

Program Name: 319 Program – Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant

Lead Agency: State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

Program Type: The goals of the funding program are to reduce, eliminate, or prevent water pollution resulting from polluted runoff (i.e., nonpoint sources [NPS]) and to enhance water quality in impaired waters. Funds available through the 319 Program are directed towards NPS implementation projects that will achieve those goals.

Program Description: The 319 Program is an annual federally funded NPS pollution control program. This program focuses on controlling activities that impair beneficial uses and on limiting pollutant effects caused by those activities. Under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), states are required to develop lists of impaired waters. The law requires that states establish priority rankings for waters on the lists and develop action plans, known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), to improve water quality. Project proposals that address TMDL implementation, and/or those that address problems in impaired waters are favored in the selection process. There is also focus on implementing management activities, consistent with the Plan for California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (NPS Program Plan), that lead to reduction and/or prevention of pollutants that threaten or impair surface and ground waters. Examples of NPS pollutants include:

- Excess fertilizer, herbicides, and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas;
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff and energy production;
- Sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding stream banks;
- Salt from irrigation practices and acid drainage from abandoned mines;
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems;
- Deposition of airborne pollutants that result from activities, such as industrial exhaust systems, traffic emissions, and burning of yard waste; and
- Habitat loss, watershed degradation, or other damage caused by channelization, dams or similar hydromodification activity.

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<http://www.epa.gov/owow/NPS>

Authorization: Under the CWA section 319, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) awards funding to the SWRCB to support implementation of the NPS Program Plan. The SWRCB then uses the federal funds to administer a grant program for eligible applicants who develop projects that are consistent with the NPS Program Plan.

Agency Responsibilities: The SWRCB encourages watershed management to ensure NPS implementation projects have elements that maximize use of limited resources, develop

partnerships among stakeholders, use funds efficiently, and develop local stewardships between governmental agencies and private interests for sustained, long-term improvement of water quality.

Funding Amount: Approximately \$5-6 million may be available for NPS implementation projects in California for each state fiscal year (FY) and the amount is dependent on the funds available from USEPA.

Eligible Applicants: Nonprofit organizations, local government agencies including special districts (e.g., resource conservation districts or water districts), Indian Tribes, and educational institutions are eligible to receive 319 implementation funds. State or federal agencies may qualify if they are collaborating with local entities and are involved in watershed management or are proposing a statewide project.

Requirements: NPS projects must be for the implementation of activities that reduce, eliminate, or prevent NPS pollution to ground and surface waters. Proposals must identify appropriate methods for measuring and identifying project success. Applicants can show the success of a project through water quality measurements (before and after), estimates of pollution load reductions, acres of wetlands restored, feet of stream channel stabilization, photo-documentation, number of trained volunteers, or other quantitative measures or indicators.

Consultation with the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) or SWRCB contact is required prior to submitting an application in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP). Regional projects should target specific watersheds identified by the RWQCBs and focus on the implementation of a watershed plan(s). TMDLs, together with watershed plans, provide the link between actions on the ground and the water quality results to be achieved, along with the necessary community leadership and support. Statewide projects support broad-based statewide NPS implementation consistent with the *NPS Program Plan*, and are not limited to site-specific geographic regions. Specific activities qualifying for 319 funds may include the implementation of management practices or measures (as identified in the *NPS Program Plan*), TMDL implementation, technology transfer, demonstration projects, technical assistance, restoration, citizen monitoring, or public education and outreach. In addition, a non-federal match share (out of the total project cost) is required by SWRCB.

Related Programs: Proposition 13 Grant Program (Costa-Machado Water Bond); NPS State Revolving Fund Program; Propositions 40 and 50 Grant Programs

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