



**California State Coastal Conservancy's
Grant Announcement
Advancing Nature-Based Adaptation Solutions
in Marin County**

Application deadline November 9, 2016

The California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) announces the availability of funding through its Advancing Nature-Based Adaptation Solutions grant program. These grants are made possible by funding from the Buck Family Fund of the Marin Community Foundation to address the impacts of climate change, specifically sea level rise, and particularly on low-income communities and other underserved populations in Marin County.

In many cases sea level rise impacts will be exacerbated where shoreline habitat is less intact and functional - including subtidal, intertidal, and shoreline environments and baylands habitats. These habitats can serve as critical assets in shoreline protection against flooding. Development of strategies that restore and enhance these natural functions is urgently needed, given the emergent nature of this field and the accelerating rate of sea level rise anticipated in the future.

Up to \$750,000 is available in 2016 for awards through this competitive grant program. The minimum grant amount is anticipated to be \$50,000; the maximum grant amount is anticipated to be \$250,000. All applicants must submit a proposal application. Proposals will be evaluated and the top-ranked proposals will be selected in late December, 2016. Projects awarded funding must be able to enter into an agreement with the Conservancy no later than June 30, 2017.

There will be an informational meeting held on Thursday September 22 from 2-3pm at the Marin Community Foundation (5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200, Novato CA 94949). This meeting is optional to attend, but we do require RSVP's to marilyn.latta@scc.ca.gov.

**The proposal application is provided at the end of this document.
Applications are due November 9, 2016.**

The Advancing Nature-Based Adaptation Solutions grant program seeks to support planning, design, permitting, implementation, education, and/or community-based restoration activities to address the risks and impacts of climate change and sea level rise; and to further advance nature-based adaptation solutions to protect and enhance the Marin County bay shoreline and natural resources. These funds can be used to support the following types of projects:

- Small to moderate size, high-priority restoration projects located within Marin County that advance regional baylands ecosystem habitat goals, particularly 'living shoreline' concepts,



including restoring native oyster and eelgrass habitats, sand beaches, tidal marshes, and other shoreline habitats;

- Education and engagement of the public, especially underserved youth and communities more directly impacted by sea level rise, in restoration efforts, where possible;
- Capacity building among critical partners in order to translate scientific data and analysis into practical solutions for broader implementation.

Projects will be evaluated for consistency with the funding source, the Advancing Nature-Based Adaptation Solutions Programmatic Priorities (see page 6), the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, and the Conservancy's Strategic Plan 2013-2018. The Conservancy will base awards on each project's overall benefits, need, and the extent of competing demands for funds.

Background

The Conservancy is a non-regulatory state agency that works to preserve, improve, and restore the natural resources, agricultural lands, watersheds, urban waterfronts, public access and recreation along the Pacific coast and the San Francisco Bay shoreline and its adjacent counties. The Conservancy is the implementation agency within the state's Coastal Zone Management Program and works with collaborating organizations to plan and implement projects that achieve the state's goals. The Conservancy's work complements the regulatory role of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

Over the next century the San Francisco Bay region will experience changing ecological conditions due to the combined effects of sea-level rise, higher air and water temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, salinity changes, increased storm frequency and intensity, and higher shoreline erosion rates. These changes will adversely impact our bay shoreline infrastructure, public health and safety, and the natural resources that support our economy and way of life.

Restoring baylands ecosystems and subtidal environments to more natural states will improve ecological health and enhance flood protection for populated areas as sea level rises. This will mitigate the need for more drastic future measures to protect shorelines and the significant built infrastructure that exists in parallel to them, including pipelines, highways, electrical transmission lines, and recreational facilities. If new methods and technologies are tested, monitored, and shared, the scientific understanding of the value and need for such approaches will be increased among planners, engineers, and the general public, which is necessary to build regional support for comprehensive climate adaptation solutions.

Recent study findings show that the climate-related choices we make today and in coming years can have a profound impact on future conditions ([California Energy Commission Reports on the Third Assessment](#)). The [Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risks](#) (July 2014) report

identifies numerous strategies that can be used today to reduce short and long term risk. Over the next decade, decisions made about how to respond and adapt to sea level rise, and where shoreline habitat is preserved, will affect our ability to protect human communities and infrastructure from increased flooding and shoreline erosion hazards. Similarly, restoration planning and experimentation now will determine whether or not there will be viable successful approaches to nature-based adaptation that protects shorelines, people, and natural habitats in San Francisco Bay. Bay marshes, beaches, oyster and eelgrass beds, and other habitats that are restored today will be more resilient as sea level rises, thereby maintaining the flood protection and ecological benefits they provide. Studies also indicate that utilizing natural features, such as tidal marshes, as part of an comprehensive approach to flood protection, can result in overall lower cost ([The Bay Institute, 2013](#)). Due to the length of time required to restore habitats such as marshes, it is urgent that we act now in order to obtain this valuable protection for our coastal communities and economy as well as our natural resources, public health, and recreational amenities.

Given the early developmental stage of nature-based adaptation techniques in San Francisco Bay and the accelerated pace of environmental change anticipated in the coming years, restoration methods need to be tested, monitored, and shared, in order to increase current scientific understanding among planners, practitioners, and the public. The current lack of integration between theory and application is a critical gap in advancing ‘nature-based infrastructure’ as an important tool in responding to the coming impacts of sea level rise.

Without thoughtful up-front planning and engagement, it is unlikely that impacts to low-lying coastal areas will be equitably distributed. In recognition of the urgent need to help vulnerable shoreline communities, local government agencies, and non-governmental organizations to prepare for sea level rise, the Marin Community Foundation partnered with the State Coastal Conservancy in 2016 to assist others in addressing the impacts of sea level rise on Marin County’s bay shoreline. The eastern shoreline of Marin County offers significant opportunities to pilot new approaches and to engage key stakeholders to inform their work with knowledge gained from those efforts.

Specifically, this grant program seeks the following outcomes:

- Pilot projects that demonstrate ecological design concepts and create scientific data through sufficient monitoring to advance the understanding of climate adaptation practices among local and regional experts.
- Local projects that advance more quickly than currently possible, increasing the chances that ecological health can be achieved in critical habitats in advance of significant sea level rise, and potentially attracting other funding sources in order to further implement new techniques and restore shoreline habitats.
- Impacted communities and regional practitioners develop a deeper understanding of the value and need for resilient habitats in the face of climate change, and of the potential benefits to restoring them as part of building resilience to climate change.



The funding priorities are aligned with the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update Report (2015, www.baylands.org), and SF Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report (2010, www.sfbaysubtidal.org). Specifically, funded projects will help advance goals for the North Bay and Central Bay subregions, particularly segments [G \(Northern Marin\)](#) and [I \(Southern Marin\)](#). Funded projects would incorporate the Coastal Conservancy's Climate Smart Principles developed by the State Coastal Conservancy and others for projects in San Francisco Bay. Funding can be targeted at specific elements of a restoration project, prioritizing areas that are not covered by many fund sources, such as design, public engagement, and monitoring. Funding can also be directed at smaller projects that have high experimental value, but have a smaller restoration footprint.

Grant Application Process

All applicants must submit a proposal application, provided at the end of this document.

Submission Dates: Full proposals must be received by 5:00 pm PST on November 9, 2016.

Application Submittal: Please submit the completed proposal application form, via email to Marilyn Latta, marilyn.latta@scc.ca.gov (entire email not to exceed 10 MB). If you are unable to submit via email, you may mail a CD to:

State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay St, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Refer to the **Applying for Grants** section of the Conservancy's Grant Application Instructions for additional information on submitting your grant proposal. Additional resources, such as guidance for grantees and links to reports and useful websites are located on the Conservancy's website at: <http://scc.ca.gov/category/climate-change/>.

Please note: all information that you submit is subject to the unqualified and unconditional right of the Conservancy to use, reproduce, publish, or display, free of charge. Please indicate if crediting is requested for any of the photos and/or maps.

Grant Amounts: The minimum anticipated grant amount is \$50,000 and the maximum anticipated grant amount is \$250,000. A maximum of \$750,000 is available in 2016 for awards through this competitive Advancing Nature-Based Adaptation Solutions grant program.

Grant Term: Grant terms can be between 12-36 months.

Eligible Applicants: Public agencies and certain nonprofit organizations are eligible for funding. To be eligible, a nonprofit organization must qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and its articles of incorporation must demonstrate that the organization's purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, the Coastal Conservancy's enabling legislation.



Projects to be carried out by multiple partners/entities are eligible and encouraged. There must be at least one Marin-based entity involved in the project. An entity that meets the requirements of the above paragraph may submit on behalf of the partnership; each collaborating entity should include as part of the application a letter of participation/support (may include partners from academia and the private sector). Note that multi-entity partnership applications remain subject to the maximum \$250,000 award cap.

Eligible Project Locations: Projects must be located along the Marin County shoreline of San Francisco Bay.

Eligible Projects: The Advancing Nature-Based Adaptation Solutions grant program seeks to support planning, design, permitting, implementation, education, and/or community-based restoration activities to address the risks and impacts of climate change, sea level rise, and further advance nature-based adaptation solutions to protect and enhance the Marin County bay shoreline and natural resources.

These funds can be used to support the following types of projects:

- Small to moderate, high-priority restoration projects located within Marin County that advance regional baylands ecosystem habitat goals, particularly ‘living shoreline’ concepts, including restoring native oyster and eelgrass habitats, sand beaches, tidal marshes, and other shoreline habitats;
- Education and engagement of the public, especially underserved youth and communities more directly impacted by sea level rise, in restoration efforts, where possible;
- Capacity building among critical partners in order to translate scientific data and analysis into practical solutions for broader implementation.

Application Form: The conceptual proposal application begins on page 9 of this document.

Questions: Questions about the application process and potential projects may be directed to Marilyn Latta, 510 286 4157 or marilyn.latta@scc.ca.gov.

Funding Requirements, Project Selection & Programmatic Criteria

Conservancy staff will review concept proposals for eligibility for funding using the San Francisco Bay Conservancy enabling legislation (Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code), and will evaluate and rank eligible concept proposals based on the project’s relative significance and how well it meets the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria, the Advancing Nature-Based Adaptation Solutions Programmatic Priorities and the Conservancy’s Strategic Plan. Applicants may be contacted to provide additional information during the review process. Conservancy staff may seek review assistance from outside experts, as appropriate.



Conservancy Project Selection Criteria

Required Criteria

- **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes**
- **Consistency with purposes of the funding source**
- **Promotion and implementation of state plans and policies** (specific plans and policies that are being considered or implemented, examples of relevant plans listed below)
- **Support** from the public
- **Location** (must benefit the Marin County shoreline of the San Francisco Bay region)
- **Need** (desired project or result will not occur without Conservancy participation)
- **Greater-than-local interest**
- **Sea-level rise vulnerability** (Consistent with Executive Order S-13-08, for new Projects located in areas vulnerable to future sea-level rise, planning shall consider a range of sea-level rise scenarios in order to assess project vulnerability and, to the extent feasible, reduce expected risks and increase resiliency to sea-level rise.)

Additional Criteria- Please note that not all of these additional criteria will or need to be relevant to your project.

- **Urgency** (threat to a coastal or ocean resource from development or natural or economic conditions; pressing need; or a fleeting opportunity)
- **Resolution of more than one issue**
- **Leverage** (contribution of funds or services by other entities)
- **Conflict resolution**
- **Innovation** (for example, environmental or economic demonstration)
- **Readiness** (ability of the grantee and others to start and finish the project timely)
- **Realization of prior Conservancy goals** (advances previous Conservancy projects)
- **Return to Conservancy** (funds will be repaid to the Conservancy, consistent with the Conservancy's long-term financial strategy)
- **Cooperation** (extent to which the public, nonprofit groups, landowners, and others will contribute to the project)
- **Minimization of Greenhouse Gas Emissions** (project design and construction methods include measures to avoid or minimize greenhouse gas emissions to the extent feasible and consistent with the project objectives)
- **Vulnerability from climate change impacts other than sea-level rise** (project objectives, design and siting consider and address vulnerabilities from climate change impacts other than sea-level rise)



Advancing Nature-Based Adaptation Solutions Programmatic Priorities¹

The Advancing Nature-Based Adaptation Solutions Programmatic Priorities are informed by climate smart practices developed by the State Coastal Conservancy and other partners for the San Francisco Bay region:

1. Safeguard wildlife by using nature-based solutions that provide co-benefits for people, wildlife, and the economy.
2. Prioritize projects that maximize public benefits.
3. Avoid poor or inadequate adaptation.
4. Promote collaboration among various stakeholders and multiple sectors. Establish and expand non-traditional alliances to accelerate effective problem-solving between and among public and private resource managers, scientists, and decision-makers.
5. Incorporate the best available science by utilizing peer-reviewed and well-documented climate science, climate adaptation strategies, and management practices.
6. Focus on future climatic and ecological conditions rather than the past.
7. Design actions from a landscape, ecosystem, watershed or regional perspective to factor in significant natural processes.
8. Account for a high degree of uncertainty by developing and implementing strategies that provide the greatest benefits across a range of possible future climate scenarios.
9. Minimize energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Enhance the ability of natural systems to sequester greenhouse gases.
10. Address the needs of low-income and other underserved populations that will be highly impacted by climate change.
11. Promote on-the-ground demonstration projects that implement innovative approaches or enhance understanding of effective management strategies and will potentially lead to broader change to policies, regulations, or to duplicating the effort elsewhere;
12. Incorporate a project-appropriate educational component.

Conservancy Board Approval: Projects selected for funding are subject to Coastal Conservancy Board approval of a staff recommendation. Project funding will not be available until after approval of the grant award by the Conservancy Board at a noticed public meeting, and upon the execution of a funding agreement between the Conservancy and the grantee. The likely Board meeting at which projects will be considered is between January-March 2017. CEQA approvals must be completed by the time of Board approval. Projects that are not developed sufficiently to be able to enter into a funding agreement by June 30, 2017 will not be funded under this grant round.

¹ Adapted in part from the Coastal Conservancy's climate-smart principles developed by the [National Wildlife Federation Climate Change Adaptation Principles, 2011](#), [Resource Legacy Fund, 2012](#) and [Climate Smart Practices by Point Blue, 2013](#).



For additional detail on the process once a Conservancy grant has been awarded, please see Exhibit D of the Conservancy's Grant Application Instructions (<http://scc.ca.gov/applying-for-grants-and-assistance/forms/>), "Typical Sequence of Activities for Grant Funding from Application through Project Completion".

Additional Resources:

- *Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk*. An update to the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy. Natural Resources Agency (July 2014):
http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/Final_Safeguarding_CA_Plan_July_31_2014.pdf
- *2013 California Climate Adaptation Strategy Update: A Report to the Governor of the State of California in Response to Executive Order S-13-2008*. California Natural Resources Agency (2013):
http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/Statewide_Adaptation_Strategy.pdf
- Marin County Climate Action Plan (2015); Marin County Community Development Agency: <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/sustainability/climate-and-adaptation>
- Regional Conservation Planning Recommendations, including:
 - **Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update** www.baylandsgoals.org
 - **San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Report** www.sfbaysubtidal.org
 - **San Francisco Estuary Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan** www.sfestuary.org/ccmp/
 - **Recovery Plan for Tidal Marsh Ecosystems of Northern and Central California** www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/recovery-planning/tidal-marsh/es_recovery_tidal-marsh-recovery.htm



Advancing Nature-Based Adaptation Solutions in Marin County GRANT APPLICATION FORM

PROJECT SUMMARY

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant name (organization):

Address:

Contact name:

Position(s) authorized to negotiate agreements and amendments:

Telephone:

Email:

Federal Tax ID#:

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project name (limit 6 words):

Project location:

County:

City:

Specific location:

Proposed start date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Estimated completion: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

FUNDING REQUEST

Total Project Cost: _____ Total Funding Requested from Conservancy: _____

Other Funding Sources (not including in-kind services):

Source of funds	Amount (\$)	Estimated commitment date



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Provide a clear, detailed description of the project proposed for Conservancy funding. Include: 1) specific need for the project; 2) the project's goals and objectives; 3) specific tasks that will be undertaken, 4) work products or other deliverables, and 5) your approach to measuring and reporting your project's effectiveness. Please limit description to six pages maximum.



CONSISTENCY WITH FUNDING REQUIREMENTS, PROJECT SELECTION AND PROGRAMMATIC CRITERIA

Provide a clear description of how the project proposed for Conservancy funding is consistent with the funding requirements, relevant project selection and programmatic criteria. Please limit description to two pages maximum.