



BALDWIN HILLS & URBAN WATERSHEDS CONSERVANCY

# CONSOLIDATED GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## 2025

[BHC.CA.GOV/GRANTS](https://bhc.ca.gov/grants)

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose of Guidelines

The purpose of these guidelines is to establish the process, procedures, and general requirements through which the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (BH UWC) will administer its funds allocated by the State of California, hereinafter referred to as the **BH UWC Consolidated Grant Program**. The purpose of the BH UWC Consolidated Grant Program is to establish a uniform application process across all Conservancy grant funding sources, advancing the State's goal of [Cutting Green Tape](#).

Moreover, the BH UWC Consolidated Grant (CG) Program establishes a new grant funding framework for advancing the BH UWC’s mission across its recently expanded jurisdiction ([SB 1052](#)) and ensures effective and equitable grant making by [Embedding Equity](#) as its core tenant. Integral to effective and equitable grant making is the strategic funding of projects and programs that deliver tangible and/or measurable benefits to a population, in direct response to a demonstrated need or vulnerability. To this end, the BH UWC CG Program enables strategic investment in high-impact projects that deliver direct multiple benefits to vulnerable populations and communities, address key regional climate hazards, and ensure *Access for All*.



These guidelines govern the BH UWC Consolidated Grant Program, which consists of four (4) available grant types:

- Planning Grants
- Implementation Grants
- Acquisition Grants
- Stewardship and Community Access Grants

The 2-step application process, consisting of; 1) Submission of Concept Proposal to the BH UWC; and 2) Submission of a Full Application (upon invitation), will be required for all grant types and funding sources (see Section 4). While individual grant funding sources may require additional documentation as a part of a Full Application submission, all information in this document applies to all grant types and funding sources unless specifically stated otherwise.





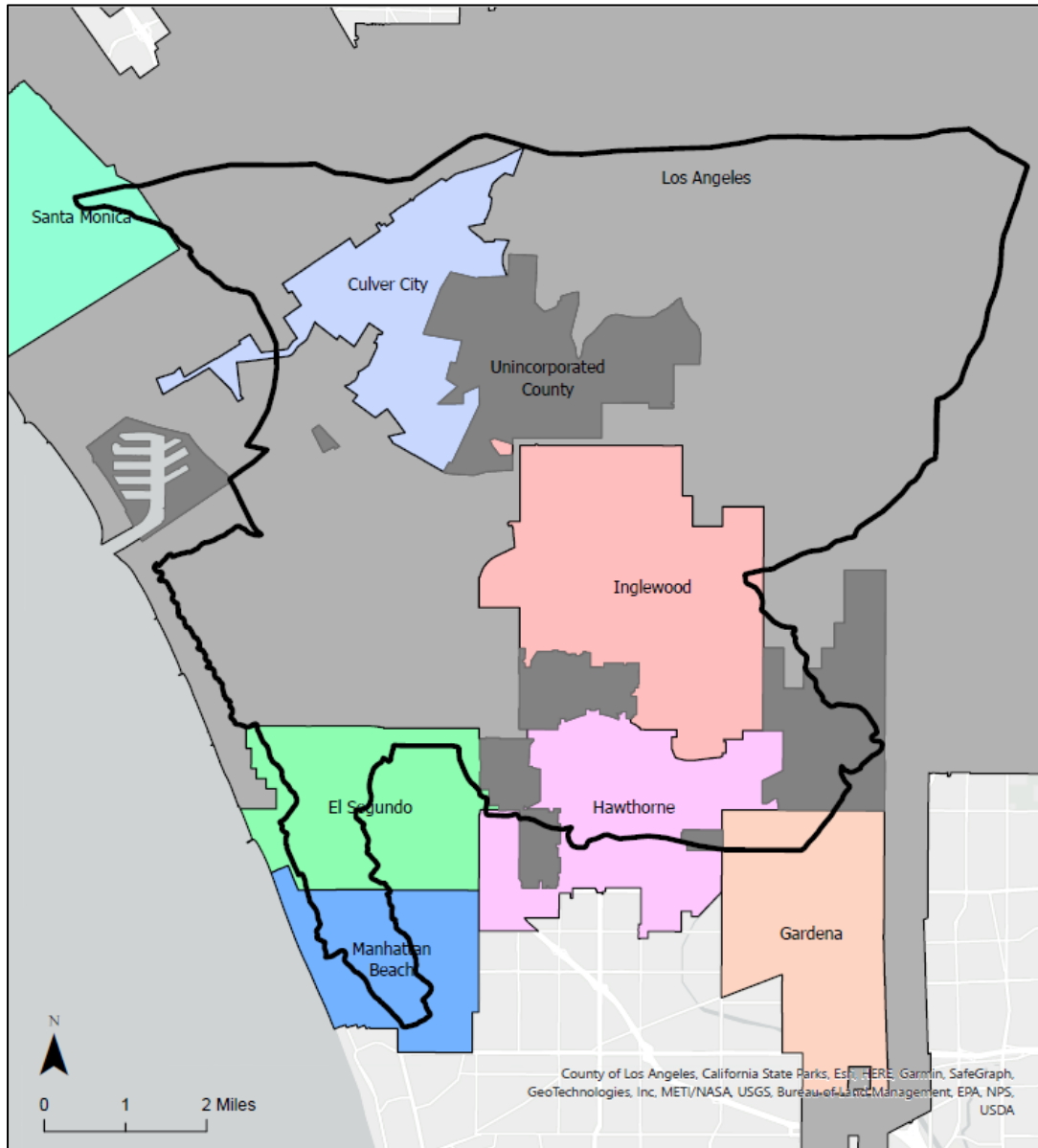
## 1.2 Background

The Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (BH UWC) was established by the California State Legislature in 2000<sup>1</sup>, and is one of ten conservancies under the California Natural Resources Agency. As a State conservancy, the BH UWC's mission **is to acquire open space and manage public lands within the Baldwin Hills, Ballona Creek and Upper Dominguez Channel watersheds to provide recreation, restoration and protection of wildlife habitat within the territory for the public's enjoyment and educational experience.**

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<sup>1</sup> SECTION 1. Division 22.7 of the Public Resources Code commencing with [Section 32550](#)

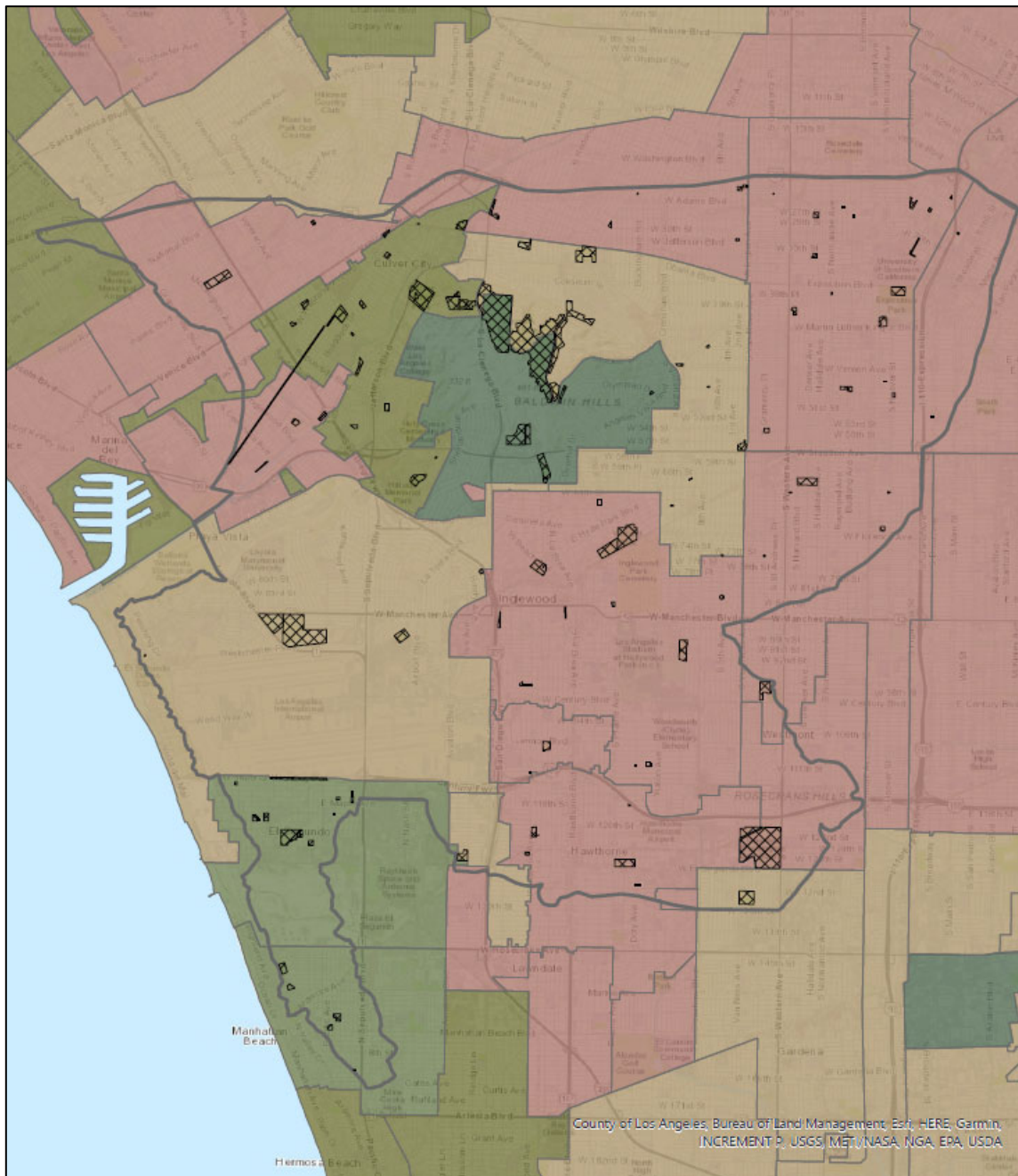
The BH UWC's jurisdictional territory (Fig. 1), extends approximately 70.2 square miles, and includes portions of the City of Los Angeles, City of Inglewood, City of Gardena, City of Hawthorne, City of El Segundo, City of Manhattan Beach, City of Santa Monica, City of Culver City, and the Unincorporated Los Angeles County Communities of Lennox, Del Aire, Hawthorne Island, West Athens, Leimert Park, Windsor Hills, Ladera Heights, Mesa Heights and Baldwin Hills.



**Figure 1.** Jurisdictional territory of the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (BH UWC). Spanning approximately 70.2 square miles, the BH UWC's area of jurisdiction (black line) includes portions of the City of Los Angeles (light grey), City of Inglewood (pink), City of Gardena (orange), City of Hawthorne (purple), City of El Segundo (green), City of Manhattan Beach (dark blue), City of Santa Monica (teal), City of Culver City (light blue), and the Unincorporated Los Angeles County Communities of Lennox, Del Aire, Hawthorne Island, West Athens, Leimert Park, Windsor Hills, Ladera Heights, Mesa Heights and Baldwin Hills (dark grey).



While heavily urbanized, the BH UWC's area of jurisdiction includes a variety of natural resource and recreation areas, including waterways, trails, parks and other open-space areas across the Baldwin Hills, Ballona Creek and Upper Dominguez Channel Watersheds (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (BH UWC) area of jurisdiction (grey) with trails, parks and other open-space areas reported in black (crosshatch). Areas of very high (red) to very low (green) park need are reported based on the Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment (2016).



### 1.3 Outdoor Access for All

As a non-regulatory California Natural Resources Agency, the BH UWC works in partnership with public agencies, municipal governments, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and other local stakeholders to facilitate and leverage investments for projects that protect and restore regional ecosystem health and enhance the collective climate resilience of all inhabitants of the Los Angeles Basin Area.

The BH UWC's commitment to advancing the State of California's [Outdoors for All](#), [Nature Based Solutions](#) and [30 x 30](#) goals have resulted in millions of dollars in direct investments for the acquisition and preservation of public lands, across a heavily urbanized region of Los Angeles. To date, the Conservancy has been successful in helping to create and expand green and open-space access for the public's enjoyment, as evidenced by the establishment of the 13-mile [Park to Playa Regional Trail](#), which includes the [Stoneview Nature Center](#), [Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook](#), [Milton Street Park](#), as well as other trail enhancing and habitat restoration stewardship projects as the [Baldwin Hills Greenhouse Program](#). Despite such notable achievements, more must be done to ensure *Outdoor Access for All*.

## 1.4 Guiding Principles

### • Equity Guiding Principles

The Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (Conservancy) is committed to advancing racial/social equity and seeks to address the historic and systemic imbalance of power that exists in the environmental arena. For the Conservancy, recognizing and naming past and current injustices empowers us to amplify those voices that have been and continue to be marginalized.

Accordingly, our work will help achieve statewide goals to reverse:

- *Inequitable denial of access to, and sense of belonging with nature*
- *Historic disinvestment in communities of color*
- *Environmental injustices in underrepresented communities*
- *Impacts of climate change within our urban communities*

Our commitment, within the bounds of our statutory authority, is to advance equity for underrepresented communities (particularly for race, gender, ability, socio-economic, and immigrant identities), by deploying resources and policies that prioritize inclusion of community voices and ensure safe equitable participation in conservancy-led programs and investments throughout the territory.

Through an intentional program of community empowerment, education, resistance and engagement, the Conservancy will prioritize:

- *Access to open space and parks for areas of high need*
- *Solicitation and inclusion of underrepresented business enterprises, workforce development and investment in economic empowerment zones*
- *Mitigation of environmental harms for frontline communities Resiliency*
- *Climate resiliency interventions that prepare vulnerable neighborhoods for extreme heat, wildfire, and flooding*

The BH UWC Consolidated Grant Program compliments the Conservancy's Equity Guiding Principles, Environmental Justice Policy, and Tribal Consultation Policy, as it establishes a new grant funding framework for effective and equitable grant making as a CA State Conservancy.





- **Environmental Justice Policy**

It is the policy of the BH UWC that the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and income shall be fully considered during the planning, decision-making, development and implementation of all BH UWC programs, policies, and activities. To this end, the BH UWC's Environmental Justice Policy was carefully developed to ensure that all people – regardless of their race, color, nation or origin or income – are not discriminated against; treated unfairly; or caused to experience disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects from environmental and land-use decisions, and that all should have access to safe open space and healthy neighborhoods. The BH UWC currently addresses environmental injustices and disparities in community access to parks, green spaces, and other recreational facilities, across its jurisdictional territory, by embedding its [Environmental Justice Policy](#) into the Conservancy's grant funding decision-making process.





- **Tribal Consultation Policy**

On February 17, 2023, the BH UWC Governing Board approved a [Tribal Consultation Policy](#) consistent with the approved policy adopted by the California Natural Resources Agency. The BH UWC promotes early, often, and meaningful consultations with California Native American tribes with the goal of collaborative partnership and meaningful inclusion of tribal governments' priorities and interests into the BH UWC's grant making process. Together, the BH UWC is currently working to integrate tribal stewardship and ceremonial practices into the planning and implementation of Conservancy-funded projects and programs, while also deepening and strengthening ties to the original people of occupied Tongva territory (present day Los Angeles).

## **1.5 Equitable Grant Making Process**

The BH UWC's Equity Guiding Principles directed the Conservancy to; 1) *Address historic disinvestment in communities of color*; 2) *Address environmental injustices in underrepresented communities*; 3) *Address impacts of climate change within our urban communities*; and 4) *Directly advance racial/social equity*, through the creation and implementation of an *Equitable Grant Making Process*.





## 1.6 BH UWC Community and Climate Resilience Framework

Integral to effective and equitable grant making is the strategic funding of projects & programs that deliver tangible and/or measurable benefits to a population, in direct response to a demonstrated need or vulnerability. As a conservancy within of the California Natural Resources Agency tasked with addressing key regional climate hazards and disparities in community access to parks, green spaces, and other recreational facilities, the BH UWC has developed a grant making framework that enables strategic investment in high-impact projects that deliver direct multiple benefits to vulnerable populations and communities, hereinafter referred to as the *BH UWC Community and Climate Resilience Framework*.





Developed to fortify the Conservancy's grant funding decision-making process, the ***BH UWC Community and Climate Resilience Framework*** establishes a method for:

- Identifying multi-benefit / high-impact projects that address key regional climate-related vulnerabilities, disproportionate exposure to climate hazards, and disparities in community access to recreational spaces; and
- Prioritizing funding for projects that serve or directly benefit vulnerable populations, frontline communities, or communities of color that have faced historical disinvestment.

Comprised of four (4) key elements, this systematic funding framework ensures effective and equitable grant making through:

1. *Establishment of Strategic Agency Goals to Enhance Community and Climate Resilience (2.1)*
2. *Identifying Priority Projects for Agency Funding (2.2)*
3. *Utilization of Novel Tools to Evaluate a Proposed Project's Benefits / Impact (2.3, 2.4); and*
4. *Allocation of Funding for Proposed Projects Based on Strategic Alignment, Potential Project Impacts & Benefits, and Implementation Urgency*

## 1.7 BH UWC Community and Climate Resilience Goals

To strategically address key regional climate-related vulnerabilities, disproportionate exposure to climate hazards, and disparities in community access to recreational spaces, the Conservancy defines eight (8) *Community and Climate Resilience Goals* for the BH UWC Consolidated Grant Program (fig.3):



**Figure 3.** Eight (8) *Community and Climate Resilience Goals* for the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (BH UWC) Consolidated Grant (CG) Program.

1. Empower Safe and Resilient Communities
2. Increase Access to Parks and Open Spaces
3. Protect and Manage Water Resources
4. Increase Biodiversity
5. Advance Urban Forest Health
6. Remediate Degraded Lands
7. Mitigate Impacts from Extreme Heat
8. Prevent Wildfire



## 1.8 BH UWC Consolidated Grant Program Priority Projects

To strategically advance each of the Conservancy's eight (8) *Community and Climate Resilience Goals*, BH UWC funding-eligible projects were systematically aligned with each respective goal, resulting in a shortlist of project types capable of directly delivering on each objective (fig.4). To this end, the BH UWC CG Program defines the following project types as **Priority Projects**:

### *Empower Safe and Resilient Communities*

- Community-led Co-design / Participatory Planning
- Conservation / Stewardship Training
- Workforce Development / Community Stabilization
- Technical Assistance / Coalition Building
- Cultural and Environmental Interpretation
- Community Resilience Programming / Hubs

### *Increase Access to Parks and Open Spaces*

- Trail / Greenway
- Regional Park
- Pocket Park
- Sports Field
- Community Garden
- Joint-use Space (Schools or Government-owned Spaces)
- Park Safety Retrofits (Lighting, Fencing, Defensive Landscaping)
- Park Infrastructure / Amenities (Playground Equipment, Benches, Exercise Stations)
- Bike Infrastructure
- Public Transit / Park Shuttles

### *Protect and Manage Water Resources*

- Green Stormwater Infrastructure
- Recycled Water Infrastructure
- Groundwater Recharge / Water Storage
- Irrigation System Upgrade / Smart Technology
- Wet / Dry Weather Runoff Diversion
- Stream Daylighting

### *Increase Biodiversity*

- Ecological Restoration
- Riparian Habitat Restoration
- Nature Preserve / Mitigation Banking
- Wildlife Corridor

### *Advance Urban Forest Health*

- Urban and Community Forestry Training
- Informed Tree Planting / Tree Care
- Mitigating Poor Air Quality Through Tree Equity
- Improving Conditions of Urban Forests
- Carbon Sequestration

### *Remediate Degraded Lands*

- Nuisance Parcel / Lot Acquisition
- Contaminated Parcel / Lot Acquisition
- Contaminated Site Remediation
- Enhancement Revegetation

### *Mitigate Impacts from Extreme Heat*

- Shade Structure
- Hydration Station
- Cool Pavement
- Shade Trees
- Cooling Center

### *Prevent Wildfire*

- Fire Breaks and Buffers
- Vegetation Management / Fuel & Ignition Reduction
- Wildfire Hardening
- Water Accessibility / Supply for Fire Prevention



**Figure 4.** Priority Projects of the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (BH UWC) Consolidated Grant (CG) Program. Those funding eligible project types capable of directly delivering on each of the Conservancy's eight (8) Community and Climate Resilience Goals.





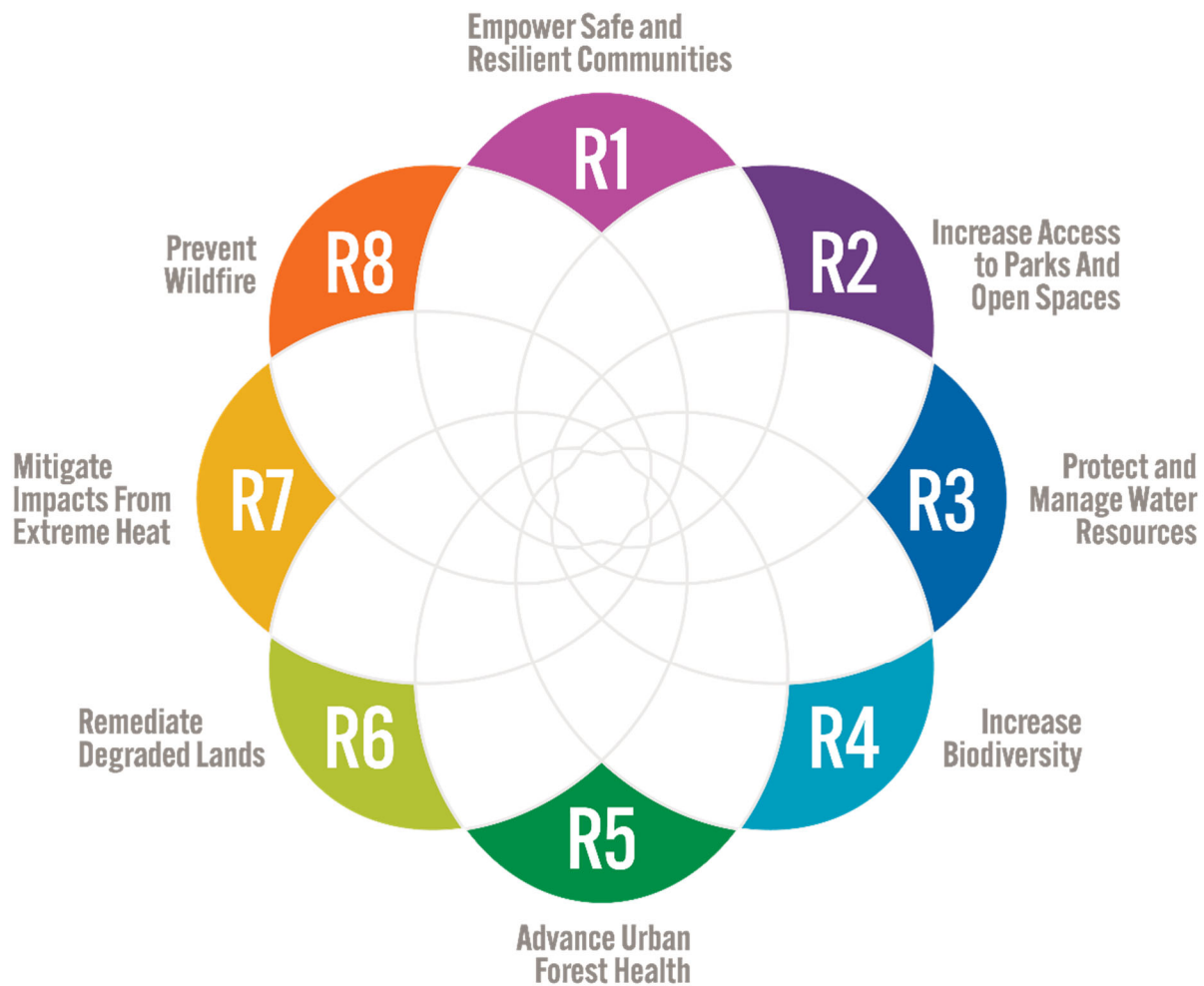
## 1.9 BH UWC Project Multi-Benefit Profile

A **Project Multi-Benefit Profile** offers a structured way for BH UWC grant applicants, project collaborators and co-contributors to explore and assess the range of potential benefits and co-benefits a conceptual project may generate. Derived from the Conservancy's eight (8) Community and Climate Resilience Goals (fig.3), this early-stage project planning resource establishes a shared language and framework for strengthening alignment with the BH UWC's strategic goals by enabling applicants to:

- *Explore project ideation and refinement*
- *Visualize synergy with one or more of the BH UWC's Goals*
- *Identify opportunities to expand project impact through design enhancement*
- *Identify aligned partners who could enhance project capacity, impact, or relevance*
- *Recognize potential co-benefits that may emerge from community-driven design or engagement*



Through a self-guided assessment process, applicants are encouraged to identify opportunities to strengthen alignment with the BH UWC's strategic goals, whether by design enhancement, incorporating additional benefit-generating features or project elements, or engaging new collaborators. This process aims to foster a more integrated, community-centered approach to project development.



**Figure 5.** Eight (8) Community and Climate Resilience Goals for the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (BH UWC) Consolidated Grant (CG) Program, labeled R1 – R8, respectively. Grant applicants are to identify and map all proposed project activities, elements, partnerships, or anticipated outcomes to each of the agency's eight strategic goals, documenting project benefits and co-benefits (advancement of multiple BH UWC goals concurrently) in conceptual project proposals.

- **Project Multi-Benefit Profile Levels Explained**

To be eligible for Conservancy funding, projects must advance at least one of the BH UWC's Community & Climate Resilience Goals but may naturally align with an additional number of these goals based on project type, scope, intent, location and partnerships. Development of a **Project Multi-Benefit Profile** provides a way to visualize and track alignment across the Conservancy's eight strategic goals (fig. 6), based on the below continuum (Table 1).

**Table. 1** Multi-Benefit Profile Levels (1 – 8), ranging from Focused (1) to Comprehensive (8) Multi-Benefit projects.

Profile Level	Description	Illustrative Example
<b>1 – Focused Benefit</b>	Project meaningfully advances one Community & Climate Resilience Goal	A small-scale intervention that improves access to shade or water in a heat-impacted area
<b>2 – 3 Targeted Multi-benefit</b>	Project supports two to three distinct goals through clear project elements	Tree planting in a schoolyard to reduce heat, support biodiversity, and provide student engagement
<b>4 – 5 Integrated Multi-benefit</b>	Project advances four to five goals through a cohesive and intentional design	Community green space with stormwater features, native planting, air quality improvements, and community art
<b>6 – 7 Broad Multi-benefit</b>	Project supports six to seven goals, often through layered design and multi-sector partnerships	A corridor restoration project that supports habitat, workforce training, health equity, and cultural storytelling
<b>8 – Comprehensive Multi-benefit</b>	Project meaningfully aligns with all eight goals through a transformative approach with deep community engagement	A full-site transformation that includes ecological restoration, climate adaptation, education, workforce development, public access, and ongoing stewardship mechanisms

- **Example Projects: Multi-Benefit Profile Levels (1 - 8)**

**1 – Focused Benefit**

***Pocket Park***

Goal Advanced: 1) Increase Access to Parks & Open Spaces.

**3 – Targeted Multi-benefit**

***Pocket Park, Equipped with Shade Structures, Hydration Stations, and Green Stormwater Infrastructure***

Goals Advanced: 1) Increase Access to Parks & Open Spaces, 2) Mitigate Impacts from Extreme Heat, 3) Protect & Manage Water Resources.

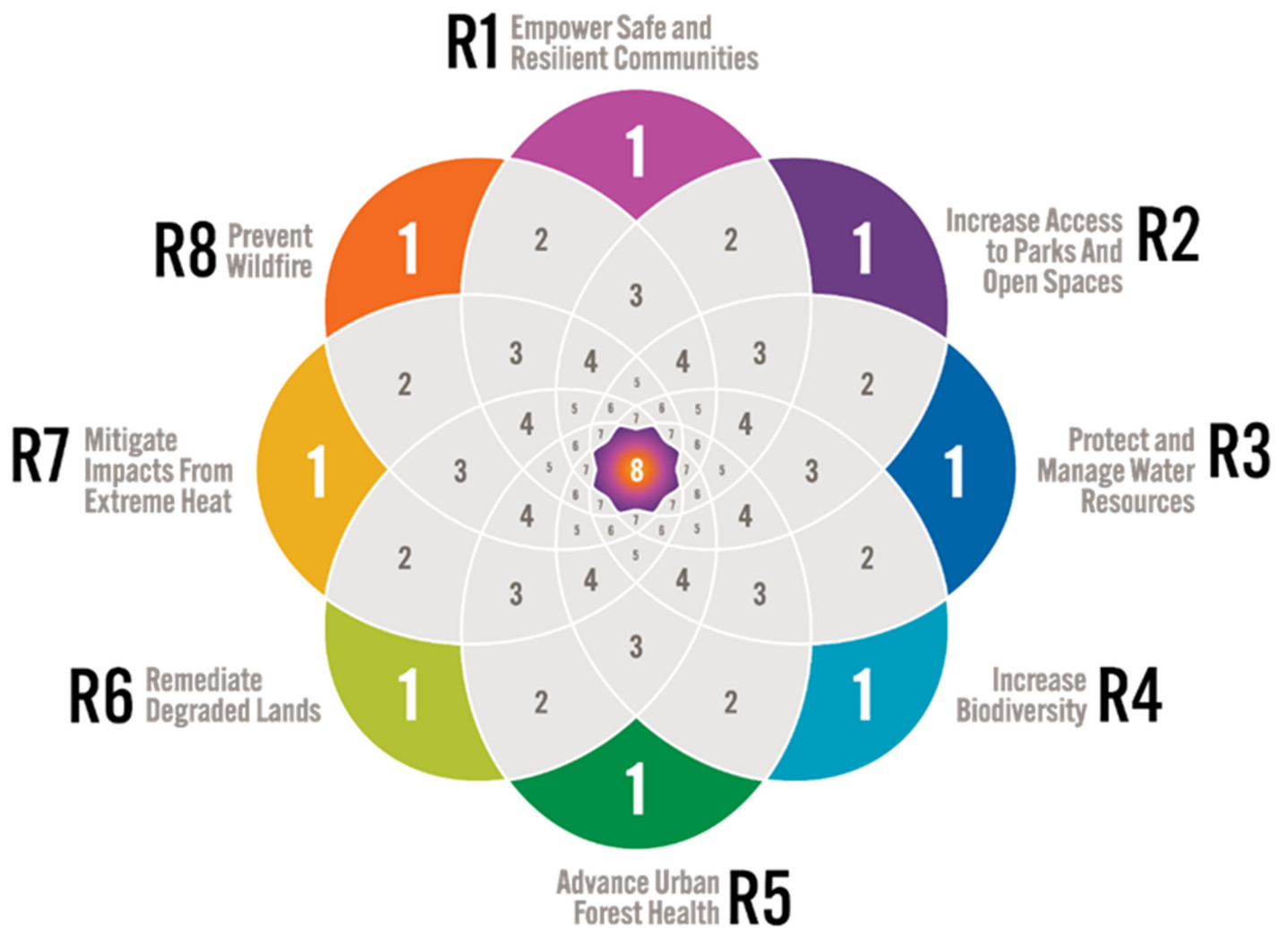
**8 – Comprehensive Multi-benefit**

***Nuisance Parcel Acquired & Converted to Pocket Park; Park Equipped with Shade Structures, Hydration Stations, Green Stormwater Infrastructure, Pollinator Supporting Vegetation, and Trees that Mitigate Poor Air Quality. A volunteer-based, Vegetation Management Program for Wildfire Fuel Reduction and Youth Conservation Training.***

Goals Advanced: 1) Increase Access to Parks & Open Spaces, 2) Remediate Degraded Lands, 3) Mitigate Impacts from Extreme Heat, 4) Protect & Manage Water Resources, 5) Increase Biodiversity, 6) Support Urban Forest Health, 7) Empower Safe & Resilient Communities, 8) Prevent Wildfire.

**Note:** The most impactful projects are not necessarily the most comprehensive in multi-benefit. A well-targeted project that advances one or two goals with depth, relevance, and long-term community and environmental benefit can be just as valuable as a more complex, multi-goal initiative.





**Figure 6.** Visual representation of the various ways a conceptual project may align with one or multiple BH UWC Community & Climate Resilience Goals based on project type, scope, intent, location and partnerships.

### 1.10 BH UWC Multi-Benefit Co-Design Tool

Developed to support the early-stage planning and refinement of conceptual projects submitted for funding consideration under the BH UWC Consolidated Grant (CG) Program, the **BH UWC Multi-Benefit Co-Design Tool** is a two-part *Project Visioning Exercise* intended to foster creative thinking and exploration of the range of potential benefits and co-benefits a conceptual project may generate. While especially valuable to potential grant applicants, the BH UWC Multi-Benefit Co-Design Tool is also a helpful resource for regional stakeholders, including residents, community-based organization, non-profits, schools, government agencies, and various other groups or individuals seeking to vision, co-design or co-develop projects eligible for grant funding from the State of California.

- **Project Visioning Exercise (Part I) – Conceptual Project Characterization**

Through a self-guided project assessment process, the Multi-Benefit Co-Design Tool serves as a resource for early-stage visioning and exploration of the breadth and depth of a conceptual project's alignment with the BH UWC's strategic goals for the Consolidated Grant (GC) Program (fig. 3). Beginning with a review of the list of **Priority Projects** for the BH UWC Consolidated Grant (CG) Program (fig. 4), **Project Visioning Exercise (Part I)** enables grant applicants, project collaborators, and co-contributors with the ability to assess alignment of all proposed project activities, elements, partnerships, or anticipated outcomes with the Conservancy's priority projects. Through a self-guided assessment [See Appendix A – Part I Exercise], grant applicants indicate all BH UWC Priority Project types encompassed by a conceptual project (fig. 7), allowing characterization and contextualization of a project vision relative to Conservancy's eight (8) Community and Climate Resilience Goals (fig. 4).

**Project Visioning Exercise – Part I**

Which of the following Priority Project types are encompassed by your conceptual project (check all that apply):

- ☐ Community led co-design / participatory planning
- ☐ Conservation / stewardship / urban and community forestry training
- ☐ Workforce development
- ☐ Technical assistance / coalition building
- ☐ Cultural and environmental interpretation
- ☐ Community resilience programming / hubs
- ☐ New trail / greenway / park / sports field / community garden / joint-use space
- ☐ Park safety retrofits / park infrastructure / amenities
- ☐ Bike infrastructure
- ☐ Public transit / park shuttles
- ☐ Green stormwater infrastructure
- ☐ Recycled water infrastructure
- ☐ Groundwater recharge / water storage
- ☐ Irrigation system upgrade / smart technology
- ☐ Wet / dry weather runoff diversion
- ☐ Stream daylighting
- ☐ Ecological restoration (including riparian habitats)
- ☐ Wildlife corridor
- ☐ Nature preserve / mitigation banking
- ☐ Tree planting / tree care / improving conditions of urban forests
- ☐ Nuisance parcel or contaminated parcel lot acquisitions
- ☐ Contaminated site remediation / enhancement vegetation
- ☐ Cooling infrastructure and amenities including shade structures, hydration stations, cool pavement, and cooling centers
- ☐ Fire breaks and buffers
- ☐ Vegetation management / fuel & ignition reduction
- ☐ Wildfire hardening
- ☐ Water accessibility / supply for fire prevention
- ☐ Other (please describe):

**Figure 7.** BH UWC Multi-Benefit Co-Design Tool – Project Visioning Exercise (Part I) is a self-guided assessment of a proposed project's activities, elements, partnerships, and anticipated outcomes, allowing early-stage characterization of the breadth and depth of all Priority Project types encompassed by a conceptual project.



- **Project Visioning Exercise (Part II) – Project Multi-Benefit Profile**

Intended for use from the earliest stages of project development and throughout the concept refinement process, **Project Multi-Benefit Profile** development seeks to foster creative thinking and exploration of the range of potential benefits and co-benefits a conceptual project may generate, whether by design enhancement, incorporating additional project components, or engaging new collaborators (fig. 8). This self-guided **Project Visioning Exercise (Part II)** is designed to support the planning, reflection, and refinement of conceptual projects to be submitted for funding consideration by the BH UWC Consolidated Grant (GC) Program [See Appendix II – Part II Exercise].

#### Project Visioning Exercise – Part II

- 1) For each of the BH UWC's eight Community and Climate Resilience Goals<sup>1</sup>, indicate whether you have considered the goal in the design and development of your project. If you have not yet considered this goal, indicate whether you have ideas for how your project could advance the goal or if you are open to exploring it. In some cases, a small addition could significantly increase your project's impact.

<sup>1</sup>Refer to BH UWC Consolidated Grant Program Guidelines for details.

**Note:** This question is intended to encourage creative thinking around incorporating co-benefits. It may not be possible or advisable to incorporate all eight of the strategic goals—a well-targeted project that advances one or two goals with depth, relevance, and long-term community and environmental benefit may be just as valuable as a more complex, multi-goal initiative

	The project was designed with advancing this goal in mind.	I have an idea for how the project could better contribute to this goal.	I have not yet considered how the project could advance this goal, but I am open to exploring it.	This goal is not applicable to the project.
<b>Empower Safe and Resilient Communities</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Increase Access to Parks and Open Spaces</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Protect and Manage Water Resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Increase Biodiversity</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Advance Urban Forest Health</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Remediate Degraded Lands</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mitigate Impacts from Extreme Heat</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Prevent Wildfire</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 2) If you indicated that you had ideas for how your project could better contribute to any of eight strategic goals, please describe them in brief here:

**Figure 8.** BH UWC Multi-Benefit Co-Design Tool – Project Visioning Exercise (Part II) is an early-stage project planning activity intended to encourage reflection and refinement of conceptual projects through the development of a Project Multi-Benefit Profile.

Together, these Multi-Benefit Co-Design Tool resources are designed to support the development of proposals that are mission-aligned, multi-beneficial, and appropriately scaled to the applicant's capacity. Whether used by a small community-based organization or a multi-agency coalition, they promote inclusive, strategic, and thoughtful project design, while helping applicants clearly communicate the layered value and potential impact of their proposed work.



### 1.11 Delivering Multi-Benefit Projects to Vulnerable Communities

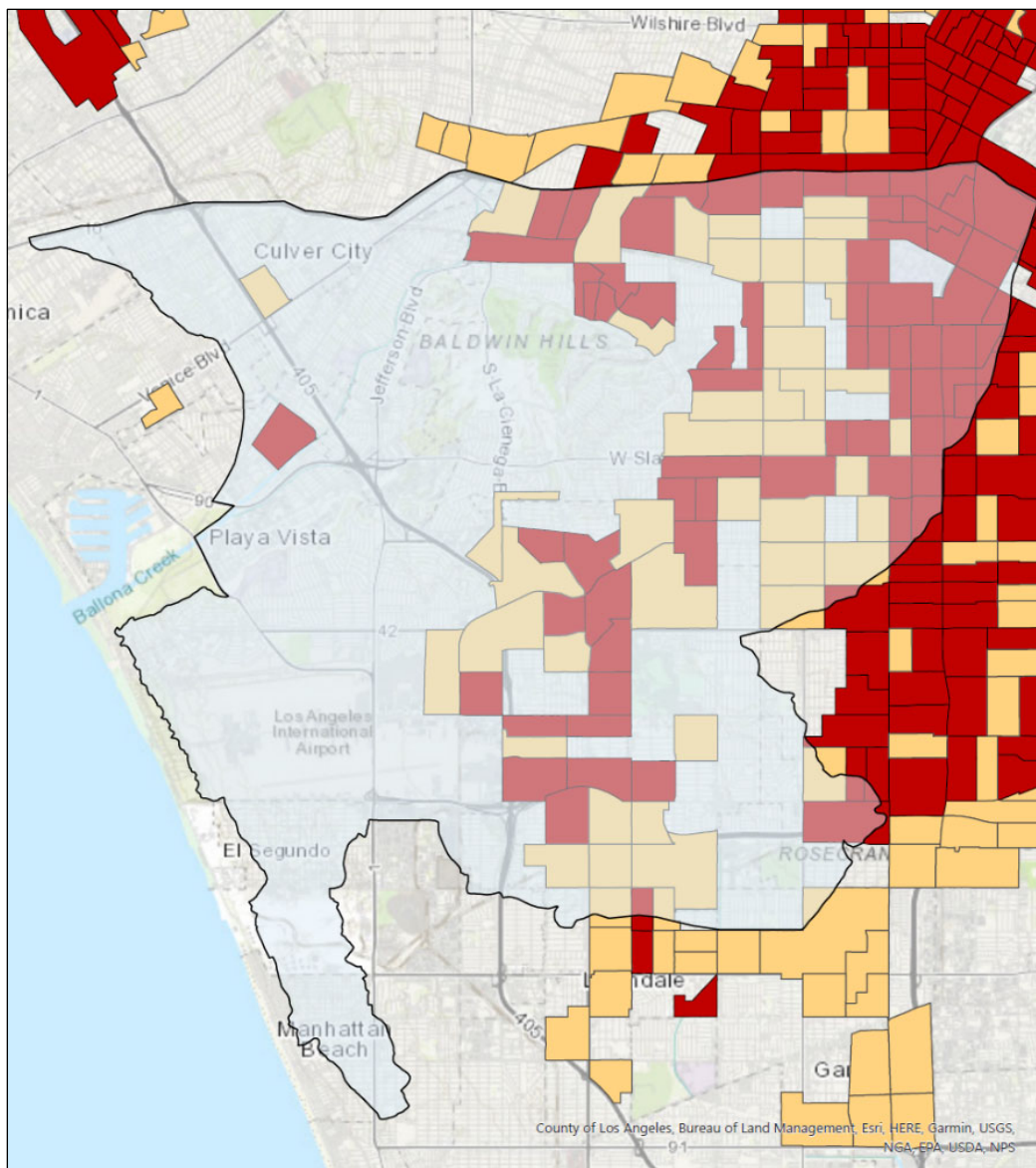
Designed to identify multi-benefit projects capable of addressing key regional climate-related vulnerabilities, disproportionate exposure to climate hazards, and disparities in community access to recreational spaces; the *BH UWC Consolidated Grant (CG) Program* seeks to direct funding toward such projects that serve or directly benefit vulnerable populations, frontline communities, or communities of color that have faced historical disinvestment; hereafter referred to as “*High-Impact Projects*”.



To deliver on this objective, and ensure statutory requirements are met for each of grant funding source, the Conservancy incorporates use of two (2) geospatial mapping tools, the CalEnviroScreen (CES) Tool and the BH UWC developed Urban Vulnerability Index (UVI) Mapping Tool to identify communities and populations most disproportionately vulnerable to climate hazards or burdened by environmental, socioeconomic, and health inequities, collectively referred to as “Priority Populations”.

- **DAC and SDAC Communities**

The *BH UWC Consolidated Grant Program* employs use of the CalEnviroScreen (CES) Tool to ensure statutory requirements are met pursuant to funding allocations for “DAC” (Disadvantaged Communities) and “SDAC” (Severely Disadvantaged Communities) in the BH UWC’s jurisdictional territory (fig. 9).



**Figure 9.** “DAC” (Disadvantaged Communities) in orange and “SDAC” (Severely Disadvantaged Communities) in red, with the BH UWC’s Jurisdictional Territory in blue.

- **BH UWC Urban Vulnerability Index (UVI)**

The Urban Vulnerability Index (UVI) is a centralized climate vulnerability mapping platform that assists with identifying communities and populations most burdened by the disproportionate exposure to climate hazards, pollutants, and disparities in community access to recreational spaces across the BH UWC's jurisdictional territory. The UVI is a geospatial mapping tool that is complementary to the CalEnviroScreen (CES) Tool, but unique in its ability to aggregate and report quantitative measures of Vulnerability for each of the eight (8) below indicators:



**Figure 10.** Urban Vulnerability Index (UVI) and its eight (8) indicators of climate risk and social vulnerability; 1) Social Vulnerability; 2) Lack of Parks and Open Spaces; 3) Flood Risk; 4) Lack of Biodiversity; 5) Lack of Tree Canopy; 6) Degraded and Contaminated Lands; 7) Heat Risk; and 8) Wildfire Risk.

This web-hub was developed to report on individual indicators, consistent with the BH UWC Community and Climate Resilience Goals, to support the identifying of climate-vulnerable communities and populations for priority funding under the newly established Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (BH UWC) Consolidated Grant (CG) Program.

For each of the above eight (8) indicators, a Vulnerability Score of 1 (Low Vulnerability), 2 (Moderate Vulnerability), or 3 (High Vulnerability) will be reported for a respective location selected in the tool, across the BH UWC's jurisdictional territory. Additionally, a combined score of all eight (8) individual Vulnerability Scores will also be reported, consisting of a minimum score of 8 (Low Vulnerability) and maximum score of 24 (High Vulnerability).



## 1.12 High-Impact, Multi-Benefit Projects for Community and Climate Resilience

Integral to effective and equitable grant making is the strategic funding of projects and programs that deliver tangible and/or measurable benefits to a population, in direct response to a demonstrated need or vulnerability. To this end, the BH UWC Consolidated Grant Program establishes a grant making framework that enables strategic investment in high-impact projects that serve or directly benefit vulnerable populations, frontline communities, or communities of color that have faced historical disinvestment. By directing funding toward projects based on *Potential Project Impacts & Benefits*, *Implementation Urgency*, and *Strategic Alignment with Demonstrated Vulnerability or Expressed Need*, the BH UWC ensures effective and equitable grant making.

## 2. BH UW Consolidated Grant Program

### 2.1 Available Grant Types:

The BH UW Consolidated Grant Program includes four (4) available grant types:

- **Planning Grants**

- Include feasibility studies, technical studies, concept designs, construction drawings, permitting, environmental compliance and public engagement.

- **Implementation Grants**

- Include construction costs, signage, and may include up to 10-20% for pre- project costs depending on the funding source. These pre-project costs may include consultant fees, plan documentation, specifications, CEQA planning, and direct project management costs. Facilities development projects must be accessible to the public and demonstrate a strong relationship and value to natural resource stewardship or environmental education.

- **Acquisition Grants**

- For open space protection include due diligence, acquisition costs, and land management planning (e.g., restoration, passive recreation). Appraisals, land, improvements, relocation costs, title reports, surveying, and escrow are eligible project costs. Demonstration that there is a willing seller is required for acquisition projects to be considered for funding. The purchase price of the property must not be above the fair market value determined in an appraisal completed within a year of the acquisition date and approved by the Department of General Services.

- **Stewardship and Community Access Grants**

- Include the enhancement of the recreational and educational experience on public lands in the territory through transportation, environmental job training, science, cultural and or other outdoor curriculum-based modules, programs or tools.



### 3. Grant Funding Sources

The BH UWC invests State funds through a variety of ongoing funding opportunities, including non-bond grant funds and Proposition grant funds. Applicants do not need to identify a specific funding source when preparing an application.

Once an application is submitted, BH UWC staff will determine the most appropriate funding source(s) based on project's alignment grant resources and duration of the project. Future grant opportunities for BH UWC Grants may be funded through similar legislative actions, or other funding sources provided below.



### 3.1 Bond Grant Funding



#### Proposition 4

In 2024, California voters approved the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act (Proposition 4). Proposition 4 authorizes the state to sell a total of \$10 billion in general obligation bonds primarily for climate-resilience purposes, including projects related to water, wildfire, and energy. At least 40 percent of bond money must be used for activities that directly benefit communities that have lower incomes or are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Of the funds made available by the Act, three hundred twenty million dollars (\$320,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to reduce the risks of climate change impacts upon communities, fish and wildlife, and natural resources, and increase public access. Up to 5 percent of the funds made available to each agency may be allocated for community access projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, and vulnerable populations.



#### Proposition 68

In 2018, voters approved the Parks, Environment, and Water Bond (Proposition 68). Proposition 68 authorized \$4 billion in general obligation bonds for state and local parks, environmental protection projects, water infrastructure projects, and flood protection projects. The measure required that between 15 and 20 percent of the bond funds, depending on the type of project, be dedicated to projects in communities with median household incomes less than 60 percent of the statewide average; that 60 percent threshold amounted to about \$39,980 in 2016. The largest amount of bond revenue—\$725 million— was earmarked for neighborhood parks in park-poor neighborhoods in accordance with the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Act of 2008's competitive grant program. The measure also reallocated \$100 million in unissued bonds that voters approved via Proposition 1 (2014), Proposition 84 (2006), and Proposition 40 (2002).



#### Proposition 1

In 2014, voters approved the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act (Proposition 1). Proposition 1 provided \$7.545 billion in bonds to fund programs and projects for clean, safe, and reliable drinking water; protecting rivers, lakes, streams, coastal waters, and watersheds; groundwater sustainability; statewide water system operational improvement and drought preparedness; water recycling; flood management; and regional water security, climate, and drought preparedness.



## Proposition 84

In 2006, California voters approved the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Proposition 84). Proposition 84 authorized \$5.388 billion in bonds to fund programs and projects for safe drinking water and water quality projects; flood control; statewide water planning and design; protection of rivers, lakes, and streams; forest and wildlife conservation; protection of beaches, bay, and coastal waters; parks and nature education facilities; and sustainable communities and climate change reduction.

### 3.2 Non-Bond Funding Sources

In certain years, the annual state budget has allocated General Funds or other appropriations directly to the BH UWC. Other sources include the [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#), [Environmental License Plate Fund](#). When non-bond funding is allocated to the BH UWC for local assistance purposes, the BH UWC will offer program specified grants that align with the purpose of the individual funding source.



## 4. General Eligibility

### 4.1 Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for projects located within the boundaries of the BH UWC are:

- State agencies
- Federal agencies
- Tribal entities recognized on the current US Federal Register or the Native American Heritage Commission as a California Native American tribe
- Local public agencies, including:
  - City or county
  - Water districts
  - School districts
- Certified local conservation corps
- Non-profit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation
- Joint Powers Authority (JPA) if at least one of the parties to the joint powers agreement qualifies as an eligible applicant

Individuals and corporations are not eligible for this grant program; however, the BH UWC encourages multiple partners or joint projects. As long as the lead agency is one of the above listed eligible applicants, applications will be accepted from joint projects with non-eligible agencies.

### 4.2 Eligible Projects

In addition to those project types outlined for priority funding under the newly established Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy (BH UWC) Consolidated Grant (CG) Program, the following non-exhaustive list of uses are eligible for reimbursement with BH UWC grant funds:

- *Multi-benefit projects that promote sustainability and community engagement while addressing climate and societal challenges and simultaneously providing community wellbeing and biodiversity benefits;*
- *Urban greening, introduction of trees and native vegetation in cities and communities*
- *Water conservation, stormwater capture, and infiltration improvements, such as permeable surfaces and nature-based water capture features;*
- *Expanding floodplains, restoration of wetlands, riparian, and complementary habitats;*
- *Coordination with California Native tribes to have access to natural cultural resources and cultural landscapes;*
- *Converting abandoned land and brownfields into open space or community spaces to enhance social cohesion and regenerate disadvantaged communities;*
- *Acquisition of vacant/undeveloped land for parks creation and/or habitat conservation;*
- *Increase resilience of the region to wildfire impacts through priority planning for hazardous fuels removal, implementing fuels reduction projects;*
- *Job and stewardship training to grow the regions workforce capacity as well as educate local residents about the environment, history and cultural relevancy*



## 4.3 Ineligible Project Types

The following is a non-exhaustive list of ineligible costs for reimbursement by a BH UWC grant:

- *Operations and Maintenance related costs;*
- *Projects that are located on school properties designed solely for school students and not open to the general public, unless part of a multi-use project which allows for access from the general public;*
- *Non-nature playground equipment and/or infrastructure such as swing sets and skate parks;*
- *Facilities that do not have an environmental education focus or theme, such as basketball courts and soccer fields. Multi-benefit elements may be added to outdoor*
- *projects that could allow investment by the BH UWC;*
- *Projects that cause erosion or contribute to flooding;*
- *Costs associated with fundraising;*
- *Food, entertainment, refreshments, and project-related travel expenses that exceed current State/Federal mileage reimbursement rates;*
- *BMP (Best Management Practices) directed projects that lack an improved habitat, low impact public recreation access, or environmental education components;*
- *Removal of trees, invasive plants, or other landscaping on private property;*
- *Projects that exclusively fulfill other mitigation requirements;*
- *Purchase of capital equipment without first demonstrating how the equipment will be utilized;*
- *Monetary donations to other organizations, speaker/presentation stipends, or subgrants;*
- *Research, education, outreach, or event-related projects, although these types of activities may be included as a small part of the overall implementation of a project eligible for BH UWC grant funds;*
- *Grant writing expenses*

## 5. Application Submission and Selection

### 5.1 Application Process

Applications will be submitted in two phases: a Concept Proposal and a Full Application. It is strongly recommended that prospective applicants contact BH UWC staff and attend a grant workshop for a consultation prior to submitting a Concept Proposal.

- **Concept Proposal Submission**

Concept Proposals may be submitted year-round. The Conservancy may also elect to solicit targeted proposals for a specific project type during the year. Applicants can access the Concept Proposal form on the Conservancy's website. The Conservancy may provide technical assistance to assist applicants in developing their projects. All application materials should be submitted to [info@bhc.ca.gov](mailto:info@bhc.ca.gov). All submitted applications and materials are subject to Public Records Act requests.

The Conservancy reserves the right to reject any applicant who has a history of performance issues with past grants or other agreements with any public entity.

- **Invitation for a Full Application**

Once Concept Proposals are submitted, they will be evaluated by BH UWC staff and other experts as appropriate for consistency with BH UWC goals, any specific program priorities, and the strength of the proposed project. In addition, all Concept Proposals will be reviewed for location, need, project type, readiness, threats, cost, organizational capacity, and cost share. BH UWC staff will offer applicants feedback regarding alignment with program goals, overall merit, and any ineligible costs. BH UWC staff will conduct a final evaluation of the project merits and weigh the program benefits to determine which Concept Proposals will move forward. Successful applicants will be invited to submit Full Applications.

- **Full Application Review and Evaluation**

Once an applicant is invited to submit a full application, a detailed description of “What to Submit” will be provided. Such documents may include a comprehensive project description, detailed budget, task list and timeline, board resolutions authorizing the submission of the application, support letters (3), long-term maintenance and monitoring plan, specific project metrics (e.g. numbers of trees planted, acres treated), Conservation Corps consultation, and required State forms. Applicants will be required to adhere to the BH UWC’s individual funding source Guidelines (Prop 4, Prop 68, Prop 1, Prop 84 and other non-bond funds) for final evaluation. BH UWC may request Applicants to revise and resubmit Full Applications, as necessary. Full Applications will be required to meet a 80% scoring threshold for the evaluation criteria set by specific grant funding source in order to be presented for consideration by the BH UWC Governing Board.

- **Grant Award Approval**

The Conservancy holds public board meetings approximately 6 times a year. Staff recommendations for grant awards will be placed on the conservancy’s agenda for BH UWC Board consideration and published on the website prior to the public meeting. Written staff recommendations will demonstrate how proposed projects meet criteria objectives and priorities for each specific grant program. Grants will be awarded after approval by the BH UWC Board.

## 5.2 Project Budget

The BH UWC typically awards grant funds with a budget range between \$300,000 - \$3,000,000. However, the BH UWC may award small grants ranging from \$50,000 - \$300,000. This board grant range allows the Conservancy to more equitably service multiple communities by funding approximately five (5) to ten (10) *High-Impact Projects* annually, based on each fiscal year’s appropriation.

- **Matching Funds**

Matching funds are not required for projects but will increase the competitiveness of the project application. Matching funds may include in-kind staff services, operations and maintenance, volunteer support, and ongoing monitoring and assessment. Contributions may be in the form of money, property, or services and must be verifiable. Projects requesting low or no overhead from the BH UWC grant request will be deemed more competitive.

- **Indirect/Overhead costs**

Indirect/Overhead costs are also known as indirect costs, administrative costs, overhead, or

administrative overhead. Indirect and Overhead expenses are allowed, though shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total BH UWC grant request/award, minus equipment costs. Methodology of indirect costs calculation and types of expenses (i.e., administrative support, rent, utilities, phone, copying, office supplies) must be retained by the grantee for audit purposes and may be requested by State at any time. A typical method for documentation of administrative overhead expense is a Cost Allocation Plan. It is the responsibility of the Grantees to keep documentation for all indirect costs. For all indirect costs claimed, Grantees must keep backup documents in audit-ready files. Typical backup documents include, but are not limited to timesheets, utility, and rent bills. If a Grantee seeks to recover indirect costs from any grant, this item should be included as a line item in the approved project budget. Any cost that is billed as a direct cost may not be included in indirect cost rates.

## 6. Grant Awards and Agreements

Following Conservancy Board approval of a grant, the approved dollar-amount is considered “awarded” to the applicant. At that time, staff will prepare a grant agreement including detailed special provisions and general conditions specific to the project. The grant agreement will be the binding legal agreement between the Conservancy and its grantee. The grant agreement must be signed by the grantee and Conservancy staff before funds are encumbered for future disbursement.

### 6.1 Agreement Provisions and General Conditions

Several typical grant agreement provisions are:

1. *Actual awards are conditional upon funds being available from the State.*
2. *Grantees must submit a detailed scope of work and budget for Conservancy approval.*
3. *Grant funds will be paid in arrears, on a reimbursement basis.*
4. *Site control from applicant or the landowner is needed prior to commencing work.*
5. *Grantees may be required to reimburse the Conservancy for some or all of the disbursed grant funds if the project is not successfully completed.*
6. *For improvement projects, grantees must maintain liability insurance during grant term and include the Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy as an “additional insured.”*
7. *Expenses incurred before the grant agreement is executed are not reimbursable.*
8. *The project must comply with all applicable current laws and regulations affecting development projects, including but not limited to, legal requirements for construction and implementation, building codes, health and safety codes, state contractor’s and other licenses, and disabled access laws.*
9. *Grantee must certify that all applicable permits have been obtained during the Performance Period of the agreement.*
10. *Grantees must comply with signage requirements acknowledging funding source.*
11. *Grantees must sign the grant agreement and exhibits, as needed, and comply with special provisions and general conditions to receive funds.*



## 6.2 Reimbursable Grant Funds

BH UWC Grants are reimbursement-based, meaning funds are received after cost have been incurred for a BH UWC Board approved project. A complete Reimbursement Request must include Proof of Payment and relevant supporting documents including the following forms, all of which are available on Conservancy website <https://bhc.ca.gov/grants/>.

- **Required Documentation for Reimbursement Requests (Payment)**

**A Complete Reimbursement Request must include the following:**

- **Exhibit C – Payment Request Form**, complete with signature and date
- **Exhibit C, Attachment 1 – Project Cost Table** Line-Item budget identifying amounts requested for reimbursement, per task.
- **Exhibit C, Attachment 2 – Expenditure Summary Form** (Including Labor/Staff Costs)
  - **Staff Timesheets & Labor Records** – Document of time/hours each individual staff person worked on specific tasks or activities, including rates and costs (if staff time was paid).
- **Exhibit C, Attachment 3 – Project Progress Report**
  - Detailed account of what work was performed/completed per task (in reference to approved advance scope of work), providing copies of all project deliverables completed during performance period (i.e. landscape/construction design documents, technical reports/analyses, outreach materials, etc.)
- **Proof of Expenses Incurred** – Copies of invoices, bills, etc. in accordance with BH UWC approved scope of work for grant. *Note:* if an invoice was only partially paid (or paid in part by non-BH UWC grant), please clearly mark the portion paid/paid for with BH UWC Funds.
- **Proof of Payment** – Documentation for all project expenses paid. *Examples include:*
  - Copy of Bank Statement(s) with cleared payments and/or EFTs highlighted
  - Credit Card Statement(s) showing cleared payments for eligible charges highlighted
  - Copy of Cancelled Check(s) for eligible charges (noting if payment is for multiple invoices)
  - Invoice(s) Certified “Paid” by the vendor/contractor
  - Other records indicating Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or Wire Transfer(s)

## 6.3 Project Reporting and Monitoring

Performance measures will be used to track progress toward project goals and deliverables. These indicators provide a means of reliably measuring and reporting the outcomes and effectiveness of a project, and how the project contributes to BH UWC and the State by achieving its program goals.

- **Reporting**

The grantee ensures that the agreement requirements have been met, and project progress is

communicated to the State, at minimum quarterly, through the submission of completion of a Progress Report (Exhibit C, Attachment 3). The State reserves the right to require reports more frequently, if necessary, including weekly or monthly. Progress Report (Exhibit C, Attachment 3) may be found at <http://BH UWC.ca.gov/grants/>.

- **Monitoring**

Grantees should provide quantitative performance measures including, but not limited to number of trees planted, number of trail miles created or restored, number of people reached during community and outreach efforts, the number and type of jobs created.

## 6.4 Advance Payment Policy

The State, at its sole discretion, may honor advance payment requests, if warranted by a documented, compelling and immediate need. For example, funding necessary to open an escrow for acquisition may be eligible for an advanced payment of funds. Another example is advance payment for work that has been completed and approved by the grantee, but not actually paid. Documentation of the work undertaken and or project deliverables supplied must be provided.

Advanced payments to non-state grantees may be considered by the Conservancy and determined on a case-by-case basis, under the condition that: Any entity requesting advance payments provides written justification, statement of need and specified deliverables and their costs according to the BH UWC Guidelines for Advancement of Funds.

- **Advance Request - Required Documentation**

The Advance Request should include the following:

- **Advance Request Letter** on organization letterhead providing specific justifications for the request and a detailed *Scope of Work* – describing work that will be performed (per task) with advance, responsible party for work (task assignee), deliverables to be completed/advanced during period of performance, and projected schedule for expenditure of advance (per task). *Note:* Scope of Work can be in narrative or table form.
- **Exhibit C – Payment Request Form**
- **Exhibit C, Attachment 1 – Project Cost Table** Line-Item budget identifying advance amounts requested per tasks
- **Exhibit C, Attachment 2 – Expenditure Summary Form** (Including Labor/Staff Costs)
  - **Projection of Staff Hours** – Indicate estimated number of hours each staff person will work per task and associated costs (only if advance will fund employee time).
- **Proof of Advance Costs** – Copies of contractor bids, cost estimates, invoices, etc. **which** support the line items identified in the Project Cost Table. *Note:* The proving documents should equal the full advance request amount.

Advances may be requested in increments of no more than 25% of the total grant amount at a time.

- **Advance Administration and Reconciliation**

In the event a Grant Amount is advanced, the Grantee shall deposit funds into a federally insured account of the entity that provides the ability to track interest earned and withdrawals. Any interest earned on the advanced amount may be spent on approved costs for the Project and shall be reported to the State and deducted from the total grant amount. In the event this is not feasible, interest earned must be returned to the State upon completion of the Project. Interest statements shall be provided to the State, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis.

Once a Grantee receives disbursement of advance funds, the Grantee must submit Reconciliation Documentation within 90 days from the date on pay warrant (check). Reconciliation Documentation will be reviewed for approval by the BH UWC in accordance with the approved scope of work for the advance. Any ineligible costs will be brought to the grantee's attention and disapproved for use with the advanced funds. Failure to provide Reconciliation Documentation within 90 days of advance receipt will; 1) disqualify a grantee from receiving additional advanced payments; and 2) prevent a grantee from accessing any BH UWC grant funds until the full advance amount is reconciled.

- **Advance Reconciliation - Required Documentation**

Advance Reconciliation Documentation includes but is not limited to:

- **Advance Reconciliation Form** – Complete with signature of authorized representative
- **Project Cost Table** – Line-Item budget identifying advance expenditures per task
- **Project Progress Report** – Detailed account of what work was performed/completed per task (in reference to approved advance scope of work), providing copies of all project deliverables completed during performance period (i.e. landscape/construction design documents, technical reports/analyses, outreach materials, etc.)
- **Staff Timesheets & Labor Records** – Document of time/hours each individual staff person worked on specific tasks or activities, including rates and costs (if advance funded staff time).
- **Proof of Expenses Incurred** – Copies of invoices or bills in accordance with BH UWC approved scope of work for advance amount received. *Note:* if an invoice was only partially paid (or paid in part by non-BH UWC grant/advance funds), please clearly mark the portion paid/paid for with advance.
- **Proof of Payment** – Documentation for all expenses paid with Advance. *Examples include:*
  - Copy of Bank Statement(s) with cleared payments and/or EFTs highlighted
  - Credit Card Statement(s) showing cleared payments for eligible charges highlighted
  - Copy of Cancelled Check(s) for eligible charges (noting if payment is for multiple invoices)
  - Invoice(s) Certified "Paid" by the vendor/contractor
  - Other records indicating Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or Wire Transfer(s)

**Advance Repayment:** Any advanced funds that are unused or inadequately reconciled 90 days from the date of warrant issue must be returned to the State of California (along with any accrued interest). Until repayment, the Grantee will be barred from accessing any additional BH UWC grant funds. *Failure to comply with advance reconciliation will disqualify a grantee from receiving future advances.*



## 6.5 Records Retention and Audit

All projects funded by the BH UWC are subject to audit by the State of California annually and for three (3) years following the final payment of grant funds. If the project is selected for an audit, advance notice will be given. The audit shall include all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records of the grantee, as they relate to the project for which the funds were granted. All project expenditure documentation should be available for an audit whether paid with grant funds or other funds.

The grantee must have the project records, including the source documents and evidence of payment, readily available, and provide an employee with knowledge of the project to assist the auditor. The grantee must provide a copy of any document, paper, record, etc., requested by the auditor.

Additionally, grantees must include planning, monitoring, and reporting necessary to ensure successful implementation of the project objectives and have documentation available for State review upon request and through annual monitoring reports. After the end of a grant, the grantee will submit annual monitoring reports for a minimum of ten years (for partially or fully bond-funded grants, for the life of the bond or 30 years, whichever is later).

The grantee agrees to use generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and therefore must maintain an accounting system that:

- Accurately reflects fiscal transactions, with the necessary controls and safeguards
- Provides a good audit trail, including original source documents such as purchase orders, receipts, progress payments, invoices, employee paystubs and timecards, evidence of payment, etc.
- Provides accounting data so the total cost of each individual project can be readily determined

Records must be retained for a period of three (3) years after final payment is made by the State. Grantee must retain all project records for at least one (1) year following an audit or final disputed audit findings, whichever is later.

## 6.6 Changes to Project Scope, Budget, and/or Timeline

A Grantee wishing to change the scope of an approved project shall submit the proposed change in writing with all documentation clearly supporting the change, including an updated Budget, Schedule, and Task list. The changes must be provided to the BH UWC and no later than sixty (60) days prior to the performance end date. Any change must be consistent with this grant program and guidelines associated with the specific funding source.

Additionally, the project may need to be re-scored and/or returned to the BH UWC Governing Board for approval. Major changes to the project scope, budget, timeline, or any other project element may deem the project ineligible for funding under this program. The Grantee is expected to complete the project according to the time identified in their project timeline.

## 6.7 Project Termination

1. Prior to the completion of Project construction, either party may terminate this Agreement by providing the other party with thirty (30) days' written notice of such termination.
2. If the State terminates without cause the Agreement prior to the end of the Project Performance Period, the Grantee shall take all reasonable measures to prevent further costs to the State under this Agreement. The State shall be responsible for any reasonable and non-cancelable obligations incurred by the Grantee in the performance of the Agreement prior to the date of the notice to terminate, but only up to the undisbursed balance of funding authorized in this Agreement.
3. If the Grantee fails to complete the Project in accordance with this Agreement or fails to fulfill any other obligations of this Agreement prior to the termination date, the Grantee shall be held liable in accordance with relevant laws. The State may, at its sole discretion, consider extenuating circumstances and not require repayment for work partially completed provided that the State determines it is in the State's best interest to do so. This paragraph shall not be deemed to limit any other remedies available to the State for breach of this Agreement.
4. Failure by the Grantee to comply with the terms of this Agreement or any other Agreement under the Act shall be cause for suspension of all obligations of the State hereunder.
5. Failure of the Grantee to comply with the terms of this Agreement shall not be cause for suspending all obligations of the State hereunder if, in the judgment of the State, such failure was due to no fault of the Grantee. At the discretion of the State, any amount required to settle at minimum cost any irrevocable obligations properly incurred shall be eligible for reimbursement under this Agreement.
6. Final payment may not be made until the Project conforms substantially to this Contract as determined by the State.

If a Grantee wishes to withdraw a Project, Grantee shall notify BH UWC in writing. In the event an approved project cannot be completed, for example, if the CEQA/NEPA work is done after the grant has been awarded, and the determination is an impediment to completing the project, BH UWC will reimburse the applicant for costs expended up to 20 percent of the total grant as outlined above.

Grantee will immediately notify the BH UWC of its inability to complete a project according to the Grant Agreement. BH UWC reserves the right to terminate a grant if a Grantee cannot complete the project, is not submitting the required progress reports, advance reconciliations, or other grant documentation on a timely basis, does not have the organizational capacity to carry out the deliverables of the grant, change in scope of the project is significantly different from original project description, has financial hardships (i.e.; bankruptcy, fiscal insolvency or mismanagement), legal matters, and/ or cannot complete the grant as agreed upon, and/or bond funds are at risk of reverting.

## 7. Other Considerations

- Adherence to BH UWC Policies

All successful grant applicants will be required to demonstrate a project consistency with and

adherence to all of the BH UWC's policies before a grant agreement can be executed. All project applicants will be required to submit a Project Development Plan, which contains information on how the project will conform to all policies prior to commencement of a project. Applicants should also consider the following when applying and if approved, during implementation of the project:

- *Project is consistent with the purposes and requirements of the funding source and program*
- *Project is consistent with BH UWC's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code, Division 22.7), BH UWC Community and Climate Resilience Framework, its Environmental Justice and Tribal Consultation Policies, and Federal, State and local adopted river and flood control projects/plans*
- *Grants shall be paid on a reimbursement basis*
- *The Grantee shall provide for public access and low-impact recreation, unless it is specifically prohibited or not ecologically or biologically feasible*
- *To identify an important community need, BH UWC recommends that applicants directly engage local residents and community-based groups*
- *The applicant has the ability to administer the funds conducive to the project in a manner that will meet the State's requirements and will protect the grantee from potential financial or legal risk. If the applicant does not have the capacity, they have partnered with a fiscal sponsor that will provide them with the administrative support needed.*
- *The applicant has or will have the legal right to carry out the project on the land on which the project is proposed*
- *The applicant has a plan for long-term management, maintenance, and monitoring of the project. A Monitoring and Assessment Plan will be required as part of the application process. The scope of the Plan will vary depending on the nature of the project.*
- *Unless an exemption applies to the project or to the work being funded, such as the exemption for feasibility or planning studies, the required CEQA documentation must be complete prior to grant approval.*
- *If BH UWC funds will be used for the CEQA process and the Grantee has made a full-faith effort to complete CEQA but is unable to complete CEQA or otherwise proceed with the Project due to issues related to the CEQA process, costs incurred by the Grantee that are directly related to the CEQA process can be applied up to the limit of 20 percent of the total original grant.*
- *Grantee shall comply with all applicable laws and policies.*
- *All information contained in the grant applications is confidential until the grant awards are announced. After that time, all applications will become public information.*
- *Grantee shall post signs acknowledging the source of funds pursuant to guidelines established for this grant Program.*
- *If a project is funded in whole or in part with funds from the "Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006" ("Proposition 84"), Section 75075 of the Public Resources Code applies, which imposes on a body awarding any contract for a public works project financed in any part with Proposition 84 funds responsibility for adoption and enforcement of a "labor compliance program" under Labor Code Section 1771.5(b).*



- **Contract Policies with Disadvantaged Businesses and Individuals**

The BH UWC is committed to supporting disadvantaged businesses and individuals – including Small Business (SB), disabled veteran business enterprise (DVBE), and businesses owned by women and/or minority.

Statistics were acquired from the [US Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy](#), [County of Los Angeles's Business Office](#), and [Department of General Services SB/DVBE Advocate](#).

In an effort to increase outreach and contracting opportunities for these special businesses, the BH UWC requires grant applicants to adopt and implement contract policies for the purpose of increasing outreach and advertising to disadvantaged business and individuals if an applicant is invited to submit a Full Application. This is not intended to create barriers to participation by potential grantees with limited sources. As such, BH UWC will work with applicants to comply with the requirement in a manner that most appropriately fits each applicant's need.

- **Insurance**

Grantees are required to maintain insurance against claims for injuries to persons and damage to property that may arise from or in connection with property-related activities of the grantee or its agents. The grantee shall maintain all required insurance from the effective date through the completion date. Insurance requirements vary according to a project's purpose and needs. Typically, the grantee shall maintain coverage limits no less than:

- A. General liability (including operations, products, and completed operations, as applicable): \$2,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage. If commercial general liability insurance or other form with a general aggregate limit is used, either the general aggregate limit shall apply separately to the activities under this agreement, or the general aggregate limit shall be twice the required occurrence limit.
- B. Automobile liability: \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage.
- C. Course of construction: Completed value of the project with no coinsurance penalty provisions.
- D. Property insurance: 90 percent of the full replacement cost of the facilities or structures.

- **Conflict of Interest**

All participants are subject to Federal and State conflict of interest laws. Failure to comply with these laws, including business and financial disclosure provisions, will result in the application being rejected and any subsequent contract being declared void. Other legal action may also be taken. Accordingly, before submitting an application, applicants are urged to seek legal counsel regarding potential conflict of interest concerns that they may have and requirements for disclosure. Applicable statutes include, but are not limited to, Government Code Section 1090, and Public Contract Code Sections 10410 and 10411 for State conflict of interest requirements.

Applicants should note that by applying, they waive their rights to the confidentiality of that application. BH UWC staff will review each application. Once application is signed and submitted to the BH UWC, any privacy rights as well as other confidentiality protections afforded by law are waived.

**End of Guidelines**

## Appendices

- A. Project Visioning Exercise – Part I
- B. Project Visioning Exercise – Part II
- C. Definitions

# Appendix A

## Project Visioning Exercise – Part I

Conceptual Project Characterization: Review the list of BH UWC Priority Projects and note all that apply to your project.



### 1 Empower Safe and Resilient Communities

- Community-led Co-design / Participatory Planning
- Conservation / Stewardship Training
- Workforce Development / Community Stabilization
- Technical Assistance / Coalition Building
- Cultural and Environmental Interpretation
- Community Resilience Programming / Hub



### 2 Increase Access to Parks And Open Spaces

- Trail / Greenway
- Regional Park
- Pocket Park
- Sports Field
- Community Garden
- Joint-use Space
- Park Safety Retrofits
- Park Infrastructure / Amenities
- Bike Infrastructure
- Public Transit / Park Shuttles



### 3 Protect and Manage Water Resources

- Green Stormwater Infrastructure
- Recycled Water Infrastructure
- Groundwater Recharge / Water Storage
- Irrigation System Upgrade / Smart Technology
- Wet / Dry Weather Runoff Diversion
- Stream Daylighting



### 4 Increase Biodiversity

- Ecological Restoration
- Riparian Habitat Restoration
- Nature Preserve / Mitigation Banking
- Wildlife Corridor



### 5 Advance Urban Forest Health

- Urban and Community Forestry Training
- Informed Tree Planting / Tree Care
- Mitigating Poor Air Quality Through Tree Equity
- Improving Conditions of Urban Forests
- Carbon Sequestration



### 6 Remediate Degraded Lands

- Nuisance Parcel / Lot Acquisition
- Contaminated Parcel / Lot Acquisition
- Contaminated Site Remediation
- Enhancement Revegetation



### 7 Mitigate Impacts From Extreme Heat

- Shade Structure
- Hydration Station
- Cool Pavement
- Shade Trees
- Cooling Center



### 8 Prevent Wildfire

- Vegetation Management / Fuel & Ignition Reduction
- Fire Breaks and Buffers
- Wildfire Hardening
- Water Accessibility / Supply for Fire Prevention

(check all that apply):

- ☐ Community led co-design / participatory planning
- ☐ Conservation / stewardship / urban and community forestry training
- ☐ Workforce development
- ☐ Technical assistance / coalition building
- ☐ Cultural and environmental interpretation
- ☐ Community resilience programming / hubs
- ☐ New trail / greenway / park / sports field / community garden / joint-use space
- ☐ Park safety retrofits / park infrastructure / amenities
- ☐ Bike infrastructure
- ☐ Public transit / park shuttles
- ☐ Green stormwater infrastructure
- ☐ Recycled water infrastructure
- ☐ Groundwater recharge / water storage
- ☐ Irrigation system upgrade / smart technology
- ☐ Wet / dry weather runoff diversion
- ☐ Stream daylighting
- ☐ Ecological restoration (including riparian habitats)
- ☐ Wildlife corridor
- ☐ Nature preserve / mitigation banking
- ☐ Tree planting / tree care / improving conditions of urban forests
- ☐ Nuisance parcel or contaminated parcel lot acquisitions
- ☐ Contaminated site remediation / enhancement vegetation
- ☐ Cooling infrastructure and amenities including shade structures, hydration stations, cool pavement, and cooling centers
- ☐ Fire breaks and buffers
- ☐ Vegetation management / fuel & ignition reduction
- ☐ Wildfire hardening
- ☐ Water accessibility / supply for fire prevention
- ☐ Other (please describe):

*Which of the BH UWC's Community and Climate Resilience Goals does your project advance?*

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*Does your project advance more than one of the BH UWC's Resilience Goals?*

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## Appendix B

### Project Visioning Exercise – Part II

- 1) For each of the BH UWC's eight Community and Climate Resilience Goals<sup>1</sup>, indicate whether you have considered the goal in the design and development of your project. If you have not yet considered this goal, indicate whether you have ideas for how your project could advance the goal or if you are open to exploring it. In some cases, a small addition could significantly increase your project's impact.

<sup>1</sup>Refer to BH UWC Consolidated Grant Program Guidelines for details.

**Note:** This question is intended to encourage creative thinking around incorporating co-benefits. It may not be possible or advisable to incorporate all eight of the strategic goals—a well-targeted project that advances one or two goals with depth, relevance, and long-term community and environmental benefit may be just as valuable as a more complex, multi-goal initiative

	The project was designed with advancing this goal in mind.	I have an idea for how the project could better contribute to this goal.	I have not yet considered how the project could advance this goal, but I am open to exploring it.	This goal is not applicable to the project.
<b>Empower Safe and Resilient Communities</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Increase Access to Parks and Open Spaces</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Protect and Manage Water Resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Increase Biodiversity</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Advance Urban Forest Health</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Remediate Degraded Lands</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mitigate Impacts from Extreme Heat</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Prevent Wildfire</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 2) If you indicated that you had ideas for how your project could better contribute to any of eight strategic goals, please describe them in brief here:

- 3) Based on your final conceptual project design, indicate which BH UWC Community and Climate Resilience Goals your project advances:

- ☐ Empower Safe and Resilient Communities
- ☐ Increase Access to Parks and Open Spaces
- ☐ Protect and Manage Water Resources
- ☐ Increase Biodiversity
- ☐ Advance Urban Forest Health
- ☐ Remediate Degraded Lands
- ☐ Mitigate Impacts from Extreme Heat
- ☐ Prevent Wildfire

Indicate Project Multi-benefit Profile Level:

Profile Level	Description
1 – Focused Benefit	Project meaningfully advances one Community & Climate Resilience Goal
2 – 3 Targeted Multi-benefit	Project supports two to three distinct goals through clear project elements
4 – 5 Integrated Multi-benefit	Project advances four to five goals through a cohesive and intentional design
6 – 7 Broad Multi-benefit	Project supports six to seven goals, often through layered design and multi-sector partnerships
8 – Comprehensive Multi-benefit	Project meaningfully aligns with all eight goals through a transformative approach with deep community engagement

## Appendix C

**Definitions** – Unless otherwise stated, the terms used in these grant guidelines have the following meanings:

**Acquisition:** to obtain from a willing seller fee interest or any other interest, including easements and development rights, in real property.

**Applicant:** an eligible organization requesting funding from a program administered by BH UWC.

**Application:** the individual Application Form and its required attachments and supporting documentation for grants pursuant to the enabling legislation and/or program.

**Appraisal:** a written statement independently and impartially prepared by a qualified appraiser setting forth an opinion of defined value of an adequately described property as of a specific date, supported by the presentation and analysis of relevant market information.

**Appropriation:** a budget authorization from a specific fund to a specific agency/or program to make expenditures or incur obligations for a specific purpose and/or period of time.

**California Indian Tribe:** any California Indian tribe, band, nation, consortia, or other organized group or community.

**CEQA:** the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.; Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq. For more information, please see <https://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/>.

**Climate Resilience:** the capacity of a natural or developed community to withstand environmental disruptions, recover from shocks or stresses, and adapt to changing climate conditions.

**Community Access:** engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education, or recreational amenities

**Community Health:** The health status of a defined group of people. Nature-based solutions support community health by supporting the provision of ecosystem services.

**Community Resilience:** The ability of a community to prepare for, cope with, adapt to, or recover from climate impacts. Nature-based solutions build community resilience by supporting resilient ecosystems with the capacity to provide ecosystem services.

**Connectivity:** continuity in open space enabling linkages between open space, and wildlife habitat areas and typically including trails and passive or active recreation nodes.

**Contract:** the agreement between the BH UWC, grantee, property owner, and/or mortgage lender, specifying the payment of funds for the performance of a project scope within the project performance period by the grantee. The terms “contract” and “agreement” may be used interchangeably.

**Development:** improvements to real property by construction of new facilities or rehabilitation, restoration, renovation or additions to existing sites, property, or facilities.

**Disadvantaged community (DAC):** a community disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards and areas with concentrations of people that are low income, high unemployment, low levels of home ownerships, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational

attainment; and/or a community with a median household income less than 80% of the statewide average.

**Ecosystem Health:** The state or condition of an ecosystem. Healthy ecosystems can maintain their ecosystem functions and structure over time and provide a myriad of ecosystem services, including those related to climate, public health, equity, recreation, and economic development

**Ecosystem Resilience:** The ability of an ecosystem to withstand and recover from disturbances, such as climate impacts (e.g., extreme heat, wildfire, flooding, sea level rise, drought), in a manner that maintains the ecosystem's structure and functions, and capacity to provide ecosystem services.

**Eligible Applicant.** PRC § 90110: An eligible applicant under this division is a public agency, local agency, nonprofit organization, special district, joint powers authority, tribe, public utility, local publicly owned utility, or mutual water company.

**Enhancement:** to modify current conditions and may be used to describe a project that would result in a natural resource, habitat, cultural or historic site, recreational area, or existing facility achieving a desired level of improvements while considering the protection of the natural environment. It is distinguishable from "restoration" in that it does not imply merely a return to historic natural conditions but may include the provision of recreation or other aspects that were not original features.

**Environmental Justice:** the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people – regardless of race, ethnicity, and income or education level – in environmental decision-making. Environmental justice programs promote the protection of human health and the environment, empowerment via public participation, and the dissemination of relevant information to inform and educate affected communities.

**Federally Recognized California Indian Tribe:** any California Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community certified by the Secretary of the Interior as eligible for special programs and services provided by the Secretary of the Interior.

**Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP):** the conventions, rules, and procedures that serve as the norm for the fair presentation of financial statements. GAAP provides both authoritative standards and commonly accepted ways of recording and reporting accounting information. GAAP's objective is to improve clarity, consistency, and comparability of financial data.

**Grantee:** an applicant that has an agreement for grant funding with the State

**Greenhouse Gases:** atmospheric gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect. Gases include, but are not limited to, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reductions:** the sum of the GHG emission reductions and sequestration, minus any GHG emissions resulting from project implementation.

**Habitat linkage:** connections between otherwise isolated areas of habitat that may (1) provide for daily and seasonal movements of animals; (2) facilitate dispersal, gene flow, and rescue effects (for animals or plants); (3) allow for range shifts of species; and (4) maintain flows of ecological processes (e.g., fire, wind, sediments, water).

**Habitat creation:** the formation or increase of at least one of the following: terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats or creates new linkages or corridors.

**Habitat preservation:** keeping threatened natural habitat and protects native floral and faunal



biodiversity that may be lost to a planned urban development.

**Habitat restoration:** to return the site's hydrology, topography, and natural vegetative communities to historic pre-disturbance conditions so that the site provides food and shelter for wildlife, and performs natural processes including reducing the volume and velocity of runoff, and increasing the water infiltration rates.

**Historical Resource:** includes, but is not limited to, any building, structure, site area, place, artifact, or collection of artifacts that is historically or archaeologically significant in the cultural annals of California.

**Indirect/Overhead Costs:** expenses of doing business that are of a general nature and are incurred to benefit at least two or more functions within an organization. These expenses are not usually identified specifically with a grant, grant agreement, project, or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization. Examples of indirect expenses include salaries and benefits of employees not directly assigned to a project; functions such as personnel, business services, information technology, janitorial, and salaries of supervisors and managers not directly related to the project and supported with timesheets; and overhead such as rent, utilities, supplies, etc.

**In-Kind:** non-cash donations from governmental or private sources, and includes volunteer labor, materials, and services

**Joint Powers Authority (JPA):** any entity formed pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of the Government code, if at least one of the parties to the joint powers agreement qualifies as an eligible applicant as described on page 8 of these guidelines.

**Local Conservation Corps:** the local division of the California Conservation Corps, a state administered organization for youth volunteers to protect and enhance California's environment and communities and provide assistance in emergencies.

**Low Impact Recreation:** any development, rehabilitation, or enhancement of resource-based facilities and the associated visitor activities that result in minimized impacts on natural areas and natural systems. Low impact activities are generally human powered and may include walking, picnicking, hiking, cycling, non-motorized boating or equestrian use, bird watching, fishing, stargazing or photography; and organized events such as interpretive tours, nature walks or educational programs.

**Management Plan:** a plan that identifies responsibility for future management of a given area to preserve, protect, and enhance natural resource values, and where appropriate, provides for multiple objectives, and identifies funds for that management.

**Match:** funds or equivalent in-kind contributions in addition to BH UWC Grant Funds. Increased consideration will be given to projects that provide matching funds or equivalent in-kind contributions.

**Monitoring and Assessment:** an assessment process to evaluate the success of the proposed action or improvement, and monitoring progress towards meeting project goals. The standards for monitoring each project approved for funding will be developed in concert with BH UWC.

**Multi-jurisdictional:** projects that provide shared solutions for multiple communities, for example a community that lacks safe, affordable drinking water and is served by a small community water system, state small water system, or a private well when improved can service more than one community. Projects that create, preserve, restore open space that will benefit a regional territory. As another example, a watershed management plan update that serves an entire watershed.

**Multiple Benefit or Multi-Benefit:** projects that involve more than one public benefit objective including habitat enhancement or protection, water quality improvement, historic resource protection or improvement, public access development, environmental education, or any combination of such objectives.

**Natural habitat:** relatively undisturbed lands and vegetation communities that provide food and shelter for wildlife and also perform natural functions such as, reducing the volume and velocity of storm runoff, and enabling water infiltration.

**Nature-based Solutions:** describes actions that work with and enhance nature to help address societal challenges. This term is an umbrella concept being used across the world to describe a range of ecosystem-related approaches that protect and restore nature to deliver multiple outcomes, including addressing climate change, protecting public health, increasing equity, and protecting biodiversity. Examples include community greening, which can cool communities facing extreme heat, reduce energy costs, allow soils to better absorb water, expand access to nature, enhance biodiversity, reduce the impacts of pollution, and increase quality of life; wetlands and riparian areas which (when restored and functioning) sequester carbon, reduce flood risk, filter pollution, and protect habitat; and agricultural hedgerows which support pollinators, improve habitat, conserve water, enhance our food supply, and contribute to our economic prosperity.

**NEPA:** the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended Public Law 91-190, Title 42 United States Code Sections 4321-4334, January 1, 1970, as amended by Public Law 94-52, July 3, 1975, Public Law 94-83, August 9, 1975, and Public Law 97-258, Section 4 (b), September 13, 1982). NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the possible environmental consequences of projects, which they propose to undertake, fund, or approve.

**Nonprofit Organization:** any private, nonprofit organization, existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and has among its principal charitable purposes the preservation or enhancement of land for scientific, historic, educational, recreational, scenic, or open-space values, the protection of the natural environment, or the preservation and enhancement of fisheries and wildlife or their habitat.

**"Notice of Completion and Acceptance of Work"** means the notice completed by the grantee and filed with the county recorder in the county where the property is located, upon completion and acceptance of any and all construction work related to a project.

**Open Space:** any area that can potentially serve as wildlife habitat, facilitate natural processes, or allow for public access for passive forms of recreation.

**Planning Expenses:** expenses associated with specific preparations necessary to execute eligible BH UWC-funded projects. Planning includes conceptual designs, preschematic work, such as initial architectural and engineering plans prepared during the preliminary project phase; schematic documents; technical consulting; construction design; preparation of construction bidding documents; permits or appraisals. Planning expenses are distinct from "hard" project expenses of actual construction or acquisition.

**Project:** the acquisition, development, (rehabilitation and restoration), or interpretation activities to be accomplished with grant funds and other funds if necessary, that meets the intent of the program and statutory conditions.

**Project Development Plan:** the plan required by the BH UWC prior to grant award which describes how the project meets the BH UWC policies and criteria.

**Project Management Plan:** the overall plan used to describe how the completed project would be operated and maintained on a long-term basis. This document could include habitat, landscape, park, and other facility/resource long term management plans.

**Project Performance Period:** the period of time between the beginning and ending dates (inclusively) of the grant agreement. Eligible expenses incurred during this period may be funded from the grant.

**Project Scope:** the description or activity of work to be accomplished by the project.

**Property:** the land, including all structures attached to such land, upon which the project is located.

**Property Owner:** the person or entity that holds the fee simple interest of the Property.

**Public access:** access generally with full right of way from a public thoroughfare or public transportation. It could also mean the provision for visitor support facilities, including public parking, trails, bikeways, restrooms, picnic areas and campgrounds and other recreational facilities.

**Restoration:** the process of reproducing, re-establishing, or rehabilitating a natural area or a cultural or historical site or feature that has otherwise deteriorated so that it emulates the site's historic condition before degradation.

**Riparian:** locations and associated vegetative communities related to or on the banks of rivers, streams, wetlands, marshes, or other freshwater bodies.

**Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC):** a community with the meaning set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 116760.20 of the Health and Safety Code, as a community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the statewide average.

**Stewardship:** the development, implementation, and long-term management of important resources and typically involving the protection, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, improvement of natural systems and/or outstanding features, and historical and cultural resources.

**State:** the Baldwin Hills & Urban Watersheds Conservancy, the California Natural Resources Agency, or its representative.

**Sustainable/Sustainability:** the ability to meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. Also, the goal of life, liberty, and social well-being within the means of nature.

**Technical Assistance:** Assistance to State agencies for conducting outreach to under-resourced entities or agencies services disadvantaged communities, building awareness of grant programs or State policy priorities, and convening stakeholders to discuss community needs and potential solutions. This includes actions that State grant managers and staff can take to assist eligible entities in locating available resources and, where it is feasible, helping entities with limited capacity to apply for and obtain those resources. Technical assistance is not a preference for one entity over another. Rather, its purpose is to promote equity in the funding distribution process by avoiding providing local assistance only to organizations that are already well-resourced.

**Threatened Natural Habitats:** any areas that contain natural habitat that will be destroyed or degraded by a proposed urban development plan which, at the least, has already been submitted to the governing jurisdiction or planning commission.

**Traditional Lands:** lands that are synonymous with Aboriginal or Indigenous cultural territories or areas generally defined by natural boundaries containing static and transient habitation sites used for



subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering that may have fluctuated and overlapped over time and where religious practices were culturally significant to the Native American tribe or their ancestors

**Urban Forest:** native or introduced trees and related vegetation in the urban and near-urban areas including, but not limited to, urban watersheds, soils and related habitats, street trees, park trees, residential trees, natural riparian habitats, and trees on other private and public properties (reference PRC 4799.09).

**Urban Forestry:** the cultivation and management of trees in urban areas for their present and potential contribution to the economic, physiological, sociological, and ecological well-being of an urban society (reference PRC 4799.09).

**Urban Greening:** a community-based effort to plan, plant, care, and manage flora, structures, and spaces, which lead to increased forest canopy, reduced storm water runoff, improved air and water quality, energy conservation, open space and ultimately, more sustainable communities.

**Urban Heat Island:** a metropolitan area which is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas due to modification of the land surface by urban development.

**Urban Vulnerability Index (UVI):** BH UWC centralized climate vulnerability mapping platform that assists with identifying communities and populations most burdened by the disproportionate exposure to climate hazards, pollutants, and disparities in community access to recreational spaces across the Conservancy's jurisdictional territory. The UVI tool reports on eight (8) individual indicators of climate risk and socioeconomic challenges including 1) Social Vulnerability; 2) Lack of Parks and Open Spaces; 3) Flood Risk; 4) Lack of Biodiversity; 5) Lack of Tree Canopy; 6) Degraded and Contaminated Lands; 7) Heat Risk; and 8) Wildfire Risk. For each of the above eight indicators, a Vulnerability Score of 1 (Low Vulnerability), 2 (Moderate Vulnerability), or 3 (High Vulnerability) is reported for a respective location selected in the tool, across the BH UWC's jurisdictional territory. Additionally, a combined score of all eight (8) individual Vulnerability Scores will also be reported, consisting of a minimum score of 8 (Low Vulnerability) and maximum score of 24 (High Vulnerability).

**Vulnerable Population:** A subgroup population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts. (Note: tribes are considered vulnerable populations). The BH UWC Urban Vulnerability Index (UVI) defines vulnerability as follows: Vulnerability Score of 1 (Low Vulnerability), 2 (Moderate Vulnerability), or 3 (High Vulnerability) for a respective community or location selected in the tool, across the BH UWC's jurisdictional territory. Additionally, a combined score of all eight (8) individual Vulnerability Scores will also be reported, consisting of a minimum score of 8 (Low Vulnerability) and maximum score of 24 (High Vulnerability).

**Watershed:** a region or area bound peripherally by a divide or ridge, all of which drains to a particular watercourse or body of water. Most urban sites are now mini watersheds, with the property line constituting the "ridge" and the storm drain system located in the street constituting the "watercourse" to which it discharges.

**Willing seller:** the project property owner(s) is/are willing participant(s) in the proposed real property transaction and at a purchase price not to exceed fair market value as verified by the State