

Measure AA 2021 Grants Webinar (August 5, 2021)

Questions & Answers

- Is there a deadline for pre-application submission?
 - There is not a hard deadline, but we encourage you to send in pre-applications at least a month before the final application deadline of Oct. 7, so around Sep. 7.
- Will the slides be available after the webinar / how can I get a copy of the slides?
 - The slides and a recording of the webinar will be made available on the SFBRA grants page, <https://www.sfbayrestore.org/restoration-authority-grants>
- Is \$12M the total amount of funding available in this round of funding, or is \$12M the maximum each potential grantee can apply for?
 - \$12M the total amount of funding available in this round. The total is reduced due a five-year commitment of around \$11.4M per year to the South Bay Shoreline Project.
- Can you talk about anything that is new in this round?
 - There have been minor changes to the Grant Round application. The Community Grants application is separate, and staff will work with the applicant to develop a full proposal.
- Would a wetland restoration project located just south of Imola Ave in Napa, within the South Napa Wetlands Area, from a location perspective be eligible for Measure AA grant funds?
 - Projects along a creek or river need to be below the head of tide to be eligible. For location eligibility questions, please email us to discuss specifics.
- Do letters of support need to be specific to this application or can they be generic in support of the project (same project, different grant application)?
 - You can reuse letters of support, if the letters are referencing the same project that is being proposed for SFBRA funds.
- Question about public access activities and the definition of “transition zones”: Along the shoreline from Emeryville to Richmond there are fewer traditional habitat restoration projects. Yet there are many needs for public access, engaging youth, education, pollution reduction, and workforce development. So if a public access project engages people to visit the shoreline, but not actually touch a tidal wetland - is this a valid location?
 - We have funded projects in the East Bay but there does need to be a link to a habitat project - the Restoration Authority Act states that public access projects can be funded if they are part of a habitat project. If a public access project (such as Bay Trail) is included in an Environmental Impact Report for a larger restoration project, that would be eligible. We are open to discussing proposals through our pre-application process.
- Can one expand on community engagement for an existing Measure AA grant by applying for a community grant?
 - Yes, a project can get funding through the community grants program (applicant needs to be community-based org in economically disadvantaged community) even if the project received funding through the regular grant round in the past, and vice versa.
- Is the instruction for letters of support (to collect them and include them in our packet) written explicitly? Some of our supporters have previously expressed concern about the process and what is appropriate. Any reassurance we can share with them would be a great help.
 - We can add a note to our website that states letters of support can be collected by the applicant and included in the full application.

- Would a program (led by nonprofit) involving a school whose students are from economically disadvantaged communities, but the school is not physically located in an economically disadvantaged community, be eligible?
 - If the nonprofit is in an economically disadvantaged community, they could apply for a community grant. If the nonprofit is not, they could apply for the regular grant round.
- Is it possible that you'll ask to reduce a grant budget to stretch the funds?
 - Yes we may provide partial funding of grant requests.
- How can one learn more about existing projects like the West Oakland Indicators Project example? I did not see that on your website.
 - It is called the Oakland Shoreline Leadership Academy project (hosted by West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project). All funded projects are listed on our website: <https://www.sfbayrestore.org/projects>
- Are there case studies of projects led by groups that haven't been traditionally involved in habitat restoration projects?
 - Yes, please see our funded projects (<https://www.sfbayrestore.org/projects>) such as Marin City Urban Wetland Community Visioning Project. You can also reach out to us for examples of relevant projects that will be funded soon. If you are new to habitat restoration, consider partnering with an organization that does have science expertise and hands on restoration experience.
- Would infrastructure elements, such as irrigation or lift pumps, be considered for funding for the creation of a wetland habitat for a primary or secondary Suisun Marsh location?
 - Public access and flood management infrastructure can be funded, and other infrastructure may be as well, but should be presented in the context of the whole habitat project and habitat benefits. The primary zone of Suisun Marsh is Baylands so would be eligible; the secondary zone might be, if it is adjacent to tidal marsh or habitat that would allow for marsh migration in the face of sea level rise. Keep in mind that we want to focus on projects that restore and enhance natural systems.
- Can you speak to the public access, how urban trails that connect EDCs to habitat restoration can be eligible?
 - Trails that are along the shoreline and connected to a habitat project can be eligible, but trails that are far away from the shoreline may not be eligible. Reach out to us with questions and we will work through answers with our attorneys if needed.