

Enhancement Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Will studies, planning, and research projects be funded?

A. Studies, planning, and research projects will only be funded as a part of a larger project that includes physical changes and outcomes that enhance, restore, improve, or protect BPVs.

Q: Is it possible to get a copy of an enhancement proposal that was previously funded through the Stewardship Council?

A: This is the first time the Stewardship Council is accepting concept proposals, so there are no prior examples available.

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 its individual merit.

Q. Where can I find the LCP Parcel ID #s?

A. Please refer to the planning unit maps provided on our website. See this page - http://www.stewardshipcouncil.org/land_conservation/planning_units/index.htm. Then click on the watershed and the planning unit name on the map. Once you arrive at the planning unit webpage the maps will be in the links at the bottom of the page.

Q: Is there a minimum or maximum grant request amount?

A: No, there is no minimum or maximum grant amount. There is up to approximately \$2.4 million available for funding and we anticipate the Enhancement Review Committee will want to make multiple awards from that available funding.

Q: Is there a percentage of funding that will be set aside for categories including planning, implementation, staffing, maintenance, or evaluation?

A: No. There is not a funding cap for categories of funding within your proposal. Applicants should determine the appropriate budget that includes all elements needed to complete the project. A funding breakdown by category has not been predetermined.

Q: If our project has already received Enhancement funds, are we still eligible to receive funds for a new project?

A: Yes. All proposals will be evaluated based on their merit.

Q: Where can I find examples of measurable outcomes that I can include in my proposal?

A: Measurable outcomes help you report the outcomes and effectiveness of your project. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has a helpful page on performance measures that has many good examples at <http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov/other-assistance/managing-your-grant/detailed->

[performance-measure-descriptions](#). Your measurable outcomes should be tailored to show enhancement of the Stewardship Council BPVs.

Q: What reporting will be required if I am awarded a grant?

A: The Stewardship Council requires status reports at grant payment milestones and a final report. Reports will contain a financial report detailing expenditure of grant funds, a narrative of activities accomplished during the reporting period, and copies of plans, studies, maps, and reports generated during the grant period.

Q: Can you suggest project partners for applicants?

A: Yes. Stewardship Council has a list of organizations that were interested in receiving or improving Watershed Lands in your local area and can provide you with a list.

Q: May we ask questions about our proposal during the Solicitation?

A: Yes. Stewardship Council staff desire to present the best proposals to the Enhancement Review Committee and will provide applicants with feedback on the proposals. Staff recommends submitting an early draft to the Stewardship Council by August 15 so that you can receive comments and consider revisions to your proposal accordingly. If you provide a draft by August 30, Stewardship Council staff will provide comments back by September 12, leaving you only 3 days to revise your proposal.

Q: Can graduate students perform work on projects?

A: Yes, graduate students can perform work; however, student fees and tuition will not be reimbursed through a grant agreement. Only hourly wages and salaries with established rates may be reimbursed.

Q: Is an authorizing resolution required to apply?

A: An authorizing resolution is not required in order to submit a Concept Proposal. However, if selected to submit a full Proposal, a resolution (or order, motion, ordinance or other similar document) from the governing body authorizing execution of the agreement will be required prior to full Proposal submission.

Q: Can projects required as mitigation or other compliance obligations be considered for funding?

A: No. Funding cannot be used for projects that are undertaken to meet required environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations.

Q: What is the preferred timeframe for projects to be completed?

A: Project proponents should endeavor to streamline approvals and frame projects that can be implemented by the end of 2021.

Q: What if a nexus exists to connect two Planning Units together with a trail – will you fund off property enhancements?

A: The Enhancement Program is restricted to PG&E Watershed Lands and cannot fund off property improvements – even with a nexus between properties.

Q: How much funding does the Stewardship Council anticipate spending on the Enhancement Program?

A: The Stewardship Council board has previously awarded more than \$10 million to Enhancement projects and is now making an additional approximately \$2.4 million available.

Q: Does CEQA review need to be completed prior to submission of the Concept Proposal?

A: No. CEQA permitting may be included in the proposal for projects that have not already obtained CEQA clearance. If projects have already completed planning and secured CEQA clearance, that should be mentioned in the Narrative.

Q: Can Federal, State, and Local Agencies apply for these grants?

A: Yes. Public agencies are Eligible Applicants.

Q: Can an applicant partner with a private consultant submit a proposal?

A: A private entity is ineligible to apply for a grant, but can perform work as a subcontractor to the Grantee. Private entities can also assist an applicant in the preparation of a proposal. Only one entity may act as an applicant and Grantee, if awarded.

Q: We have a project that is in the design phase with a goal of having the design and permitting completed by spring 2018. Is it possible to apply now for construction phase next summer?

A: Yes.

Q: Is cost share or match required?

A: Matching is not a requirement, but is a strong consideration of the Review Committee.

Q: Is there a limit on indirect and overhead expenses?

A: Yes. The limit on indirect expenses is 15%

Q: Does the Project Narrative page limit (3 pages) include tables/figures/graphics/pictures?

A: No. The 3-page limit for the Project Narrative is specific to narrative text. Tables, figures, graphics, and pictures exceeding the 3-page limit can be included and referenced (e.g., Figure 1, Table 1, etc.) within the document.

Q: Is there a template in Microsoft Word for Application?

A: A Microsoft Word version of the Application on the Stewardship Council webpage.

Q: If we are awarded funding, when can our project start?

A: The Stewardship Council anticipates executing grant agreements after full proposal development and an extensive evaluation and approval process that is anticipated to be complete in



Summer 2018, when grant agreements will be signed. Work performed prior to the start date of an executed grant agreement will not be eligible for reimbursement.