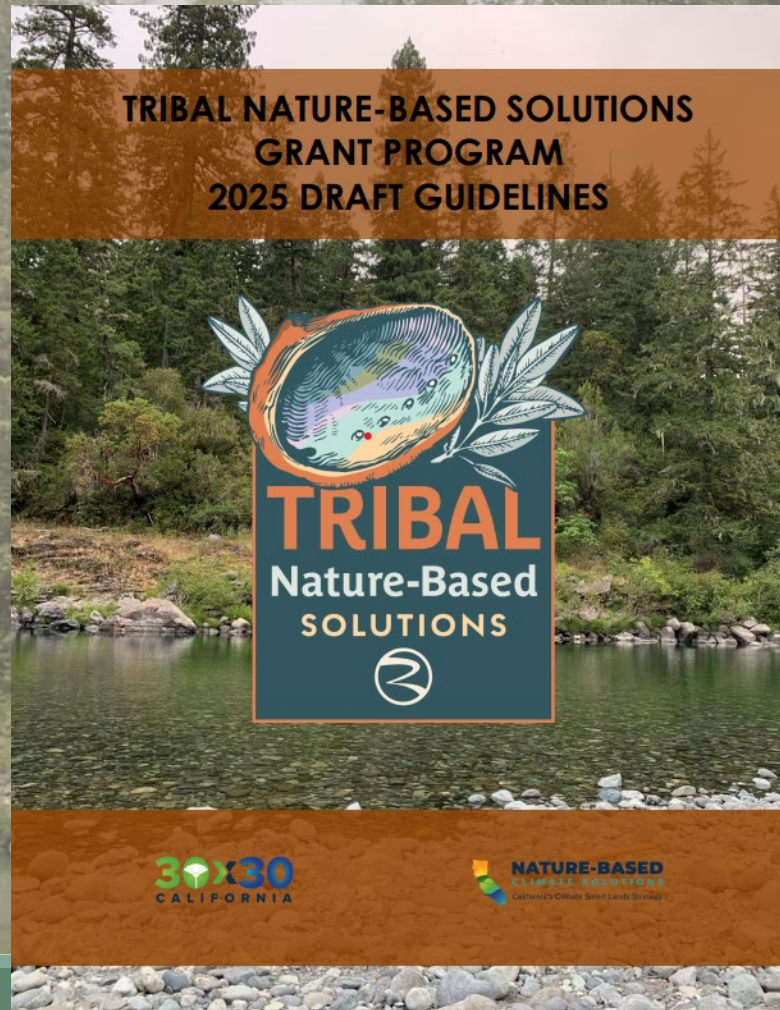




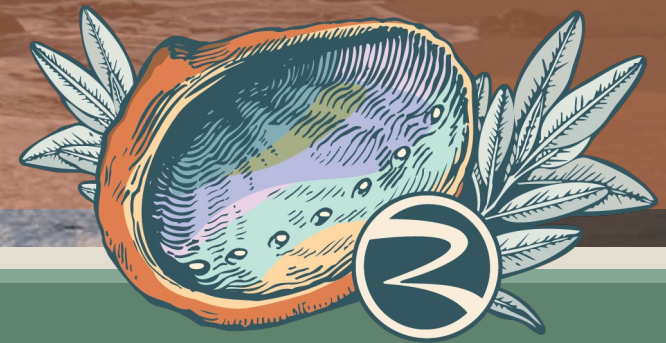
Welcome to the Draft Tribal Nature-Based Solutions (TNBS)
Climate Bond Guidelines Public Listening Session!
We'll get started shortly!

California Nature Resources Agency (CNRA): Draft Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Climate Bond Grant Guidelines

PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION

OCTOBER 16, 2025

CNRA TRIBAL AFFAIRS



CNRA Tribal Affairs Grant Team



Geneva E.B. Thompson
Deputy Secretary of Tribal Affairs



Elaine Quitiquit-Palmer
Tribal Funding Grants Administrator



Pete Barker
Tribal Funding Grants Administrator



Meagan Flier
Deputy Director of Tribal Affairs



Anh Diep
Tribal Funding Program Manager

Agenda Overview

- ❖ Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Grant Program
- ❖ Climate Bond Funding Overview
- ❖ TNBS Grant Funding Breakdown
- ❖ Proposed New Guidelines
- ❖ Proposed New Application Process
- ❖ Scoring Rubrics: Step 1 & 2
- ❖ Tentative Timeline



Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Grant Program

❖ Executive Order N-82-20

(Nature-Based Solutions Executive Order)

❖ Pathways to 30x30 Strategy

❖ Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy

❖ Executive Order N-15-19

(Governor's Apology to Tribes)

❖ Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands



San Diego County



The Climate Bond: \$10B in Funding

Purpose	Allocation
Water – Drinking Water, Flood, Drought + Water Resilience	\$ 3,800,000,000
Wildfire + Forest Resilience Programs	\$ 1,500,000,000
Coastal Resilience Programs	\$ 1,200,000,000
Biodiversity Protection + NBS	\$ 1,200,000,000
Clean Air Programs	\$ 850,000,000
Park Creation + Outdoor Access Programs	\$ 700,000,000
Extreme Heat Mitigation	\$ 450,000,000
Climate-smart, Sustainable, and Resilient Farms, Ranches, and Working Lands	\$ 300,000,000
Total	\$ 10,000,000,000
Allocations/Programs	102
New Programs	22
Existing Programs	80

At least 40% of Climate Bond Funds must go towards projects with direct benefits to: vulnerable populations and disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities.



Climate Bond Funding Overview

Through the Climate Bond, TNBS Grant Program was allocated \$10M with **\$9.225M** available for grant awards.

TNBS is anticipating some general funds will be available for Escrow-Ready projects.

Bond Funding → State Treasury favors capital investments

Capital = acquisitions of physical assets



San Diego County



TNBS Grant Funding Breakdown

To fulfill Bond obligations and program priorities, draft guidelines propose:

Project Types supported:

- Ancestral Land Return & Planning
- Ancestral Land Return & Implementation
- Ancestral Land Return & Planning & Implementation

Grant Amounts:

- Minimum request → \$1,000,000
- Maximum request → total available funds

Proposed Budget Limits:

- 25% cap on non-acquisition associated costs
- 10% cap on contingency
- 20% cap on standard indirect costs/overhead OR federally negotiated rate



Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include California Native American tribes and tribally led entities located in California.

Applications submitted by non-tribal entities or inter-tribal consortium, tribal conservation district, or partnerships must meet two requirements:

- Confirm that a California Native American tribe(s) is actively partnering with and supporting the application through a signed letter or resolution from the chairperson of the tribe(s) and;
- Describe how the project will serve the supporting tribe(s) and community.



Eligible Project Activities

- ❖ *Acquisition associated cost*
- ❖ *Planning projects*
- ❖ *Implementation projects*

Please view pg. 10-11 for complete list of activities...

- ❖ *NEW: Purchase option ONLY IF the value of the option is applied to the larger sale within the fair market value (aka “good faith” money or a deposit.)*



Manzanita, Cuyamaca State Park



New Allowable Activities: Development and Housing on Acquired Lands

Grantees may identify future proposed development on acquired properties in their application. Proposed development locations and/or scope:

- Must be identified in the application AND
- Must be consistent with and not impede proposed nature-based solutions project.

Some permanent housing development on acquired lands is **allowable** but not **fundable** by these grant funds. **Housing with a clear tie to the proposed nature-based solution goals are allowable and fundable by these grant funds.**



Manzanita, Stonewall Peak Trail, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park



New Allowable Activities: Development (cont'd.)

Acceptable development should include measures to reduce impacts to the environment, increase restoration and other nature-based solutions, and go above and beyond standard development mitigation measures. Additional examples of acceptable development include:

- Projects providing **workforce housing tied to a nature-based solution** (ex. summer work crews, fire crews, training, summer camps, environmental camps, stewardship activities, community center, etc.).
- Projects to support nature-based solutions **economic development opportunities** (ex. native plant nursery, camping, ecotourism, etc.).
- Projects rebuilding damaged or **retrofitting and enhancement of existing structures or roads/trails to support safe access**, nature-based solutions work, and proposed project activities.
- Projects building upon existing foundations for developments and structures that will support nature-based solutions work and proposed project activities.

...see pg. 55 of the Draft Grant Guidelines for more details



Escrow Ready Projects

Escrow Ready Ancestral Land Return Projects → combined Step 1 and 2 application.

Escrow ready projects will need to encumber funds (aka enter into grant agreement) by March 31, 2027, close escrow by July 30, 2027, expend funds by January 1, 2029, and submit all final invoices by March 31, 2029.

To meet the expedited encumbrance/expenditure deadlines, **Escrow-Ready projects will utilize the grant agreement template language as is and applicants forgo negotiation**. Deed restriction, work plan, and budget will undergo negotiation for finalization before grant agreement execution.

Projects that are eligible for TNBS funds but that are not awarded during the Escrow Ready review period, will be automatically included in the Standard Grant Review Process for further consideration.



Yosemite Falls



New Competitive Priorities

Competitive Priorities: projects with one or more of the following will be scored more highly and considered more competitive. **Highlighted** priorities reflect new considerations for this upcoming round.

- *Project has an existing management plan, on a property adjacent to the proposed acquisition, and is seeking implementation funding to execute the existing plan.*
- Projects within current reservation boundaries that address “checkerboarding” issues or are directly adjacent to reservation, trust land, or tribal fee land boundaries.
- If in shared ancestral territories, will be jointly owned and/or managed by inter-tribal consortium, tribal conservation district, or partnership.
- Projects directly adjacent to conserved lands or coastal waters and improving habitat connectivity.
- *Projects with secured partial funding and can demonstrate requested TNBS funds will fund whole acquisition at fair market value.*
- Applicants are landless tribes or tribes with minimal lands (20 acres or less) in reacquiring ancestral lands.
- Projects that restore access to tribal cultural resources and traditional foods to tribal members.
- *Projects that have economic development and financing planning for multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects. For example, ecotourism to help fund the long-term management of the conserved lands.*
- *Projects that limit their development to no more than 10% of the total property acreage in perpetuity.*



New 2-Step Application

Applicant

STEP 1 (PRELIMINARY PROJECT PROPOSAL)

Project Proposals are reviewed and evaluated for eligibility. Incomplete or ineligible Project Proposals may be removed from the competitive process.

STEP 2 (FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL)

Applicants that meet the Step 1, Preliminary Project Proposal eligibility criteria will be invited to submit Final Project Proposals and meet with TNBS Grant Staff for a project presentation. Step 2 Final Project Proposal materials will be provided to a grant review panel for scoring and review.

Grant Team

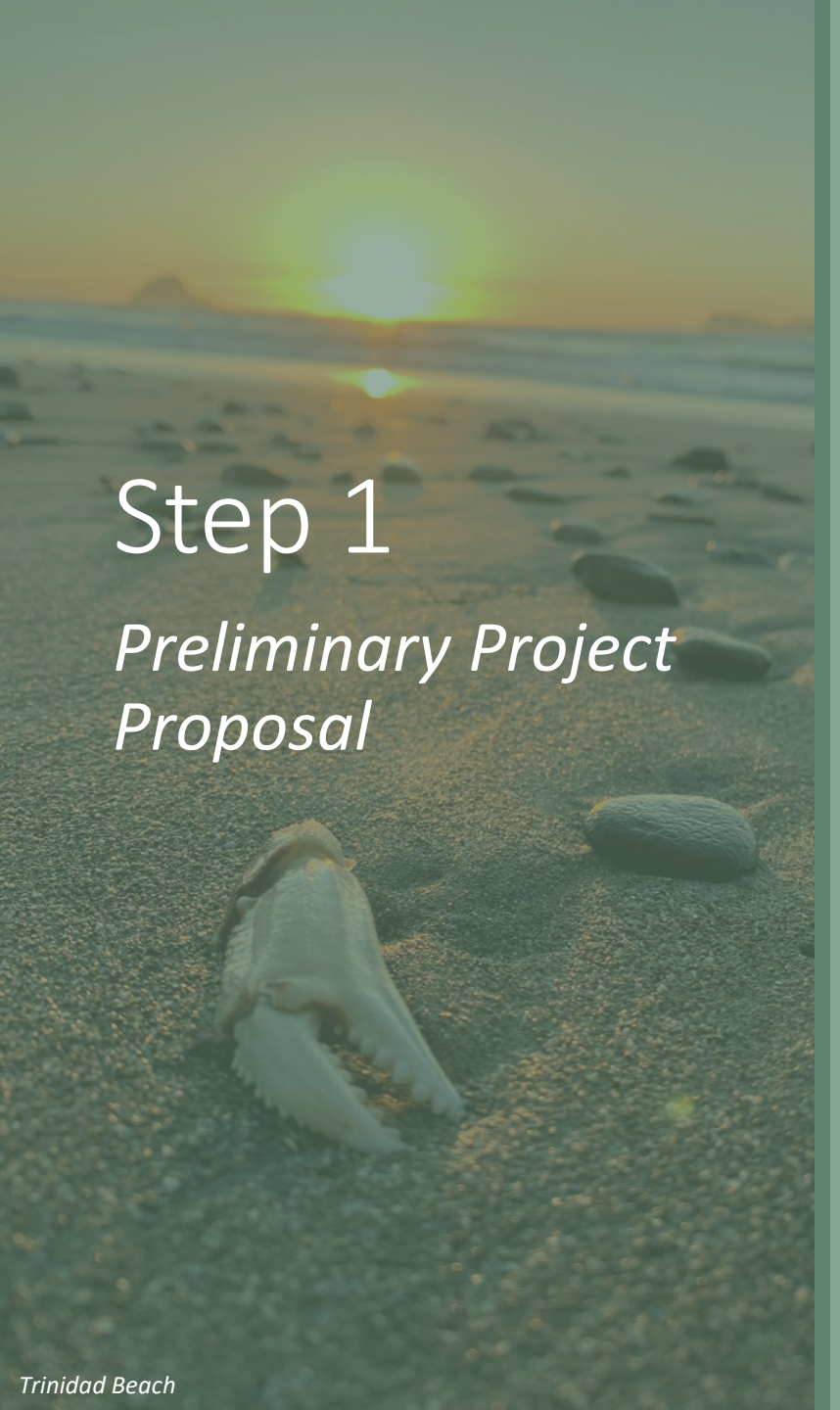
STEP 3 (EVALUATION: SITE VISITS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS)

Field visits will be conducted for the most competitive projects at the discretion of CNRA. Applicants may be required to provide additional documentation as requested.



San Diego County



A background image of a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the sand and water. In the foreground, a crab shell is visible on the sand.

Step 1

Preliminary Project Proposal

1. Application Cover Page
2. Short project description (10,000 characters max)
3. Identified Property for Purchase w/ a signed Willing Seller Letter
4. Draft Budget Proposal (Cost Estimate)
5. Draft Work Plan and Timeline
6. Council Resolution (demonstrating support for project)
7. Eligibility Statement (if applicant is non-tribal entity)
8. Chair/Council Letter (if applicant is non-tribal entity applying on behalf of a tribe)
9. Notice of Funding Requirements (Initialed and Signed by applicant signatory)
 - a. Important grant program requirements (Limited Waiver, Public Access, Deed Restrictions...)

TNBS Staff will provide Technical Assistance in the form of open office hours and application webinars through the submission period.

Summary of Step 1 Updates

- **Streamlining:** Shortened application proposal questions
- **Earlier Project Feedback Opportunity:** Requesting a draft Work Plan & Timeline in Pre-App to allow TNBS Staff feedback
- **Updated Communications:**
 - Updated Willing Seller Letter with key DGS information
 - Summarized key program considerations into a checklist for applicant awareness:
 - Need for a limited waiver of sovereign immunity
 - Need for public access on acquired lands
 - Need for deed restrictions to be recorded to title
 - Acquisitions must be at Fair Market Value with an appraisal report approved by DGS





Step 2

Final Project Proposal

Step 1 Applications are evaluated by TNBS Grant Staff for eligibility and fit. Eligible projects will be invited to Step 2.

1. Preliminary Project Proposal Package
2. Proposed Work Plan Scope and Budget (Cost Estimate)
3. Project Funding Priority Questions: Ancestral Land Return, Planning, and Implementation Questions (as applicable to project type selected) to be submitted ahead of presentation meeting.
 - a. Presentation Meeting → in-person or virtual
4. Location and Ancestral Land Maps
5. Photographs
6. Site Plan (for projects with implementation components only)
7. Additional Supporting Documents (Optional)

Summary of Step 2 Updates

- **Streamlining:** Removed redundant proposal questions
- **Improved Question Clarity:** Project questions are now more specific and have more details to better guide applicants in providing answers
- **Improved Templates:** Work plan, budget, and cost estimate templates → more detailed columns to guide applicants
- **Added Interactive Component:** Meeting Presentation will be an opportunity to connect deeper on proposed projects and allow both parties to ask questions





Scoring Rubrics: Step 1 & 2



Step 1 Rubric

Goal of this rubric is to ensure project meets the statutory and programmatic requirements for overall eligibility.

NOT an evaluation of competitiveness.

Please see page 40 of the Draft TNBS Grant Guidelines.

APPENDIX E: STEP 1 ELIGIBILITY CHECK & STEP 2 SCORING RUBRIC

Step 1- Preliminary Project Proposal Eligibility Check

REVIEWER: _____
PROJECT TITLE: _____
APPLICANT: _____
FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED: _____
SELECT PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition / Planning / Implementation

Eligibility Questions	Circle	Comments or Questions
Is applicant a CA Native American tribe? If applicant is not a tribe, does the applicant provide a signed letter or resolution affirming partnership with a tribe?	Yes No N/A	
Does applicant provide a complete Step 1 Preliminary Project Proposal Application?	Yes No N/A	
Does applicant provide a willing seller letter (Appendix K)?	Yes No N/A	
Is proposed property acquisition located within the Tribe's ancestral territory?	Yes No N/A	
If within reservation or trust boundaries, does the applicant have authority and jurisdiction or support from entity with authority or jurisdiction over the reservation or trust property?	Yes No N/A	
Does the project description address plans for conservation in perpetuity?	Yes No N/A	
Does the project include nature-based solutions that align with Pathways to 30x30 and the Natural Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy?	Yes No N/A	
Does the project have a reasonably defined public access component?	Yes No N/A	
Recommendation to invite to Step 2 for Full Project Proposal Submission?	Yes No N/A	

Additional Comments:

Step 2 Rubric

This rubric will be used to assess project competitiveness.

Please note scoring key as well as the scoring considerations for Ancestral Land Return, Planning, and Implementation Components.

Please see page 41-45 of the Draft TNBS Grant Guidelines.

Step 2- Full Project Proposal Scoring Sheet

REVIEWER: _____
PROJECT TITLE: _____
APPLICANT: _____
FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED: _____
SELECT PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition / Planning / Implementation

SELECT PROJECT TYPE: Record total scored points and calculate percentage

Acquisition and Planning (100 points total) = Total/100 = _____%
Acquisition and Implementation (125 points total) = Total/120= _____%
Acquisition and Planning and Implementation= (150 points total) = Total/140= _____%

Final scoring percentages will be used to compare applications in a standardized approach across project types. CNRA staff will utilize quantified scoring percentages, total scores, and other relevant factors to ensure a fair distribution of funds. These factors include, but are not limited to, geographic distribution of funds, previous grant performance, the likelihood of successful project implementation, and feasibility to accept partial funding.

Instructions: Reviewers are to award whole points. No half or partial points will be accepted.

SCORING KEY

Highly Satisfactory: The applicant organization explicitly addresses criteria by providing comprehensive descriptions, thorough details, and examples. Relevant examples and data are included to support the information presented. The applicant organization demonstrates a strong understanding of the topic, and the level of detail reinforces each response clearly and how the project will be implemented.

Satisfactory: The applicant organization provides adequate descriptions and relevant details in addressing the criteria, but the response is not fully comprehensive. The applicant organization demonstrates a sound understanding of the topic and includes pertinent examples. It is possible to specify what makes the response better than acceptable but not up to the standards of outstanding.

Moderately Satisfactory: The applicant organization provides a basic response to the criteria but does not include enough detail or pertinent examples. Key descriptions, details, and examples are limited. The applicant organization does not effectively translate the requirements of the Guidelines into practice.

Minimally Satisfactory: The applicant organization provides minimal details and insufficient descriptions that do not completely address the criteria. Limited information is presented, or the applicant merely repeats information included in the Guidelines. The applicant may address part of the criteria but miss a key point or there are major gaps in the information presented.



Step 3

(TNBS Staff) Field Visit and Supporting Documents

1. Evaluation and Scoring

- TNBS Grant Staff will provide recorded Step 2 Presentation Meeting notes and Step 2 Application as a final grant package to grant review panel for evaluation and scoring.

2. Conduct Site Visits as necessary to inform final award decisions

3. Request Supporting and/or Additional Documents as necessary to inform final award decisions.

Tentative Timeline

Summer 2025: Release Draft TNBS Round 2 Grant Guidelines for 90-day consultation

HERE

Late Summer-Fall 2025: Consultation

- November 25, 2025: Close of Consultation

Winter 2025: Review and integrate feedback

Spring 2026: Open Application Spring

- Jan-Feb-March: Step 1
- April-May-June: Step 2
- July-August: Review and Award Decision

Late Fall 2026: Announce Award



Redbud Blooms, CNRA HQ, Sacramento





Consultation on the Draft TNBS Climate Bond Guidelines ends Nov. 25, 2025.

To request a consultation, please email us at tribalaffairs@resources.ca.gov.

Thank you for your time and consideration!



Mt. Whitney Mountain Range, Fish Springs, Inyo County

ADDITIONAL SLIDES

Eligible Project Activities: PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Preparation of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and/or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance documents
- ❖ Surveying and/or mapping of proposed project areas
- ❖ Development of site maps and implementation plans
- ❖ Obtaining project permits
- ❖ Preparing and delivering an outreach campaign targeted at adjacent landowners, tribes, community partners, etc.
- ❖ Developing restoration plans that can incorporate cultural activities to increase biodiversity, restore habitats and improve wildfire resiliency, forest health, and/or increase access to traditional foods and materials

...see complete list on pg. 10 of Draft TNBS Climate Bond Guidelines



Eligible Project Activities: IMPLEMENTATION

- ❖ Construction of shovel-ready multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects will be funded up to the end of the funding expenditure period.
 - ❖ These projects may include conservation and restoration initiatives, cultural burns, wildfire resilience, restoration management, or publicly beneficial access development. Please review the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy and the Pathways to 30x30 Strategy for more ideas on multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects.
- ❖ Updating and renovating existing structures on acquired property to serve and support multi-benefit, nature-based solutions.
- ❖ Research and monitoring projects
- ❖ Outreach/education/community engagement activities

...see complete list on pg. 11 of Draft TNBS Climate Bond Guidelines

