

Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake (Committee)

DRAFT 2022 Mission Statement and Project Criteria

August 25, 2022 v.6

Since 2018, the Committee has focused much of its work on the design and implementation of research projects designed to create a better understanding of the drivers of challenges impacting Clear Lake including water quality, the environment, and the social, cultural, and economic well-being of its communities. In particular, research has focused on harmful algal bloom (HAB) drivers, mercury contamination, and social/cultural/community resilience. As these activities begin producing results with potential recommendations for addressing concerns, the California Natural Resources Agency (Resources) and Committee Chair requested the development of a clear vision to guide Committee projects and priorities moving forward. The DRAFT vision and project criteria discussed below were developed through conversations with the Committee's Technical and Socioeconomic Subcommittees in July and August, 2022 and are subject to further refinement and approval by the Committee.

After a vision and project criteria are developed, Committee and Subcommittee members will be asked to craft a unified plan for meeting the requirements of AB 707 (Aguiar-Curry, 2017). This legislation established the Committee and sets broad goals for improving the health of Clear Lake thus improving social and economic outcomes in its surrounding communities.

DRAFT Vision Statement ¹

Through a collaborative community process recognizing the interrelated nature of the Clear Lake environment, its communities, cultures, and the economy, the Committee will support and develop sustainable solutions for the local management of Clear Lake that will:

1. Improve water quality for environmental, Tribal, and human beneficial uses
2. Increase native and beneficial species abundance and diversity
3. Enhance climate resilience and adaptability
4. Recognize and incorporate the critical importance of Tribal heritage and cultural uses of Clear Lake and the surrounding area
5. Restore and enhance recreational use
6. Increase the capacity of local communities to be effective and knowledgeable stewards of Clear Lake Create and enhance outreach and education programs to strengthen community understanding of and participation in the care of Clear Lake
7. Enhance local and regional pride in North America's oldest and California's largest natural lake
8. Improve the economic prosperity of Clear Lake Communities

Project Proposal Requirements/Criteria

The vision is intended to serve as the "guiding principle" for Committee activities; it provides the "sideboards" for project proposals brought to the Committee for eventual funding and implementation.

¹ Solutions to specific environmental challenges should seek to reach benchmarks for measuring success, including (but not limited to) Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan requirements, existing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for nutrients and mercury, and the environmental drivers of HABs currently researched by a variety of agencies and organizations.

Only those projects designed to achieve elements of the vision should move forward. The following criteria and requirements will be used to develop a scoring system for the Committee's consideration as it seeks to approve proposals. Depending on the type of proposal under consideration (i.e., environmental restoration, nutrient management, environmental education, etc.) not all requirements will apply. However, at a minimum, proposals must:

1. Describe how the project contributes to improving the physical health of Clear Lake.
2. Describe how the project will demonstrate progress towards achieving the Committee's vision.
3. Describe how the seven Clear Lake Tribal Nations will be included in the design and implementation of the project.

To the greatest extent possible, proposals should also:

4. Describe how the project is expected to improve or impact the Lake County economy.
5. Describe the timeline for project completion from project approval through post-project monitoring or reporting.
6. Describe the outreach/community engagement necessary to build understanding of and support for the project. This may include (but is not limited to) a description of who will be engaged and which existing groups will collaborate to increase project awareness/community buy-in.
7. Identify all local, state, and federal permitting requirements (including environmental review) required for project implementation as applicable.
8. Rely and build on past and current research outcomes. Describe how the proposal uses existing research in its design.
9. Use existing data to the maximum extent feasible *OR* describe specific data gaps expected to be filled through project implementation.
10. Describe the proposing entity's experience on similar projects .

Project Reporting Requirements

Specific reporting requirements may be dictated by Resources in contract agreements after proposals are approved by the Committee and funded by the State, but at a minimum should include:

1. Quarterly updates to the Committee on project implementation progress
2. Quarterly updates to the Committee and Resources on community outreach and engagement process
3. A plan for data management, submittal, and sharing throughout the life of the project
4. Post-project monitoring updates
5. Other?

Project Proposal Process/Timeline

To date, projects approved by the Committee have been funded through two primary sources: Proposition 68 grants and through the State of California's general fund process. Moving forward, individuals or organizations proposing projects should consider the following:

- Proposal development should begin in July/August of each year by providing an initial proposal overview to the appropriate Subcommittee.

- Iterative review and refinement by the Committee and its Subcommittees will occur through March/April of the following year.
- Proposals will be submitted for final Committee approval in May in advance of Resources budget deadlines.
- Approved projects will be funded the following year as part of the state budget process (ex: projects approved in May/June 2022 will be included in the 2023/24 Budget Act).
- NOTE: Ultimately Resources, as the parent agency of the Committee, will make a determination as to whether proposals seek to achieve the Committee's vision and the mandates laid out in AB 707.

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