 **CULTURAL, COMMUNITY AND NATURAL**

 **RESOURCES GRANT PROGRAM**

 **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: When must the funds be expended?**

A: May 1, 2022.

**Q: Will there be additional rounds of CCNR grant funding?**

A: No. It is anticipated all the funds will be awarded in one cycle.

**Q: Will the California Natural Resources Agency develop a separate Community Access Program?**

A: For this program, 5% of the total grant award may be used for community access activities for the project being funded.  CNRA will continue to evaluate the prospect of developing a separate community access program from other Proposition 68 program funds it administers.

**Q: My organization has several eligible projects that we feel are competitive. Should we submit one concept proposal for all projects, or individual concept proposals?**

A. Multiple projects cannot be submitted under one concept proposal; however, applicants may submit more than one concept proposal.

**Q: May we submit our project under more than one category and let the State choose which category is most competitive?**

A: No. You must choose the category that best fits your project.

**Q: Please provide criteria used for determining if a project serves a “low income community” and can the low-income community be served by a city located near a Reservation.**

A: In general, projects serving a low-income community must be within a reasonable distance – i.e., 20-minute walk and/or demonstrably accessible by public transportation.

**Q: What tool would you like applicants to use to determine if a project located in or will serve a disadvantaged community?**

A: Applicants may use any applicable tool that meets the bond’s definition of disadvantaged community. An acceptable, easy to use tool is the Community FactFinder, developed by California State Parks, at <http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>.

**Q: If a Tribe is not located in a severely disadvantaged community, are they still eligible to apply?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Are matching funds required?**

A: Matching funds are not a requirement of this program. However, projects will be more competitive when leveraging funds. Please note that matching or other sources of funds must be disclosed in the cost estimate.

**Q: What does “carbon sequestration features in the project design” include? What are acceptable methods of quantifying carbon sequestration/greenhouse gas reduction benefits?**

A: Applicants may use any commonly-accepted carbon sequestration feature in their project designs as long as they can explain/justify carbon sequestration claims. The CCNR program does not require the use of one particular quantification methodology. Applicants are encouraged to refer to the California Air Resources Board website at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cci-quantification-benefits-and-reporting-materials> for helpful resources.

**Q: Can the grant management workshop be covered by grant funds as an eligible cost and when are they held?**

A: Grant management workshops are held in various locations around the State several times a year. Grantees will be notified when a grant management workshop is scheduled in their area. Actual travel expenses incurred to attend the workshop are an eligible reimbursable cost.

**Q: Can applicants who cannot access SOAR due to computer and/or browser limitations submit a hard copy?**

A: Yes. Applicants who can demonstrate hardship in accessing SOAR should contact the Natural Resources Agency.

**Q: Can grant funds be used for planning costs?**

A: Yes. Up to 25 percent of grant funds for a development project may be spent on project management/non-construction (pre-implementation) costs, including, but not limited to planning and design. In addition, up to 5 percent of the grant may be used for planning costs related to expanding community access to the project.

**Q. Are advances allowed under this program?**

A. For communities that meet disadvantaged requirements, advances may be available upon compelling need. No advances will be made for in-house labor costs.

**Q. I understand this grant program usually reimburses (pays in arrears) for work already completed. Is it possible to get an advance for property acquisitions?**

A. Yes. The program can advance a portion of funds into an escrow account accompanied by escrow instructions.

**Q: If the purchase price is above fair market value (FMV), can the applicant find other sources to cover the amount in excess of FMV?**

A: No. The State will not participate in acquisitions purchased at greater than FMV.

**Q: Are costs directly related to the grant project, but incurred prior to the project award date eligible for reimbursement?**

A: No. Costs must be incurred during the project performance period to be eligible.

**Q: Can we use an overhead rate (e.g. indirect/billable rate) for personnel and/or employee services?**

A. No. Only direct costs are eligible for reimbursement.