



CALIFORNIA
NATURAL
RESOURCES
AGENCY

Urban Greening Grant Program Guidelines

February 2026 Draft



URBAN GREENING GRANT PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

General Grant Information	<p>Available Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$46,125,000 <p>Eligible Applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Agency• Local Agency• Nonprofit Organization• Special District• Joint Powers Authority• California Native American Tribe• Public Utility• Local Publicly Owned Utility• Mutual Water Company <p>Grant Amounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum Award: \$200,000• Maximum Award: \$5,000,000 <p>Eligible Project Type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development
2026 Grant Cycle	<p>Technical Assistance Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBD 2026 <p>Concept Proposal Solicitation Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBD 2026 to TBD 2026



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I. INTRODUCTION

Background

On November 5, 2024, California voters passed [the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024](#) (Proposition 4), otherwise known as the “**Climate Bond**¹.” The **Climate Bond** authorizes \$10 billion in general obligation bond sales to fund projects to address climate change, protect communities and nature from its impacts, and improve the lives of Californians.

Section [92530](#) of the **Climate Bond** directs funding to the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) for competitive urban greening grants for projects that mitigate the **urban heat island effect**, rising temperatures, and extreme heat impacts.

Funding Purpose

The Urban Greening Grant Program will fund projects that use **nature-based solutions** to mitigate the **urban heat island effect**, rising temperatures, and extreme heat impacts in **urban areas**.

Nature-based solutions include all the ways land can be managed to boost the health and resilience of natural systems, helping them store carbon and protect against climate change impacts, including extreme heat. **Nature-based solutions** that address extreme heat impacts use natural cooling strategies to limit temperature increase and urban heat islands. Examples include planting trees that provide strategic shade, expanding green spaces that serve as places of refuge during heat waves, and increasing tree canopy cover in cities, communities, and schoolyards.

Successful projects will green and cool communities and offer multiple benefits such as sequestering carbon, protecting public health, increasing equity, expanding economic and workforce opportunities, and protecting biodiversity. Funded projects are expected to advance the goals of the State’s [Extreme Heat Action Plan](#) and [Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets](#).



¹ Words in bold font are defined in the Glossary (Appendix D). Clicking on bolded words will open the relevant glossary page.

II. PROGRAM INFORMATION

Funding Information

Available Funding

\$46,125,000

Grant Amounts

Minimum award: \$200,000

Maximum award: \$5,000,000

Eligible Applicants

- Public agencies
- Local agencies
- **Nonprofit organizations**
- Special districts
- Joint powers authorities
- **California Native American tribes**
- Public utilities
- Local publicly owned utilities
- Mutual water companies

Eligible Projects

Development projects that propose **nature-based solutions** to mitigate the **urban heat island effect**, rising temperatures, and extreme heat impacts in **urban areas** are eligible.

Planning, educational or training programs are ineligible on their own, but can be minor complementary elements of an overall **development project**. Deferred maintenance, property acquisition, and **active recreation** (e.g., sports field, skate park) projects are ineligible.

Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to:

- Creation and expansion of **green streets and alleyways**
- Creation of green parks, particularly in **park-poor communities**
- Schoolyard greening, particularly in **park-poor communities**
- Tree canopy expansion
- Habitat **restoration**, where appropriate
- Community gardens that provide food, water access, and shade
- **Green stormwater infrastructure** (e.g., green roofs, rain gardens, bioswales)

Funding Requirements

General Project Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, Urban Greening projects must comply with all the following:

- Be located in an **urban area**;
- Provide public benefit;
- Provide public access; and
- Be implemented on contiguous parcels or public rights-of-way (ROW), with the exception of street-tree planting projects across various noncontiguous public ROWs.

At the time of application, applicants must either own the property or demonstrate landowner willingness to enter into future **site control** negotiations.

Tribal Outreach and Collaboration

For projects that affect tribal communities, Grantees must show meaningful outreach and attempts to collaborate with local **California Native American tribes** throughout the planning, design, and implementation of their project.

Meaningful outreach includes, but is not limited to, writing letters and emails and following with phone calls updating the tribe throughout the life of the project, inviting tribal leadership to attend planning meetings, and meeting with local tribal government-led consortiums or other inter-tribal governmental organizations.

Collaborating with local **California Native American tribes** can include developing the project with tribal leadership, ensuring the project provides benefits to the local tribe and its membership, and providing contracting opportunities to local tribes and their members where appropriate.

Climate Bond Funding Priorities

Direct and Meaningful Benefits

Proposed projects providing direct and meaningful benefits to **vulnerable populations, disadvantaged communities, or severely disadvantaged communities** will be prioritized for funding.

The following definitions apply:

Vulnerable Population

A subgroup of population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts. **California Native American tribes** are considered **vulnerable populations**.

Disadvantaged Community

A community with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the area average or less than 80 percent of statewide median household income.

Severely Disadvantaged Community

A community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the area average or less than 60 percent of statewide median household income.

A minimum of **40 percent** of funding will be awarded to projects providing direct and meaningful benefits to **vulnerable populations, disadvantaged communities and severely disadvantaged communities**.

Projects providing direct and meaningful benefits to communities will meet the following four criteria:

1. Create direct, tangible, and substantial benefits that would not have happened without the project. Meaningful benefits are not incidental, indirect, or speculative.
2. Protect or enhance a community's resources and quality of life by building climate resilience. This may include reducing risks to the community from climate hazards or protecting resources threatened by climate change (e.g. drinking water supply/quality, urban tree canopy, **critical community infrastructure**, etc.)
3. Directly respond to a community's expressed need or desired benefit, either through direct project input or as part of a larger planning or engagement effort.
4. Avoid long-term degradation or reduction of any population's resources (i.e., benefits provided to one community cannot burden another).

Examples of Direct & Meaningful Benefits Anticipated through Urban Greening Projects

- Making neighborhoods cooler
- Reducing flood risk during heavy rain
- Increasing parks/green spaces with shade so communities have cool places to gather
- Creating good local jobs with fair wages, benefits and job training
- Lowering energy use and costs
- Providing extreme heat protection
- Improving air quality
- Improving green stormwater management to prevent flooding and pollution
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and storing carbon in nature

Corpsmember Services

Projects that propose to use the services of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) or Certified Local Conservation Corps (LCCs) shall receive funding preference. To determine the feasibility of Corps' participation, initiate the consultation process using the links provided in Appendix C. Both the CCC and the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC) must be consulted prior to Full Proposal submission.

Leveraged Funds

Proposed projects that **leverage** private, federal, and local funding or produce the greatest public benefit will be prioritized for funding.

Other Funding Considerations

In evaluating projects, the State may consider additional factors relating to program-specific priorities. These may include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

- Provide multiple benefits (economic, environmental, health, social, etc.)
- Use low water, drought-tolerant plantings that comply with the **Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO)** or local agency landscape water ordinance (if as strict or stricter than the MWELO)
- Plant trees no larger than 15-gallon size (exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis)
- Equitable geographic distribution of funds statewide



Emerald Necklace Jackson Watershed Discovery Campus Project, Amigos de los Ríos

III. COMPETITIVE GRANT PROCESS

Applicant Assistance Workshops

CNRA Grants Unit staff will conduct several virtual workshops to discuss the Urban Greening grant program and the competitive process and to address applicant questions. The dates and times of the workshops will be announced via the [Bonds and Grants Listserv](#) and on the [Urban Greening Grant Program webpage](#).

Thereafter, CNRA Grants Unit staff will be available via appointment during specified office hours to provide general assistance to applicants preparing Concept Proposals and Full Proposals. Appointment scheduling is available on the [Urban Greening Grant Program webpage](#).

Concept Proposals

All applicants must submit a Concept Proposal via the [California Natural Resource Agency's Project Tracking and Reporting \(RAPTR\)](#) system. The Concept Proposal form is available on the [Urban Greening Grant Program webpage](#). See Appendix A for a preview of the Concept Proposal form.

Applicants submitting eligible Concept Proposals will be invited to submit a Full Proposal. All Full Proposal candidates may request a consultation appointment with CNRA Grants Staff for assistance in preparing the Full Proposal.

Full Proposals

Full Proposals must be submitted via the [California Natural Resource Agency's Project Tracking and Reporting \(RAPTR\)](#) system. The Full Proposal consists of a proposal form and mandatory supporting documents. The Proposal form and a list of required Proposal documents is available on the [Urban Greening Grant Program webpage](#). See Appendix B for a preview of the Full Proposal form and the list of mandatory documents.

Full Proposal Evaluation

Full proposals will be scored by CNRA Grants Unit staff using the 0- to 70-point scoring rubric described below. Up to 30 additional points can be earned for meeting Climate Bond Funding Priorities (**described on pages 3-5**) for a total of 100 possible points.

Extreme Heat Threat and Community Engagement (0-30 points)

High (21-30 Points): The project area has severe and frequent **extreme heat events** that impact the community. The project proposes **nature-based solutions** that will significantly mitigate these community impacts. Affected communities, including **California Native American tribes**, participated in identifying local needs, priorities, and proposed solutions and will be engaged in the planning, design, implementation, and monitoring of the project.

Medium (11-20 Points): The project area has **extreme heat events** of moderate severity that impact the community. Although **nature-based solutions** are proposed, their potential to mitigate heat-related impacts is less substantiated. Community engagement is planned or in progress for some aspects of the project.

Low (0-10 Points): The project does not include or adequately describe one or more of the following: **extreme heat event** frequency and severity, related issues and impacts, and **nature-based solutions**. The community has not been engaged or has been only minimally engaged in identifying local needs, priorities, and proposed solutions. Plans to conduct future engagement have not been formalized.

Alignment with State Plans and Goals (0-15 points)

High (11-15 Points): The project has been designed with long-term climate resilience in mind. The project will help meet two or more of the [Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets](#) identified for developed lands. Specifically, refer to the targets listed under *urban and community greening and forestry and afforestation between communities and croplands*. These targets include:

- Increase tree canopy cover in cities, communities, and schoolyards
- Establish **climate-ready vegetation**, remove grass
- Increase green space, such as parks, gardens, schoolyards, greenways/greenbelts, street trees, green roofs, rain gardens, etc.
- Increase large canopied, **climate-ready** trees meaningful to the community; prioritize communities with low tree canopy
- Establish tree line buffers between croplands and communities to reduce chemical exposure and enhance access to green space

Medium (6-10 Points): The project will help meet one of the [Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets](#) identified for developed lands (see above) and has been designed with long-term climate resilience in mind.

Low (0-5 Points): The project will not help meet any of the [Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets](#) identified for developed lands (see above) and has not been designed with long-term climate resilience in mind.

Project Readiness (0-25 points)

High (18-25 Points): The project planning and design are complete. Permitting requirements have been determined. Additional funding is secured, if needed. **Site control** and long-term operation and maintenance agreements have been secured or are pending.

Medium (9-17 Points): The project planning and design are in progress. Additional funds have been identified but not secured. Applicant is in communication with the property owners or organizations with jurisdiction over the project area regarding **site control** and long-term operations and maintenance but has not yet executed final agreements.

Low (0-8 Points): The project planning and design have not begun. Legal owners and additional entities with jurisdiction over the project area have not been contacted. Additional funding is needed but no sources have been identified.

Climate Bond Funding Priorities

Additional points for each **Climate Bond** funding priority the project delivers will be added to the final score. There is a total of 30 additional points possible.

Direct and Meaningful Benefits: The proposal adequately identifies and describes, as defined in Appendix D, the **vulnerable populations, disadvantaged communities, and/or severely disadvantaged communities** who will benefit from the project. (+10)

The proposal adequately substantiates that the benefits provided to communities will meet all four meaningful and direct criteria described on page 4 of the guidelines. (+10)

Corpsmember Services: The project will use the services of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) or Certified Local Conservation Corps (LCCs), and the applicant has adequately consulted with them on the scope and cost of their services. (+5)

Leveraged Funds: The project will **leverage** private, federal, and/or local funding. (+5)

Field Visits

The most competitive projects will be further evaluated by an on-site field visit. Applicants should be prepared to respond to project-specific questions during the visit. A field visit invitation does not guarantee funding.



Before and after views of the Bridges Academy Green Schoolyard Project,
The Trust for Public Land

IV. GRANT ADMINISTRATION

This section is a guide for Grant Administration should your project be awarded funding. Applicants should be familiar with the grant administration requirements before deciding to submit a Full Proposal and/or entering into a grant agreement.

General Grant Information

Funding Availability

Climate Bond funding is available for the limited time described in the state budget and these guidelines. For Urban Greening projects awarded in the 2026 funding round, projects must be completed by no later than March 1, 2030, unless otherwise specified in a subsequent Budget Act.

CNRA Grant Administrator

The CNRA Grant Administrator assigned to your grant project will help you throughout the life of the grant. Your Grant Administrator is your official state contact for all grant information and should be the primary resource for questions and assistance.

Grant Agreement

CNRA cannot release funds until a Grant Agreement is executed. The Grant Agreement defines a project's scope, budget, and timeframe. You should not start your grant-funded project until you receive an executed Grant Agreement.

Grant Performance Period

The Grant Agreement defines the start and end date of the grant-funded project (the "Project Performance Period"). The grant can only pay for project costs incurred within the Project Performance Period.

Required Project Reporting

You are required to report on your project's progress at least once a quarter and whenever your Grant Administrator requests an update. Reporting is mandatory. Failing to report on time may delay reimbursement of project costs and/or result in project termination. A reporting template will be provided by your Grant Administrator.

Payment Requests

After the grant agreement is executed, you may request grant funds by submitting a payment request. A payment request can be either a request for reimbursement of project costs you have paid (a "Reimbursement Request") or a request for an advance of grant funds to pay future project costs (an "Advance Request").

Reimbursement Requests

Whenever possible, you should pay project costs and then seek reimbursement from the grant. It is recommended you request reimbursement at least quarterly but no more

than monthly. Submitting one reimbursement request for all project costs at the end of the project is strongly discouraged. Your Grant Administrator will provide forms and a Reimbursement Request Guide which explains how to request reimbursement.

Advance Requests

The **Climate Bond** allows an advance payment of grant funds in the amount of 25 percent of the grant award to initiate a project in a timely manner. At CNRA's discretion and if need is demonstrated, additional advances of up to 25 percent may be allowed. There are many restrictions and requirements related to advanced funds. These are detailed in the Advanced Funds & Reconciliation Guide which your Grant Administrator can provide, along with required forms. We recommend you carefully review this Guide and make sure you understand all the advance policies before submitting a request.

State Audit and Accounting Requirements

Audit Requirements

The State may audit your grant project annually and for three years after the final payment of grant funds. You will be contacted in advance if your project is selected for audit. The audit will look at all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records related to the project from all funding sources.

You must provide all project records requested by the auditor, including source documents and evidence of payment and make an employee with knowledge of the project available to the auditor.

Accounting Requirements

Your accounting system must:

- Accurately reflect fiscal transactions, with necessary controls and safeguards.
- Provide a good audit trail, including original source documents such as purchase orders, receipts, progress payments, invoices, employee paystubs and timecards, evidence of payment, etc.
- Provide accounting data so the total cost of each individual project can be readily determined.

Records Retention

Project records must be retained for three years after final payment of grant funds and for at least one year following an audit.

Changes to Approved Project

The executed grant agreement will contain the approved project scope and budget. If you need to make changes to your project after the grant agreement is executed, you must submit a written request. Requested changes may not substantially alter the project described in your Full Proposal.

Time Extensions

The executed grant agreement will define the start and end date of the project (the "Project Performance Period"). If you later need to extend the Project Performance Period, you must submit a written request for a time extension to your Grant Administrator and explain the reason why it is needed.

Climate Bond Funding Acknowledgment

Projects funded by the Climate Bond must include signage informing the public the project received funding from the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024. The sign must be mounted in an area maximizing visibility and durability for a minimum of four years after project completion. All materials used shall be durable and resistant to the elements and graffiti.

All signs must contain the language shown below and the Climate Bond logo. The name of the director of the local agency or other governing body may be added, as well as the names (and/or logos) of other partners, organizations, individuals and elected representatives.

The [Climate Bond logo](#) must measure a minimum of 12 inches tall.

Project Title/Description	 The logo is a rectangular badge with a blue border. Inside, the word "CLIMATE" is in blue capital letters above the word "BOND" in larger, bold blue capital letters. A circular emblem containing a stylized map of California in green and yellow is positioned between the two words. Below the main text, "PROP 4 • 2024" is written in smaller blue capital letters, flanked by two small wavy lines. At the bottom, "GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM" and "STATE OF CALIFORNIA" are written in blue capital letters.
Another Urban Greening project funded through the Natural Resources Agency to safeguard people and nature from climate change.	
Gavin Newsom, Governor	
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources	

Before ordering a funding acknowledgment sign, you must submit the design (including size) and proposed posting location to your Grant Administrator for approval. The example above contains the required language and logo, but the layout and style may be determined by the grantee. Construction funds will not be released until at minimum a temporary funding acknowledgment sign is installed at the project site. The last 10 percent of grant funds will not be released until permanent signage has been approved and installed.

Site Control

Before any grant funds can be released, you must provide evidence you have legal authority to do the grant project on the project property. If you own the property, you must submit evidence of ownership. If you have a lease or another legal, long-term interest in the land you must submit a copy of the lease or other interest that shows permission to do the project.

Long-Term Operation and Maintenance (Land Tenure Term)

The grant agreement requires you to operate and maintain the grant project for the following number of years after project completion.

At least 20 years for grants up to \$1 million

At least 25 years for grants over \$1 million

In the grant agreement, this period is called the “Land Tenure Term.” You must operate, maintain, and use the project to fulfill the purpose funded by the grant for the entire Land Tenure Term. If you own the project property, you may not sell or transfer any interest in the property without the State’s permission during the Land Tenure Term. If you do not own the property, your lease or other long-term interest in the property must last long enough to cover the Land Tenure Term.

Eligible Project Costs

General Principles for Determining Cost Eligibility

The following are general principles to consider in determining whether a project cost is eligible for grant funding:

- Costs must be incurred within the project performance period outlined in the Grant Agreement.
- Costs should be planned for and included in the project cost estimate in the Grant Agreement.
- Grantees should use good judgment in purchasing items and services to be paid with grant funds. Project expenses should be cost-effective and economical.
- Costs paid with grant funds must serve a public purpose.

Types of Eligible Costs

Direct Costs

Direct costs are costs necessary to carry out the grant project and are eligible for payment. They may include materials, supplies, equipment, technical consultants, subcontractors, grantee’s staff labor, and other eligible costs. Direct costs do not include general administrative costs and overhead (see definition of indirect costs below). They also do not include endowments for ongoing project maintenance.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are expenses related to the general operation and support of an organization or project. Examples include rent for office space, utilities, insurance, office supplies, administrative salaries, and accounting. Food and beverages, fundraising, lobbying and entertainment may **not** be included as indirect costs. Indirect costs are also called overhead or administrative costs.

Unlike direct costs, which are easily traced to a specific project, indirect costs are shared across multiple projects or the entire organization. Indirect costs are typically calculated as a percentage of the direct costs of a project. This percentage is called the indirect cost rate.

The Climate Bond allows you to choose one of the following indirect cost rate options:

- The grantee's negotiated indirect cost rate, pursuant to its negotiated indirect cost rate agreement.
- The de minimis indirect cost rate specified in Part 200 of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- A rate negotiated by the grantee with another state agency within the last five years.
- A rate proposed by the grantee in the grantee's program application with the administering state agency if the grantee does not have an existing state rate.

You must use the indirect cost rate option chosen on the Indirect Cost Rate Form submitted with your Full Proposal. Your chosen indirect cost rate must be supported by an accounting methodology following Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). You must maintain records to support your indirect cost rate and provide those records in the event of an audit.

The indirect cost amount budgeted for the grant should be entered as a single line item in the project cost estimate. When submitting payment requests, you may bill an appropriate amount of indirect costs for the period covered by the payment request until the indirect cost budget is exhausted. At audit, you must be able to prove the actual indirect costs for the project are equal to or greater than the total indirect amount charged to the grant.

Eligible Direct Costs

Staff Costs

The costs of staff salaries, wages, and employer-paid benefits that are directly related to executing the project are eligible subject to the following:

- Staff costs must be computed on actual time spent on the grant-funded project and supported by timesheets.
- Overtime rates may be charged for hours worked over an employee's regular hours (according to your established policy) only if all the regular hours were also devoted to the grant-funded project. For example, if your established policy is that overtime is earned for hours worked over eight hours a day, overtime rates can only be billed to the grant if the employee's regular eight hours on the day overtime was earned were also devoted exclusively to the grant-funded project.
- All staff costs billed to the grant must reflect actual rates paid to employees. No indirect or overhead costs may be added to staff rates. Employees' annual

salaries and hourly compensation rates must be supported by pay stubs or a payroll service printout to be produced at the request of a Grant Administrator or auditor.

- Salaries and wages claimed for employees working on State grant-funded projects must not exceed your established rates for similar positions.
- You may add the actual costs of employer-paid benefits such as vacation, sick leave, Social Security contributions, etc. to employee rates. You must provide documentation to support the amounts charged at the request of a Grant Administrator or auditor.

You are responsible for determining if your project is subject to the prevailing wage requirements of California Labor Code § 1720, et seq. For questions about prevailing wage, contact the [Department of Industrial Relations](#).

Consultants/Contracted Services

The costs of contracted services are eligible if invoices that identify specific project activities performed are presented with payment requests.

Outreach

Costs of engaging community members through community meetings and events directly related to the project are eligible. Refreshments offered to community members may not be paid for with Climate Bond funds but must be paid with other funds.

Construction

All necessary labor and construction activities to complete the project are eligible, including site preparation, monitoring, onsite/field implementation, construction supervision, etc.

Supplies and materials may be purchased for a specific project or may be drawn from central stock, providing they are claimed at a cost no higher than what you paid. When supplies and/or materials are purchased with the intention of constructing a piece of equipment, a structure or part of a structure, the costs that are charged as supplies and materials may be capitalized according to your normal practice or policy. If capitalized, only that cost reasonably attributable to the project may be claimed under the project.

Equipment

Equipment needed for your project may be leased, rented, or purchased, whichever is most economical. If you buy equipment, you must credit the residual market value of the equipment at project completion to the grant.

You may charge the grant for use of your organization's equipment on the project. Rates charged must be supported by your established written policy and not exceed the rate for similar rental equipment in your local area. The California Department of Transportation [equipment rental rates](#) may be used as a guide as long as those rates are similar to the rental rate in your area.

You should maintain an equipment log that identifies the equipment, the operator, hours used, and hourly rate. The log should be signed by the operator and supervisor, when possible. This log and your written equipment rental rate policy should be produced at the request of a Grant Administrator or auditor.

You may not charge use of your vehicles to transport personnel and supplies as an equipment cost. Instead, you may bill the grant for mileage.

Signs and Interpretive Aids

Construction of exhibits, kiosks, display boards, signs, and interpretive aids for the project are eligible. Before construction begins and/or before the end of the project, you are required to post a sign acknowledging Climate Bond funding was used for the project.

Mileage Reimbursement

Mileage incurred in vehicles you own is reimbursable at the [current state mileage rate](#). You must maintain a mileage log with the date, mileage, destination, and trip purpose (referencing the grant's project scope) to be produced at the request of a Grant Administrator or auditor.

Mileage reimbursement covers:

- Fuel or electric charging costs
- Maintenance
- Insurance
- Licensing and registration
- Depreciation and all other costs related to vehicle operation

Staff Travel Costs

Staff travel costs will be reimbursed in accordance with your written travel policy. Absent a written travel policy, the travel reimbursement rates cannot exceed those applicable to California State employees found [here](#).

Mileage costs incurred by employees using their personal vehicles should be submitted to you as part of an expense/travel claim. After reimbursing the employee, you may submit the mileage costs to the State for reimbursement. Reimbursement for staff personal vehicle mileage is limited to the [current state mileage rate](#).

Other Expenditures

Grant funding may also be used for miscellaneous costs necessary to execute your project, subject to the State's approval. Some of these costs may include:

- Premiums on hazard and liability insurance to cover personnel and/or property.
- Work done by another section or department of your organization that can be charged as direct costs to the project (subject to the same requirements under Staff Costs above).

APPENDIX A. CONCEPT PROPOSAL FORM

Contact Information

Applicant Organization: Enter text here

Applicant Address: Enter text here

Primary Contact: Enter text here

Title: Enter text here

Email: Enter text here

Phone: Enter text here

Secondary Contact: Enter text here

Title: Enter text here

Email: Enter text here

Phone: Enter text here

Proposed Project Information

Project Title: Enter text here

Grant Amount Requested: Enter text here

Total Project Cost: Enter text here

Other Funds (if applicable): Enter text here

Source of Other Funds: Enter text here

Project Location: Enter Address

Longitude: Enter Longitude

Latitude: Enter Latitude

County: Enter text here

Senate District: Enter

Assembly District: Enter

Project Start Date: Enter text here

Project End Date: Enter text here

Note: Urban Greening grant funds must be spent by March 1, 2028

Eligibility

1. Applicant Organization Type – Choose one:

- Public agency
- Local agency
- Nonprofit organization
- Special district
- Joint powers authority
- California Native American tribe
- Public utility
- Local publicly owned utility
- Mutual water company

2. If a nonprofit, is the applicant qualified under IRS Code §501(c)(3)?
 Yes
 No
3. If a nonprofit, is the grantee in good standing with the [Secretary of State](#)?
 Yes, status is active
 No, status other than active
4. If a nonprofit, is the grantee current status with the [Attorney General's Registry of Charities and Fundraisers](#)?
 Yes, status is Current
 Yes, status is Current-awaiting reporting or in progress
 Yes, status is Exempt
 No, status is Delinquent
 No, status is Other than Current or Delinquent
 Not applicable, not a nonprofit.
5. Is the project a development project (see definition in Appendix D of the Grant Guidelines)?
 Yes
 No
6. Is the project located in an urban area (see definition in Appendix D of the Grant Guidelines)?
 Yes
 No
 Other - [Explain](#)
7. Does the applicant own the proposed project property?
 Yes
 No
8. If the applicant does not own the proposed project property, briefly explain the current status of obtaining permission to develop property owned by another entity.
[Enter text here](#)
9. Will the proposed project be developed on public contiguous parcels or public right-of-way?
 Yes
 No
 Other - [Explain](#)

10. Will the completed proposed project be publicly accessible?

- Yes
- No

Project Description

11. Provide a concise description of the proposed project and scope of work. Describe specific project deliverables and the estimated length of time it will take to complete the project (attach a conceptual site plan, if available).

Enter text here

12. Which of the following climate benefits will your project provide? Mark all that apply.

- The project will protect people and/or nature from climate impacts, including extreme heat, wildfire, flood, drought, or sea level rise
- The project will reduce and/or remove greenhouse gas emissions
- The project itself is designed to be resilient to climate impacts, including extreme heat, wildfire, flood, drought, or sea level rise (e.g., drought tolerant tree species are selected for areas anticipating worsening drought)
- Protect biodiversity from the impacts of climate change
- Support planning, capacity building, workforce training, or monitoring activities that will protect people and/or nature from climate change impacts or reduce/remove greenhouse gas emissions

13. Describe any other benefits the proposed project is anticipated to provide that are not specifically included in question 12 above (e.g., increased recreational opportunities, improved health and/or safety, etc.)

Enter text here

14. Explain the need for the proposed project. If applicable, explain how your project will provide “meaningful and direct” benefits to a disadvantaged community, a severely disadvantaged community, or a vulnerable population (as defined in Appendix D and described on pages 3-4 of the Grant Guidelines).

Enter text here

Certification

As the Authorized Representative for the applicant organization, I certify the information provided in this concept proposal is complete and accurate.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: Enter text here

Title: Enter text here

APPENDIX B. FULL PROPOSAL FORM AND LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Project Description

1. Describe the proposed project, including expected project deliverables and current site conditions. If it is part of a larger project, define the discrete scope proposed for this grant in relation to the portion funded by other sources.
Enter text here
2. List major project elements/deliverables including the number of each to be funded by the grant. See examples below. You may overwrite the examples with your own project elements and add more lines as needed.

Project Elements	Qty/Unit
Park creation (example)	5 ac.
Trees (example)	45
Ground cover, shrubs, plants (example)	1,300
Bioswales (example)	300 sq. ft.
Decomposed granite walking path (example)	1.25 mi.
Wooden benches (example)	10
Shade structure (example)	1

Project Questions

Applicants must answer the following questions, as applicable.

Extreme Heat Threat

3. Using the [California Heat Assessment Tool](#), provide the project location's census tract number(s); Annual Number of Health Events, located under the Heat Health Events (HHEs) heading; and Heat Health Action Index located under the Vulnerability Indicators heading. See Appendix E of the Grant Guidelines for instructions on how to use this tool.

Census Tract(s): [Enter text here](#)

Annual Number of Health Events: [Enter text here](#)

Heat Health Action Index: [Enter text here](#)

4. Describe the extreme heat frequency and severity in the project area. You may reference tools other than the [California Heat Assessment Tool](#). See Resources in Appendix C of the Grant Guidelines.

Enter text here

5. Describe known extreme heat-related issues and impacts on the local community. What are the community's needs and priorities in addressing these impacts and how were they identified?

Enter text here

6. How will the project use nature-based solutions to mitigate the urban heat island effect, rising temperatures, and extreme heat impacts in the project area?

Enter text here

Community Engagement

7. Does the project engage the local community in aspects of project design, implementation and monitoring?

- Yes
- No

8. How will the local community participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of the project? If the project has not or will not include local community participation, provide an explanation.

Enter text here

9. Identify any meaningful outreach and attempts to collaborate with California Native American tribes that have already occurred or are currently in process. Check all that apply.

- Applicant has or is providing opportunities for tribal leadership and staff to express the tribe's priorities, views, and concerns.
- Applicant has or is sharing pertinent project materials with all potentially affected tribes so they may make an informed decision regarding possible impacts.
- Applicant has or is providing technical assistance and appropriate tribal consultation timelines.
- Applicant has or is prioritizing collaborative problem-solving as well as integration and advancement of tribal priorities and perspectives into decision-making where feasible.
- Applicant has or is incorporating traditional ecological knowledge in designing and implementing the project.
- Other - [Enter other collaboration method](#)

10. Please provide details describing your past, current, and any future planned outreach, consultations and collaborations with California Native American tribes.

Past: [Enter text here](#)

Current: [Enter text here](#)

Future/Planned: [Enter text here](#)

11. Discuss any potential project impacts and/or priorities identified by tribes. Describe how tribal feedback and/or priorities were integrated into the proposed project. If no impacts were identified or are not applicable to the project, briefly explain how this conclusion was reached.

[Enter text here](#)

Climate Bond Priorities

The 2024 Climate Bond requires at least 40 percent of the total bond funding “shall be allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to vulnerable populations or disadvantaged communities.” The following tools must be used to answer questions 11-14 to properly identify the vulnerable population(s) or disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged community or communities who will benefit from the project:

- Vulnerable Communities Platform: <https://vcp.lci.ca.gov/>
- Climate Bond (Proposition 4) DAC/SDAC tool: (in development)

12. Does the project provide benefits to vulnerable populations, disadvantaged communities, or severely disadvantaged communities? See definitions in Appendix D of the Grant Guidelines. Applicant responses will be verified by grant staff using the tools linked above.

Yes, the project benefits (select all that apply)

- Vulnerable populations
- Disadvantaged communities
- Severely disadvantaged communities

No. Please proceed to Question 17.

13. Describe the vulnerable population(s) who benefits from the project. If not applicable enter N/A.

[Enter text here](#)

14. Describe the disadvantaged community who benefits from the project. If not applicable enter N/A.

[Enter text here](#)

15. Describe the severely disadvantaged community who benefits from the project. If not applicable enter N/A.

Enter text here

16. Which of the following benefits will the project provide? Check all that apply:

- Making neighborhoods cooler
- Providing protection from extreme heat
- Improving air quality
- Lowering energy use and costs
- Increasing access to parks and urban green spaces so communities have cool places to gather and relax
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and storing carbon in nature to help slow climate change
- Reducing flood risk and improving water quality through green stormwater management
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity
- Creating or expanding green recreational parks and/or schoolyards in a park-poor community (See definition of park-poor community in Appendix D of the Grant Guidelines).
- Protecting urban wildlife and plants
- Supporting tribal stewardship
- Creating good local jobs with fair wages, benefits, and job training
- Helping regions build capacity to design and deliver strong, community-led projects
- Other - [Enter other benefits](#)

17. Please explain how the project will meet all four meaningful and direct benefits criteria described on page 4 of the Grant Guidelines. All criteria must be met for the projects' benefits to be considered meaningful and direct.

Enter text here

18. If your project will not provide meaningful and direct benefits to disadvantaged communities or vulnerable populations, describe the benefits your project will provide and the communities who will benefit.

Enter text here

19. Will the proposed project use the services of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) or a certified local community conservation corps (CLCC)? Refer to Appendix C in the Grant Guidelines for links to CCC consultation instructions.

- Yes – Answer question 19.
- No

20. Describe the specific work the CCC or CLCC will perform.

Enter text here

21. Will the proposed project leverage private, federal, or local funding?

- Yes – Answer question 21.
- No

22. How does the project leverage private, federal, or local funding?

Enter text here

Alignment with State Plans and Goals

23. Describe how the project will help meet the [California's Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets](#) for developed lands, which include but are not limited to:

- Increase tree canopy cover in cities
- Establish climate-ready vegetation, remove grass
- Increase green space, such as parks, gardens, schoolyards, greenways/greenbelts, street trees, green roofs, rain gardens, etc.
- Increase large canopied, climate-ready trees meaningful to the community; prioritize communities with low tree canopy
- Establish tree line buffers between croplands and communities to reduce chemical exposure and enhance access to green space

Include specific information in your response, including numbers of trees to be planted, acres of green space to be created, acres of climate-ready vegetation to be planted, number and size of rain gardens, etc.

Enter text here

24. How will the proposed project be designed to withstand and adapt to climate impacts, such as future heat waves and precipitation extremes (drought and deluge)? For example, explain which tree species will be used and the rationale for their selection.

Enter text here

Project Readiness

25. Describe the status of project planning, design, and permitting.

Enter text here

26. If environmental compliance (CEQA) for the project has been completed, please enter the following:

a. Type of CEQA document filed:

- Notice of Exemption
- Negative Declaration/Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Environmental Impact Report

- Other: [Enter text here](#)
- b. Enter State Clearinghouse Number: [Enter text here](#)

27. If environmental compliance (CEQA) for the project has not been completed, describe the status of CEQA, the anticipated type of CEQA document, and the expected completion date.

[Enter text here](#)

28. List all other sources of funding and amounts already secured or committed to the project and the expected timing of these additional funds.

[Enter text here](#)

29. List the legal owners for each parcel within the project footprint and the status of negotiations, agreements, etc. required to implement the project.

[Enter text here](#)

30. List any additional entities with jurisdiction over the project and the status of required permits, approvals, agreements, notifications, etc.

[Enter text here](#)

31. Describe your organization's prior experience in completing the project type.

[Enter text here](#)

List of Required Documents

- [Authorizing Resolution](#)
- [Cost Estimate](#)
- [Indirect Cost Rate Form and Supporting Documents \(if applicable\)](#)
- [Photographs](#)
- [Location Map](#)
- [Property Data Sheet](#)
- [Assessor's Parcel Maps](#)
- [Site Plan](#)
- [Plant Palette](#)
- [Environmental Compliance](#)
- [Project Timeline](#)
- [Funding Plan](#)
- [Proof of Ownership](#)
- [Adequate Site Control/Land Tenure](#)
- [Operations & Maintenance](#)
- [Permit/Approval Status](#)

Certification

As the Authorized Representative for the applicant organization, I certify the information provided in this proposal is complete and accurate.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: Enter text here

Title: Enter text here

APPENDIX C. AVAILABLE RESOURCES

General

[Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 \(Proposition 4\)](#)
[CNRA Proposition 4 Climate Bond Webpage](#)
[RAPTR User Guide for Grant Applicants](#)
[Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets](#)
[Extreme Heat Action Plan](#)

Extreme Heat Threat Assessment Tools

[California Heat Assessment Tool \(CHAT\)](#)
[Cal-Adapt Extreme Heat Days Tool](#)

Disadvantaged Communities and Vulnerable Populations

[Meaningful and Direct Benefits Assessment Guidance](#)
Governor's Office of [Land Use and Climate Innovation Vulnerable Communities Platform \(VCP\)](#)
Climate Bond (Proposition 4) DAC/SDAC identification tool (in development)
[Climate Change & Health Vulnerability Indicators for California \(CCHVIZ\)](#)

Tribal Consultation

[CNRA Tribal Consultation Best Practices](#)
[Native American Heritage Commission \(NAHC\)](#)
[NAHC Tribal Consultation List Request](#)

California Conservation Corps (CCC) Consultation

[CCC Grant Consultation Instructions](#)
[CCC Consultation Form](#)

Plant Palette, Species Selection, and Water Use

[Cal Poly Tree Selection Guide](#)

[Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute at Cal Poly](#)

[Climate Ready Trees](#)

[CAL FIRE Regional Urban Foresters Contact List](#)

[CAL FIRE's Tree Planting Standards and Specifications](#)

[California Native Plant Society](#)

[Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance](#)

[Water Use Classification by Landscape Species \(WUCOLS\)](#)

[California Invasive Plant Inventory Database](#)

Carbon Sequestration

[i-Tree Planting Calculator](#)

Park-Poor Tool

[Statewide Parks Program Community FactFinder](#)

APPENDIX D. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Unless otherwise stated, the terms used in these grant guidelines have the following meanings:

Active recreation - outdoor recreational activities, such as organized sports (e.g., soccer, football, baseball, basketball), that require extensive facilities or development or that have a considerable environmental impact on the recreational site.

California Native American tribe - a federally recognized Native American tribe or a non-federally recognized Native American tribe listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.

Climate Bond - [The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024](#) passed by voters as Proposition 4 on November 5, 2024. The Climate Bond allows the state to sell \$10 billion in general obligation bonds for programs for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience; wildfire and forest resilience; coastal resilience; extreme heat mitigation; biodiversity protection and nature-based climate solutions; climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and working lands; park creation and outdoor access; and clean air.

Climate-ready vegetation – vegetation that can be reasonably expected to survive both present and future climate impacts such as heat, drought, extreme weather events, and pests.

Critical community infrastructure - infrastructure that is necessary to providing vital community and individual functions, including, but not limited to, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, emergency shelters, communication and warning systems, evacuation routes, emergency power and public medical facilities, schools, town halls, hospitals, health clinics, community centers, community nonprofit facilities providing essential services, libraries, homeless shelters, senior and youth centers, childcare facilities, food banks, grocery stores, and parks and recreation sites.

Development project - a project that builds new infrastructure or improves or renovates existing infrastructure such as facilities, landscaping, parks, gardens, green roofs, bioswales, trails, etc.

Disadvantaged community - a community with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the area average or less than 80 percent of statewide median household income.

Extreme Heat Event – any heat event that generates public health impacts. Refer to Appendix E for additional information.

Green stormwater infrastructure - natural and constructed ecological systems, green spaces, and landscape features that filter and absorb stormwater where it falls.

Green streets and alleyways - a stormwater management approach designed to capture and manage stormwater where it falls by incorporating engineered systems

(e.g., permeable pavements) and vegetation (perennials, shrubs, trees, soil) into streets and alleyways to slow and filter stormwater runoff.

Leverage/Leveraged Funds - supplemental resources dedicated to a project to achieve additional beneficial outcomes (e.g., in kind labor, donated materials, other grant funds).

Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) – California regulation established to promote water conservation in landscaping practices. It sets minimum efficiency standards for landscape design, installation, and maintenance.

Nature-Based Solutions - land management activities that increase the health and resilience of natural systems, which support their ability to durably store carbon.

Nonprofit organization - a nonprofit corporation qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Park-poor communities - neighborhoods that have less than 3 acres of usable parkland per 1,000 residents, or median household incomes less than 80% of the Statewide average AND inadequate access to recreation facilities and activities.

Restoration - (1) includes the improvement of physical structures or facilities and, in the case of natural systems and landscape features, includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- (A) The control of erosion.
- (B) Stormwater capture, treatment, reuse, and storage, or to otherwise reduce stormwater pollution.
- (C) The control and elimination of invasive species and harmful algal blooms.
- (D) The planting of native species.
- (E) The removal of waste and debris.
- (F) Prescribed burning and other fuel hazard reduction measures.
- (G) Fencing out threats to existing or restored natural resources.
- (H) Improving instream, riparian, floodplain, or wetland habitat conditions.
- (I) Other plant and wildlife habitat improvement to increase the natural system value of the property or coastal or ocean resources.
- (J) Activities described in subdivision (b) of Section 79737 of the Water Code. (activities to fund coastal wetland habitat, improve forest health, restore mountain meadows, modernize stream crossings, culverts, and bridges, reconnect historical flood plains, install or improve fish screens, provide fish passages, restore river channels, restore or enhance riparian, aquatic, and terrestrial habitat, improve ecological functions, acquire from willing sellers conservation easements for riparian buffer strips, improve local watershed management, and remove sediment or trash.)

(2) also includes activities, including planning, permitting, monitoring, and reporting that are necessary to ensure successful implementation of the restoration objectives.

Severely disadvantaged community - a community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the area average or less than 60 percent of statewide median household income.

Site control - the legal authority or permission to occupy, develop, or use a specific parcel of land or property for the intended purposes.

Urban area - In accordance with 2020 Census Bureau criteria, an area qualifies as urban if it contains at least 2,000 housing units or has a population of at least 5,000.

Urban Heat Island Effect - the accumulated impact of buildings, roads, and other human-built structures that absorb the sun's heat more than natural surfaces such as grass, soil, and trees and raise the surrounding air temperature.

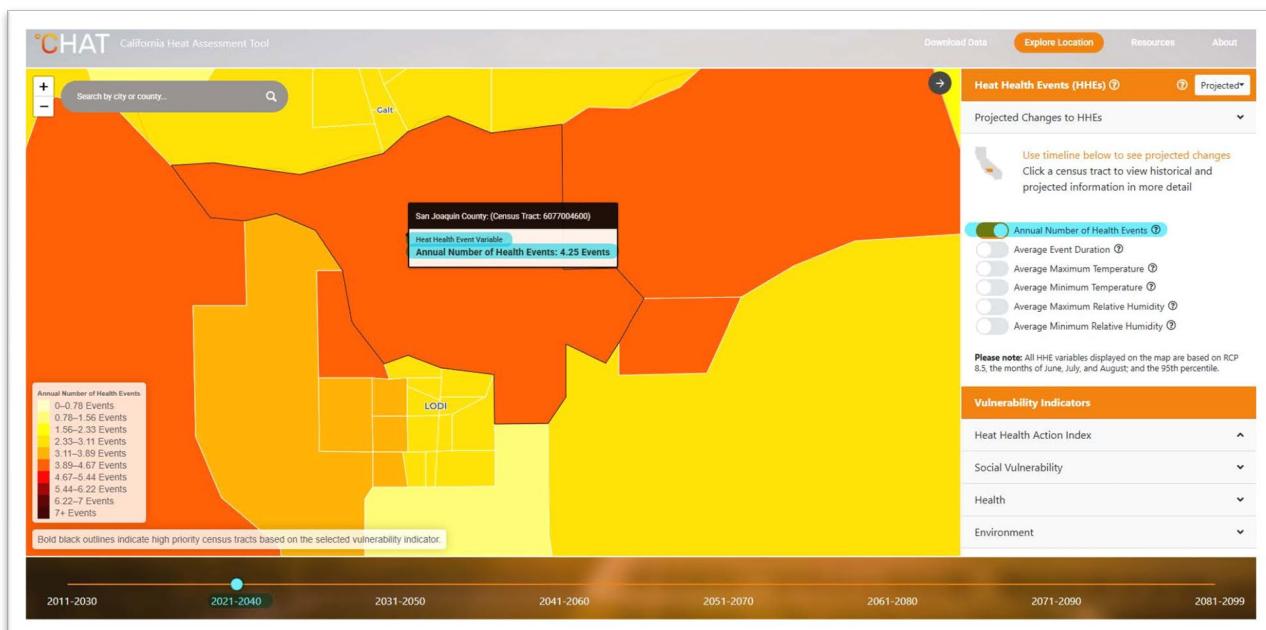
Vulnerable population - a subgroup of population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts. (Note: California Native American tribes are considered vulnerable populations)

APPENDIX E. CALIFORNIA HEAT ASSESSMENT TOOL INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants are asked to provide information contained in two data layers in CHAT: Annual Number of Health Events, located under the Heat Health Events (HHEs) heading; and Heat Health Action Index located under the Vulnerability Indicators heading.

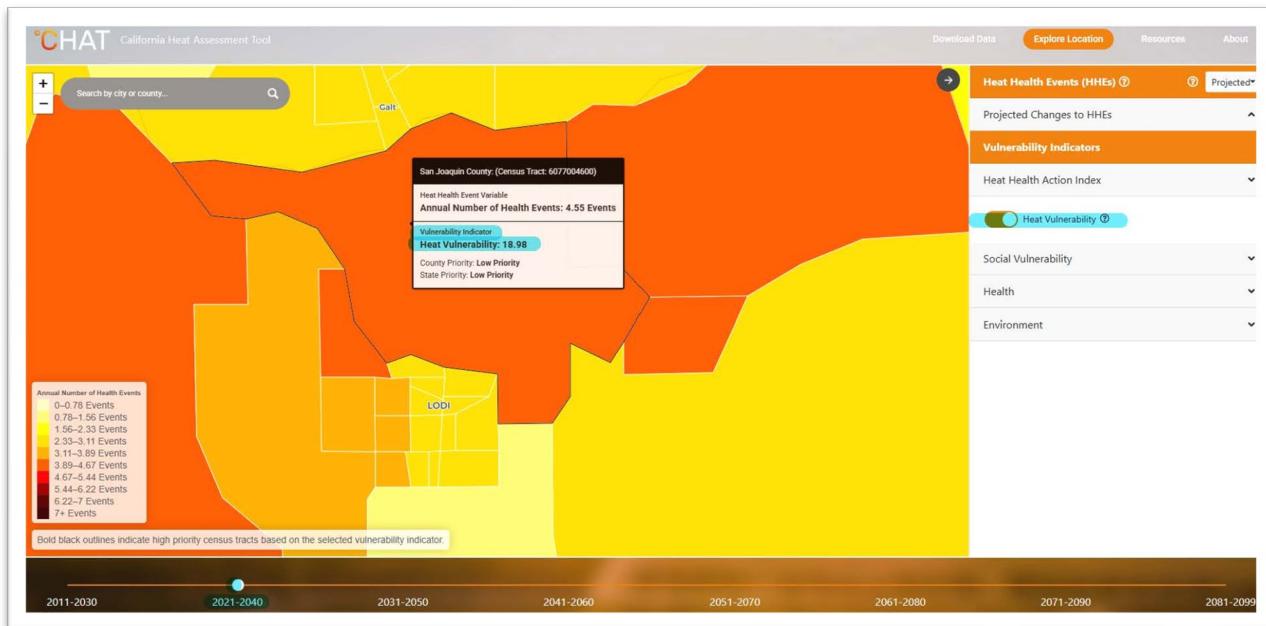
Annual Number of Health Events

The annual number of health events represents the annual average number of HHEs projected to occur within each census tract. These numbers range from 0 to 7+ events. For the purposes of this program, please select the period 2021-2040 on the sliding scale at the bottom of the mapping tool. Enter the number(s) associated with your project's census tract(s). In the example screenshot below, you would enter 4.25 for census tract 6077004600.



Heat Health Action Index

The heat health action index measures heat vulnerability within each census tract. The index is a statistically weighted result of various indicators, including social vulnerability, health, and environment, and is intended to represent overall heat vulnerability. The index ranges from 0 to 100, with lower scores indicating less vulnerability to extreme heat. Enter the heat vulnerability index number(s) associated with your project's census tract(s). In the example screenshot below, you would enter 18.98 for census tract 6077004600.



APPENDIX F. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

If your project is awarded funding, you must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act, Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000; 14 California Code of Regulations section 15000 *et seq.* ["CEQA"]).

The State of California, acting through its administering agencies and departments, will typically act as a responsible agency for the purposes of CEQA. Therefore, prior to the State approving construction-related grant funding, one of the following must be submitted to your grant administrator:

- a. The Notice of Exemption filed with the County Clerk and State Clearinghouse (as applicable) if the proposed project is categorically or statutorily exempt, with the appropriate Public Resources Code section citation to the exemption(s) being relied upon by the lead agency.
- b. The Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the lead agency and Initial Study, including a copy of the Environmental Checklist Form located in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and the Notice of Determination filed with the County and with the State Clearinghouse. If the lead agency has adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration, you must also provide the adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program*.
- c. The Final Environmental Impact Report certified and adopted by the lead agency with Initial Study, including a copy of the Environmental Checklist Form located in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program, and the Notice of Determination filed with the County and State Clearinghouse. Please include any State Clearinghouse Responses.

* For b and c, include documentation the State of California Department of Fish and Wildlife CEQA feed was paid or is not applicable.

- d. Projects that tier from a Programmatic, Master, or other Environmental Impact Report shall include a copy of any subsequent Initial Study for the proposed project together with a copy of any supplementary environmental documentation adopted by the lead agency, including, if applicable, any required findings pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21157.1, subdivision (c), and the Notice of Determination, filed with the County Clerk and with the State Clearinghouse, as applicable.

Pursuant to Section 75102 of the Public Resources Code 75102, before the adoption of a Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report, the lead Agency shall notify the proposed action to a California Native American tribe, which is on the contact list maintained by the Native Heritage Commission, if that tribe has traditional lands located within the area of the proposed project.