



Measure AA Grants: Competitive Grant Round and Community Grants Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the difference between the Competitive Grant Round and the Community Grants Program?

- a. The Competitive Grant Round is the traditional approach to our grant process, which requires submission of a full application and favors organizations with a strong track record in developing and implementing shoreline habitat projects.
- b. The Community Grants Program provides an alternative rolling-basis application pathway with increased staff support for project proponents from community-based organizations in economically disadvantaged communities.
 - i. Community-based organizations are still welcome to apply in the Competitive Grant Round. We recommend submitting a pre-application so we can discuss which application track might be better suited for your project.
 - ii. This program also provides an opportunity for community-based organizations to develop experience with restoration and to build relationships with relevant entities. Community-based organizations can then engage communities in the planning, design, and implementation of larger restoration projects to help ensure that those projects provide appropriate community benefits.

2. What is an eligible project location?

- a. To be eligible, projects must be located within the nine Bay Area counties along the shorelines of San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and most of the Northern Contra Costa County Shoreline to the edge of, but not including, the Delta Primary Zone, that are in areas consistent with guidance provided in the [Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update](#) (2015) and [Subtidal Habitat Goals Report](#) (2010), including:
 - i. In subtidal areas (lying below mean low tide), within a reasonable distance of the shoreline; or
 - ii. In baylands, i.e., areas that lie between the maximum and minimum elevations of the tides over multiyear cycles, including those areas that would be covered by the tides in the absence of levees or other unnatural structures, including the portion of creeks or rivers located below the head of tide; or
 - iii. On uplands adjacent to potential or actual tidal wetlands that can provide transitional habitat and/or marsh migration space, as well as areas that are needed to enhance the project's resilience to projected sea level rise.
- b. For more information, see the Restoration Authority's [Request for Proposals on our website](#).

3. Do flood management and public access elements need to be part of a habitat project to be eligible?

- a. Yes. In general, such elements will be considered part of a habitat project if they are included in the plan, environmental documents and/or permits for the particular habitat project with which they are associated.

4. Are natural or man-made structures considered as part of a habitat enhancement project?

- a. Both can be considered part of an enhancement project. The Restoration Authority encourages applicants to refer to the [Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update](#) (2015) and the [Subtidal](#)



[Habitat Goals Report](#) (2010) for principles on habitat enhancement and ecosystem function. In essence, the Authority seeks solutions that will provide clear ecological benefits, and that consider how sustainable the solution will be in the long-run and how it will be maintained.

5. **Is there a limit on the number of pre-applications or proposals an institution or individual could submit?**
 - a. No.
6. **Are program events at the shoreline/creek that reflect the culture of the community (and include education around the shoreline) eligible?**
 - a. Yes, but the event would need to be linked to a shoreline project. For example, the event could aim to educate people about restoration opportunities or ongoing restoration activities.
7. **What are eligible project costs?**
 - a. You can find further guidance on budget related questions in the [Budget Guidelines](#).
8. **Will a project proposal need to meet multiple Measure AA programs and/or activities to score well?**
 - a. Not necessarily. Projects may be assessed based on both the number of programs and/or activities it meets, as well as how well the proposed project meets these programs and/or activities.
9. **Is there a matching funds requirement?**
 - a. No, but for the competitive Grant Round, consideration of matching funds is part of proposal evaluation as it is included as part of the proposed project's leveraging ability, which is a Measure AA priority.
10. **Will the Authority be able to fund a lesser amount than what is proposed? For example, if we submit a proposal for \$1 million, is it possible the Authority may only fund \$500,000?**
 - a. Yes, the Authority may consider partial awards.
11. **Is there a specific timeframe within which granted funds must be spent?**
 - a. There is no legal time limit for fund expenditure. However, we encourage people to apply when they are able to carry out the project shortly after receiving funds. Authority staff will work with each grantee to determine a date by which their project needs to be completed.
 - b. Prospective grantees should think about phasing projects and should make clear in their proposals what the specific phases of the project are. We recommend project proposals/phases to not exceed a 3-5 year time frame.
12. **How will the Restoration Authority handle permit readiness for construction projects, such as with BCDC, the Army Corps, and the Water Board?**
 - a. Prospective grantees should include information about the timing of permits in their project proposals and ensure they have a good handle on the requirements and timeframes of these permits. These types of permits should be completed in time to begin project implementation within a reasonable timeframe after proposal submittal.
13. **Does the project labor agreement threshold of \$500,000 apply to the total project cost?**
 - a. Yes. Restoration Authority grant agreements require a project labor agreement (PLA) for any construction project where (a) the total cost of the project exceeds \$500,000, and (b) the Authority's funding exceeds 10 percent of the total project cost.