**Project Evaluation Questions**

**Statutory and Program Requirements** – All projects must meet certain requirements as specified in statute. Each applicant must answer all questions below. **Questions are to be answered in the Project Evaluation Questions attachment and uploaded in SOAR.**

1. Explain how the project meets the criteria of 1) acquiring, creating, enhancing, or expanding community parks and green spaces, **and/or** 2) using natural systems, or systems that mimic natural systems.
2. Describe which of the three project activities (carbon sequestration through tree-planting, energy use reduction from tree shade, or reduced vehicle miles traveled), is being proposed and explain how the proposed strategy will result in a net GHG benefit.
3. Using the ARB quantification methodologies, how does your project result in a GHG benefit? Include data on factors contributing to GHG emissions and anticipated outcomes*.* ARB’s quantification methodology for the Urban Greening Program can be found at: [www.arb.ca.gov/cci-quantification](http://www.arb.ca.gov/cci-quantification)
4. Explain how the project provides multiple benefits. These could include, but are not limited to, reduced air pollution, water pollution, consumption of natural resources, or consumption of energy. To help achieve multiple benefits, the project must include the establishment or enhancement of **two** of the following examples (See Appendix O):
5. The greening of existing public lands and structures, including schools
6. Green streets and alleys that integrate green infrastructure elements into the street or alley design, including permeable surfaces, bioswales, and trees
7. Non-motorized urban trails that provide safe routes for both recreation and travel between residences, workplaces, commercial centers, and schools
8. Tree canopy
9. Neighborhood, city, regional, or county parks and open space
10. Riparian habitat
11. Urban heat island mitigation and energy conservation efforts through greening, including green roof projects
12. Multi-objective stormwater projects, including the construction of permeable surfaces and collection basins and barriers
13. Climate resilience and adaptation of urban areas that reduce vulnerability to climate impacts and improve the ability of natural systems to buffer the impacts of climate change
14. Economic, social, and health benefits, including, but not limited to, recreational opportunities, workforce education and training, contracting, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities
15. Answer the corresponding questions for the **two** examples selected in Question 4. Applicants will provide a qualitative description of project as well as any quantitative information on this topic.
16. Greening of existing public land and structures, including schools
17. Describe the current environmental condition of the project site. How is the project site currently used? What is the size, in acres, of the project site?
18. How does the current use contribute to the economic, social and/or recreational life of the community? How will that change as a result of the project?
19. Green streets and alleys that integrate green infrastructure elements into the street or alley design, including permeable surfaces, bioswales, and trees
20. Describe the current use condition of the project site.
21. How will the project convert the property into a green street or alley? Include any plans for recreational and scenic amenities.
22. Will the project reduce vehicle miles traveled? Explain.
23. Non-motorized urban trails that provide safe routes for both recreation and travel between residences, workplaces, commercial centers, and schools
24. How will the project extend trails or routes for recreational and/or commuter purposes? Describe the intended users.
25. Describe how the trail increases connectivity of the active transportation network such filing gaps or otherwise completing routes in a bike or trail plan or a low-stress bikeway network.
26. What construction materials will be used? Include any environmentally-friendly materials that will be used for trail construction (e.g., permeable surfaces).
27. What percentage of the proposed trail system will be ADA accessible? Describe accommodations.
28. How many miles of trail will be created or enhanced?
29. Does the trail connect to or between parks, open space, or green infrastructure?
30. Does the trail improve safety for bicyclists and or pedestrians which may lead to increased biking or walking?
31. Tree Canopy
32. Are green space or vegetation (tree) assessments available in your community? If yes, please describe.
33. What species of trees and plants will be used? If planting non-native species, explain the rationale behind the selections.
34. Are there any local tree canopy ordinances at the project site? Will this project help you meet that these ordinances?
35. How many trees will be planted in how much space? What is the size of each of the trees proposed? Trees must not be larger than 15 gallon.
36. What consideration, if any, was given to pollen production in the project plant palette? (See the links to SelecTree and OPALs in Appendix B for allergy information on specific species)
37. What are the environmental benefits of the species selected?
38. Are selected trees and other plants environmentally tolerant to drought, smog, soil compactions, frost, wind, etc.?
39. Will the initial size selected for the planting area have the best chance for survival and growth on the project site?
40. Explain how your project activity preserves and promotes species diversity in the urban forest.
41. Will the species selected reduce the effects of insects and diseases?
42. How will the trees be protected from vandalism?
43. Has an impermeable surface assessment been conducted? If so, what were the results? If not, will one be conducted during the project?
44. Neighborhood, city, regional, or county parks and open space
45. Describe the environmental condition of the park/open space. Does the project protect rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats?
46. How will the project convert the property into a park/open space? Include any plans for recreational and scenic amenities.
47. Will the project protect agricultural lands or features of archaeological or historical value?
48. Describe any limits such as parking, hours of operation, available staffing, user fees, seasonal restrictions or other ecological considerations. How do you plan to address these limitations?
49. How many acres of green space/park will be created or enhanced?
50. If project includes an acquisition, how many acres of green space/park will be acquired?
51. Riparian Habitat
52. Describe how the project will protect, restore, enhance, or preserve riparian habitat using either common or scientific names to identify elements.
53. If the project includes restoration or re-establishment of riparian habitat, explain plans to employ habitat management strategies designed to reduce mosquito production (See: Central Valley Joint Ventures Technical Guide to Best Practices at

<http://www.centralvalleyjointventure.org/assets/pdf/CVJV-Mosquito-BMP.pdf> ).

1. Is there an imminent threat to the habitat (i.e., projects planned and approved in the immediate vicinity that will preclude or conflict with the maintenance of the habitat)?
2. What will happen to the existing habitat if this project does not occur? Will the habitat improve, decline, or be entirely lost? And, over what time period?
3. How many acres of habitat will be restored or preserved?
4. Urban heat island mitigation and energy conservation efforts through greening, including green roof projects
5. How will the project reduce energy consumption? Describe what energy saving measures will be incorporated. Energy saving measures may include, but are not limited to, constructing green roofs, planting trees to shade buildings, walkways, and spaces, and converting asphalt to native plants and/or turf, or other permeable surfaces.
6. Explain how the project will reduce GHG emissions by reducing energy demand and promoting resource efficiencies.
7. Multi-objective stormwater projects, including the construction of permeable surfaces and collection basins and barriers
8. Describe generally the type of stormwater facilities in the proposal (e.g. rain gardens, planters, bioswales, green roof, etc.).
9. How will the project reduce non-point source pollution? How will the project recharge groundwater supplies? Explain.
10. How will the project be designed to reduce mosquito and methane production (See: Central Valley Joint Ventures Technical Guide to Best Practices at http://www.centralvalleyjointventure.org/assets/pdf/CVJV-Mosquito-BMP.pdf)
11. Describe how the project will capture or treat runoff by answering the following:
	* What is the estimated volume of water to be captured and treated? Explain your methodology and sources.
	* How will you track the volume of water captured and treated?
12. Climate resilience and adaptation of urban areas that reduce vulnerability to climate impacts and improve the ability of natural systems to buffer the impacts of climate change
13. How will the project specifically increase resilience to climate change and what approach was used to determine said benefits? Project elements that increase adaptability to climate change include, but are not limited to, installation of green/living roofs and installing or maintaining large masses of street tree plantings and trees that shade buildings, parking lots, sidewalks and trails (heat island mitigation) etc.
14. Is the project a part of a larger climate action plan? Explain.
15. Economic, social, and health benefits including, but not limited to, recreational opportunities, workforce education and training, contracting, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities
16. Using the examples below, indicate which of the following apply to the project and explain how the selected benefits will be achieved -
	* + Improved mental health (e.g., social networking, overall well-being)
		+ Increased physical activity (effects on obesity, diabetes, heart disease, etc.)
		+ Reduced risk of skin cancers
		+ Increased access to locally grown/sustainable food sources
		+ Increased access to natural environments, parks, opens space, etc.
		+ Other co-benefits to public health (examples include reducing urban heat island effects, increasing safe active transportation - e.g., pedestrian walking and bicycling, and serving an area of high density population).

1. Identify specific efforts or strategies to ensure that disadvantaged communities and/or neighborhoods will realize these benefits.
2. How will the project maximize access to workforce education, training, and quality jobs to residents of disadvantaged communities and individuals with barriers to employment?
3. How will the project use state or local youth employment programs (e.g., California Conservation Corps, local conservation corps or similar youth employment programs) and how will youth employment element be integrated into the program?
4. How will the project maximize contracting with businesses located in disadvantaged communities or minority or women-owned businesses?
5. How will the project ensure supplier diversity and procure goods from local businesses, businesses located in disadvantaged communities, or minority or women-owned businesses?
6. If the project provides other benefits that contribute to sustainable communities, please describe.
7. How will the project maximize workforce education and training in project planning and implementation?

**Statutory and Program Priorities**

Additional points will be awarded to projects that meet **two** of the following priorities. For the purposes of this section, points will be awarded to projects in which either disadvantaged community approach is applicable. Answer all of the questions in the selected priorities. **Questions are to be answered in the Project Evaluation Questions attachment.**

1. Provide park or recreational benefits to a critically underserved community or disadvantaged community
2. Identify whether and how the project will expand acreage and/or access to open space in the critically underserved or disadvantaged community.
3. Specifically describe each recreational element planned for the project:
* Explain how the elements contribute to the overall recreational goals and objectives.
* Explain how the elements are compatible with the environment and the critically underserved or disadvantaged community.
1. Proposed by a critically underserved community or disadvantaged community
2. Identify whether this project is proposed by a critically underserved or disadvantaged community. Explain your method of determination.
	* Is the project located within the disadvantaged community? Explain.
3. How will the project benefit said proposed community?
4. Describe the importance of the project to the community. Is there any opposition to the project?
5. Develop partnerships with local community organizations and businesses in order to strengthen outreach to disadvantaged communities, provides access to quality jobs for residents of disadvantaged communities, or provides access to workforce education and training
6. Discuss how the project will develop partnerships with local community organizations in order to strengthen outreach to disadvantaged communities.
7. Discuss how the project will contract with local minority or women-owned businesses to implement the project, increase supplier diversity, and provides access to quality jobs for residents of disadvantaged communities, or provides access to workforce education and training.
8. How does the project incorporate participation of local agencies, businesses, nonprofits, non-governmental organizations and citizens’ groups in project planning, design, or implementation?
9. Discuss any demographic, social, and/or cultural issues that are important to the local community and that will influence design, implementation, and maintenance of the project.
10. Describe how the applicant or partnering community-based organizations made efforts to meet with and involve disadvantaged community residents about the project prior to the application deadline.
11. Uses interagency cooperation and integration
12. Describe partnerships with other entities, including state entities, local land use and public health authorities, and their corresponding roles in the project.
13. Describe community partnerships for the project with groups such as watershed groups, local businesses, urban forestry organizations, landowners, general public, local governments, schools, environmental groups, technical experts, neighborhood associations, etc.
14. How will the project increase community interaction and cooperation?
15. Are there relevant local land use, watershed, water management, or general plans that have jurisdiction over the project?
* How is the project consistent with these plans?
* Has the Urban Greening project been identified as a statewide priority in plans, policies, or other pronouncements?
1. Uses existing public lands and facilitates the use of public resources and investments, including schools
2. What private, public, and/or non-profit financial resources have been obtained for this project?

**Disadvantaged Communities** (See Appendix D for more information)

Answer each of the following questions. For the purposes of this section, points will be awarded to projects in which the SB 535 disadvantaged community approach is applicable. **Questions are to be answered in the Project Evaluation Questions attachment.**

1. How is a disadvantaged community applicable to this project? Describe the applicant’s relationship to the disadvantaged community.
2. Identify where the project will be located in relationship to the disadvantaged census tract by providing geographical location information. If it is not located within the disadvantaged community, specify where it will be located, how far away it is from the disadvantaged community, and the availability of public transportation to the project site. Provide maps illustrating the disadvantaged community determination. (see Appendix D for guidance in determining the geographic boundary of a disadvantaged community).
3. Does the project address an important community need? How was the need determined? What is the link between the needs of the community and the proposed project? Explain. To determine if a project meaningfully addresses important community needs, applicants can look at the factors in CalEnviroScreen 2.0 that caused the project area to be defined as a disadvantaged community; host community meetings to get local input; refer to the list of common needs in Table 2-2 on page 2-13 of ARB’s Funding Guidelines; or receive documentation of community support (e.g., letters or emails).
4. Does the project reduce flood risk to the disadvantaged community? Explain.
5. Explain how the project reduces air pollution in the community? Does the project provide greater mobility and increased access to clean transportation for community residents?
6. Does the project site allow public access? Is the majority of the project accessible? Explain.
7. Do you anticipate the project will result in at least 10% of project work hours performed by residents of a disadvantaged community participating in job training programs?
8. Do you anticipate the project will result in at least 25% of project work hours performed by residents of a disadvantaged community?

**Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Act of 2008** - Additional points will be given to projects that satisfactorily answer the following questions. **Questions are to be answered in the Project Evaluation Questions.**

1. Was this project eligible to receive funding from the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Act of 2008?
2. Did this project previously receive funding from the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Act of 2008? Was the project completed?
3. If the project received funding, how will Urban Greening funds enhance the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Act of 2008 funded project? Please explain.
4. If the project was not completed, explain the obstacles and how the project will now be achieved.

**Additional Project Characteristics** – Answer each of the following questions in the Project Evaluation Questions attachment.

1. How does the project address environmental, social, economic, or public health issues or provide benefits not previously discussed, describe here.
2. Describe how the project might be used as a model or easily transferred to other communities and/or organizations, or explain the unique conditions in the community that make this project a good fit.
3. What type of irrigation system will be installed? Will it be permanent or temporary (i.e., for establishing plants)? Will the project use recycled or reclaimed water?
4. How will appropriate security and safety be provided?
5. Describe how the project uses anti-displacement strategies, as applicable.

**Project Readiness** – Answer each of the following questions. Applicants should demonstrate an ability to complete the project within the timelines imposed by the appropriation. Urban Greening Program funds are expected to be expended by May 1, 2020. Therefore, projects that can be started and completed most readily will be given priority. **Questions are to be answered in the Project Evaluation Questions attachment.**

1. Identify and describe the steps to be taken immediately following the grant award.
2. Have performance measure standards been established to quantify the success of the project? If yes, what measures are in place?  If not, what steps are being taken to develop standards prior to the completion of the project?
3. Provide the **status** of the following, as applicable:
* Preliminary design plans including plant palettes
* CEQA compliance
* Permits
* Commitments from project partners including funding, land access, easements, encumbrances, and operations & maintenance agreements
* For projects including an acquisition: detailed appraisal and/or comparable sales data; preliminary title report; negotiations with a willing seller
1. What other factors may affect the project’s timeline and completion (e.g., other sources of funds, utilities, opposition to the project, willing seller issues, etc.)? How will these factors be addressed?
2. 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 so, address timing of clean-up, types of toxins, and delays to the project construction that might result from toxins on the site.
3. Describe any due diligence to determine whether there are any abandoned mines on or near the property. Has the Department of Conservation been consulted?
4. List all other sources of funding and amounts already committed to the project and expected timing of funds. Cite specific dollar amounts for cash contributions, in-kind services, volunteer effort, other GGRF funding, donated labor and materials, technical expertise, etc.
5. Indicate any other grants where funding has been requested, the requested amount, and the expected notification date.
	1. If funding is not received from other sources, is the requested grant amount sufficient to complete the project? Explain.
6. What other options are available to meet the project objectives if this grant request is not successful?
7. What is the contingency plan for implementation if the project exceeds the budget?

**Organization Capacity** – Applicants must demonstrate their ability and willingness to complete and maintain the project according to the program requirements. **Questions are to be answered in the Project Evaluation Questions attachment.**

1. What is your organization’s experience in completing this type of project?  Is the expertise needed for this project readily available within your organization? If not, how do you plan to procure it?
2. Explain how you plan to keep the community informed and involved in the project.

1. Who will perform long-term maintenance?  Describe their experience in maintaining this type of project.  How will ongoing maintenance be funded beyond the grant timeline (as applicable)?
2. Please describe how your proposed project will be sustained. Who or what institutions will take responsibility for plantings?
3. How will the project be protected from vandalism and deterioration?
4. Explain methods for estimating costs and in what way the project is cost effective.
5. Do you have a fiscal sponsor? If yes, identify the sponsor and explain their role in the project.
6. Has the applicant received a prior grant from the California Natural Resources Agency? If so, include project name and year.