

BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

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Baldwin Hills & Urban Watersheds Conservancy
Climate Resilience, Wildfire Prevention, Community Access, and
Nature Based Solutions Fund of 2023-2024
State of California • Natural Resources Agency

The Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (BHUWC) is accepting applications for a year-round local assistance program to support projects that promote climate resilience, community access, wildfire and nature based solutions in the [Conservancy territory](#).

Background

The BHUWC's mission is to acquire open space, manage public lands within the territory, and to provide recreation, restoration and protection of wildlife habitat in the territory for the public's enjoyment and educational experience. Southern California needs new resilient programs and infrastructure to address the documented adverse changes resulting from climate change. It is predicted that these environmental changes will accelerate, including significant sea level rise, higher air and water temperatures, increased storm frequency and intensity, magnified fire threats, loss of natural habitat and biodiversity. These changes pose a threat to California's air, water and land resources, as well as public health and safety. Communities in densely populated urban areas with limited access to open space, tree canopy, native habitat and water resources will be the most adversely impacted. Awarded projects will implement innovative strategies to combat climate change for the benefit of the region's people and outdoor resources.

Project Eligibility

The purpose of the 2023-24 local assistance program is to provide funds for projects that benefit the Conservancy territory through either: 1) Climate Adaptation; 2) Community Access; 3) Nature Based Solutions; or 4) Wildfire Prevention

Proposals up to \$1,000,000 can be submitted under the BHUWC's open solicitation program. Projects approved for funding under this direct grant program will be implemented through the execution of a standard grant agreement between the project applicant and the Conservancy. Conservancy staff will be responsible for oversight of the grant project's implementation.

Eligible projects should be consistent with the adopted Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan for expansion of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and the priorities set forth in the Conservancy's [statutory authority](#). Broadly, the program will support projects that fall within the BHUWC's project objectives, priorities and eligibility requirements

Project Objectives

- Acquire, preserve, or restore natural areas or ecological reserves at risk due to development patterns in order to improve the long-term health of the region and avoid emissions associated with development.
- Engage local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation, particularly as it relates to long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.
- Develop parks and greenways in urban areas to mitigate climate change effects and promote public health and recreation.
- Establish wildlife corridors and linkages to provide connections between areas of undeveloped lands, particularly significant public lands and key habitat ecosystems.
- Develop or improve multi-use trails that connect communities, provide access to public resources and help reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- Protect, enhance, or restore water resources including urban waterways.
- Implement water saving technologies and techniques to yield quantifiable water and energy savings. Such techniques may include recycled water, the use of drought-efficient landscaping, stormwater filtration, permeable surfaces, green roofs and other forms of water capture and storage.
- Empower disadvantaged communities with climate-related mitigation tools and multi-benefit adaptations to improve public health and safety.
- Implement wildfire safety mitigation and wildland fuel reduction projects where appropriate.
- Leverage partnerships and resources with local communities, including government entities, indigenous organizations, and non-profits.
- Include non-climate related co-benefits, such as public access, education, job creation, youth employment and job training, recreation, and public health benefits.

Priority will be given to projects that address the following:

- Urgency (threat to a resource from development, natural or economic harm; pressing need; or fleeting opportunity).
- Equity (extent to which project benefits a Disadvantaged or Severely Disadvantaged or vulnerable community).
- Resolution of more than one issue.
- Leverage (contribution of funds or services by other entities).
- Conflict resolution.
- Innovation (for example, using new technique or innovation to address environmental or economic issue).
- Readiness (ability of the grantee and others to start and finish the project in a timely manner).
- Realization of prior BHUWC goal (advances previous projects); and
- Cooperation (extent to which the public, nonprofit groups, landowners, and others will contribute to the project).

Project Timing, Fund Limits, Cost Match, and Other Requirements

Grants in amounts up to \$1 million may be submitted for consideration. A minimum match of 25% is required. Matches may include, but are not limited to: Federal, State or local funding, private and or quantifiable leveraged services or assets. The Conservancy accepts grant applications year-round. Awards of grant funds are dependent upon the Conservancy's appropriation and sufficient unencumbered grant funds available for the application in question.

Proposals are subject to pre-submission screening and review for consistency with funding source and the Conservancy's statutory mandates. Grant applicants are strongly encouraged to contact BHUWC staff to ensure projects meet eligibility requirements and conform with BHUWC priorities prior to application submittal. All grants are funded on a reimbursement payment basis.

Who May Apply

Any public entity or non-profit organization established pursuant to the laws of the State of California and qualified under the Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), 501 (c)(4), or 501(c)(5) is eligible to apply for grant funds under this program. Federally Recognized Indian Tribes or Tribes on the list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission may also apply. Joint proposals between multiple organizations involved in similar or related activities are strongly encouraged. Grant funds, however, may only be encumbered by one organization per agreement.

For additional information visit www.bhc.ca.gov, or email info@bhc.ca.gov.