



**Funding Research Memo:
CEQA and NEPA Funding for Restoration Projects**

Last updated: August 2017

THIS MEMO WILL BE UPDATED PERIODICALLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES, PLEASE CONTACT THE SNC FUND DEVELOPMENT TEAM: sncfundingteam@sierranevada.ca.gov.

CAVEAT – Grant guidelines and deadlines are subject to periodic change. Please check the program web sites for new information. The deadlines listed are projected from the last funding round and can be unreliable. Check the program’s web site!

These grant programs allow funds to be spent for CEQA and NEPA analysis and document preparation. Some programs will only fund these costs as part of a larger application for project implementation, others will fund just the planning phase.

FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE

(*Hyperlinks to more complete information later in memo, including links to program web sites.)

Grant*	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline (most recent deadline)	Types of Funding
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Bring Back the Natives/More Fish	\$50,000 - \$100,000 1:1 non-federal match required, 2:1 preferred.	Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems; reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve overall health of native fish and other aquatic organisms.	July (July 13, 2017)	Awards have been made for assessment, planning, design, implementation, and monitoring. Focus is on water conservation infrastructure; watershed protection; invasive species management.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration	\$50,000 - \$200,000 1:1 match is preferred.	Implement Sierra Meadow Restoration Business Plan.	Varies by solicitation (December 1, 2016)	CEQA and NEPA costs can be included in grant requests, but they must be associated with an implementation project which is the main subject of the grant application.
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Grant Program	Up to \$75,000 for planning grants. Match not required but adds to score.	Projects that will promote healthy forests and watersheds in the Sierra Nevada region.	September and March (September 1, 2017)	Category 2 grants can be used for pre-project activities necessary for a specific future on-the-ground project that meets the Category 1 grant requirements. Eligible costs include CEQA and NEPA.

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Grant*	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline (most recent deadline)	Types of Funding
Wildlife Conservation Board CA Streamflow Enhancement Program	No maximum or minimum. Match not required but adds to score.	Projects that protect and enhance stream flows, especially in those streams that support anadromous fish, special status, threatened, endangered or at risk species, or provide resilience to climate change.	September (August 31, 2017)	Applicants can apply for funding from one or more of the following project types: planning, implementation, acquisition, monitoring, assessment, and scientific studies. Planning funding can include CEQA/NEPA.
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Watershed Restoration Grant Program (Proposition 1)	Not stated. Match not required, but leverage is a scoring criteria.	Watershed restoration and protection projects of statewide importance outside of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.	June or July (July 14, 2017)	Project administration, pre-acquisition costs, interests in land (fee purchase, conservation easements), and water acquisitions. Planning grants can include CEQA/NEPA funding.
CAL FIRE Greenhouse Gas Reduction-funded grants	Multiple – see individual grant programs listed at: http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/grants.php . Currently these include Urban and Community Forestry and Forest Health grants.			Grant funds may be used for CEQA/NEPA compliance but the project must include implementation as well as planning, and the implementation portion of the grant funding will not be released until the CEQA/NEPA is complete.
Department of Water Resources Urban Stream Restoration Program	No funding until 2018. Currently, program staff will provide technical assistance.	Reduce flooding and erosion, restore or protect the natural ecological values of streams, and promote community involvement and stewardship.	Rolling	Program staff will provide technical assistance to help plan projects and get them ready for successful applications in 2018. Previous grant programs have funded environmental documentation.
CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation off-highway vehicle (OHV) grants	Depends on program category. 25% match required	Planning, development, maintenance, operation, enforcement, programs, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of OHVs.	March or April (April 6, 2017)	CEQA/NEPA funding is allowed. When a project request is for funding both CEQA/NEPA requirements and project implementation, funding is provided in two phases.

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Grant*	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline <i>(most recent deadline)</i>	Types of Funding
State Water Resources Control Board 319 (h) Nonpoint Source grants	\$250K – \$750K. 25% match but may be waived for disadvantaged communities.	The Timber Fund will fund projects that implement forest management measures on forest lands to improve water quality. Examples of projects include ownership-wide erosion control, road management, riparian restoration, groundwater dependent ecosystems, nutrient management, riparian fuel management, and/or post fire rehabilitation.	Various <i>(January 21, 2016)</i>	The only planning funding remaining in this program for the next few years is for Timber Fund projects. Applications must be for planning <u>and</u> implementation of projects. The planning work can include CEQA/NEPA documentation.
DWR Integrated Regional Water Management grants	Depends on solicitation. General match requirement is 50%, but can be reduced or waived for disadvantaged communities.	Very broad – the project must address statewide priorities and be listed in the region's IRWM Plan.	Set periodically – see the web site. Implementation grant solicitation expected early 2018.	Environmental documentation is an eligible cost.
USFS Wood Innovations grant	Up to \$250,000, 35% non-federal match required	Expand and accelerate wood energy and wood products markets to support forest management needs on National Forest System and other forest lands.	January <i>(January 23, 2017)</i>	Pre-project development funding category can pay for environmental documentation and other planning tasks.
State Water Resources Control Board Proposition 1 Technical Assistance Funding Program	Technical assistance program	Promote permanent and sustainable drinking water and wastewater treatment solutions to ensure effective and efficient provision of safe, clean, affordable, and reliable drinking water and wastewater treatment services, particularly for small disadvantaged communities.	Rolling	Technical assistance available in project coordination, finance, legal assistance, engineering, and environmental analysis.



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National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Bring Back the Natives/More Fish <http://www.nfwf.org/bbn/Pages/home.aspx>

The Bring Back the Natives/More Fish program invests in conservation activities that restore, protect, and enhance native populations of sensitive or listed fish species across the United States, especially in areas on or adjacent to federal agency lands. The program emphasizes coordination between private landowners and federal agencies, tribes, corporations, and states to improve the ecosystem functions and health of watersheds. Recent Sierra Nevada priorities included Lahonton cutthroat trout and Eagle Lake rainbow trout recovery. Priority activities include restoring connectivity, restoring riparian and instream habitat, water quality improvements, invasive species management, innovation, and 'game changing' research.

Grant awards generally range in size from \$50,000 to \$100,000, although grants greater than \$100,000 will be considered. Applicants must provide at least a 1:1 non-federal match, though 2:1 is preferred. Eligible non-federal matching sources can include cash, in-kind donations, and/or volunteer labor.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration <http://www.nfwf.org/sierranevada/Pages/home.aspx>

The goal of the Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration Program is to restore habitat, validate restoration benefits, and build capacity in key watersheds throughout the Sierra to plan, implement, and monitor meadow restoration. To be eligible for funding, projects must occur within California's mountain meadow regions, on public or private lands. Preference is given to projects that will advance recovery of key focal species, specifically, Southwestern willow flycatcher, Yosemite toad, and native trout including Lahontan cutthroat trout and Eagle Lake rainbow trout. In addition, projects located in watersheds with the potential to amplify benefits associated with restoration of fire-scarred areas on California's national forests or are adjacent to or contiguous with previously restored meadows are of particular interest. All applicants are encouraged to contact the program lead to discuss potential projects for funding. For more detail on priority activities, see NFWF's Sierra Nevada Meadows Business Plan (the link is on the web page).

A 1:1 match is preferred. CEQA and NEPA costs can be included in grant requests, but they must be associated with an implementation grant.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Program Grants <http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/other-assistance/prop1-grantprog>

The focus of this Proposition 1-funded grant program is forest health projects that result in multiple watershed benefits, consistent with the following purposes:

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- Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health.
- Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, and greenhouse gas reduction.
- Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate changes on California's communities and ecosystems.

The program has two funding categories: Category 1 for implementation projects and Category 2 for project planning. Category 2 grants may include funding for completion of CEQA and NEPA requirements related to a specific future on-the-ground project. The maximum grant under Category 2 is \$75,000. Match is not required but leverage will add to point scores. Eligible applications include local and state public agencies (federal agencies are not eligible, though work can be done on federal lands), qualifying nonprofit organizations and certain tribal organizations.

In order to be eligible to receive a grant award from the SNC under this program, projects must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Be located within a conifer or mixed-conifer forested area of the Sierra Nevada Region, or have a direct impact on forest lands and waters within the Region.
- Be consistent with the SNC mission and program areas as defined in the SNC Strategic Plan and the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (WIP) as they relate to forest health.
- Meet the requirements of Proposition 1 in regard to forest and watershed health.

Applicants are encouraged to meet with SNC Area Representatives (listed in the Grant Guidelines) to discuss their projects prior to submitting an application.

Wildlife Conservation Board CA Streamflow Enhancement Program

<https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Stream-Flow-Enhancement>

This program allocates funds to projects that protect and enhance stream flows, especially in those streams that support anadromous fish; special status, threatened, endangered or at risk species; or provide resilience to climate change. Projects must measurably enhance stream flows at a time and location necessary to provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits or improvements that improve upon existing flow conditions and are greater than required by applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations. Proposals must identify the stream(s), reaches of those stream(s), and watershed(s) in which they are found.

Examples of relevant project types include (see guidelines for full list):

- Habitat restoration projects (e.g., weed eradication, wet meadow restoration, restoration of entrenched streams, upper watershed restoration, or forest thinning) that reshape stream hydrograph
- Streamflow gauging

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- Water efficiency generally – Irrigation efficiency and water infrastructure improvements (e.g., diversion, conveyance, and on-farm projects) that save water and enable reshaping of the stream hydrograph
- Reconnecting flood flows with restored flood plains

Funding categories are ‘planning’, ‘implementation’, ‘acquisition’, and ‘studies, monitoring and assessments’. Applications can include one or more of these funding categories. Planning, scientific studies, monitoring and assessment grants fund specific activities necessary for the successful design, selection, and implementation of projects, including preliminary design and environmental review (CEQA/NEPA).

Eligible grantees are limited to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, and mutual water companies.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Watershed Restoration Grant Program
<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants>

The Watershed Restoration Grant Program has \$285 million in funding focused on watershed restoration and protection projects of statewide importance outside of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). Projects that support state-wide and regional plans get extra points in evaluation. Projects must address one of the following relevant priorities:

- Protect and restore mountain meadow ecosystems
- Manage headwaters for multiple benefits
- Protect and restore anadromous fish habitat
- Protect and restore coastal wetland ecosystems

Funding is available for planning, implementation, and acquisition projects.

Eligible applicants are limited to public agencies (state agencies or departments, special districts, joint powers authorities, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of the state), nonprofit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized tribes, state tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, and mutual water companies.

CAL FIRE Grants funded with Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/grants.php>

CAL FIRE administers various programs funded by California's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds. Currently, these include Forest Health grants and Urban & Community Forestry grants.

As a general rule, funding can include costs for CEQA and NEPA, though these need to be associated with proposed implementation projects. The environmental work must be completed prior to starting work on the project.

Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program.

<http://www.water.ca.gov/urbanstreams/>

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This Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant provides funding to reduce flooding and erosion, restore or protect the natural ecological values of streams, and promote community involvement and stewardship. The last round of funding was in 2014 and there will not be another round of funding until 2018. However, starting in 2017 program staff can provide technical assistance to help communities plan their projects and prepare for successful grant applications. Contact the [program staff](#) for more information.

CA Department of Parks and Recreation – Off Highway Vehicle Program

http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1164

<http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/>

This program supports the planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, administration, operation, enforcement, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of off-highway motor vehicles, and programs involving off-highway motor vehicle safety or education. The application materials do not state specifically that funding can be used for CEQA/NEPA, however the 'Planning' funding category will allow studies on potential impacts that could be used to complete the CEQA/NEPA processes.

The project must comply with CEQA before receiving implementation funding, however funding can be awarded for CEQA costs associated with the project. When a project request is for funding both CEQA and/or NEPA requirements and for implementation, the grant is funded in two phases:

- (1) The first phase funds the CEQA and/or NEPA activities, and
- (2) The second phase will fund the deliverables, as approved and conditioned by the outcome of the CEQA and/or NEPA document, once the CEQA and/or NEPA conclusions result in a decision to proceed with the implementation project.

A 25 percent match (cash or in-kind) is required. This can include volunteer services. Higher match brings in higher scores in the evaluation criteria.

State Water Resources Control Board 319 (h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/solicitation_notice.shtml

The California Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program allocates funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support implementation and planning projects that address water quality problems in surface and ground water resulting from NPS pollution¹. The goal of these projects is to ultimately lead to restoring the impacted beneficial uses in these water bodies. Projects are required to be located in a watershed that has an adopted/nearly adopted Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the constituent of concern and has been identified in the NPS Program Preferences. These priority watersheds and problems are listed in the grant guidelines.

¹ Unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants (point sources), nonpoint source (NPS) pollution comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters. See <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/whatis.cfm>.

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In addition California appropriated the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (Timber Fund) for projects that implement forest management measures on forest lands to improve water quality. Examples of projects include ownership-wide erosion control, road management, riparian restoration, groundwater dependent ecosystems, nutrient management, riparian fuel management, and/or post fire rehabilitation.

The program used to include both planning and implementation grants, but for the general NPS grants the planning funding has been used up and the Water Board is only funding implementation projects. The new Timber Fund grants can be used for planning as long as the project also includes implementation, and the entire project can be completed within three years.

Eligible applicants include local public agencies, public agencies, nonprofit organizations (501[c][3]), federally recognized Native American tribes, state agencies, public colleges, and federal agencies. Applicants must work with the appropriate Regional Water Board Grant Contact when developing their proposals. Grant contacts are identified in the Grant Program Guidelines.

CA Department of Water Resources – Integrated Regional Water Management grants

<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/prop1index.cfm>

The Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant program is an effort to develop collaborative approaches to identifying and implementing water management solutions on a regional scale that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. The state is divided into twelve funding areas, each of which is allocated a portion of the overall IRWM grant funds. Each funding area is divided into regions. These regions can be based on county lines, watersheds, or other factors. The IRWM activities in each region are governed by the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG). These RWMGs are responsible for identifying needs and approving IRWM grant applications in alignment with an IRWM regional plan.

IRWM grants are now funded through Proposition 1. There are three categories of grants, Planning, Implementation, and Disadvantaged Community Involvement. The Planning grant funding allows IRWM regions to develop new IRWM plans, comply with recent legislation, or improve existing IRWM plans. Implementation grant applications must be approved by IRWM regions through the Regional Water Management Groups (RWMG), though they are submitted through individual agencies. In order to be approved, the proposed grant activity must be included in the IRWM Plan. These Plans can be amended and modified by the RWMG. So if you are considering funding your project through IRWM funding, check the IRWM Plan for your region and if the project is not already part of the plan, take steps to have it added. There is a new category of funding for Disadvantaged Community Involvement which is available on a non-competitive basis to each funding area. The Disadvantaged Community Involvement funding can be used for project development activities, including environmental

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compliance. Each RWMG will submit its own proposal for the use of the Disadvantaged Community Involvement funds.

IRWM grants do not have a standard maximum amount; this is set in each solicitation. The general match requirement is 50 percent, though that can be waived or reduced if the project addresses the needs of a disadvantaged community.

The scope of IRWM grant projects is very large. Basically, they have to address statewide priorities, which are listed in the program solicitation. These can range from infrastructure to climate change response, but there is always a focus on water benefits. The implementation grant can include costs for environmental documentation.

USFS Wood Innovations Grants

<https://www.fs.fed.us/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovations-grants>

The Forest Service seeks proposals that significantly increase or stimulate markets for wood energy and wood products in a manner that has a measurable and meaningful long-term impact on National Forest System and other forest lands that need robust wood supply markets for low value wood. Priorities include:

- Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health on National Forest System and other forest lands.
- Reduce costs of forest management on all land types.
- Promote economic and environmental health of communities.

Funding priorities are grouped into categories. In the past, categories have included pre-development funding for wood energy projects such as bioenergy facilities, which could include CEQA/NEPA and permitting costs.

State Water Resources Control Board Proposition 1 Technical Assistance Funding Program

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/index.shtml

The purpose of this program is to help develop, fund, and implement capital improvement projects by addressing the technical assistance needs of small disadvantaged communities (DACs) with populations of fewer than 10,000 people and a median household income (MHI) of less than 80 percent of the statewide MHI. This program promotes permanent and sustainable drinking water and wastewater treatment solutions to ensure effective and efficient provision of safe, clean, affordable, and reliable drinking water and wastewater treatment services.

Technical assistance is available to develop projects for the following Proposition 1 funding initiatives:

- Drinking water: infrastructure improvements to correct system deficiencies and improve drinking water quality
- Wastewater: infrastructure improvements to correct system deficiencies and prevent pollution

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- Groundwater: projects that prevent or clean up the contamination of groundwater that serves or has served as a source of drinking water
- Stormwater: multiple-benefit projects designed to infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, treat, or retain stormwater or dry weather runoff

Potential technical assistance includes engineering and environmental analysis, including preparing CEQA documents.