**Tribal Nature-Based Solutions**

**Standard Grant Process**

**Ancestral Land Return and Implementation Project Proposal (Step 2)**

**Application Form**

THIS FORM IS THE ANCESTRAL LAND RETURN AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT PROPOSAL (STEP 2) APPLICATION FORM. Download OR print this form and fill it out as completely possible. For additional information, view the Complete Grant Guidelines document and the Summary Resources at <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Tribalaffairs/Tribal-Nature-Based-Solutions-Program>.

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

Applicants invited to the next phase (Step 2) will be asked to submit a Project Proposal by email or mail to the California Natural Resources Agency. Email submissions are preferred and due dates can be found on the Program website at <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Tribalaffairs/Tribal-Nature-Based-Solutions-Program>.

Email applications to: [tribalaffairs@resources.ca.gov](mailto:tribalaffairs@resources.ca.gov)

Mail application to:

California Natural Resources Agency

Attn: Tribal Nature-Based Solutions

715 P Street, 20th Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

Applicants with competitive eligible projects will be invited to compete in the next step of the evaluation process, a virtual or on-site field visit or project presentation. The most competitive projects receiving a field visit/project presentation will be invited to submit additional supporting documentation for further evaluation. Incomplete or noncompliant proposals may be eliminated from the competitive process.

For questions already answered in the Preliminary Project Proposal stage, Applicants may use the same answers provided or may provide more refined or edited answers to provide further clarity. If using the same answer as provided before, still include fully written answer for all questions in the Step 2 application form.

All Project Proposal submittals will include the following:

**PROJECT PROPOSAL INFORMATION FORM**

Please fill out the following as completely as possible. If not applicable, please put n/a:

**Project Information**

1. Project Title:
2. Project Description (1,000 characters or less):
3. Total Project Cost:
4. Funding Amount Requested:
5. Project Start Date:
6. Project End Date:

**Applicant (Legal Owner of the Project)**

1. Applicant Name:
2. Applicant Federal ID Number (FEIN):
3. Applicant California tax identification number, if applicable:
4. Attach evidence of the applicant’s active status as a legal entity

* Federally recognized tribes
  + Evidence of inclusion in the annually published federal register from the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to 25 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 83, Section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994.
* For corporations qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code (taxed exempt charities and non-profits)
  + An IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter or a printout from the IRS tax-exempt organization search tool on the official IRS website is sufficient. See https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/
* For all other corporations
  + A printout from the Secretary of State business search web page showing the corporation is Active is sufficient. See https://bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov/search/business

**Applicant Point of Contact**

1. Full Name:
2. Title:
3. Address:
4. City:
5. State:
6. Zip:
7. Phone Number:
8. Secondary Phone Number:
9. Email:

**Project Location**

1. County:
2. Latitude:
3. Longitude:

**SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST for STEP 2 Proposals:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The following is entered included in the Project Proposal Application:** |  |
| * Project Proposal Form |  |
| * Project Summary |  |
| * Project Questions |  |
| * Ancestral Lands and Boundary Map |  |
| **The following will be attached to the Project Proposal Application:** |  |
| * Project Proposal Form Signature Page |  |
| * Cost Estimate (see Appendix D) |  |
| * Supporting Documents |  |
| * Location Map |  |
| * Signed letter or resolution from the chairperson of the tribe(s) that are actively supported by the application (See Appendix F.1) |  |
| * Site Plan (**Implementation and Ancestral land return projects only**) |  |
| * Photographs (**Implementation and Ancestral land return projects only**) |  |

1. **Project Summary**

Describe the discrete project including expected project deliverables. Answers are limited to 4,000 characters.

* 1. Select only one project type:
     + Planning
     + Implementation
     + Ancestral Land Return with a Planning project
     + Ancestral Land Return with an Implementation project
  2. Describe the goals and objectives of the project, what tribe and/or surrounding communities will it serve, how it is a multi-benefit nature-based solutions project, and how the project will be evaluated, including metrics that can be used to evaluate the progress and success of the grant.
  3. Provide a brief description of current site conditions, baseline conditions, and expected benefits of the project.

1. **iMPLEMENTATION Preliminary Project Questions**

All applicants must answer the Requirements and Project Need questions. In addition, applicants should answer **the Ancestral Land Return and Implementation Project Funding Priorities section** and the Organizational Capacity section.

If a question does not apply to the project, indicate “Not Applicable” with a brief explanation. Do not leave blank fields. Answers are limited to 4,000 characters.

* 1. Project Applicant’s Information
     1. Name and contact information that can be made publicly available.
     2. List key partners and collaborating entities.
  2. Project Type (**CHOOSE ONE**)
     + Planning project
     + Implementation project
     + Ancestral land return and Planning projects
     + Ancestral land return and Implementation projects
  3. Provide a detailed description of the California Native American tribe(s) that will be served by the project. Include official name of the tribe(s), tribal demographics, and description of the tribe(s)’ ancestral land boundaries and where the project location is related to those boundaries.
  4. Explain how the project is “multi-benefit” by describing the two or more benefits that address climate change, improve public health, increase equity, and protect biodiversity. Please indicate which strategy (*Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, Pathways to 30x30 Strategy,* and/or *Ocean Protection Council’s Tribal Engagement Strategy*) the applicant is relying on and include the page numbers of the specific strategies.
  5. Explain how the project is a “nature-based solution” by describing how the project works with or enhances nature to address societal challenges. What approach is the applicant using, including protecting nature, sustainably managing nature, and/or restoring nature? What is the societal challenge that the project is addressing?
  6. Does the project advance coastal and ocean multi-benefit nature-based solutions? If yes, please indicate which action included in the Ocean Protection Council *Tribal Engagement Strategy* the applicant is relying on and include the page numbers of the specific strategies.
  7. Explain the tribal consultations and public engagement the applicant has completed in the development of the project. How has the applicant addressed any concerns or requests for collaboration?
  8. Explain how the applicant is an eligible applicant for this program. Eligible applicants include California Native American tribes and tribally led entities located in California. Non-tribal entities may support California Native American tribes and tribally led entities in applying for the program. Applications can be submitted on behalf of an inter-tribal consortium, tribal conservation district, or partnerships. Applications submitted by non-tribal entities or inter-tribal consortium, tribal conservation district, or partnerships must describe how the project will serve the supporting tribe(s) and community.

# Signed Letter or Resolution

# Attach a signed letter or resolution from the chairperson of the tribe(s) that are actively supported by the application. This letter or resolution must describe how the project will serve the supporting tribe(s), the relationship between the applicant and tribe(s), and best point of contact on behalf of the tribe(s) name, email, and phone number. (See Appendix F.1).

**Implementation Project Funding Priorities**

1. How will the proposed project benefit the tribe(s)’ ancestral lands and community?
2. How will the implementation project and associated activities support the tribe(s)’ future multi-benefit nature-based solutions priorities?
3. Describe, in detail, the components of the implementation project. Include timelines for each component.
4. Describe the steps that have already been completed on the project and the immediate steps to be taken post-grant award.
5. List all entities with ownership and jurisdiction over the project location and the status of notifications, agreements, meetings, etc. about the project with each owner and jurisdictional entity. Include a list of the owner(s) of the project property(ies) and the Assessor’s Parcel Numbers (APNs) for each property.
6. If the applicant will be including a nature-based solutions workforce or economic development component within their implementation project, please describe the specific components that will be funded with the grant.
7. How will the effectiveness of the project be monitored and assessed? Include how the tribe will measure success, document outcomes, and know if the project achieved the benefits intended.

**Ancestral Land Return Project Funding Priorities**

1. Describe the project location as it relates the applicant’s ancestral lands and the significance of the property to the tribe and community.
2. Describe the significance of the property for advancing multi-benefit nature-based solutions priorities.
3. Describe if the property(ies) to be purchased:
   1. Are within current reservation boundaries and addresses “checkerboarding” issues.
   2. Are directly adjacent to reservation or trust land boundaries.
   3. If in shared ancestral territories, will be jointly owned and/or managed by inter-tribal consortium or partnership.
   4. Are directly adjacent to conserved lands or coastal waters and improving habitat connectivity.
   5. Are eligible, seeking, or have secured partial funding from other state, federal, tribal, or private funds.
   6. Are to be purchased by applicants that represent landless tribes or tribes with minimal lands (20 acres or less) in reacquiring ancestral lands.
   7. Returns or restores access to and cultivation of culturally significant natural resources and traditional foods to tribes and their members
4. Describe if the project is for the purchase of property, conservation easement, or water rights/instream flows.
5. Describe what multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects will be planned or implemented after the purchase of property.
   1. If proposing a planning project, please fill out the Funding Priorities for Planning Projects questions above. If proposing an implementation project, please fill out the Funding Priorities for Implementation Projects questions above.
6. Describe if the owner of the property is a willing seller and list all current owners and jurisdictions over the property. Include a list and map showing the owner(s) of the project property(ies) and the Assessor’s Parcel Numbers (APNs) for each property. Please note, only projects with willing sellers will be eligible for the Program. (See Appendix I for sample willing seller letter – willing seller letters required during Step 4).
7. Describe the basic title analysis, including the analysis of the legal access to and encumbrances on the property. Applicants may include a title report.
8. Describe the steps that have already been completed on the project and the immediate steps to be taken post-grant award.
9. List all entities that would have future ownership and jurisdiction over the property.
10. Describe the long-term ownership and management plans, including management funding of the project.
11. Describe if the property is in shared ancestral territories with other California Native American tribes and likelihood of any conflict or opposition from other tribes. If so, what actions has been taken to address potential conflict?
12. How will the effectiveness of the project be monitored and assessed? Include how the applicant will measure success, document outcomes, and know if the project achieved the benefits intended.

**Organizational Capacity**

1. Describe the applicant’s experience in completing similar projects. If the applicant doesn’t have experience in completing similar projects, please identify the resources or partnerships that will be relied upon and what technical assistance may support the applicant’s efforts.
2. Describe the applicant’s fiscal capacity to carry out the proposed project.
3. Describe the make-up of the decision-making body of the applicant. This could be a description of the members of the tribal council, board of directors, or other decision-making body.
4. Describe the applicant’s mission, community served, and include a link to the applicant’s website. This could include a summary of a tribal constitution or an entity’s mission statement.
5. Describe the qualifications of the top five (5) project team members that will be implementing the project if awarded.

**End of Project Questions**

**Required Documentation for Step 2 Project Proposal**

The following documents must be included as part of the Project Proposal:

**For All Projects -**

1. **Proposal Form Signature Page** – The signature page of the completed Project Proposal Form should be signed by the same Authorized Representative to be identified in the resolution or certification letter (see Appendix F or Appendix G) and included in the Project Proposal. The signature can be a wet signature or signed electronically.
2. **Cost Estimate** – Provide a cost estimate reflecting all costs associated with the project. Identify costs to be funded by the grant and costs covered by other funding sources. The cost of project elements funded by the Program should not be split between the grant and other funding sources (see Appendix D for a sample format).
3. **Supporting Documentation** - Up to eight pages of documentation that helps illustrate and support the proposed projects, such as, but not limited to, draft workplans, grant solicitation notices, letters from jurisdictional entities, community meeting notes, photographs, or other relevant documentation.
4. **Location and Ancestral Land Maps** - Directional map, with enough detail to allow a person unfamiliar with the area to locate the project site. Please indicate the boundaries of the tribe’s ancestral lands associated with the project site.
5. **Attach a signed letter or resolution from the chairperson of the tribe(s) that are actively supported by the application** - This letter or resolution must describe how the project will serve the supporting tribe(s), the relationship between the applicant and tribe(s), and best point of contact on behalf of the tribe(s) name, email, and phone number.
6. **Site Plan** – Plans should be for the project for which funding is requested. If the project is part of a larger project, clearly indicate the portions to be grant-funded. Plans should contain specific property details, exterior boundaries, public access points (if applicable), and location of the proposed improvements described in the proposal. The plan should be specific enough to allow someone unfamiliar with the project to visualize it in detail.
7. **Photographs** –Provide up to five (5) labeled color photographs of different views of the project reflecting **current** conditions.

**End of Required Documentation for Step 2 Project Proposal**