

Prop 68 SGW Implementation Round 1 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Application Questions

<p>If an applicant has an existing relationship with a local conservation corps, do we still need to do a formal consultation form?</p>	<p>If you are going to work with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and can demonstrate that you are building them into the project, then you do not need to complete a consultation form. If not, then CCC recommends filling out the form and get a formal response. We highly recommend emailing Prop68@ccc.ca.org to ask more questions of Andrea Gabriel, Bond Program Analyst & Corps Consultation Liaison, Bonds & Grant Unit.</p>
<p>Our Board has already approved the resolution (with the 2019) date, does it need to be re-done? Could this occur pending award? Our Board is not convening again until after the application deadline. The resolution does state P68 Round 1 Implementation, so the intent is clear despite the error in the year.</p>	<p>A new resolution with the 2020 date would be required. However, if time constraints are a factor, it is acceptable to submit a redlined draft of the existing resolution and submit the new resolution before the application reviews are completed. Contact DWR in this case to coordinate.</p>
<p>If a basin has multiple GSAs and multiple GSPs and one GSA is the applicant, they will have a resolution for the Attachment 1, Authorizing Documentation. Do the other GSAs in the basin need to either (1) provide resolutions that they are in support or (2) provide letters that they are in support?</p>	<p>DWR recommends submitting one resolution for the GSA that is applying and obtain resolutions from each GSA that identifies that the applying GSA has authority on their behalf. Please submit all resolution with your application.</p>
<p>Can applicants include headers within the Work Plan?</p>	<p>You may add a header with the application/project name and/or the applicant's name.</p>

Approval/Scoring Questions

<p>Does approval of an application require approval of all components, or could one component not be funded, while funding the others?</p>	<p>Approval of an application does not require approval of all components. Depending on a number of factors, including the overall score, an application can be approved and have still some components that are not approved. Please keep in mind that each component will be scored individually, and the scores averaged, so a low scoring component may affect the overall score of the application. It may help your application to remove components that are not as competitive.</p>
<p>Once the applications are ranked, are the full funding requests for the highest-ranking applications allocated until the total available funds are exhausted?</p>	<p>There is a multitude of ways in which DWR develops our draft and final funding lists. DWR's preference is to fully award those applications that have higher scores and then to look at those applications with scores in the mid-range and consider partial awards.</p>

Will projects with higher local cost share be considered more competitive than those seeking the minimum cost share? Referring back to multiple GSAs in the subbasin, the scenario where each GSA submits a project is highly likely and would commit to higher cost share for their projects (or project components for the purpose of this solicitation).	No.
Are there requirements on a project being shovel ready (i.e., CEQA/permitting completed, design drawing completed, bids received, etc.) or would a project with a process/schedule clearly outlined be considered just as competitive and would DWR lean more on project benefits for scoring?	There are no requirements for a project to be "shovel ready". This funding can be utilized for planning and design activities to make the projects ready for construction. A project will not be scored lower if it is not ready for construction at the time the application is submitted. Applicants would need to provide assurances that the project can be constructed within the timeline that is available with the funding source. Clearly outlining what is required and clear timelines to complete those tasks are details that DWR would expect to see in an application.
Are these projects to be shovel ready?	Projects do not have to be "shovel ready". (Please see above question for more details.)
You mention on the webinar that each sub-project will be evaluated separately and then combined with all the other projects in the application to create an average score. The question: Is the average score a simple group average or a weighted average based on dollar amount requested from each sub-project?	It is a simple average of points based upon the number of components (not including the Grant Administration).
For Question 8 under the Project Description Scoring Criteria, it indicates that in order to obtain full points 3 or more quantifiable benefits must be identified and fully supported with backup documentation. Under the Scoring Criteria column, it indicates that for a maximum of 5 points you must include 4 or more quantifiable benefits. So how many quantifiable benefits are needed to receive maximum points, 3 or 4?	To obtain the full 5 points, 4 benefits are required. However, a minimum of 3 benefits are required overall.

Eligibility Questions

If a GSA is applying and putting forth several components in the application and other GSAs (who are members of the JPA) are also putting forth component(s) when completing the Eligibility Checklist, do we fill it out for just the GSA or do we need to have the JPA also fill out the checklist?	The entity that will be the main grantee has to submit the checklist since they are legally liable. It is highly recommended for the applicant to get the eligibility information from the other entities (not the GSAs) who are putting forward projects within the application since DWR will be holding the applicant legally liable for all projects.
Can you elaborate on why "Meters" were listed as ineligible?	This solicitation is intended to fund capital improvement projects listed in the GSP's Projects and Management Actions and must be consistent with Chapter 11.6 of Proposition 68.

Project Question

<p>If one project has several parts and only one part is listed in the GSP, can the part not listed on the GSP be included in the application?</p>	<p>Projects need to be listed within the GSP's Projects and Management Actions to be eligible. If all parts are necessary tasks within the component that are listed in the GSP, then all aspects can be included in the component. It would be best to keep the parts together since they are directly related. Listing components separately can be more challenging for applicants and it is recommended to instead list tasks within the budget categories. That is the only way to ensure that all pieces of your project are scored together, and all benefits are combined. Otherwise, each component is looked at as a separate, independent project.</p>
<p>One of our projects is a on farm subsurface groundwater recharge. Can we use the local community college as the subsurface groundwater recharge site since it is public land?</p>	<p>You can use any location for a project site regardless of who owns it. The issues come when the applicant cannot demonstrate they have an easement or other legally binding agreement to access the project for maintenance and operations for 15 years. Even at a community college, the applicant will still need to demonstrate they have an easement for the project.</p>

Cost Share/Cost Share Waiver/URC, DAC Questions

<p>How does one quantify how much the project benefits a URC?</p>	<p>The applicant must determine how to quantify their project's benefits. If the project is entirely in the area of the URC, then the URC community will benefit. If it partially in a URC, then the applicant must determine how much of that benefit will apply to the URC. See the SGM Grant Program 2019 Guidelines, Appendix D, for more information.</p>
<p>When determining which cost share waiver the project qualifies for, are you able to use all under-represented community categories in combination to determine the project location and benefit area criteria, or do you need to select a single category?</p>	<p>You can use any or all of the categories to determine the project and benefit area criteria. DWR recommends starting with the broadest category first and then continuing towards the narrower categories if your area is not meeting the requirements in the broader categories. For example, an applicant could start with the Fringe Community category, then trying EDA and then using CalEnviroScreen for the EnviroDAC category and so forth.</p>
<p>For the local cost share waiver, is that for the entire proposal or each component? How would you recommend calculating the cost share if there are multiple components and benefit areas?</p>	<p>The cost share waiver is based upon the grant as a whole and not a component. DWR will work with all awarded applications to make a final determination of the match requirement, if any. If you have multiple components that are in varying locations, take the conservative approach and assume the worse-case scenario for the application.</p>

<p>Our MHI (Median Household Income) is much lower than what is shown in the mapping tool. How do we correct this?</p>	<p>DWR recommends contacting the staff that maintains the DAC tool at https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Mapping-Tools. If you have completed MHI surveys, that data can be used to demonstrate MHI.</p>
<p>Does the requested local cost share waiver percentage have to be exactly 0%, 5%, or 15%, or could it be something in between (e.g., 4%)?</p>	<p>The cost share must be equal to or higher than the required percentage assigned to the project. Having a lower amount (4%) when you are required to have a minimum of 5% would be an auditable finding and you would be required to repay back grant funding accordingly or provide additional match. Also, your budget score would be non-competitive if you do not follow the instructions for matching funds correctly.</p>
<p>Castroville had a MHI done by RCAC that is not reflected on the mapping tool or ACS even though it has been submitted several times. What do you do if the mapping tool, census, and ACS are not accurate</p>	<p>If you have completed MHI surveys, that data can be used to demonstrate MHI. Also look to see how the census tract falls within the CalEnviroScreen mapping tool. In the presentation it was noted that alternative studies (e.g., local income surveys, a subset of a block group, etc.) may substitute census data.</p>
<p>Earlier, you said to use the Attachment 6 Template. It has directions but is not really a form. Can you provide more information?</p>	<p>Attachment 6 only provides the instructions on how to determine whether you are an Underrepresented Community. You must also look in the 2019 Guidelines, Appendix D, to see what is required to be included in the attachment when you submit the application.</p>
<p>The latest data in the EDA Mapping Tool is 2016 while it is 2018 in the DAC Mapping Tool. If we are using a combination of DAC and EDA area to calculate the cost share waiver, should 2016 data from both tools be used for consistency? Or should the latest shapefiles be used that are available in both tools?</p>	<p>Use the latest shapefiles that are available in each tool for the most accurate information. Any of the mapping tool and/or data provide from alternative studies may be used.</p>
<p>For the EDA Mapping Tool, if the area qualifies under one of the categories in the layer list, then is it considered an EDA?</p>	<p>An EDA is a municipality with a population of 20,000 persons or less, a rural county, or a reasonably isolated and divisible segment of a larger municipality where the segment of the population is 20,000 persons or less, with an annual median household income that is less than 85% of the Statewide median household income, <u>and with one or more</u> of the following conditions as determined by the department: (1) financial hardship, (2) Unemployment rate at least 2% higher than the Statewide average, or (3) low population density. (Water Code §79702(k)).</p>

Budget/Funding Questions

<p>Does the January 31, 2020 date mean that the grant will pay for expenses incurred prior to the award of the grant in May 2021?</p>	<p>Matching funds must be incurred after January 31, 2020. Reimbursement funds may begin on the date agreement is finally executed by all parties.</p>
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Can an application receive less than the requested funding amount, similar to the previous planning grants? Also, can an application only request the maximum funding of \$5 million if the project is within a URC and solely benefits the URC? This is in reference to the PSP, second bullet under Implementation - Round 1 in section II. Funding?	DWR can award less than the funding request, but no less than \$2 million, and only if the reduced amount will result in a complete project. The funding award amount is not determined based on URC benefit.
What are the minimum and maximum awards?	The minimum award is \$2 million, and the maximum award is \$5 million.
Are the minimum and maximum award amounts per basin or per subbasin? (i.e., what about basins that have more than on critically overdrafted subbasins, with a separate GSA for each subbasin?)	A "Basin" is defined in our 2019 Guidelines as "a groundwater basin or subbasin identified and defined in Bulletin 118 or modified pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing at §10722 of the Water Code)." There must be one application per basin as defined in the Guidelines. Each application, regardless of how many GSAs/GSPs and components included, has a maximum award of \$5 million.
In Attachment 4, "Grant Proposal Summary Budget" Template, why does item E, Stakeholder Outreach, have blanks in columns A-D?	This was an error in the table provided. Please enter amounts in these columns as needed.
Does a budget have to include money for each of the five categories?	No. The budget should be completed for all applicable categories.

Deadline/End of Solicitation Questions

Please remind us when proposals must be submitted by?	Applications must be uploaded to GRanTS by 5:00 PM on January 8, 2021. Please strive to complete your application as early as possible (in phases as needed) to avoid problems such as slow upload speeds or other system problems on the day the applications are due.
Given the Governor announced today that much of the State will soon be under a new stay-at-home order, will the due date for this grant application be pushed back, perhaps until February or March 2021?	The deadline is unchanged at this time. The expedited schedule for this solicitation is intended to ensure that all grants can be awarded by June 30, 2021 in compliance with the Budget Act of 2020.

Letter of Support Questions

Should letters of support be sent to DWR?	DO NOT send Letters of Support directly to DWR either in the mail or emailed. Upload Letters of Support as PDF attachments to the application via GRanTS.
Who are the letters of support addressed to?	Letter of Support should be addressed to applicant and attached to application.
If we are submitting a multiple component application, will we need 5 letters of support per component? Or is it 5 letters of support per application?	A minimum of 1 letter of support per component must be submitted. Five letters of support are required for applications requesting funding for underrepresented communities.

General/Miscellaneous Questions

<p>Do you have an estimate of timing for Round 2? Will that include all basins that have prepared GSPs?</p>	<p>Round 2 is anticipated to open in Spring 2022. GSAs in medium and high priority basins and COD basins will be eligible. For more information, please refer to Bulletin 118: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Bulletin-118.</p>
<p>Will the slides from this webinar be made available afterwards?</p>	<p>DWR anticipates being able to post the slides and the video of the presentation on our website: https://water.ca.gov/sgmgrants. The slides and links were emailed out on Dec.4. to those on our ListServe mailing list. You can email us to request a copy at SGWP@water.ca.gov.</p>
<p>Can you explain the Open and Transparent Data eligibility requirement?</p>	<p>These are provisions under AB 1755 and DWR recommends reviewing these provisions for eligibility requirements. More information can also be found at: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/All-Programs/AB-1755.</p>
<p>If a project has been funded, will extensions be accepted to the stakeholder engagement / outreach portion of the project due to COVID restrictions?</p>	<p>Extensions are not guaranteed at this time due to restrictions on Prop 68 funding, but grantees are encouraged to ask for extensions if they are needed.</p>