Frequently Asked Questions
Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program
2019 Proposal Solicitation Notice
July 22, 2019

General Questions

Q. Are there minimum/maximum amounts awarded for each project?

A. No, there are no minimum or maximum amounts required for awarded projects. However, CDFW cannot award more than the approximate $12.75 million that is available.

Q. Will Engineering be part of the pre-application phase?

A. No, engineering design plans will not be scored or evaluated during the Pre-Application Phase; however, constructive feedback may be provided based on information included in the Pre-Application, which may include engineering.

Q. Does CDFW conduct site visits as part of the application process?

A. No, site visits are generally conducted post grant award.

Q. Can an applicant fulfill the 50-year land tenure requirement for projects on State or federal land?

A. Yes, prior to grant execution, awardees are required to secure land tenure for their projects. The type of land tenure secured will depend upon the landowner. Memoranda of understanding or agreement (MOU/MOA) are acceptable for State or federal land tenure.

Q. If the landowner is CDFW, does an applicant need to provide documentation to fulfill the 50-year land tenure requirement?

A. Yes, the applicant must submit a letter from the appropriate CDFW region that (1) grants the applicant site access, (2) allows the proposed project to occur on the property, and (3) commits to fulfilling the 50-year requirement. Applicants must work with the CDFW land manager and appropriate regional office

Q. If the landowner is CDFW but the land is managed by a local agency, can the local agency apply for funding?

A. Yes. Any eligible entity may apply for grant funding.

Q. What are the monitoring requirements going to be, and how will grantees measure monitoring outcomes?

A. Applicants are required to provide performance measures and develop a monitoring plan to determine whether the claimed greenhouse gas (GHG) benefits and co-benefits are achieved. Monitoring requirements for this program are dictated by the benefits claimed and the funding source. At a minimum, all projects should collect pre- and post-project soil carbon data. For project types located in areas where metrics have been developed and quantified (see [delta and coastal environments] for example), the applicant may be able to use that data, combined with site specific soil type and pre and post project soil carbon content to come up with reasonable estimates for post project emissions over time for the full suite of GHGs (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, etc.). Some collection of site-specific data may be needed to verify assumptions.

In areas where quantification methods have not been developed (freshwater wetlands restoration), a thorough understanding of pre- and post-project GHG emissions has not been documented, and GHG concentration trajectories post project have not been completed, pre and post project monitoring should include thorough site specific monitoring protocol for the full suite of GHGs relevant to restoration.

Some co-benefits claimed in the application can be estimated using [CARB methodologies]. Other co-benefits (such as water quality, wetland vegetation improvement, groundwater storage, peak flood flow reductions), require traditional monitoring or estimation protocols.

Q. Are projects that remove trees eligible for funding?

A. Yes. For this Solicitation, CARB developed the Calculator Tool with the assumption that tree removal is part of construction activities. Therefore, applicants only account for planted trees in the Calculator Tool.

Q. If an applicant wants to restore two mountain meadow sites and one Coastal Tidal Wetland site can all three sites be combined and submitted as one project?

A. No. The applicant is only able to submit one application per project type. In the above example, the applicant would need to submit a separate application for the Coastal Tidal Wetland project type and could either submit one combined application for the two mountain meadow sites or split up the mountain meadow sites into two separate applications. There is no limit to how many applications an eligible applicant can submit.

ELIGIBILITY

Q. Are riparian restoration projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta eligible for this Solicitation?

A. No. Projects under this Solicitation are restricted to wetland restoration.

Q. Are freshwater wetlands eligible for funding under this Solicitation?

A. Yes, if it is an Inland Wetland and fits within the parameters of CARB's Quantification Methodology and the Wetlands Program Calculator Tool.

CEQA and Environmental Permitting

Q. If we think CDFW is the most appropriate agency to assume the lead agency roll for CEQA, would you (CDFW) accept this responsibility?

A. Please contact the CDFW Regional office for the region your proposed project is in to discuss this possibility.

Q. If applicant is submitting a project that is planning/implementation, does CEQA need to be completed prior to application submittal?

A. No, the grantee may complete CEQA within the Planning Phase (one year starting at grant agreement execution). During this time CEQA compliance is an eligible expense.

Pre-Application and WebGrants

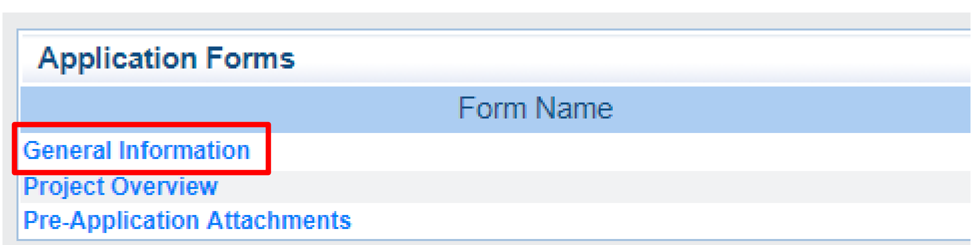
Q. I have used WebGrants to apply for other program's grant solicitations. Do I need to create a new WebGrants account to apply?

A. No. If you have an existing WebGrants account, please use it to apply to this Solicitation. If you do not remember your username or password, please contact the WebGrants Help Desk at GHGWebgrants@wildlife.ca.gov.

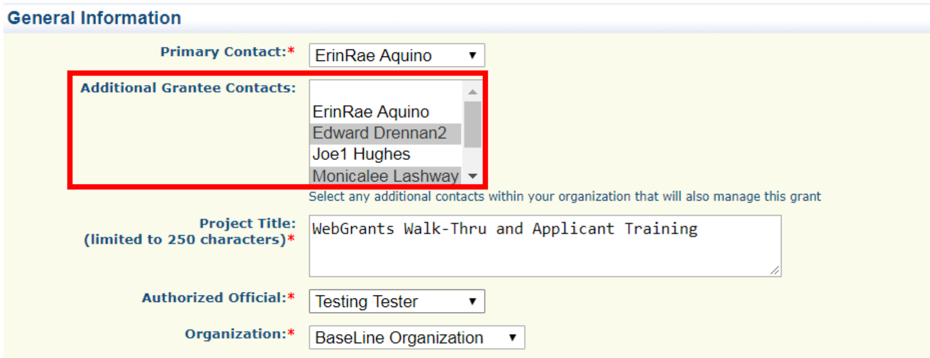
Q. Can more than one person have access to input information for an application?

A. Yes. Multiple users may access and edit the same application if they are identified as "Additional Contacts" in the General Information form. To include users as Additional Contacts:

1. Verify that all other collaborators have registered in WebGrants under the same Applicant Organization
2. While in the Application, select the "General Information" form



3. Select "Edit" at the top right of the screen
4. Select "Additional Grantee Contacts" from the options provided. To select multiple contacts, hold "Ctrl" and select each name. All highlighted names will be added as Additional Contacts. If the additional contact is not available, contact the WebGrants Help Desk (GHGWebgrants@wildlife.ca.gov or (916) 323-0477) for assistance in getting them added.



5. Select “Save” at the top right of the screen

Q. Is there an application feature to display a running character count within form fields?

A. No. Our online application submission system does not support this feature. Please note that the character limit within WebGrants includes both spaces and punctuation.

Q. Will CDFW and/or CARB provide technical assistance to applicants while the Solicitation is open?

A. No. CDFW staff can respond to questions related to the Guidelines or the Proposal Solicitation Notice, and generic project questions. Questions regarding the Calculator Tool or Quantification Methodology must be directed to CARB at GGRFProgram@arb.ca.gov. CDFW and CARB staff cannot review any documentation related to the specific project once the Solicitation opens or provide specific suggestions for the applicant outside of the Pre-Application review comments.

Q. When completing the project Timeline, should applicants include tasks (such as permitting and/or CEQA) that have already been completed prior to June 1, 2020?

A. Yes, please include all tasks that are part of the overall project and would affect the proposed project. These tasks may be completed in a previous project phase. For example, construction activities can only start after CEQA compliance is complete. When including such tasks, please specify that they are complete and when they were completed.

Q. Are attachments and tables part of the Pre-Application 2- to 3-page limit?

A. No, the page limit is for the Project Description and narrative portions of the Conceptual Model, Estimated GHG Benefit, and Land Tenure sections. Tables and attachments are excluded.