

BALDWIN HILLS AND URBAN WATERSHEDS CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 1 GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES



Grants Funded by the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure
Improvement Act of 2014



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Section 1. Introduction

A. General Application Requirements

All Applications **must** have the following:

- Table of Contents
- Footer (containing applicants name and page number)

B. Conservancy (BHUWC)

The Baldwin Hills & Urban Watersheds Conservancy is an independent State agency within the Natural Resources Agency of the State of California. State law established the Conservancy in 2000 (division 22.7 of the Public Resources Code commencing with section 32550).

The Conservancy mission is to:

- Acquire open space and manage public lands;
- Provide recreation, restoration and protection of wildlife habitat; and
- Enhance the public's enjoyment and educational experience on public lands in the territory in a manner consistent with the protection of lands and resources in the area.

Every five years, the Conservancy adopts an update to the BHUWC Strategic Plan, which identifies its goals and specific objectives. The current Strategic Plan was adopted in 2017 to guide the Conservancy's work through 2022. All BHUWC-funded grants must advance specific objectives in the [BHUWC Strategic Plan](#), as discussed in Section II.B (pg. 4).

C. Proposition 1

The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 ("Proposition 1") was approved by voters in November 2014. Proposition 1 is codified as Division 26.7 of the Water Code. The purposes of Proposition 1 include generating funding to address water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration. Chapter 6 of Proposition 1 allocates \$10 million to the Conservancy for competitive grants for multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects, per Water Code Section 79731(a) (see pg. 16, Appendix A).

D. Proposition 1 Grant Application Schedule

The Conservancy will accept application submissions during six (6) rounds per calendar year. The table below lays out the proposed application schedule. Grant applications that pass the scoring process will be placed on the agenda of a future Board meeting. The Board meeting schedule is shown below and posted on the CONSERVANCY website. The specific Board meeting at which applications will be considered will depend on Board meeting schedule, project readiness, and staff capacity.

Section 2. Program Priorities

A. Purpose of Proposition 1, Chapter 6

The funding from Proposition 1 allocated to the CONSERVANCY comes from Chapter 6, “Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters and Watersheds” (see pg. 16, Appendix A). Chapter 6 of Proposition 1 sets forth 13 specific purposes for its funds (“Chapter 6 purposes”), Water Code Section 79732(a). All Proposition 1 grants funded by the Conservancy must achieve at least one of the purposes identified in Chapter 6:

- 1) Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources and in-stream flow.
- 2) Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems.
- 3) Restore river parkways throughout the state, including but not limited to projects pursuant to the [California River Parkway Act of 2004](#) (see pg. 25, reference link #1) and urban river greenways.
- 4) Protect and restore aquatic, wetland and migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for in-stream flow.
- 5) Fulfill the obligations of the state of California in complying with the terms of multiparty settlement agreements related to water resources.
- 6) Remove barriers to fish passage.
- 7) Collaborate with federal agencies in the protection of fish native to California and wetlands in the central valley of California.
- 8) Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities and promote watershed health.
- 9) Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, storm water resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.
- 10) Protect and restore coastal watersheds including but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and near shore ecosystems.
- 11) Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.

- 12) Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.
- 13) Assist in water-related agricultural sustainability projects.

B. Strategic Plan Priorities

The Conservancy's Strategic Plan calls for the prioritization of watershed protection and recreation projects that feature multiple benefits which is consistent with the language objectives of the bond. Most state agencies have a statewide jurisdiction with broad geographic boundaries. The Conservancy has a focused jurisdiction in the most compact and heavily populated geographic district in the State. The Conservancy possesses a broad mission, including providing recreation, protection of natural resources, interpretation and restoration of habitat. This structure positions the Conservancy well to implement multiple benefit projects that benefit the Ballona Creek Watershed.

The Conservancy will seek to align its funding and project priorities with other local agencies and their Integrated Water Management Plans in order to help implement priorities in the Governor's [California Water Action Plan 2016](#) (see pg. 25, reference link #2). The Conservancy will continue to support preliminary project planning, working with grantees to design and develop shovel-ready projects that can compete for grant funding from the Conservancy and other local, state, and federal agencies.

Based on the priority issues within our jurisdiction, reviewing existing state plans, and screening for projects that achieve multiple benefits, serve disadvantaged communities, and result in quantifiable outcomes, the Conservancy identified three priorities for Proposition 1 expenditures. More detailed analysis of the overlap of these criteria is provided in the [CONSERVANCY Strategic Plan](#) (see pg. 25, reference link #3). The three priorities are:

- Resource Protection
- Habitat Restoration
- Urban Greening

Resource Protection

Advance the optimal management of resources in the watershed in order to achieve conservation benefits, improve ecosystem health, and increase climate resiliency.

The Conservancy will seek to implement conservation projects that protect and improve water quality. Through leadership in resource management policies, the Conservancy can help improve water quality through storm-water management, multi-benefit water storage, groundwater recharge, irrigation improvement projects and other best management practices. These solutions will help water users prepare

for climate change by providing greater certainty about their water supply, while also improving conditions in the Ballona Creek, wetlands and the Santa Monica Bay.

Water sustainability projects are consistent with the purposes of Chapter 6 of Proposition 1. These projects will employ watershed adaptation projects to reduce the impacts of climate change, protect and restore the Ballona watershed, improve ecosystems and provide environmentally sustainable outdoor amenities for the public's education and enjoyment. These projects implement Actions #1, 2 and 4 of the [California Water Action Plan 2016](#) (see pg. 25, reference link #2). By protecting and restoring natural habitat; protecting and improving urban water quality; and protecting watersheds that connect to the Santa Monica Bay, the Conservancy will also execute projects that are consistent with the state adopted BHUWC Consolidated Grant Program Guidelines.

Habitat Restoration

Restore native habitat to improve ecosystem function and provide multi-benefit wildlife corridors, species biodiversity and other ecosystem benefits.

The Conservancy has been a leader in planning and implementing habitat restoration in the region. Proposition 1 funding will help continue this leadership through implementing restoration projects, eradication of invasive plants, mapping and monitoring of native flora and fauna. The Conservancy will prioritize multi-benefit projects that, provide for wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and restore ecologic function.

Habitat restoration projects implement Action #4 of the California Water Action Plan-protect and restore important ecosystems. Consistent with the Safeguarding Plan, these projects will protect and restore water resources for important ecosystems; promote nature-based solutions for adapting to climate change, and support cost effective green infrastructure. These projects simultaneously advance goals of BHUWC Consolidated Grant Program Guidelines and Climate Resilience Framework.

Urban Greening

Build urban greening projects that increase groundwater recharge, reduce runoff, improve water quality and improve urban watershed health while creating public green-space and expanding urban forests.

In many urban areas, there are opportunities to create greener, more environmentally sustainable and livable communities by creating new parks, improving existing parks and green spaces, and planting trees. If designed correctly, these projects can infiltrate stormwater, improve groundwater recharge, and improve water quality. Projects may also provide additional benefits such as reducing urban heat island effects, improving air quality, increasing walkability, and increasing neighborhood safety.

The Conservancy has helped plan and construct multi-benefit urban greening projects in the parklands. Working in partnership with a non-profit, nearly 1000 trees were planted in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area along the eastern ridge adjacent to a project designed to capture storm-water runoff, filter and retain the water to recharge into the ground, preventing it from polluting the Santa Monica Bay. Landscaped largely with native species, it is a multi-purpose, multi-benefit project that demonstrates the effectiveness of this kind of investment. With Proposition 1 funds the Conservancy will implement more projects of this type that incorporate many green infrastructure elements, including water retention and storage, and shade trees for heat relief.

Urban greening projects advance several of the purposes of Chapter 6, including implementing watershed adaptation projects to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities, protecting urban watershed health and implementing urban river greenways. These projects implement Actions #2 and #6 of the [California Water Action Plan 2016](#) (see pg. 25, reference link #2) by increasing integrated water management across all levels of government and increasing groundwater storage. The health section of the Safeguarding California Plan specifically identifies urban greening as a strategy to reduce the impacts of extreme heat events. The urban greening projects implement goals 4, 6, 8 and 9 of the adopted BHUWC Consolidated Grant Program Guidelines and Climate Resilience Framework.

C. Projects Benefitting Disadvantaged Communities

Proposition 1 defines a disadvantaged community as “a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income.” ([CA Water Code Section 79505.5](#).) Chapter 6 of Proposition 1 does not require that a specific portion of funding go to disadvantaged communities. However, the Conservancy will strive to ensure that a significant portion of its Proposition 1 funding benefit these communities, as discussed in Section V.C (pp. 13 -14) below.

The Department of Water Resources has developed an online [mapping tool](#) which enables the public to see the boundaries of the disadvantaged communities, based on census data including the American Community Survey. Communities are defined at different geographic scales, including county, census tract and census place.

D. Promotion and Implementation of State Plans and Policies

Priority will be given to projects that implement state plans and policies. The Conservancy’s project selection criteria require that all Conservancy projects be consistent with statewide plans and priorities, as discussed in Section III.D (pg. 8) below. Proposition 1 requires that projects be consistent with the goals identified in the [California Water Action Plan 2016](#) (see pg. 25, reference link # 2). Links to key plans can be found in Appendix C (pg. 23).

Section 3. Eligibility and Required Criteria

A. Eligible Grantees

Eligible applicants for Proposition 1 grant funding from the Conservancy are:

- Public agencies as defined in Proposition 1: any state agency or department, special district, joint powers authority, city, county, city and county, or other political subdivision of the state.
 - Any private, nonprofit organization that qualifies under Section 501(c) (3) of the [United States Internal Revenue Code](#) (see pg. 25, reference link #4), and whose purposes are consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Division 22.7 of the [Public Resources Code](#) (see pg. 25, reference link #5).
- Indian Tribes that are either federally recognized or listed on the Native Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List.
- Public utilities and mutual water companies; projects proposed by this type of applicant must have a clear and definite public purpose and must benefit the customers of the water system and not the investors. Additional eligibility requirements apply to any eligible grantee that is also an urban water supplier or an agricultural water supplier, as set forth in Proposition 1, [Water Code Section 79712 \(b\)](#) (see pg. 25, reference link #6).

B. Project Eligibility

Projects must be consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation, meet the required project selection criteria, support the Strategic Plan and advance at least one of the purposes of [Chapter 6 of Proposition 1](#) (see pg. 26, reference link #8).

Proposition 1 funds must be spent consistent with the General Obligation Bond Law, [Government Code Section 16720-16727](#) (see pg. 26, reference link #7). Generally, this means projects must entail the construction of, or acquisition of capital assets and/or activities that are incidentally, but directly, related to construction or acquisition, such as planning, design, and engineering. Proposition 1 funds are appropriated to the Conservancy with a maximum of five years for expenditure. Projects must be ready to start work and able to be completed within a maximum of five years. Land acquisition projects, including acquisition of conservation easements, are eligible if they are consistent with the purposes of [Chapter 6 of Proposition 1](#) (see pg. 26, reference link #8).

Proposition 1 contains additional provisions that may make some projects ineligible, these include:

- All projects funded by Proposition 1 must be consistent with the [Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act](#) (see pg. 26, reference link #9) and the California's [Five-Year Infrastructure Plan](#) prepared pursuant to Government Code section 13100 (see pg. 26, reference link #11).
- Proposition 1 funds cannot be used for acquisitions of land by eminent domain. [Water Code Section 79711\(g\)](#) (see pg. 26, reference link #12)

Proposition 1 funds may only be used for projects that will provide benefits or improvements that are greater than required applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations.

C. Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of the Conservancy includes those lands or other areas that are donated too, or otherwise acquired by, or are operated by the Conservancy, that are located in the [Conservancy boundaries](#).

D. Required Project Selection Criteria

The Conservancy has adopted Grant Project Requirements (see pg. 22, Appendix B) setting forth the criteria the Conservancy uses for reviewing its grant applications. The Existing Program Guidelines contain required criteria that must be satisfied by all projects and additional criteria that are not mandatory but are taken into account for purposes of priority. The Required Selection Criteria are:

- Promoting the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes;
- Consistency with the BHUWC Consolidated Grant Program Guidelines;
- Consistency with purposes of the funding source;
- Demonstrated support from the public;
- Location (must benefit the Baldwin Hills and Ballona Creek region);
- Need (desired project or result will not occur without Conservancy contribution);
- Greater-than-local interest; and
- Demonstrated expertise in the proposed program area.

For evaluation criteria specific to these Guidelines, see Section V.C (pp. 13 -14).

E. Demonstrated Experience Definition

Considering consistency with the enabling legislation of the Conservancy, there must be clear evidence of similar projects having been undertaken and successfully completed. The required criteria include, but are not limited to:

- Reference Contacts
- Scale of projects undertaken (Financial & Infrastructure)
- Completion of projects requirements (within budget, schedule, and deadline)
- Relevance of past projects' ability to convey success to current guidelines

Section 4. Grant Application Process and Timeline

A. Project Application Periods

The Conservancy holds six (6) project application rounds each year. R1: January 1 – February 28, R2: March 1 – April 30, R3: May 1 – June 30, R4: July 1 – August 31, R5: September 1 – October 31, R6: November 1 – December 31. The Application

Guidelines will be posted on the Conservancy website at the start of each application period. Grant applications will only be accepted during these periods.

B. Consolidated Grant Program and Concept-Proposal Submission

Applicants are required to review the [BH UWC Consolidated Grant Program Guidelines](#) and submit a project Concept Proposal prior to submitting any grant applications. Staff will be available to discuss projects and proposal related questions at info@bhc.ca.gov or call (310) 403-7946.

C. Grant Application

If the Concept Proposal is deemed eligible for funding, a full grant application and instructions for completing it will be provided by conservancy Staff. Completed applications should be emailed to info@bhc.ca.gov. If you are unable to email your application, you may send the electronic files on a CD or other common electronic storage device. Mail the files to: Baldwin Hills & Urban Watersheds Conservancy, Attn: PROPOSITION 1, 4859 West Slauson Ave #364, Los Angeles CA 90056

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. The Application requires the following information:

1. **Project Description** – Provide a clear, detailed description of the project proposed for Conservancy funding. The project description should include the following sections:
 - a. **Need for the project.** Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.
 - b. **Goals and objectives.** The goals and objectives should clearly define the expected outcomes and benefits of the project.
 - c. **Site Description.** Describe the project site or area, including site characteristics that are tied to your project objectives (i.e.: for acquisition of habitat, describe current vegetation assemblages, condition of habitats, known wildlife migration corridors, etc.). When relevant, include ownership and management information.
 - d. **Specific Tasks.** Identify the specific tasks that will be undertaken and the work that will be accomplished for each task.
 - e. **Work Products.** List the specific work products or other deliverables that the project will result in.
 - f. **Measuring Success.** For projects involving restoration, construction or land acquisition, describe the plan for monitoring, evaluating and reporting project effectiveness, and implementing adaptive management strategies if necessary. Who will be responsible for funding and implementing ongoing management and monitoring?

2. **Project Graphics:** Provide the following project graphics with your application. Project maps and design plans should be combined into one (1) pdf file with a maximum size of 10 MB. Project photos should be provided in jpg format.
 - **Regional Map** -- Clearly identify the project's location in relation to prominent area features and significant natural and recreational resources, including regional trails and protected lands.
 - **Site-scale map** – Show the location of project elements in relation to natural and man-made features on-site or nearby. Any key features discussed in project description should be shown.
 - **Design Plan** – Construction projects should include one or more design drawings or graphics indicating the intended site improvements.
 - **Site Photos** – One or more clear photos of the project site.
3. **Preliminary Project Budget and Timeline** – Complete and submit *BH UWC Project Budget and Timeline Template* (available at <https://bhc.ca.gov/grants/>). The preliminary budget and timeline must include a line item for every task identified in the project description. For each task, applicants must provide the estimated start and completion date (or required time for completion), estimated total cost of the task, amount requested from the Conservancy, and amount that will be provided by other funding sources (e.g. Matching Funds, In-kind Contributions); the last of which is not required, however is considered when determining overall project readiness. The task list in the Preliminary Project Budget and Timeline must match the task list provided in the project description.
4. **Additional Questions** –The additional questions are intended to provide the Conservancy with sufficient information to evaluate your project against the evaluation criteria. For each question, limit your answer to a half page, with one concise paragraph preferred. If a question does not apply to your project, write “not applicable”.

Applications should be emailed, or submitted via a storage device, to the Conservancy. If the combined size of all the files emailed is greater than 25 MB, give size requirements, and please send files in separate email messages (email messages over 25 MB in size will be rejected by our server).

D. Application Review Period

The Conservancy reviews applications between each submission period, see Section I.D (pg. 2), providing a response within thirty (30) days of receiving an application. The Conservancy staff expects that it will take an average of six months from application submittal to Conservancy Board approval, and an additional month for execution of the grant agreement.

E. Grant Awards

Grants will be awarded once a project is approved by the Conservancy Board at a public meeting. Conservancy staff will determine which qualified applications to recommend to the Conservancy Board for funding; considering the project's score relative to other eligible projects, the total amount of funding available for Proposition 1 projects, the urgency of the project relative to other eligible projects, the Conservancy

Strategic Plan, BHUWC Consolidated Grant Program Guidelines and the application of the Conservancy's Required and Additional Project Selection Criteria (see pg. 22, Appendix B).

The Conservancy typically holds six to eight public meetings per calendar year. Each year's meeting schedule is published on the Conservancy website. The agenda for each public meeting will be published on the Conservancy website ten days in advance of the meeting. Conservancy staff will prepare a report for qualified applications for Board consideration. The report will describe the project and explain how the project is consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation, the Conservancy Grant Program Guidelines, the Conservancy Strategic Plan, Watershed and Open Space Plan and the evaluation criteria, see Section V.C (pp.13 -14) below.

F. Grant Agreement

Once the Conservancy has approved a grant at a public meeting, Conservancy staff will prepare a Grant Agreement setting forth the terms and conditions of the grant. The grantee must sign the grant agreement and comply with all of its conditions in order to receive funds.

Preparation and finalization of a Grant Agreement takes approximately 3 – 4 weeks. The Grant Agreement is sent to the grantee for signatures, and the requested number of originals must be sent back to the Conservancy. The Executive Officer signs each, and one fully-executed copy is returned to the grantee.

It is important that the person administering the project for the grantee be familiar with the procedures and requirements of the Grant Agreement. There are several steps and requirements for grantees receiving Conservancy funding. To help prospective grantees understand the process, the typical requirements for receiving funds from the Conservancy, see Section IV.F (pp. 11-12) listed below.

Typical Conditions and Requirements of Conservancy Grants

- The State reimburses grantees for expenses after they are incurred. This means grantees will have to cover the costs of the project between the time the expenses are incurred and they get paid by the Conservancy. It typically takes about 60 days between the time an invoice is received at the Conservancy and the payment is received by the grantee.
- Expenses incurred before the Grant Agreement with the Conservancy is executed, cannot be billed to the grant.
- The Conservancy limits overhead costs to 10%.
- Grantees are responsible for operation, maintenance, and monitoring of completed projects for 20 years.
- Grantees are responsible for reporting the results of the maintenance and monitoring on a pre-determined, project-by-project basis, to the Conservancy throughout the 20-year period.

All grantees should expect to be audited by the State of California. It is the responsibility of the grantee to maintain all necessary records to substantiate and

document all payments made pursuant to a Conservancy grant. If a grantee cannot provide adequate records when they are audited, they could be required to repay grant funds.

The Grant Agreement describes these and other requirements in greater detail and will be the controlling document. If there are any questions about the Grant Agreement, discuss them with the Conservancy Project Manager. Close review of and compliance with the Grant Agreement is essential and is the grantee's responsibility.

Section 5. Application Evaluation and Scoring

A. Application Screening

Grant applications will be initially reviewed for completeness. Incomplete grant applications will be returned to the applicant. Grantees may choose to complete the application and resubmit. Conservancy staff will screen complete grant applications to ensure that:

- The project meets at least one of the Chapter 6 Purposes (see pg. 16, Appendix A);
- The project meets the Conservancy's required grant selection criteria (see pg. 22, Appendix B);
- The project is consistent with the CONSERVANCY Strategic Plan;
- The project consists of work that is eligible for bond funds under the [Government Code Section 16720-16727](#) (see pg. 25, reference link #8);
- The grantee is an eligible entity;
- For restoration and ecosystem protection projects, the grantee has consulted with the state and local conservation corps and included their services if feasible (see pg. 26, reference link #21).

Applications that do not pass the screening process will not proceed to the scoring process. The Conservancy has discretion to either return the application or assist the applicant with gathering additional information and modifying the proposal to enable the application to pass the screening process.

B. Scoring

Complete grant applications that have passed the screening process will be evaluated and scored using the Evaluation Scoring Criteria set forth below. An application must achieve an average score of 75 or better to qualify for a grant.

Complete applications that have passed the screening process will be reviewed and scored by a minimum of three professionals with relevant expertise. Reviewers may include state and federal agency staff and others with relevant expertise, including consultants and academics. All reviewers other than Conservancy staff will be required to document that they do not have a conflict of interest in reviewing any proposals. If there is a significant discrepancy in the scoring by the individual reviewers, additional reviewers may score the proposal. The average score will be the average of all reviews.

All applicants and individuals who participate in the review of submitted proposals are subject to State and federal conflict of interest laws. Any individual who has participated in planning or setting priorities for a specific guideline or who will participate in any part of the grant development and negotiation process on behalf of the public is ineligible to receive funds or personally benefit from funds awarded through that guideline. Employees of state and federal agencies may participate in the review process as scientific/technical reviewers but are subject to the same state and federal conflict of interest laws. Failure to comply with the conflict of interest laws, including business and financial disclosure provisions, will result in the proposal being rejected and any subsequent grant agreement being declared void. Other legal actions may also be taken. Applicable statutes include, but are not limited to, California Government Code Section 1090 and Public Contract Code Sections 10365.5, 10410 and 10411.

C. Evaluation Scoring Criteria:

Criteria	Points
The extent to which the project achieves one or more of the purposes of Chapter 6 of Prop 1.	20 points
The extent to which the project will deliver sustainable outcomes in the long-term.	5 points
The extent to which the project provides multiple benefits.	5 points
The extent to which the project leverages the resources of private, federal, state or local funding sources. Projects that have at least 25% matching funds will receive 3 points. Projects with greater than 50% matching funds will receive 8 points. Bonus points for projects with greater than 100% matching funds, see below.	8 points
The extent to which the project promotes and implements the California Water Action Plan, other state plans and policies, and relevant regional water plans.	8 points
Whether the project is consistent with best scientific practices, where achievable or appropriate.	8 points
The extent to which the application includes a complete, reasonable and well thought out proposed scope of work, budget and schedule.	20points

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience successfully implementing similar projects or demonstrates appropriate and necessary partnerships to complete the project.	8 points
The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that project has community support.	8 points
The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a clear and reasonable method for measuring and reporting the effectiveness of the project.	5 points
The extent to which the project employs new or innovative technology or practices.	5 points
The extent to which the project benefits a DAC	Yes/No
	100
Bonus Points	
Matching funds > 100%	

Section 6. Additional Information

A. Available Funding

The remaining balance of BHUWC Prop 1 Local Assistance Appropriations are currently being evaluated for future grant solicitations. We anticipate re-opening solicitations for reduced award amounts in October 2020.

B. Additional Project Considerations

- Agencies acquiring land may use the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000 (Division 28 of the Public Resources Code. Water Code Section 79711(h)).
- Where appropriate, grantees will be required to provide signage informing the public that the project received Proposition 1 funding. This requirement will be addressed in the grant agreement.
- In administering Proposition 1 funds, the Conservancy will take into account the State's policy that every human being has a right to "safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes" (Water Code Sec. 106.3).
- The Conservancy now requires nonprofit grantees to submit the [Nonprofit Organization Pre-Award Questionnaire](#) (see pg. 27, reference link #21) to help flag any potential issues with accounting and record keeping before the grantee begins work. Technical assistance may be available to help grantees meet all of the state's accounting requirements.

C. Environmental Documents

The Conservancy is required to comply with the [California Environmental Quality Act \(CEQA\)](#) (see pg. 26, reference link #13). Grant applicants should consider whether their proposed project will trigger the need for an environmental impact report or negative declaration or whether a CEQA exemption applies. How CEQA applies and the status of CEQA compliance must be addressed in the grant application using the [CEQA Compliance Certificate Form](#).

D. Project Monitoring and Reporting

All grant applications must include a monitoring and reporting component that explains how the effectiveness of the project will be measured and reported. The monitoring and reporting component will vary depending on the nature of the project. The grant application evaluation will assess the robustness of the proposed monitoring program. For wetland and watershed restoration and protection projects, monitoring should be consistent with the [State's Wetlands and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan](#) (see pg. 25, reference link #14), as applicable.

E. Leveraging Funds

The Conservancy will award additional points to applicants with significant matching funds. The amount of leveraged funding will be specifically identified in every staff recommendation for potential approval by the Conservancy Board. The Conservancy will provide a summary of the total leverage of Conservancy funds from all its grant programs in an annual financial report to the Conservancy Board.

Appendix A: Chapter 6 of Proposition 1

Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters, and Watersheds 79730.

The sum of one billion four hundred ninety-five million dollars (\$1,495,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature from the fund, in accordance with this chapter, for competitive grants for multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities.

79731.

Of the funds authorized by Section 79731, the sum of three hundred twenty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$327,500,000) shall be allocated for multi-benefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds of the state in accordance with the following schedule:

- (a) Baldwin Hills & Urban Watersheds Conservancy, ten million dollars (\$10,000,000).
- (b) California Tahoe Conservancy, fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000).
- (c) Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, ten million dollars (\$10,000,000).
- (d) Ocean Protection Council, thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000).
- (e) San Diego River Conservancy, seventeen million dollars (\$17,000,000).
- (f) San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000).
- (g) San Joaquin River Conservancy, ten million dollars (\$10,000,000).
- (h) Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000).
- (i) Sierra Nevada Conservancy, twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000).
- (j) State Coastal Conservancy, one hundred million five hundred thousand dollars (\$100,500,000). Eligible watersheds for the funds allocated pursuant to this subdivision include, but are not limited to, those that are in the San Francisco Bay Conservancy region, the Santa Ana River watershed, the Tijuana River watershed, the Otay River watershed, Catalina Island, and the central coast region.
- (k) Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000).

79732.

(a) In protecting and restoring California rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds, the purposes of this chapter are to:

- (1) Protect and increase the economic benefits arising from healthy watersheds, fishery resources, and instream flow.
- (2) Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems.
- (3) Restore river parkways throughout the state, including, but not limited to, projects pursuant to the California River Parkway Act of 2004 (Chapter 3.8 (commencing with Section 5750) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code), in the Urban Streams Restoration Program established pursuant to Section 7048, and urban river greenways.
- (4) Protect and restore aquatic, wetland, and migratory bird ecosystems, including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow.
- (5) Fulfill the obligations of the State of California in complying with the terms of multiparty settlement agreements related to water resources.
- (6) Remove barriers to fish passage.
- (7) Collaborate with federal agencies in the protection of fish native to California and wetlands in the central valley of California.

(8) Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health.

(9) Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.

(10) Protect and restore coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to, bays, marine estuaries, and nearshore ecosystems.

(11) Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.

(12) Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.

(13) Assist in water-related agricultural sustainability projects.

(b) Funds provided by this chapter shall only be used for projects that will provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits or improvements that are greater than required applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations.

79733.

Of the funds made available by Section 79730, the sum of two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) shall be administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board for projects that result in enhanced stream flows.

79734.

For restoration and ecosystem protection projects under this chapter, the services of the California Conservation Corps or a local conservation corps certified by the California Conservation Corps shall be used whenever feasible.

79735.

(a) Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7048, and its tributaries, pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600) of, and Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000) of, the Public Resources Code and Section 79508.

(b) (1) Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) shall be made available to the secretary for a competitive program to fund multi-benefit watershed and urban rivers enhancement projects in urban watersheds that increase regional and local water self-sufficiency and that meet at least two of the following objectives:

(A) Promote groundwater recharge and water reuse.

(B) Reduce energy consumption.

(C) Use soils, plants, and natural processes to treat runoff.

(D) Create or restore native habitat.

- (E) Increase regional and local resiliency and adaptability to climate change.
- (2) The program under this subdivision shall be implemented by state conservancies, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the state board, or other entities whose jurisdiction includes urban watersheds, as designated by the secretary. Projects funded under the program shall be a part of a plan developed jointly by the conservancies, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the state board, or other designated entities in consultation with the secretary.
- (c) At least 25 percent of the funds available pursuant to this section shall be allocated for projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.
- (d) Up to 10 percent of the funds available pursuant to this section may be allocated for project planning.

79736.

Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, four hundred seventy-five million dollars (\$475,000,000) shall be available to the Natural Resources Agency to support projects that fulfill the obligations of the State of California in complying with the terms of any of the following:

- (a) Subsection (d) of Section 3406 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Title 34 of Public Law 102-575).
- (b) Interstate compacts set forth in Section 66801 of the Government Code pursuant to Title 7.42 (commencing with Section 66905) of the Government Code.
- (c) Intrastate or multiparty water quantification settlement agreement provisions, including ecosystem restoration projects, as set forth in Chapters 611, 612, 613, and 614 of the Statutes of 2003.
- (d) The settlement agreement referenced in Section 2080.2 of the Fish and Game Code.
- (e) Any intrastate or multiparty settlement agreement related to water acted upon or before December 31, 2013. Priority shall be given to projects that meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - (1) The project is of statewide significance.
 - (2) The project restores natural aquatic or riparian functions, or wetlands habitat for birds and aquatic species.
 - (3) The project protects or promotes the restoration of endangered or threatened species.
 - (4) The project enhances the reliability of water supplies on a regional or interregional basis.
 - (5) The project provides significant regional or statewide economic benefits.

79737.

- (a) Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, two hundred eighty-five million dollars (\$285,000,000) shall be available to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for watershed restoration projects statewide in accordance with this chapter.
- (b) For the purposes of this section, watershed restoration includes activities to fund coastal wetland habitat, improve forest health, restore mountain meadows, modernize

stream crossings, culverts, and bridges, reconnect historical flood plains, install or improve fish screens, provide fish passages, restore river channels, restore or enhance riparian, aquatic, and terrestrial habitat, improve ecological functions, acquire from willing sellers conservation easements for riparian buffer strips, improve local watershed management, and remove sediment or trash.

(c) For any funds available pursuant to this section that are used to provide grants under the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, a priority shall be given to coastal waters.

(d) In allocating funds for projects pursuant to this section, the Department of Fish and Wildlife shall only make funds available for water quality, river, and watershed protection and restoration projects of statewide importance outside of the Delta.

(e) Funds provided by this section shall not be expended to pay the costs of the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of Delta conveyance facilities.

(f) Funds provided by this section shall only be used for projects that will provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits or improvements that are greater than required applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations, except for any water transfers for the benefit of subsection (d) of Section 3406 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Title 34 of Public Law 102-575).

79738.

(a) Of the funds authorized by Section 79730, eighty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$87,500,000) shall be available to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for water quality, ecosystem restoration, and fish protection facilities that benefit the Delta, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Projects to improve water quality or that contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Delta, including projects in Delta counties that provide multiple public benefits and improve drinking and agricultural water quality or water supplies.

(2) Habitat restoration, conservation, and enhancement projects to improve the condition of special status, at risk, endangered, or threatened species in the Delta and the Delta counties, including projects to eradicate invasive species, and projects that support the beneficial reuse of dredged material for habitat restoration and levee improvements.

(3) Scientific studies and assessments that support the Delta Science Program, as described in Section 85280, or projects under this section.

(b) In implementing this section, the department shall coordinate and consult with the Delta city or Delta County in which a grant is proposed to be expended or an interest in real property is proposed to be acquired.

(c) Acquisitions pursuant to this section shall be from willing sellers only.

(d) In implementing this section, state agencies shall prioritize wildlife conservation objectives through projects on public lands or voluntary projects on private lands, to the extent feasible.

(e) Funds available pursuant to this section shall not be used to acquire land via eminent domain.

(f) Funds available pursuant to this section shall not be expended to pay the costs of the design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of Delta conveyance facilities.

Appendix B: Project Selection Criteria

As Adopted by the Conservancy on June 5, 2003

GRANT PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

(For use in the determination of the priority of Conservancy grants and projects authorized under Division 22.7 of the California Public Resources Code)

STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

- a. Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes**
- b. Consistency with the BHUWC Consolidated Grant Program Guidelines**
- c. Consistency with purposes of the funding source**
- d. Support from the public (demonstrate)**
- e. Location** (must benefit the [Baldwin Hills and Ballona Creek region](#))
- f. Need** (desired project or result will not occur without Conservancy participation)
- g. Greater-than-local interest**
- h. Demonstrated expertise in the proposed program area**

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- a. Urgency** (threat to a resource from development or natural or economic conditions; pressing need; or a fleeting opportunity)
- b. Resolution of more than one issue**
- c. Leverage** (contribution of funds or services by other entities)
- d. Conflict resolution**
- e. Innovation** (for example, environmental, economic or educational demonstration)
- f. Readiness** (ability of the grantee and others to start and finish the project in a timely manner)
- g. Enhances or improves ongoing or existing Conservancy projects**
- h. Cooperation** (extent to which local government, the public, nonprofit groups, landowners and others will participate in the project)

Appendix C: Key State, Federal, and Regional Plans and Priorities

The following identifies and provides detail about statewide plans and policies that are consistent with the Conservancy's mission and strategic plan objectives. This listing is not intended to be exhaustive. There may be other existing statewide plans or policies that are consistent with the Conservancy's mission and objectives. Moreover, in the future new statewide plans and policies will be adopted that will also be relevant to Proposition 1 implementation.

Governor's Executive Orders –

- [**Executive Order S-13-08**](#) directed all state agencies planning construction projects in areas vulnerable to future sea level rise to plan and consider a range of sea level rise scenarios for the years 2050 and 2100 in order to assess project vulnerability and, to the extent feasible, reduce expected risks and increase resiliency to sea level rise.
- [**Executive Order B-30-15**](#) established a new interim statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. This order also directed state agencies to make climate change into account in their planning and investment decisions and to give priority to actions that both build climate preparedness and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

California Water Action Plan

California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Food and this Water Action Plan to meet three broad objectives: more reliable water supplies, the restoration of species and habitat, and a more resilient, sustainable water resources system. It lays out the state's challenges, goals and actions needed to put California's water resources on a safer, more sustainable path. The plan identifies ten overarching strategies to protect our resources

Safeguarding California Climate Adaptation Plan

The Safeguarding California Plan provides policy guidance for state decision makers, and is part of continuing efforts to reduce impacts and prepare for climate risks. This plan highlights climate risks in nine sectors in California, discusses progress to date, and makes sector-specific recommendations.

California @ 50 Million: The Environmental Goals and Policy Report

This report contains a 20- to 30-year overview of projected growth in the state, along with goals and objectives for land use, population growth and distribution, development, natural resources, conservation, and air and water quality. The goals are consistent, as required, with state planning priorities identified in AB 857.

State and Federal Species and Habitat Protection Plans

- [**California Wildlife Action Plan**](#) (2015). The Wildlife Action Plan creates a vision for fish and wildlife conservation, identifies species of greatest

conservation need, and recommends actions that are implementable, measurable, and time bound.

- [**California Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan**](#) (2008) This California DFW plan proposes 163 actions to address the environmental and economic threats caused by aquatic species in California. The Conservancy supports invasive species control actions when the invasive is a serious threat to coastal resources.
- [**California Essential Habitat Connectivity Strategy for Conserving a Connected California**](#) (2010) This Plan was produced by California Department of Transportation, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife in collaboration with many other agencies, including the Coastal Conservancy, as well as non-governmental organizations. The plan and associated map identifies 850 natural landscape blocks and 192 essential connectivity areas. It focuses attention on large areas important to maintaining ecological integrity at the broadest scale, and recommends regional and local analysis to refine the linkages map and to identify additional areas important to sustaining ecological connectivity.

State Agency and Multi-Agency Strategic Plans – In addition to the Conservancy strategic plan, Conservancy adopted and supported projects implement elements of:

BHUWC Consolidated Grant Program Guidelines and Climate Resiliency Framework

[**Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan**](#)

[**Indicators of Climate Change in California Report \(EPIC\)**](#)

Appendix D: Reference Links

1. California River Parkways Act of 2004

http://resources.ca.gov/docs/bonds_and_grants/Prop_13_River_Parkways_2015.pdf

2. California Water Action Plan

http://resources.ca.gov/docs/california_water_action_plan/Final_California_Water_Action_Plan.pdf

3. CONSERVANCY Strategic Plan

<http://bhc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/BHC-Strategic-Plan-2017-updated.pdf>

4. United States Internal Revenue Code

[https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Charitable-Organizations/Exemption-Requirements-Section-501\(c\)\(3\)-Organizations](https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Charitable-Organizations/Exemption-Requirements-Section-501(c)(3)-Organizations)

5. Public Resources Code

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&division=22.7.&title=&part=&chapter=1.&article=

6. Proposition 1, Water Code Section 79712(b)

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=WAT§ionNum=79712

7. General Obligation Bond Law, Government Code Section 16727

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV§ionNum=16727.

8. Chapter 6 of Proposition 1

<http://bondaccountability.resources.ca.gov/p1.aspx>

9. Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Division 7 of the Water Code)

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/portercologne.pdf

10. Division 22.7 of the Public Resources Code

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&division=22.7.&title=&part=&chapter=1.&article=

11. California five-year infrastructure plan prepared pursuant to Government Code section 13100

<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/2016-Infrastructure-Plan.pdf>

12. Prop 1, Water Code Section 79711(g)

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=WAT§ionNum=79711

13. California Environmental Quality Act & CEQA Compliance Cert Form

<http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/> <https://bhc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/CEQACertificationDoc.pdf>

14. State's Wetlands and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/wrapp.shtml

15. Wildlife Action Plan

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/SWAP>

16. California Essential Habitat Connectivity Strategy for Conserving a Connected California

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/planning/connectivity/CEHC>

17. Habitat Conservation Plans/Natural Community Conservation Plans

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Explore/Organization/HCPB>

18. Integrated Watershed Management Plan(s)

<http://www.ladpw.org/wmd/irwmp/>

**19. - Department of Water Resources DAC Online Mapping Tool
Disadvantaged Communities**

<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

20. Prop 1, Water Code Section 79734

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=WAT§ionNum=79734

21. CONSERVANCY Non-Profit Pre-Award Questionnaire

https://bhc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Non_Profit-Questionnaire.docx