused on the same property?

A: In reviewing grant applications, CDFW will review and consider the administrative efficiencies associated with single-property proposals, although this consideration would be one of many considerations when evaluating the whole of the project. A project can have multiple objectives, deliverables, and outcomes under one submission if the project is in compliance with applicable State, tribal and federal environmental laws and regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), and other environmental permitting requirements. However, under this Solicitation, a project cannot be classified under multiple priorities, project types or categories.

Q: When would funds be available if awarded this round?

A: Dependent on the number of applications received by May 14, 2021, the CRGP intends to announce grant awards in late spring or summer and execute grant agreements by summer or fall of 2021.

Future Funding Opportunities

Q: Do you anticipate only annual proposal solicitation notices, or will there be more frequent funding available?

A: Future funding is dependent on the amount of grant funding available and the amount being requested by applicants.

Q: Did you consider a concept proposal phase first for this new program?

A: This has been considered and may be an option for future funding opportunities.

Q: Will future eligibility for private lands be possible for cleanup and remediation projects?

A: The CRGP will continue to assess and develop funding priorities to address environmental impacts from illicit cannabis cultivation.

Q: Can you clarify what year disbursements made pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 34019(f)(2) will expire?

A: The funds received through the Environmental Restoration and Protection Account per Revenue and Taxation Code section 34019(f)(2) will be a continuous appropriation, and are not set to expire, unless amended. Starting in 2019-2020 fiscal year and extending through fiscal year 2023-2024, the first consideration will be given to cleanup, remediation, and restoration of environmental damage.



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Q: Since cannabis advocacy organizations cannot receive federal nonprofit status, is there any way the non-profit requirement for eligibility can be updated?

A: Eligibility under the current Solicitation is defined by Fish and Game Code Section §1501.5(b) and does not extend to for-profit entities. The CRGP will continue to assess and develop funding priorities and eligibility to address environmental impacts from illicit cannabis cultivation while adhering to all applicable state laws.

Q: What sort of funding opportunities will be available in the future?

A: The CRGP has another funding opportunity in development, which is aimed at supporting small cultivators and encouraging environmentally sustainable practices. CRGP currently estimates this PSN to be released in draft form by the summer or fall of 2021.