

CONCEPT PROPOSAL FAQs

1. When and where will the Concept Proposal Applicant Assistance workshop be held?

State Water Board staff will hold an applicant assistance workshop on Thursday September 27, 2007 from 10 am to noon in the Coastal Hearing Room at the CalEPA Building at 1001 "I" Street in Sacramento. The meeting will also be webcast at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast> and you may email your questions during the meeting to DFA_Grants@waterboards.ca.gov if you would like to participate remotely.

2. Do I have to register for the Concept Proposal Applicant Assistance workshop?

You do not need to register for the applicant workshop.

3. When are Concept Proposals due?

Concept Proposal applications must be submitted to the FAAST online system by 5:00 pm on Thursday, November 1, 2007. The FAAST is available on-line at: <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/>

4. Can I submit attachments if I don't have sufficient space when filling out my Concept Proposal application?

Applicants will be allowed to submit an attachment (**MAXIMUM of two [2] pages**) if additional space is needed to respond to Concept Proposal questions. If the optional attachment is submitted, it must conform to the following formatting requirements: maximum of 2 pages in length, letter-size paper (8.5" x 11"), single-spaced or wider, Times New Roman font (size 11 or larger), and one-inch margins.

5. What are the funding match requirements for the 319(h) NPS Grant Program?

This program requires a minimum match of 25%. The match requirement may be waived or reduced for projects that directly benefit a disadvantaged community(ies) as outlined in Appendix D (Page 17) of Attachment 1 of the Solicitation Notice.

"Funding match" means funds made available by the applicant from non-State sources, unless the applicant is a State Agency. State agencies can use State funds and services for the funding match.

Applicants who are not State agencies can use, but are not limited to, Federal funds, local funding, or donated and volunteer services from non-State sources.

6. **When completing my Concept Proposal on-line in the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST), how do I determine the amounts to list for the "Project Budget," "Funds Requested," and "Local Match" fields?**

The project budget is the funds requested plus the local match. See the example below for reference.

Example:

Project Budget: \$1,000,000
Local Match: \$250,000 (25% of \$1,000,000)
Funds Requested: \$750,000 (\$1,000,000 - \$250,000)

7. **What types of funding match can be used if the applicant is a Resource Conservation District (RCD)?**

The answer depends on whether the RCD applies as a State agency or a local public agency.

If the RCD applies as a State agency, they can use state funds and services for the funding match.

If the RCD applies as a local public agency, they need to use other sources of matching funds, such as Federal funds, local funding, or donated and volunteer services from non-State sources.

8. **Where can I find the latitude and longitude coordinates for my project location?**

Please try the following website: <http://www.topozone.com>, enter the name of a place nearest to your project location, and run a search for it. The results will include the latitude and longitude for the location.

9. **What is the Board looking for in response to Question #25, "have we applied for other funds?"**

In response to Question #25, please let us know if you have applied for other funds for this SPECIFIC project. For example, if you applied for funding for the same project under the Integrated Regional Water Management Program or CALFED Watershed Management Program, provide that information here. If you intend to use other grant funds for your match, make sure they meet the match requirements outlined on Pages 1 and 2 of Attachment 1 of the Solicitation Notice.

10. **What are the nine elements of a watershed-based plan?**

The nine key elements of watershed-based plans, which are explained in detail in Appendix F in Attachment 1, are:

1. CAUSES AND SOURCES;
2. EXPECTED LOAD REDUCTIONS;
3. MANAGEMENT MEASURES;
4. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE;

5. INFORMATION/EDUCATION;
6. SCHEDULE;
7. MEASURABLE MILESTONES;
8. EVALUATION OF PROGRESS; AND
9. MONITORING

11. What if my proposed project is being undertaken pursuant to a NPDES permit, including a municipal stormwater permit?

Projects which include activities required under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit are not eligible for 319(h) funding. Please contact your regional board representative if you have questions regarding your project's eligibility.

12. What kind of documentation is needed for in-kind match?

Document match activities with photos and invoices for costs associated with match activities. Provide information in progress reports, which are generally submitted with invoices.

13. Can we start implementing our project before the grant agreement is finalized?

You can start implementing reimbursable activities from September 14, 2007 until your grant agreement has been executed. You will be reimbursed for completed work once your grant agreement has been finalized.

14.

Can time spent preparing a proposal be reimbursed?

No, the expense of preparing proposals cannot be reimbursed.

15. What is required for GPS coordinates?

For 319 (h), GPS coordinates only need to be reported for the location of the stream reach, not for the exact location of the Best Management Practice (BMP).

16. Will the Regional Board be responsible for selecting projects?

The Regional Boards will participate in the selection of projects. The process will be similar to the 2005-06 Consolidated Grants Program. Each proposal will receive a review from at least 3 different organizations; one of those organizations will be the Regional Board where the project is located.

17. According to the solicitation, it asks that the applicant identify which TMDL their project is addressing. Will the applicant be penalized for being involved in more than one TMDL?

Involvement with more than one TMDL will not penalize you, in fact it could make your project more competitive. If you have questions, you will need to work with the Regional Board and U.S. EPA representatives listed in Attachment 2 of the Solicitation Notice.

18. To whom should we send letters of support for our concept proposals?

Letters of support are not required in order to be considered for grant funding, and are not considered in the technical evaluation of the proposal. The concept proposal attachment is limited to 2 pages. It is up to you to use these two pages for letters of support or to further describe your project.

19 What types of landowner access agreements are needed?

Depending on your project, you will need to provide adequate access to State Water Board, Regional Water Board and U.S. EPA staff to inspect and verify the project is being implemented according to the grant agreement.

20 After the project is implemented, what type of access to the project site needs to be provided?

Grantees must allow access to the project site to both State Water Board and U.S. EPA for the service life of any practices installed. The service life of the practice can range from one to twenty years.

21. Are there any specific guidelines on determining the service life of the practice?

There is an Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Conservation Practice Service Life Manual that is posted on the 319h website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/funding/319h.html> .