**Project Evaluation Questions** (respond to **all** of the **General Criteria Questions** and **all** of the questions in **one** of the **Project Category Criteria**) and upload as an attachment in SOAR.

**GENERAL CRITERIA QUESTIONS**

Answer **all** the questions in this section. Respond to all questions in the order listed and clearly label each question and answer. Provide quantitative explanations in support of each criterion whenever possible.

**Mitigation and Enhancement (0-15 points)**

EEM projects that provide the greatest and most appropriate degree of mitigation (or enhancement to mitigation) for the environmental damage caused by the RTF, will be more competitive.

1. In order to establish the effectiveness of the EEM project, the Applicant must first establish what environmental damage was caused by the RTF.
   1. Describe the RTF in detail.
   2. What are the adverse environmental impacts of the RTF?
   3. Provide a concise, but complete explanation of the **required mitigation** that was

undertaken for the RTF.

* 1. What is the proximity of the EEM project to the RTF?

1. Does the RTF impact a larger biological area, complex, or system (such as a wildlife corridor, watershed or regional greenbelt trail system)? If yes, explain.
2. Is the RTF in an area especially vulnerable to climate change? If yes, explain:
3. The nature of the threat (fire, flood, heat, sea level rise, etc.).
4. How the RTF accommodates the potential effects of this threat.

**Statewide Project Goals (0-10 points)**

The Agency grant programs assist state and local entities in developing more sustainable communities, and increase their adaptability to climate change[[1]](#footnote-1) while improving the quality of life in those communities. EEM projects that demonstrate the following multiple benefits will be more competitive:

* Decrease in air and/or water pollution.
* Reduce the consumption of natural resources and energy.
* Increase the reliability of local water supplies.
* Increase adaptability to climate change.

Multiple benefits accrue from the following types of projects that contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increase adaptability to climate change:

* Enhancing the tree canopy, urban forest, local parks and open space.
* Greening of existing public lands and structures, including school campuses.
* Capturing, storing or infiltrating stormwater for ground water recharge using permeable surfaces, collection basins and barriers.
* Restoration projects that expand the floodplain.
* Installing bioswales, rain gardens etc. to mitigate stormwater runoff.
* Roof gardens and landscaping for heat island mitigation and energy conservation.
* Community gardens or orchards with outdoor education opportunities.
* Conservation easements or fee title acquisitions to preserve land for agricultural uses, open space, wetlands, etc. in perpetuity.

1. Answer the following questions to demonstrate how your EEM project uses innovative methods and implementation strategies to improve both the project’s sustainability and the local community’s adaptability to climate change.
2. Is the EEM project in an area especially vulnerable to climate change? If yes, explain:
   * 1. The nature of the threat (fire, flood, heat, sea level rise, etc.).
     2. How the EEM project design ensures that it will **not** be impacted by the potential effects of this threat?
3. Does the EEM project mitigate for climate change by addressing any of the multiple benefits above? If yes, describe.
4. Does the EEM project help to meet California’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006? If yes, explain how? (Applicants should demonstrate a quantifiable reduction in GHG emissions.)
5. The State seeks to fund a diverse group of projects that serve the largest number of people in the widest area possible. Demonstrate relevance to larger planning processes (e.g., regional, city, county, State) by elaborating on the following:
6. Is the EEM project part of a comprehensive, regional initiative to protect and enhance the State’s natural heritage?
7. Has the EEM project been identified as a statewide priority in plans, policies, or other pronouncements?

1. Is the EEM project consistent with and or identified in local, State, Federal plans? (e.g., General Plans, Transportation Plans, Climate Action Plans, etc.).
2. Has the EEM project been coordinated with local land use authorities?
3. Does the EEM project enhance or expand the State Park System, or add to other protected public lands?
4. Does the EEM project reinforce, complement, or fill a deficiency or need in a larger area, complex, or system?[[2]](#footnote-2) If yes, explain.

**Other Sources of Funds / Local Cash Contributions (0-5 points)**

Projects that contribute the greatest proportion of other funding sources will be more competitive. Remember to include this information in the Cost Estimate (Appendix G or H).

1. Identify the sources and amount of funds already committed to the project and expected timing of those funds.
2. Identify sources and amount of funds yet to be secured and expected timing.
3. List dollar amounts for cash contributions on the Cost Estimate.
4. Describe any in-kind services, volunteer labor, donated materials or technical expertise to be used. (Be sure to list their value separately from cash contributions on the Cost Estimate.)
5. What is the source of funds for ongoing operations and maintenance?

**Project Readiness/Organizational Capacity (0-15 points)**

Projects that can be started and completed most readily will be more competitive.

1. Has the RTF been completed? If not, has it been started?
2. If not started, have funds been specifically appropriated for the RFT? (Required)
3. Has the Environmental Review been completed for the RTF? (Required)
4. Has the required mitigation for the RTF been completed?
5. What is the status of the EEM project designs/specifications?
6. Has the EEM project permitting started? Is it complete?
7. Has the environmental review for the EEM project been completed? (Required)
8. Are committed matching funds for the EEM project readily available?
9. Have land access/tenure agreements been executed?
10. Is there any toxic contamination resulting from prior mine-related or other industrial activity on the property? Has a Phase I or Phase II Environmental site Assessment been completed? If yes, address timing of clean-up, type of toxins and delays to project construction that might result from toxins on site.
11. Describe any due diligence to determine whether there are any abandoned mines on or near the property. Has the Department of Conservation been consulted?
12. Does the Applicant have prior experience with this kind of project? Is the expertise needed for this project readily available within your organization? If not, how do you plan to procure it?
13. Describe the Applicant’s fiscal capacity to carry out the proposed EEM project on a reimbursement only basis?
14. Has the Applicant received a prior EEM program grant? If yes, provide the project name and year.
15. For acquisitions only:

1. Identify the **specific** parcels to be acquired: list APNs here.
2. Have these parcels been appraised? If not, what is the basis for valuation?
3. Has a preliminary title report been issued? If yes, submit with application.
4. Is a purchase agreement in place with the seller?
5. If the purchase agreement is still pending and not submitted with the application, has a “Willing Seller” Letter from each person on the title been secured?

**PROJECT CRITERIA QUESTIONS**

Select **one** of the following categories for your proposed EEM project. Provide responses to all of the questions in the **selected category** as part of the Project Evaluation attachment to be uploaded in SOAR. Respond to questions in the order listed and clearly label each question and answer. Provide quantitative explanations in support whenever possible.

**Urban Forestry (UF)**

Urban Forestry projects, for purposes of this program, are designed to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide through the planting of trees and other suitable plants.

In addition to the tree canopy, an urban forest includes vegetation along urban streets and medians, in urban parks, abandoned sites, and residential areas. Urban Forestry projects may also include nature trails with corresponding amenities and/or interpretive elements.

Within its public road right-of-way, Caltrans will allow the planting of trees and shrubs. Contact your local Caltrans District Office Permit Engineer and Landscape Architect for more information, including restrictions related to the drought.

Projects in the Urban Forestry category will be evaluated on the following:

A. Suitability (0-20 points)

1. Describe the proposed EEM project.
2. How will it mitigate the environmental impact of the RTF?
3. What is the geographic proximity of the EEM project to the RTF?
4. Describe the environmental condition of the EEM project site.
5. Explain specifically how vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide created by the RTF will be mitigated by the EEM Project.

Projects that demonstrate the following will be more competitive in this category. **For questions 6-9 below, explain how the EEM project:**

1. Provides maximum environmental benefits over the long term. For instance, does your project:
   1. Extendsthe existing urban forest with street trees, pocket parks, community gardens and/or orchards?
   2. Increases open space in residential areas by greening vacant lots, abandoned sites, and public lands such as school acreage?
   3. Improves existing urban ecosystems, such as stabilizing urban creeks and shorelines with riparian habitat?
   4. Reduces water usage with native, drought tolerant and low water use plantings?
2. Serves the greatest geographic area and/or number of people, such as making neighborhood parks and trails access points to larger natural areas.
3. Uses permeable surfaces and bioswales to capture, store and infiltrate storm water for groundwater recharge and use.
4. Demonstrates a measureable economic impact. For instance,
5. The impact of trees in making the community more walkable.
6. Reduction of energy costs through summer shade and winter wind protection.
7. Improved physical and mental health of urban dwellers.
8. Reduced stormwater runoff, flooding, damage from coastal storms, erosion, and potential sources of water pollution.

B. Sustainability (0-20 points)

Projects where plantings, once established, will thrive without the need for supplemental irrigation will be more competitive in this category (however, habitat and climate will be taken into consideration). [[3]](#footnote-3)

1. Have you conducted a tree inventory to establish a baseline for management objectives by determining what trees exist and where they are located? If yes, please explain how the results informed your decisions regarding the EEM project. If no, explain how the need for the EEM project was determined.
2. What species of trees and plants will be used? If planting non-native species, explain the rationale behind the selections. Attach Planting Palette with both scientific and common names.
3. What are the environmental benefits of the species selected? For instance:
4. Are selected trees and other plants environmentally tolerant to drought, smog, soil compaction, frost, wind, etc.?
5. Will tree and other plant species selected be ecologically and physically appropriate for their function in the planting space available?
6. Will the initial size selected for the planting area have the best chance for survival and growth on the project site? This program does not fund trees larger than 15 gallon.
7. What consideration, if any, was given to pollen production in the project plant palette? (See the links to SelecTree and OPALs in Appendix T for allergy information on specific species).
8. **Explain how your project** actively preserves and promotes species diversity in the urban forest? For instance:
9. Is your project a larger park and/or open space, and of significant size to improve species richness?
10. Are the species selected to reduce the effects of insects and diseases?
11. Have you observed natural regeneration of native species?
12. Can you identify the factors explaining the variation in biodiversity indicators?
13. Describe provisions for plant establishment and long-term maintenance.
14. What provisions have been made for plantings that fail (e.g. a budget for establishment, removal and/or replacement)?
15. Will the project use recycled or reclaimed water? If not, please explain why reclaimed water is not an option.
16. Is the project in an area easily affected by external events (e.g. weather, vandalism)? If yes, what is planned in the project design to ensure sustainability?
17. Long term water usage will be taken into consideration when evaluating your plant palette.
18. Explain how water use efficiency (including stormwater management from both onsite and adjacent areas) is considered in the design and management of your landscape. How will water conservation be increased?
19. What Best Management Practices will be implemented and what is your source of technical expertise?
20. Is plant selection based on the appropriate and approved planting palette for your specific California climate zone? Please describe.
21. Does the project include temporary or permanent irrigation? What type? (If permanent irrigation is proposed, please explain why it is critical.)
22. How has climate adaptation informed your decisions?

**If maintenance is to be performed by another entity, please attach a letter of concurrence from that entity.**

C. Cost Effectiveness (0-10 points)

Projects that provide the greatest number of trees and plants and yield the greatest potential for long-term carbon dioxide uptake/sequestration – in a cost-effective way - will be more competitive under this criterion. Consideration will be given for the type of habitat (urban, forest, riparian/wetlands, restoring natives, etc.).

1. How many trees will be planted in how much space?
2. What is the size and cost for each of the trees and plants proposed? Plantings should be ecological and physically appropriate for their function in the planting space available. This program does not fund trees larger than 15 gallon.
3. What is the water source and cost?
4. What will be the establishment cost per tree (including irrigation) over the first five years following planting?
5. Is the project using volunteer labor and/or donated materials? If yes, explain.

D. Other Benefits and Community Participation (0-5 points)

Projects that provide other benefits (i.e., benefits of other Categories -- Resource Lands) and/or demonstrate local and community support will be more competitive under this criterion. **Explain if/how the EEM project will:**

1. Provide access to outdoor wildlife/nature oriented recreational opportunities?
2. Increase opportunities for interpretive and/or environmental education?
3. Be ADA[[4]](#footnote-4) accessible? If yes, describe accommodations.
4. Maximize citizen involvement in project planning and implementation?
5. Provide community stewardship opportunities for long-term maintenance?
6. Provide other benefits not included above?

**Resource Lands (RL)**

Resource Lands projects include the acquisition, restoration or enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the loss of, or the detriment to, resource lands lying within or near the right-of-way of the RTF.

Cumulatively, Resource Lands projects address state-wide conservation issues, including climate change, availability of water for fish and wildlife, preservation of California’s rich biodiversity and protection of rare species, control of invasive species, protection of large landscape-level land holdings from conversion and fragmentation, preservation of wildlife movement and migration corridors, and expanded public access to outdoor wildlife/nature-oriented recreation.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Resource Lands may include, but are not limited to, natural areas such as inland wetlands, forests, oak woodlands, mountain meadows, creeks and streams with riparian or riverine fish or wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors and fish passages, coastal estuaries, grazing land and grasslands, among others. Additionally, Resource Lands may contain features of archaeological or historical value.

**“Resource Lands” MUST be impacted by the RTF in order to qualify in this category.**

Development and Acquisition projects that demonstrate the following will be more competitive in this category.

* Protect biodiversity, ecosystem health, habitat quality and connectivity, securing the success of wildlife species and populations.
* Conserve wilderness and open space threatened by infrastructure development, population growth, and land use decisions exacerbating habitat loss and fragmentation.
* Protect watersheds to safeguard clean drinking water and preserve the natural beauty of coasts and waterways.
* Restore and enhance natural areas to ensure long-term ecosystem health.
* Protect working lands or working forests that foster a healthy agricultural system and create valuable habitat for wildlife species.
* Expand opportunities for outdoor wildlife/nature oriented recreation that is compatible with conservation goals.
* Promote education and public awareness to develop current and future generations of land stewards.
* Prepare for the impacts of climate change, such as shifting species ranges and changes in the composition of natural communities.
* Collaborate in public-private partnerships which leverage investment in priority landscapes, as well as smaller-scale partnerships of local and regional significance.
* Employ forward thinking management strategies which anticipate changing conditions and public needs.

Resource Lands projects may be either Development or Acquisition projects. Examples include, but are not limited to the following:

* Development projects may include restoration of waterways to natural or historic function, floodplain enhancements for climate adaptation and flood control, removal of invasive and restoration of natural species, improved access to public lands including the addition of trailheads and nature-oriented trails with corresponding amenities and interpretive elements.
* Acquisitions in fee title or through conservation easements may safeguard regional water supplies, protect riparian and wildlife habitats, conserve agricultural lands for secure wildlife migration corridors, and provide public access for compatible wildlife/nature oriented recreation by the wider community.

At the sole discretion of the Agency, carbon offset projects within the project area may be allowed for improved forest management projects. Agency must review and approve terms included in the conservation easement prior to depositing grant funds into escrow. For evaluation purposes, applicants must disclose in their application plans for carbon offset projects in the project area.

Within its public road right-of-way, Caltrans will allow the planting of trees and shrubs. Contact your local Caltrans District Office Permit Engineer and Landscape Architect for more information, including restrictions related to the drought.

Projects in the Resource Lands category will be evaluated on the following:

A. Resource Value of Lands Lost or Injured by the RTF (0-10 points)

1. Describe the environmental condition of the Resource Lands impacted by the RTF.
2. Where are these lands located?

1. Are they within, or near, the RTF right-of-way?
2. How are they directly impacted by the RTF?
3. What value is lost by this impact?
4. What mitigation was required by the Environmental Review?

B. Resource Value of EEM Project Lands (0-20 points)

1. Describe the proposed EEM mitigation project.
2. How will it mitigate the environmental impact of the RTF? How will it mitigate impacts on Resource Lands specifically?
3. Describe the environmental condition of the Resource Lands to be acquired or enhanced.
4. What is the geographic proximity of the EEM Resource Lands to the RTF impacted Resource Lands?
5. Differentiate the EEM project acquisition, restoration or enhancement from the required mitigation.

**For questions 6-9 below, provide a response and explain.**

1. Is this a one-time or limited opportunity acquisition?
2. Is the property of considerable size?
3. Has the Applicant secured substantial leveraging?
4. Are the lands of statewide significance?

Acquisitions or enhancements to Resource Lands which impact the following will be more competitive:

**For questions 10-13 below, provide a response and explain.**

1. Will the EEM project protect ecosystems, watersheds, and/or other natural systems?
2. Do these contain rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats?
3. Are there special wildlife values such as wildlife corridors, nesting and breeding areas, wetlands, woodlands, and riparian habitat?
4. Will the EEM project protect agricultural lands, or features of archaeological or historical value?

C. Sustainability (0-10 points)

Projects that provide the most reasonable assurance that the project will be maintained and/or protected will be more competitive under this criterion.

1. Describe your plans for operating and maintaining the project, and indicate your source of funds for ongoing management.

1. Is the project in an area easily affected by external events (e.g., weather, vandalism)? If yes, what is planned in the project design to ensure sustainability?
2. If your project involves plantings, once established, will they thrive without the need for supplemental irrigation? Please describe. (Consideration will be given for the type of habitat).
3. Describe your plans for ongoing stewardship of acquired lands.
4. Long term water usage will be taken into consideration when evaluating your plant palette.
5. Explain how water use efficiency (including stormwater management from both onsite and adjacent areas) is considered in the design and management of your landscape. How will water conservation be increased?
6. What Best Management Practices will be implemented and what is your source of technical expertise?
7. Is plant selection based on the appropriate and approved planting palette for your specific California climate zone?
8. Does the project include temporary or permanent irrigation? What type? (If permanent irrigation is proposed, please explain why it is critical.)
9. Will the project use recycled or reclaimed water? If not, please explain why reclaimed water is not an option.
10. How has climate adaptation informed your decisions?

**If maintenance is to be performed by another entity, please include evidence of concurrence from that entity.**

D. Cost-Effectiveness (0-10 points)

Projects that provide the greatest benefit by acquiring, restoring or enhancing the most extensive or most critical resource lands will be more competitive under this criterion. Consideration will be given for the type of habitat and location.

1. How many acres will be acquired, restored or enhanced?

**For acquisitions:**

1. What is the fair market value of the property?
2. Has an appraisal been completed?
3. If not, what is the basis for this assessment?
4. Has the seller discounted the sale price? If yes, by how much?
5. Does the EEM project include a proposed and/or future carbon offset project in the project area? If yes, please refer to the requirements for carbon offset projects listed on page 24.

**For restorations or enhancements:**

Plantings should be ecological and physically appropriate for their function in the planting space available. This program does not fund trees larger than 15 gallon.

1. Describe methodologies planned for removal of exotic/invasive species, and re-vegetation.
2. What species of trees and plants will be used? Attach Planting Palette with both scientific and common names.
   1. Are the species and size of plants appropriate to the habitat?
   2. Are native, drought tolerant and low water use plants being used? If planting non-native species, explain the rationale behind the selections
   3. What is the water source and cost?

* 1. What is the projected plant establishment time and cost? (EEM grant can pay for up to 2 years)

1. Identify the percentage of expenditures for labor and the percentage for materials.
2. Is the project using volunteer labor and/or donated materials?

E. Other Benefits and Community Participation (0-5 points)

Projects that provide other benefits (i.e., benefits of other Categories -- Urban Forestry) and/or demonstrate community support will be more competitive under this criterion. **Explain if/how the EEM project will:**

1. Provide access to outdoor wildlife/nature oriented recreational opportunities?
2. Increase opportunities for interpretive and/or environmental education?
3. Offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide through the planting of trees or other suitable plants?
4. Impact the nearby urban forests? If yes, describe the connection through wildlife, fire, nature oriented recreation and/or water management.
5. Be ADA accessible? If yes, describe accommodations.
6. Maximize citizen involvement in project planning and implementation?
7. Provide community stewardship opportunities for long-term maintenance?
8. Provide other benefits not included above?

**Mitigation Projects Beyond the Scope of the Lead Agency (MP)**

These projects mitigate the impact of proposed transportation facilities or enhance the environment, where the ability to effectuate the mitigation or enhancement measures are beyond the scope of the lead agency responsible for assessing the environmental impact of the proposed transportation improvement.

Within its public road right-of-way, Caltrans will allow the planting of trees and shrubs. Contact your local Caltrans District Office Permit Engineer and Landscape Architect for more information, including restrictions related to the drought.

A. Suitability (0-5 points)

1. Is this mitigation included in the Environmental Review documents?
2. Is it required mitigation?
   1. If yes, is the EEM project the same as the required mitigation?
   2. If no, how does it differ?
3. Why is it beyond the scope of the Lead Agency to effectuate?

Examples include mitigation that is not technologically feasible, not possible within the time frame of the RTF, too expensive to implement, outside the jurisdiction of the lead agency, or are the responsibility of another public agency, etc.

B. Elements of Mitigation (0-20 points)

1. Describe the proposed EEM project.
2. What is the geographic proximity to the RTF?
3. Which resources are impacted by the RTF? (Select those that apply from “a through g” below.)
4. Describe how the EEM project mitigates the environmental impacts noted below. (Questions provided for each resource are examples only.)
5. **Biological Resources** - How will the project control weeds or invasive plants and pests? Restore native habitat? Increase species diversity?
6. **Resource Lands** - How will the project connect to, or augment an existing wild area? Mitigate disturbances to plant communities or sensitive habitats? Will the project protect, or preserve resource lands?
7. **Geology/Soils/ Mineral Resources** - How will the project minimize erosion and sediment transport? Help to stabilize soil? Reduce the risk of slope movement?
8. **Water Quality/Supply/Stormwater Management** - How will the project reduce non-point pollution? Recharge groundwater supplies? Neutralize the effect of herbicides?
9. **Air Quality/ Greenhouse Gas Emissions** - How will the project offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide through the planting of trees and other suitable plants?
10. **Recreation/Scenic Vistas/Cultural Resources** – How will the project extend trails or access for outdoor wildlife/nature oriented recreational purposes?[[6]](#footnote-6) Create or restore opportunities for scenic or wildlife viewing? Improve access to historic or heritage sites?
11. **Agriculture & Forestry Lands** – How will the project protect or preserve open space, farmland, or forest resources?

Projects that demonstrate the following will be more competitive in this category. Explain how the EEM project:

1. Provides maximum environmental benefits over the long term.
2. Serves the greatest geographic area and/or number of people.
3. Is consistent with regional habitat management or conservation objectives.

C. Sustainability (0-15 points)

Projects that provide the most reasonable assurance that the project will be maintained and/or protected will be more competitive under this criterion.

1. Describe your plans for operating and maintaining the project, and indicate your source of funds.
2. Is the project in an area easily affected by external events (e.g., weather, vandalism)? If yes, what is planned in the project design to ensure sustainability?
3. If your project involves plantings, once established, will they thrive without the need for supplemental irrigation? Please describe. (Consideration will be given for the type of habitat).
4. Describe your plans for ongoing stewardship of acquired lands.
5. Long term water usage will be taken into consideration when evaluating your plant palette.
6. Explain how water use efficiency (including stormwater management both onsite and from adjacent areas) is considered in the design and management of your landscape. How will water conservation be increased?
7. What Best Management Practices will be implemented and what is your source of technical expertise?
8. Is plant selection based on the appropriate and approved planting palette for your specific California climate zone?
9. Does the project include temporary or permanent irrigation? What type? (If permanent irrigation is proposed, please explain why it is critical.)
10. Will the project use recycled or reclaimed water? If not, please explain why reclaimed water is not an option
11. How has climate adaptation informed your decisions?

**If maintenance is to be performed by another entity, please include evidence of concurrence from that entity.**

D. Cost Effectiveness (0-10 points)

1. What national, State or local construction standards will be used for outdoor wildlife/nature oriented recreational facilities and amenities such as trails, trailheads, restrooms, etc.?
2. What environmentally-friendly materials will be used?
3. If the Project includes a trail, what construction materials will be used?
4. What species of trees and plants will be used? Attach Planting Palette with both scientific and common names. Plantings should be ecological and physically appropriate for their function in the planting space available. This program does not fund trees larger than 15 gallon.
5. Are the species and size of plants appropriate to the habitat?
6. Are native, drought tolerant, and low water use plants being used?If planting non-native species, explain the rationale behind the selections
7. What is the water source and cost?
8. What is the projected plant establishment time and cost? (EEM grant can pay for up to 2 years of plant establishment.)
9. Identify the percentage of expenditures for labor and the percentage for materials.
10. For acquisitions:
11. What is the fair market value of the property?
12. Has an appraisal been completed?
13. If not, what is the basis for this assessment?
14. Has the seller discounted the sale price? If yes, by how much?
15. Does the EEM project include a proposed and/or future carbon offset project in the project area? If yes, please refer to the requirements for carbon offset projects listed on page 24.

E. Other Benefits and Community Participation (0-5 points)

Projects that provide other benefits (e.g., benefits of other Categories such as Urban Forestry or Resource Lands) and/or demonstrate local and community support will be more competitive under this criterion. Will the project:

1. Provide access to outdoor wildlife/nature oriented recreational opportunities?
2. Preserve or restore natural habitat for wildlife?
3. Offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide through the planting of trees or other suitable plants?
4. Be ADA accessible? If yes, describe accommodations.
5. Increase opportunities for interpretive and/or environmental education?
6. Maximize citizen involvement in planning and implementation?
7. Provide community stewardship opportunities for long-term maintenance?
8. Provide other benefits not included above?

1. Climate change impacts are expected in the areas of public health, biodiversity and habitat, ocean and coastal resources, water management, agriculture, forestry, transportation and energy. (California Climate Adaptation Strategy, 2009) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For example, an EEM project that preserves wildlife habitat lands adjacent to other protected wildlife habitat lands may

   provide greater protection than a smaller, separate habitat lands project; or adding to an existing greenbelt or trail system may

   provide greater mitigation benefits than a smaller, separate urban forestry project. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For information on sustainability, refer to Appendix T, Resources for Sustainable Communities. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Americans with Disabilities Act [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 1. \*California Wildlife Conservation Board, Draft Strategic Plan 2014. [https://nrm.dfg.**ca**.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=75737](https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=75737)

   [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Passive recreation includes trails for hiking and mountain biking, and access for fishing, kayaking, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)