



Funding Research Memo: CEQA and NEPA Funding for Restoration Projects

Last updated: October 2015

THIS MEMO WILL BE UPDATED PERIODICALLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES, PLEASE CONTACT THE SNC FUND DEVELOPMENT TEAM: sncfundingteam@sierranevada.ca.gov.

CAVEAT – Grant guidelines and deadlines are subject to periodic change. Please check the program web sites for new information. The deadlines listed are projected from the last funding round and are particularly unreliable. Check the program’s web site!

These grant programs allow funds to be spent for CEQA and NEPA analysis and document preparation. Some programs will only fund these costs as part of a larger application for project implementation, others will fund just the planning phase.

FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE

(*Hyperlinks to more complete information later in memo, including links to program web sites.)

Grant*	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline	Grant Requirements for CEQA/NEPA Funding
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Bring Back the Natives/More Fish	\$50,000 - \$100,000 1:1 non-federal match required, 2:1 preferred.	Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems; reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve overall health of native fish and other aquatic organisms.	Check web site. 2015 due date was September 1.	Awards have been made for assessment, planning, design, implementation, and monitoring. Focus is on water conservation infrastructure; watershed protection; invasive species management.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration	Not stated. 1:1 match is preferred.	Implement Sierra Meadow Restoration Business Plan.	Pre-proposals are due November and June.	CEQA and NEPA costs can be included in grant requests, but they must be associated with an implementation project which is the main subject of the grant application.

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Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Grant Program	Up to \$75,000 for planning grants. Match not required but adds to score.	Projects that will promote healthy forests and watersheds in the Sierra Nevada region.	September and March 1.	Category 2 grants can be used for pre-project activities necessary for a specific future on-the-ground project that meets the Category 1 grant requirements. Eligible costs include CEQA and NEPA.
Wildlife Conservation Board CA Streamflow Enhancement Program	No maximum or minimum. Match not required but adds to score.	Projects that protect and enhance stream flows, especially in those streams that support anadromous fish, special status, threatened, endangered or at risk species, or provide resilience to climate change.	September (2015 deadline was Sept 30.)	Applicants can apply for funding from one or more of the following project types: planning, implementation, acquisition, monitoring, assessment, and scientific studies. Planning funding can include CEQA/NEPA.
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Wetlands Restoration for GHG Reductions	No maximum or minimum. Match not required but adds to score.	Achieve net GHG reductions through restoration or enhancement of wetlands or mountain meadows	December	Projects may include planning but must have an on-the-ground restoration component.
CDFW Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration & Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs	Not stated. Match not required but adds to score.	The focus of the Watershed Restoration Grant Program is on watershed restoration and protection projects <u>outside</u> of the Delta. The Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program focuses on water quality, ecosystem restoration and fish protection facilities that benefit the Delta.	September	Applicants may apply for funding under these categories: planning, implementation, acquisition, and scientific studies/monitoring/assessments. It is not clear whether applications can include more than one category. Planning grants can include funding for CEQA/NEPA work.
CAL FIRE Greenhouse Gas Reduction-funded grants	Multiple – see individual grant programs listed at: http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/grants.php . These include Urban and Community Forestry; Fuels Reduction; Reforestation Services, Forest Pest Control, and Demonstration State Forest Research Grants. Note that in the future there will also be a grant program for development of the Programmatic Timber Environmental Impact Reports for improved timber management practices.			Grant funds may be used for CEQA/NEPA compliance but the project must include implementation as well as planning, and the implementation portion of the grant funding will not be released until the CEQA/NEPA is complete.

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Urban Streams Restoration Grant	Up to \$1 million. No specific match required but additional contributions make projects more competitive.	Projects that utilize innovative non-structural methods to return streams impacted by urban development to a more natural, stable state; 1) protecting and enhancing the natural, ecological value of streams, 2) preventing future property damage caused by flooding and bank erosion, and 3) promoting community involvement, education, and stewardship.	January	Grant funds may be used for CEQA compliance but the project must include implementation as well as planning, and the implementation portion of the grant funding will not be released until the CEQA is complete.
CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation off-highway vehicle (OHV) grants	Depends on program category. 25% match required	Planning, development, maintenance, operation, enforcement, programs, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of OHVs.	March	CEQA/NEPA funding is allowed. When a project request is for funding both CEQA/NEPA requirements and project implementation, funding is provided in two phases as follows: (1) The first phase funds the CEQA and/or NEPA activities, and (2) The second phase will fund the project deliverables, as approved and conditioned by the outcome of the CEQA and/or NEPA document.
State Water Resources Control Board 319 (h) Nonpoint Source grants	\$250K – \$750K. 25% match but may be waived for disadvantaged communities.	The Timber Fund will fund projects that implement forest management measures on forest lands to improve water quality. Examples of projects include ownership-wide erosion control, road management, riparian restoration, groundwater dependent ecosystems, nutrient management, riparian fuel management, and/or post fire rehabilitation.	September	The only planning funding remaining in this program for the next few years is for Timber Fund projects. Applications must be for planning <u>and</u> implementation of projects. The planning work can include CEQA/NEPA documentation.

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DWR Integrated Regional Water Management grants	Depends on solicitation. General match requirement is 25% but can be waived for disadvantaged communities.	Very broad – the project must address statewide priorities and be listed in the region’s IRWM Plan.	Set periodically. Draft guidelines for the Prop 1 program are expected in December 2015.	From the Proposition 84 program guidelines: While the applications must be for implementation projects, environmental documentation is an eligible cost that can be included in the scope of work.
USFS Wood Innovations grant	Up to \$250,000, 35% non-federal match required	Expand and accelerate wood energy and wood products markets to support forest management needs on National Forest System and other forest lands.	January	Expansion of Wood Energy Markets and Wood Products Markets. Can include state-wide team development, pre-development project costs, market analyses, etc.
California River Parkways Grant Program	\$500,000 No match required, but additional funding will improve scoring.	Projects must meet two of several objectives. Relevant objectives are to provide compatible recreational opportunities (including trails for strolling, hiking, bicycling, and equestrian uses along rivers and streams), and to convert riverfront land from industrial uses to public multi-use areas.	New Prop 1 program in early stages of development	Acquisition, restoration, protection, and development of river parkways.



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National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Bring Back the Natives/More Fish <http://www.nfwf.org/bbn/Pages/home.aspx>

The Bring Back the Natives/More Fish program invests in conservation activities that restore, protect, and enhance native populations of sensitive or listed fish species across the United States, especially in areas on or adjacent to federal agency lands. The program emphasizes coordination between private landowners and federal agencies, tribes, corporations, and states to improve the ecosystem functions and health of watersheds. Sierra Nevada priorities focus on McCloud River redband trout, Eagle Lake rainbow trout, California golden trout, and Little Kern golden trout recovery. Proposals should help achieve the following program goals:

- Goal 1: Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems
- Goal 2: Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected
- Goal 3: Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve overall health of native fish and other aquatic organisms
- Goal 4: Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad diversity of native fish and other aquatic species.

A broad range of activities have been funded, including restoration assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring; water conservation infrastructure; watershed protection; and invasive species management.

Grant awards generally range in size from \$50,000 to \$100,000, although grants greater than \$100,000 will be considered. Applicants must provide at least a 1:1 non-federal match, though 2:1 is preferred. Eligible non-federal matching sources can include cash, in-kind donations, and/or volunteer labor. The 2015 application due date was September 1, 2015.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration http://www.nfwf.org/sierranevada/Pages/home.aspx#.VLQz_XsWct0

This program is a partnership between NFWF and Wells Fargo Foundation. In 2009, NFWF launched its Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration Program to replenish the health and biodiversity of the mountain meadow regions. The program focuses on creating the momentum to restore and protect thousands of acres of meadow in the Sierra Nevada. Key conservation actions for this program include:

- Quantifying ecosystem service benefits: conducting hydrologic and water quality assessments to predict and measure changes in groundwater levels and downstream flow.

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- Building organizational capacity: providing capacity-building in watersheds where restoration planning and implementation is limited.
- Repairing meadow degradation: supporting restoration projects in meadow systems in which it will be possible to quantify benefits.
- Ensuring long-term protection: supporting land protection and deploying best management practices.
- Garnering support of ranching community: improving information flow and providing technical assistance.
- Monitoring and documenting ecological and biological responses to meadow restoration.

For more detail on priority activities, see NFWF's Sierra Nevada Meadows Business Plan (the link for downloads is on the web page). There is no RFP for the program. Application Guidelines for 'Conservation Programs with a Business Plan' are at: <http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/programs/Pages/business-plan-application.aspx#.VLQ-qnsWct0>.

A 1:1 match is preferred. There are two grant cycles per year with pre-proposals due in November and June. CEQA and NEPA costs can be included in grant requests, but they must be associated with an implementation grant.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Program Grants

<http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/other-assistance/prop1-grantprog>

The focus of this Proposition 1-funded grant program is forest health projects that result in multiple watershed benefits, consistent with the following purposes:

- Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health.
- Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, and greenhouse gas reduction.
- Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate changes on California's communities and ecosystems.

The program has two funding categories: Category 1 for implementation projects and Category 2 for project planning. Category 2 grants may include funding for completion of CEQA and NEPA requirements related to a specific future on-the-ground project. The maximum grant under Category 2 is \$75,000. Match is not required but leverage will add to point scores. Eligible applications include local and state public agencies (federal agencies are not eligible), qualifying nonprofit organizations and certain tribal organizations.

In order to be eligible to receive a grant award from the SNC under this program, projects must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Be located within a conifer or mixed-conifer forested area of the Sierra Nevada Region, or have a direct impact on forest lands and waters within the Region.

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- Be consistent with the SNC mission and program areas as defined in the SNC Strategic Plan and the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (WIP) as they relate to forest health.
- Meet the requirements of Proposition 1 in regard to forest and watershed health.

Applicants are encouraged to meet with SNC Area Representatives (listed in the Grant Guidelines) to discuss their projects prior to submitting an application. Deadlines for 2015-2017 are September and March 1.

Wildlife Conservation Board CA Streamflow Enhancement Program

<https://www.wcb.ca.gov/>

This program allocates funds to projects that protect and enhance stream flows, especially in those streams that support anadromous fish; special status, threatened, endangered or at risk species; or provide resilience to climate change. Projects must measurably enhance stream flows at a time and location necessary to provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits or improvements that improve upon existing flow conditions and are greater than required by applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations. Proposals must identify the stream(s), reaches of those stream(s), and watershed(s) in which they are found.

Examples of relevant project types include (see guidelines for full list):

- Habitat restoration projects (e.g., weed eradication, wet meadow restoration, restoration of entrenched streams, upper watershed restoration, or forest thinning) that reshape stream hydrograph
- Streamflow gauging
- Water efficiency generally – Irrigation efficiency and water infrastructure improvements (e.g., diversion, conveyance, and on-farm projects) that save water and enable reshaping of the stream hydrograph
- Reconnecting flood flows with restored flood plains

Funding categories are 'planning', 'implementation', 'acquisition', and 'studies, monitoring and assessments'. Applications can include one or more of these funding categories. Planning, scientific studies, monitoring and assessment grants fund specific activities necessary for the successful design, selection, and implementation of projects, including preliminary design and environmental review.

Eligible grantees are limited to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, and mutual water companies.

Matching funds are not required but leverage adds points in scoring. The 2015 deadline was September 30.

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CDWF Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas Reduction

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/wetlands-restoration>

The intent of this grant program is to contribute to the goals of AB 32 and the California Water Action Plan while restoring or enhancing important wildlife and fish habitat (co-benefits). All proposed projects must outline plans to achieve net Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions through restoration or enhancement of wetlands or mountain meadows and be able to demonstrate how project success will be monitored and reported. Proposals must also consider if and how expected climatic changes in California may impact project planning, implementation, and long-term sustainability of the project investment. Projects may include planning but must have an on-the-ground restoration component. Linkages to other restoration activities and co-benefits are a plus for scoring.

Each proposal submitted for consideration must present a conceptual model that describes how the proposed restoration or enhancement activities are expected to result in net GHG reductions. The conceptual model should describe projected emissions and/or sequestration of relevant GHGs (i.e., carbon dioxide [CO₂], methane [CH₄], and nitrous oxide [N₂O]) and how those are anticipated to change over time following implementation of the proposed project.

There is no minimum or maximum funding amount. Match is not required though it adds to scoring points. Grant period is five years. Entities eligible to apply for grants are limited to public agencies, recognized tribes, and qualified nonprofit organizations.

The 2014-15 deadline was December 19, 2014.

CDFW Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration & Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Programs

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants>

This is actually two grant programs: The Watershed Restoration Grant Program focuses on watershed restoration and protection projects of statewide importance outside of the Delta; The Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program focuses on water quality, ecosystem restoration, and fish protection facilities that benefit the Delta. Priorities include

- Managing headwaters for multiple benefits
- Enhancing fish migration
- Restoring mountain meadow habitats
- Protecting, restoring, and enhancing water-dependent habitats for fish and wildlife

Funding is available for planning, implementation, and acquisition projects. It is not clear whether multiple categories of funding can be requested in one application. There is also funding available specifically for scientific studies, monitoring, and assessment projects, but these funds will only be awarded under the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program. However, the Watershed Restoration Grant

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Program may include scientific studies, monitoring and assessment activities as part of the work plan.

Eligible applicants are limited to public agencies (state agencies or departments, special districts, joint powers authorities, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of the state), nonprofit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, and mutual water companies. Federal agencies may not be applicants, but there does not appear to be a limitation against doing project work on federal lands. The applicant, however, must have site control of the property for at least 25 years.

Match is not required, but provides additional scoring points. The deadline in 2015 is September 16.

CAL FIRE Grants funded with Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/grants.php>

CAL FIRE administers several programs funded by California's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds. These include

Urban & Community Forestry	Grants for a variety of projects that provide for expansion and better management of urban forests.
Fuels Reduction	Grants and cost share agreements for selective removal and utilization of vegetation to reduce wildfire hazards.
Reforestation Services	Grants and cost share agreements to plant forest trees.
Forest Legacy Program	Grants for conservation easements for landowners through CAL FIRE's Forest Legacy Program.
Forest Pest Control	Grants for timber stand improvement/forest health, removal of dead trees, restoration of damaged forests, and utilization of vegetation as a renewable energy source.
Forest Practice Program	Grants for development of the Programmatic Timber Environmental Impact Reports for improved timber management practices. To be announced pending Board of Forestry and Fire Protection regulatory action.
Demonstration State Forests Research	Research grants for greenhouse gas reduction projects and carbon sequestration enhancement.

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As a general rule, funding can include costs for CEQA and NEPA, though these need to be associated with proposed implementation projects. The environmental work must be completed prior to starting work on the project.

CA Department of Water Resources – Urban Streams Restoration Program

<http://www.water.ca.gov/urbanstreams/>

The intent of the USRP grant program is to fund projects that utilize innovative non-structural methods to return streams impacted by urban development to a more natural, stable state. The Program goals are 1) protecting and enhancing the natural, ecological value of streams, 2) preventing future property damage caused by flooding and bank erosion, and 3) promoting community involvement, education, and stewardship. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$1 million. While no specific amount of local matching funds is required to receive a grant, applicants that contribute something to the project are generally more competitive. The contribution may be a financial match of the grant, an in-kind contribution, or a combination of both. The funding can be used for CEQA compliance but the project must include implementation as well as planning, and the implementation portion of the grant funding will not be released until the CEQA is complete.

Projects must be designed for a creek, stream, or river that crosses built-up residential, commercial, or industrial property, or which crosses land where, in the near future, the land use will be residential, commercial, or industrial. Waterways satisfying this definition may be perennial or ephemeral.

Additionally, projects must have the following elements:

- Protect, restore, or enhance ecological viability of riparian or riverine ecosystems.
- Provide flood management or erosion control benefits.
- Promote public awareness and local stewardship of streams.
- For those projects acquiring real property, real property must be acquired only from a willing seller(s).
- Comply with other laws and regulations pertinent to the project site including CEQA and NEPA.

Examples of Eligible Projects

- Projects designed to use bioengineering techniques to install plant materials, large woody debris, rock, biodegradable fabrics, mulch, fencing, irrigation or drainage systems necessary to control erosion, stabilize banks, improve channel capacity, promote natural stream processes, or diversify habitats
- Projects designed to organize and/or supervise volunteer labor to clear trash and excessive debris from stream channels and perform revegetation, erosion control and bank stabilization work
- Projects designed to develop and implement stream restoration and/or flood plain/corridor restoration plans

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- Projects designed to remove culverts or storm drains as needed to stabilize and restore channels while preserving or accomplishing flood control objectives and improving habitat value
- Projects designed to carry out nonstructural flood control actions that contribute toward the goal to protect, restore, and enhance natural stream environments, including the acquisition of land, and the elevation, relocation and/or flood proofing of public or private structures in conjunction with restoration activities
- Projects that utilize local citizens' groups, neighborhood volunteers, community conservation corps, or nonprofit organizations, to provide local stream stewardship and education, or implement flood mitigation, restoration, or cleanup activities
- Projects designed to improve or provide riparian habitat on streams in heavily impacted urban areas, such as day lighting a buried stream or attenuating excess runoff due to nearby or planned development

All proposals must have two applicants, a sponsor, and co-sponsor. One applicant must be a local public agency and the other a citizens' group.

CA Department of Water Resources – Flood Corridor Protection Program

<http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/fpo/sgb/fpcp/>

Grant funding available for acquiring floodplain property and for restoration, enhancement, and protection projects. Under Proposition 84, funding the grants were capped at \$5 million. All Prop 84 funding has been allocated. There is funding in Prop 1 for flood management, but there is no information on the website as to how the funding will be distributed. Eligible activities in the Prop 84 program included:

- A. Acquire property interests to protect or enhance a flood protection corridor or floodplain while preserving or enhancing agricultural use.
- B. Set back existing levees and strengthen or modify related levees.
- C. Acquire property interests in a floodplain that cannot reasonably be protected from floods.
- D. Protecting or enhancing a flood protection corridor while preserving or enhancing wildlife value.

CA Department of Parks and Recreation – Off Highway Vehicle Program

http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1164

This program supports the planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, administration, operation, enforcement, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of off-highway motor vehicles, and programs involving off-highway motor vehicle safety or education. The application materials do not state specifically that funding can be used for CEQA/NEPA, however the 'Planning' funding category will allow studies on potential impacts that could be used to complete the CEQA/NEPA processes.

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The project must comply with CEQA before receiving implementation funding, however funding can be awarded for CEQA costs associated with the project. When a project request is for funding both CEQA and/or NEPA requirements and for implementation, the grant is funded in two phases:

- (1) The first phase funds the CEQA and/or NEPA activities, and
- (2) The second phase will fund the deliverables, as approved and conditioned by the outcome of the CEQA and/or NEPA document, once the CEQA and/or NEPA conclusions result in a decision to proceed with the implementation project.

Categories of funding include:

- Development: Construction of, or improvements to, Facilities to sustain or enhance OHV recreational opportunity and experiences.
- Planning: Development and preparation of plans for future Projects which propose organization, development, operation, conservation, and/or maintenance to sustain long-term OHV Recreational use.
- Restoration: provide ecological restoration or repair to habitat damaged by authorized or unauthorized OHV use. Restoration Projects also include scientific and cultural studies regarding OHV impacts and Restoration Planning efforts.

Matching Funds: A 25 percent match (cash or in-kind) is required. This can include volunteer services. Higher match brings in higher scores in the evaluation criteria.

State Water Resources Control Board 319 (h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/solicitation_notice.shtml

The California Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program allocates funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support implementation and planning projects that address water quality problems in surface and ground water resulting from NPS pollution¹. The goal of these projects is to ultimately lead to restoring the impacted beneficial uses in these water bodies. Projects are required to be located in a watershed that has an adopted/nearly adopted Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the constituent of concern and has been identified in the NPS Program Preferences. These priority watersheds and problems are listed in the grant guidelines.

In addition and new for the 2016 NPS Grant Program, California appropriated the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (Timber Fund) to fund existing restoration grant programs. The Timber Fund will fund projects that implement forest management measures on forest lands to improve water quality. Examples of projects include ownership-wide erosion control, road management, riparian restoration, groundwater dependent ecosystems, nutrient management, riparian fuel management, and/or post fire rehabilitation.

¹ Unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants (point sources), nonpoint source (NPS) pollution comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters. See <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/whatis.cfm>.

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The program used to include both planning and implementation grants, but for the general NPS grants the planning funding has been used up and the Water Board is only funding implementation projects. The new Timber Fund grants can be used for planning as long as the project also includes implementation, and the entire project can be completed within three years.

The solicitation process is conducted in two phases: Concept Proposal and Full Proposal. The two-phase process takes approximately ten months. Typically, the solicitation process for a CWA §319(h) Grant runs from August (of the previous year) through May of the following year.

Eligible applicants include local public agencies, public agencies, nonprofit organizations (501[c][3]), federally recognized Native American tribes, state agencies, public colleges, and federal agencies. Applicants must work with the appropriate Regional Water Board Grant Contact when developing their proposals. Grant contacts are identified in the Grant Program Guidelines.

CA Department of Water Resources – Integrated Regional Water Management grants

<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/index.cfm>

While all of the Proposition 84 IRWM funding has been granted, Proposition 1 has allocated an additional \$510 million to the program. The guidelines for the new Prop 1 grant program are expected in December 2015. Make sure to check the web site for the most recent information.

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant applications must be approved by IRWM regions through the Regional Water Management Groups (RWMG) though they are submitted through individual agencies. In order to be approved, the proposed grant activity must be included in the IRWM Plan for that region. These Plans can be amended and modified by the RWMG. So if you are considering funding your project through IRWM funding, check the IRWM Plan for your region and if the project is not already part of the plan, take steps to have it added.

IRWM grants do not have a standard maximum amount, this is set in each solicitation. The general match requirement is 25 percent, though that can be waived if the project addresses the needs of a disadvantaged community.

The scope of IRWM grant projects is very large. Basically, they have to address statewide priorities, which are listed in the program solicitation. Eligible project types include removal of invasive non-native species, the creation and enhancement of wetlands, and the acquisition, protection, and restoration of open space and watershed lands. While the applications must be for implementation projects, environmental documentation is an eligible cost that can be included in the scope of work.

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USFS Wood Innovations Grants

http://ucanr.edu/sites/WoodyBiomass/Grants_2_142/

The Forest Service seeks proposals that significantly increase or stimulate markets for wood energy and wood products in a manner that has a measurable and meaningful long-term impact on National Forest System and other forest lands that need robust wood supply markets for low value wood. Priorities include:

- Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health on National Forest System and other forest lands.
- Reduce costs of forest management on all land types.
- Promote economic and environmental health of communities.

Funding priorities are grouped into two categories. Category 1 has included pre-development funding for wood energy projects such as bioenergy facilities, which could include CEQA/NEPA and permitting costs. The 2015 NOFA is expected to be released in late October. Please check the specific provisions as the program tends to change from year to year.

California River Parkways Grant Program

http://resources.ca.gov/bonds_and_grants/river-parkways/

The purpose of this program is to support the acquisition, restoration, protection, and development of river parkways in accordance with the California River Parkways Act of 2004. Projects must involve natural creeks, streams, and/or rivers, even if they flow only during the rainy season, or channelized or culverted creeks, streams, and/or rivers. They must provide public access and comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Projects must meet at least two of the following five statutory conditions:

- Recreation: provide compatible recreational opportunities, including trails for strolling, hiking, bicycling, and equestrian uses along rivers and streams
- Habitat: protect, improve, or restore riverine or riparian habitat, including benefits to wildlife habitat and water quality
- Flood management: maintain or restore the open space character of lands along rivers and streams so that they are compatible with periodic flooding as part of a flood management plan or project
- Conversion to river parkways: convert existing, developed riverfront land into uses consistent with river parkways
- Conservation and interpretive enhancement: provide facilities to support or interpret river or stream restoration or other conservation activities

Eligible projects include:

- Creation or expansion of trails for walking, bicycling, and/or equestrian activities that are compatible with other conservation objectives
- Conversion of channelized streams or rivers to a more historical flow pattern that will promote the structure, function, and dynamics of riparian and riverine habitat

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- Expansion of existing river parkway by acquiring adjacent lands to accommodate periodic flooding
- Conversion of riverfront land from industrial use into public multiuse areas, such as floodplains, wetlands, public trails, etc.
- Construction of an overlook area for a restored wetland with interpretive signage, where the public can observe the project benefits

The 2015 deadline was September 1. Another round of funding under this program is expected with Prop 1 dollars, but as of this writing the new program was barely starting to be developed. There will be new guidelines and funding provisions.