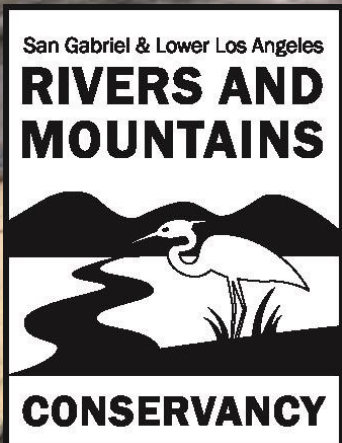




Rivers and Mountains Conservancy



1/22/26

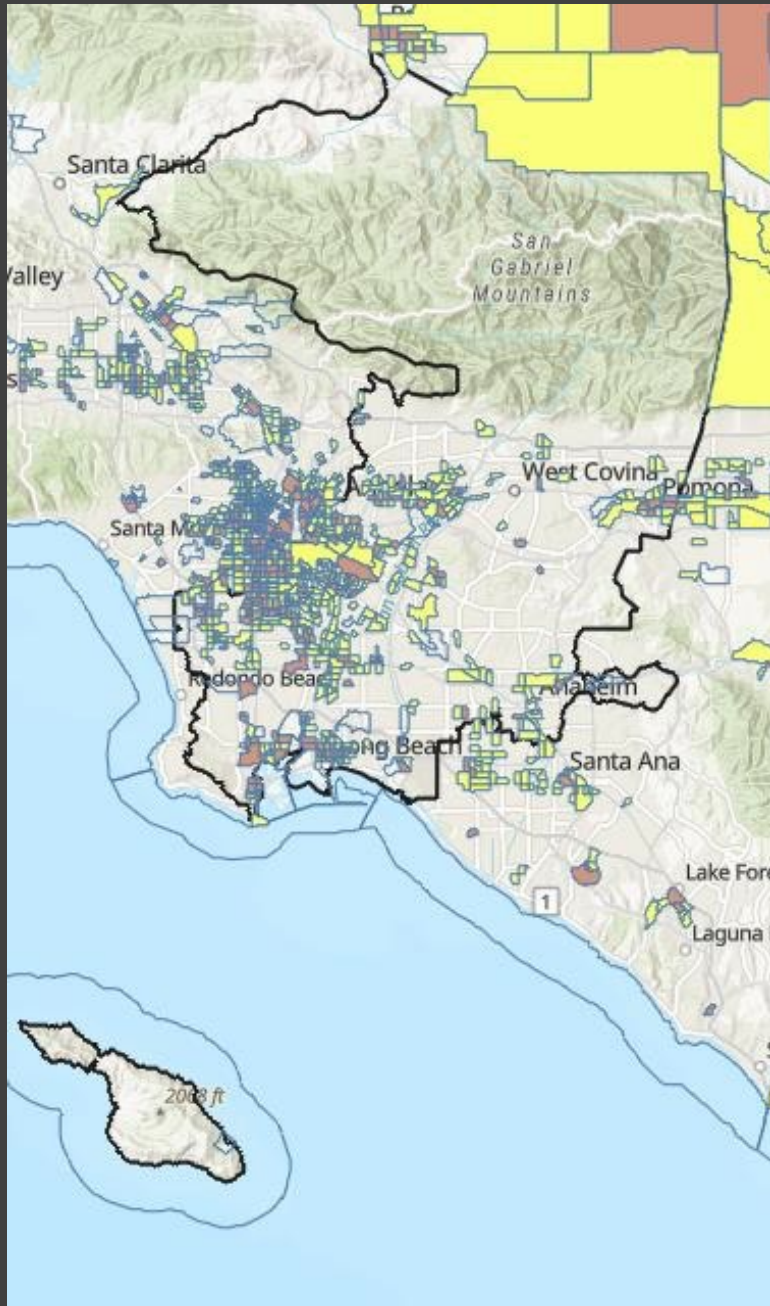
SBCCOG Board of Directors Meeting

About the RMC



- State agency established in 1999
- 1 of 10 conservancies within the CA Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)
- 79 cities in both LA County and Orange County
- San Gabriel, Lower LA River, and Dominguez Channel watersheds, and Santa Catalina Island
- Authorized 366 total projects since 2003 and awarded a total of \$277.4M in grant funds

An Urban Conservancy



- Over 4.8 million residents
- 1.86 million Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)
 - “Disadvantaged community” (DAC) is a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income which (based on ACS 2008-12) is \$51,026
 - “Severely disadvantaged community” (SDAC) is a community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the statewide average, which is \$38,270

Priorities for Funding & Guiding Principles



- Derived from two primary sources:
 - Statute that created the RMC, Public Resources Code Section 32600
 - Common Ground, from the Mountains to the Sea, the Watershed and Open Space Plan for the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River Watersheds
 - Can be found at rmc.ca.gov/resources
- RMC encourages collaboration across jurisdictions to produce multi-benefit projects with multiple competing priorities.
 - Access to recreation
 - Water security
 - Wildfire protection
 - Housing insecurity

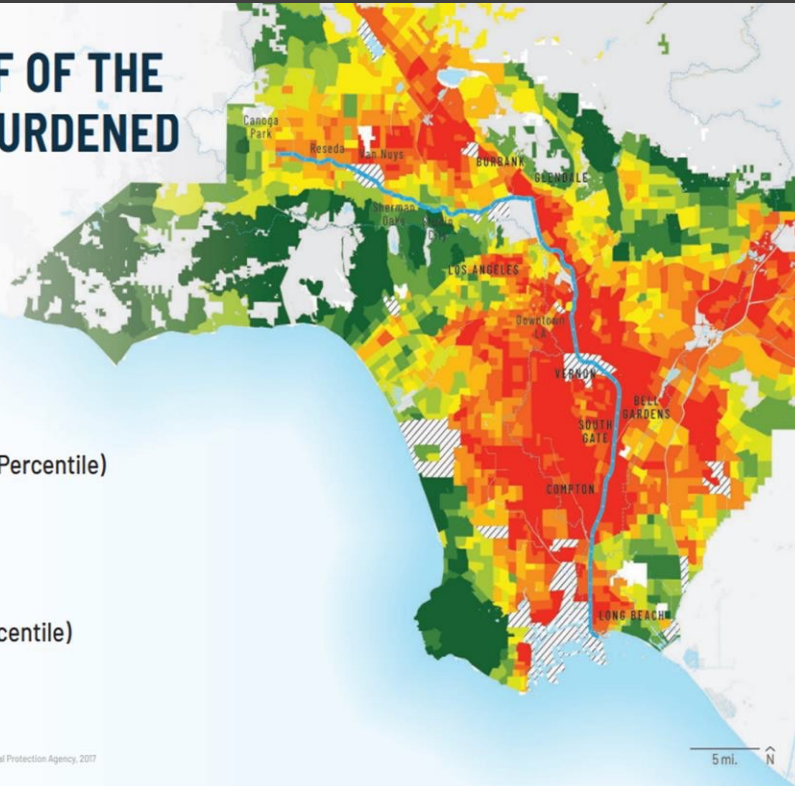
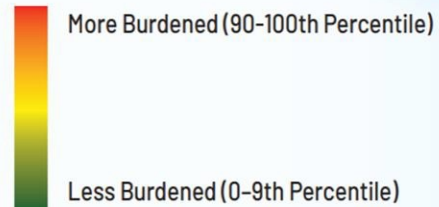
Priorities for Funding & Guiding Principles

Environmental Justice Policy

- Ensure the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and incomes in the decision-making process
- Ensure the public within RMC catchment area including minority and low-income populations are not caused to experience disproportionately high and adverse health and environmental effects
- Ensure that children and families have equitable access to safe open space and healthy neighborhoods

SOUTHERN HALF OF THE RIVER HIGHLY BURDENED BY POLLUTION

CalEnviroScreen 3.0



Source: Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Environmental Protection Agency, 2017

Tribal Consultation Policy



- Adopted in 2017, consistent with approved CNRA policy
- RMC promotes early, often, and meaningful conversations with CA Native American tribes
- Goal of collaborative partnership and meaningful inclusion
- Institutionalizing tribal consultation practices into planning, development, and implementation

Addressing Climate Change

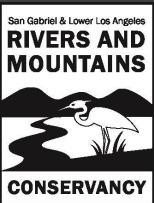


- Committed to funding projects that address climate change
 - Water Security
 - Clean Water
 - Clean Air
 - Community well-being
 - Thriving eco-systems
 - Managing floods, fires, sea level rise
 - State's 30x30 plan offers nature-based solutions



General Eligibility: Applicants

- Federal and State Agencies
- Tribal entities recognized on the current US Federal Register, or NAHC as a CA Native American Tribe
- Local Public Agencies, counties, cities, water districts, school districts
- Certified Local Conservation Corps
- Non-Profit organizations
- Joint Powers Authorities
- Encourage multiple partners/joint projects



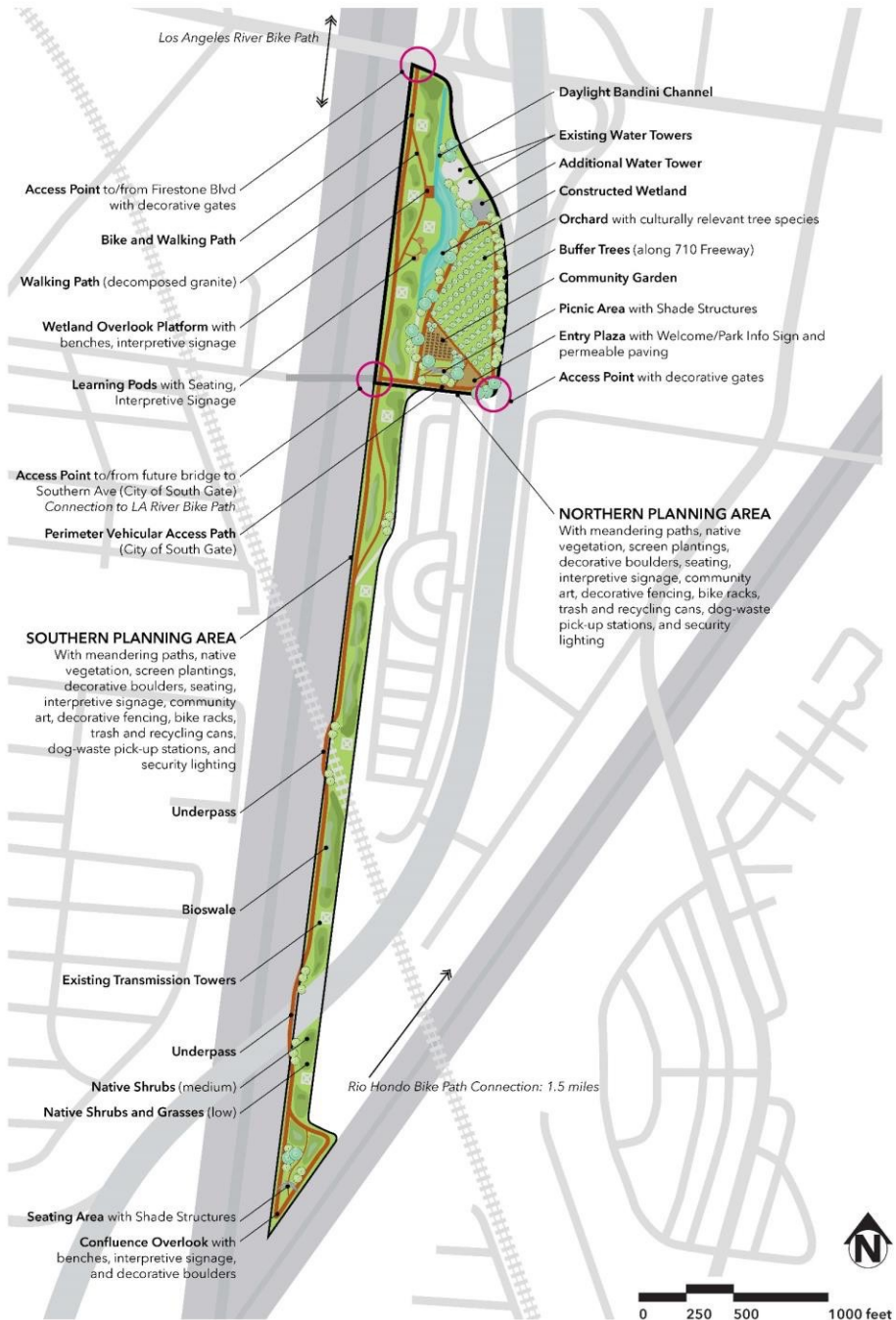
Eligible Projects



- Create, expand, and/or improve public open space
- Improve access, habitat quality, water security, and wildfire resilience
- Promote stewardship of the landscape via stakeholder involvement
- Promote long-term maintenance, encourage environmental, social, economic benefits
- Planning, Implementation, Acquisition projects are eligible
- RMC may fund each phase of a project but each phase as a separate grant with a separate application

Planning Projects

- Feasibility Studies
- Technical Studies
- Concept Designs
- Construction Drawings
- Permitting
- Environmental Compliance
- Public Engagement
- Must lead to a specific future on-the-ground implementation project



Implementation Projects



- “Shovel-ready” projects
- Strong relationship and value to natural resources or environmental education
- Construction Costs
- Signage
- Facilities development must be accessible to the public
 - Strong relationship to natural resource stewardship/education
- Up to 20 % non-construction costs allowed
 - Consultant fees
 - plan documentation
 - Specifications
 - CEQA compliance
 - Direct Project Management Costs

Acquisition Projects



- Fund open space protection
 - Due Diligence
 - Acquisition Costs
 - Land Management Planning (e.g., restoration, passive recreation)
 - Appraisals
 - Improvements
 - Relocation Costs
 - Title Reports
 - Surveying
 - Escrow
- Willing seller required for funding consideration
- Purchase price must not exceed fair market value
- Total of all due diligence, planning/prelim costs, consultant costs & other similar costs cannot exceed 10% of grant amount
- Indirect/OH limited to 10% of due diligence budget line, if any

RMC Technical Assistance Program (TAP)



- Provides direct application assistance
- Facilitating access to RMC funding
- Creates an equitable application playing field
 - Information, tools, resources, strategies
 - Help from conceptualization through project completion
 - Can help to increase staff capacity
 - Professional grant writing and facilitation services

Project Examples

- Multi-benefit projects that promote sustainability, climate & societal changes, and providing biodiversity benefits
- Urban greening
 - Introduction of native vegetation into cities and communities
- Water conservation, stormwater capture, infiltration improvements
 - Permeable surfaces, nature-based water capture features
- Restoring access to cultural resources for CA Native Tribes
- Converting abandoned land/brownfields into community space
- Acquisition of vacant land for protection
- Increase resilience to wildfire



George F Canyon Nature Center Project



\$424,000 for a new Nature Center at the George F. Canyon Preserve in the City of Rolling Hills Estates

Project Budget

- Award typically range \$300k - \$2m
- Small grant program \$50k-\$300k
- Matching Funds
 - May be donations, local funds, or in-kind
 - Must be used to support the proposed project
 - Spent between the submission of full application & end of the grant term
 - Secured prior to application submission in order to be considered during proposal scoring
- Indirect Costs – max rate 15%, minus equipment costs
 - Grantee must provide detailed calculations in support of the indirect cost rate
 - Projects requesting low or no OH deemed more competitive
 - To claim indirect/OH, must be shown in budget and approved by RMC
- Payment Terms selected at time of grant agreement
 - A. Reimbursement (default)
 - RMC withholds 10% of each payment request
 - No min or max amount
 - Prefer quarterly but no more than monthly invoices
 - B. Advance Payment
 - Eligible for 501(c)(3), Federal/State tribes, JPAs
 - Advance cannot exceed 25% of grant amount (except for acquisition)
 - Must fully reconcile within 90 days
- Allow up to 45 days to receive payment

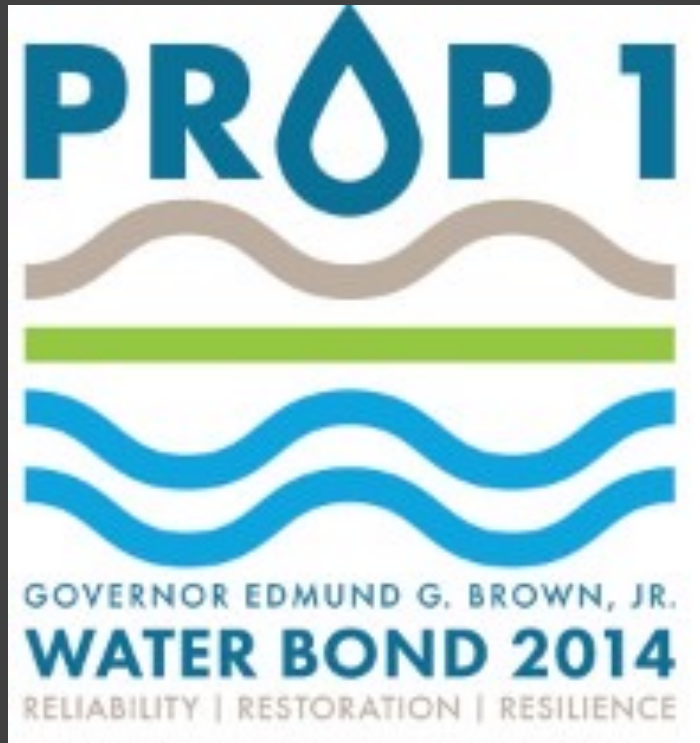
Ineligible Project Types and Expenses



Monrovia USD, joint use project with City of Monrovia

- Operations and Maintenance related costs
- Indirect/Overhead over 15% of grant amount
- Projects on school property without access for general public
- Non-nature playground equipment, skate parks, swing sets
- Facilities without environmental education focus
- Projects that cause erosion or flooding
- Fundraising
- Food/Entertainment, refreshments, project-related travel expenses that exceed current state federal mileage reimbursement rates
- Removal of trees or landscaping on private property
- Exclusive mitigation projects
- Purchase of capital equipment without demonstrating how it will be used
- Monetary donations to other organizations, speaker stipends, subgrants
- Grant writing or research, education, outreach (small portion allowable)
- Grant writing expenses outside of the TAP program

Bond Grant Programs



Proposition 1

- \$7.545 billion statewide from 2014
- Clean, safe, reliable drinking water
- Protection of rivers, lakes, streams, coastal waters, watersheds
- Groundwater sustainability
- Drought preparedness
- Regional water security



Bond Grant Programs



Proposition 68

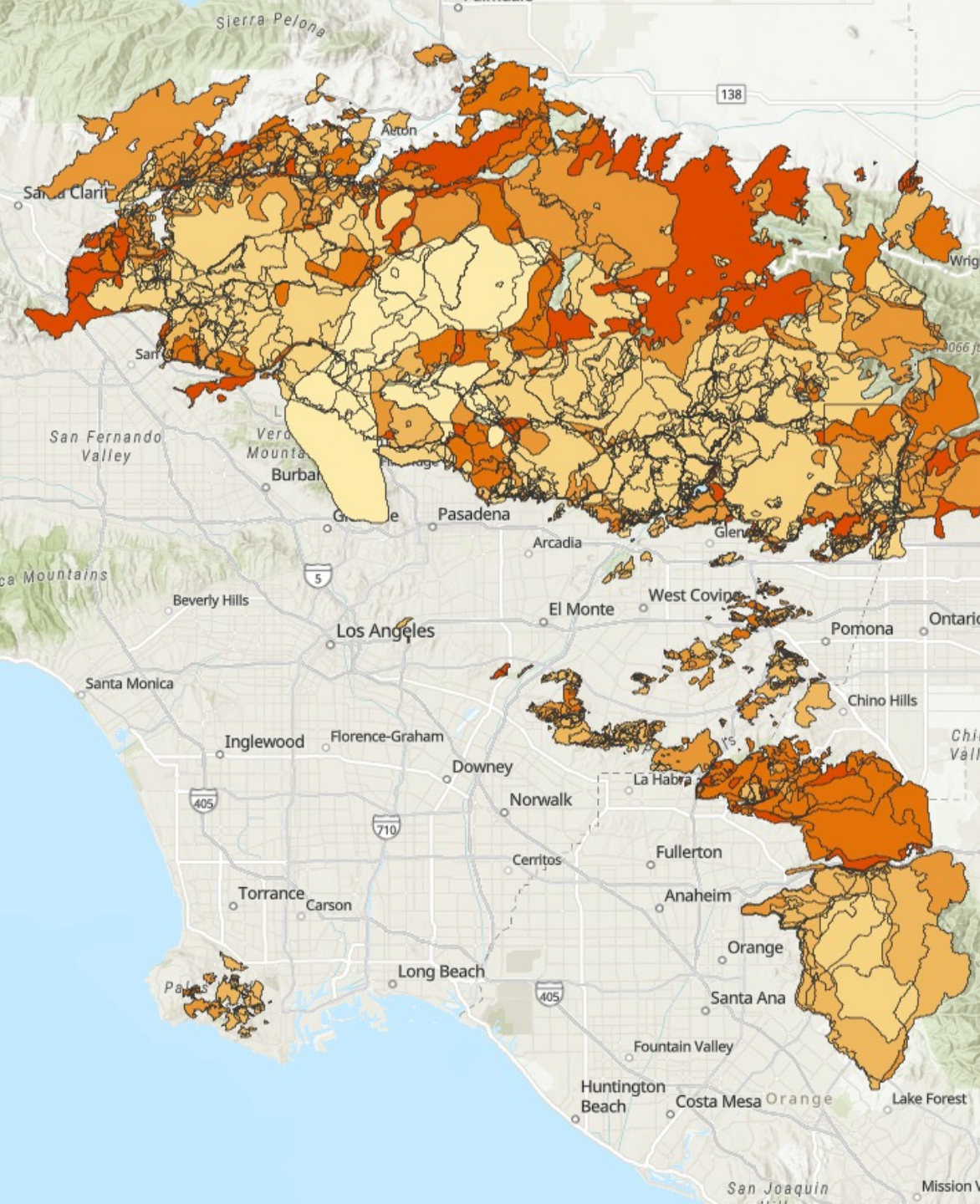
- \$4.0 billion for state and local parks, environmental protection, water infrastructure, and flood protection projects.
- Requires that 20 percent of funds depending on project type, be used in communities with household incomes less than 60 percent of statewide average (\$39,980)
- \$725 million allocated for neighborhood parks in park-poor neighborhoods

Bond Grant Programs

Proposition 4 – Guidelines Pending

- \$10 billion for safe drinking water, water resilience, wildfire & forest resilience, park creation, and nature-based solution projects
- \$121.5 million to RMC
- Protect and restore rivers, wetlands, streams, lakes and watersheds
- Workforce development
- Reduce risk of wildfire spreading into populated areas
- Increase public access
- Requires that at least 40% percent of funds are allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to vulnerable populations or DACs





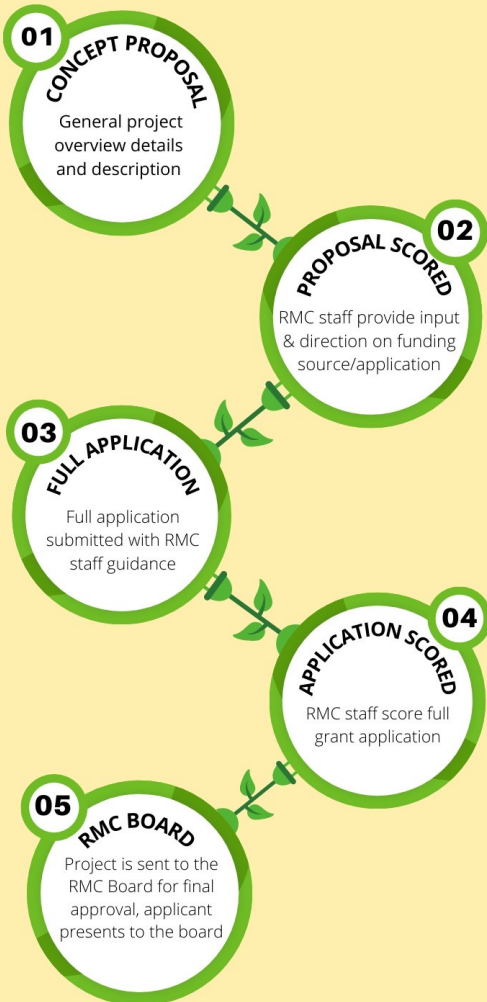
Prop 4 Allocates \$30 Million to Wildfire Prevention

- Wildfire Prevention
 - Hazardous fuels clearance
 - Post-fire recovery
 - Workforce development
 - Fire-safe outreach & education
 - Wildfire hardening
 - Resilience planning and capacity needs
 - Should advance California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan: A Comprehensive Strategy





NEW CONSOLIDATED GRANT APPLICATION & CONCEPT PROPOSAL PROCESS



Application Submission and Selection

Concept Proposal (from application to RMC decision: 30 days)

- 1st phase of application process
- Consult with RMC staff first
- RMC staff review for consistency with RMC goals
 - Specific program priorities
 - Location, need, project type, readiness, threats, cost, cost share
- RMC provides feedback
- Selected applicants invited to complete full application



RMC CONCEPT PROPOSAL GRANT APPLICATION FORM

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name of Agency			
Applicant Name & Title			
Agency's Full Address			
Applicant's Phone No.		Applicant's Email	
Name & Title of Person Authorized to Execute Agreements (if different from applicant)			

2. PROJECT INFORMATION:

PROJECT NAME			
Address			
County(ies)		Lat/Long:	
County Supervisor District(s)		Parcel No(s)	
State Assembly District(s)		City Council District(s)	
State Senate District(s)		Located in DAC?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Congressional District(s)		Located in SDAC?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

3. FUNDING REQUEST: What is the amount requested from the RMC (round to the nearest \$1,000). Identify Other project matching funding sources, amount, and status (e.g., secured, applied for, pending application)

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Matching Funding Source	Amount	Status

4. PROJECT TIMELINE: Assuming that the RMC awards the grant within the next six months, what is the expected timeline for this project?

Start: _____ End: _____

5. PROJECT CATEGORY – select one:

- Planning
- Implementation
- Acquisition
- Technical Assistance

6. SITE CONTROL:

- Applicant owns the property for the proposed project.
- Applicant has a written agreement with the landowner to conduct the project on their land.
- Applicant does not have a written agreement with the landowner to conduct the project on their land. If this answer is checked, explain the landowner's involvement in the project in Section 3.



7. **BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** In 400 words, describe the proposed project and project need. Please explain the project's goal(s), expected outcome(s), and the major tasks involved in the project.

Attach a map of the project location and photos and briefly describe the project location.

For acquisitions, the current status must be included (i.e., willing seller letter, appraisal status)

(Enter 400 word project description here)

8. **TRIBAL CONSULTATION:** How will/has your project engaged with tribal groups?

(Enter description here)





9. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND PERMITTING (check all that apply):

What is the status of the environmental documentation for this project, check the most appropriate box?
Please provide documentation of environmental compliance if applicable.

- No CEQA/NEPA work initiated
- Initial Study Completed, date of completion: _____
- Negative Declaration, date of certification: _____
- Categorically Exempt, date of certification: _____
- CEQA/NEPA in process, expected date of completion: _____
- CEQA/NEPA completed, date of completion: _____

AGENCY identify permits necessary for project implementation	YES	NO	DATE OF APPROVAL/PENDING
California Fish and Wildlife			
State Water Control Resources Board			
US Army Corp of Engineers			
US Fish and Wildlife			
Los Angeles County Flood Control District			
City/County Construction Permits			
Coastal Commission			
Other			

10. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (check only one):

- YES, this project will involve the California Conservation Corp or another local Conservation Corp.
- YES, this project will implement a youth employment or job training program.
- NO, this project will not involve a workforce development component.
- Not applicable, this project is a planning only project.

11. SIGNATURES:

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Name and Title: _____

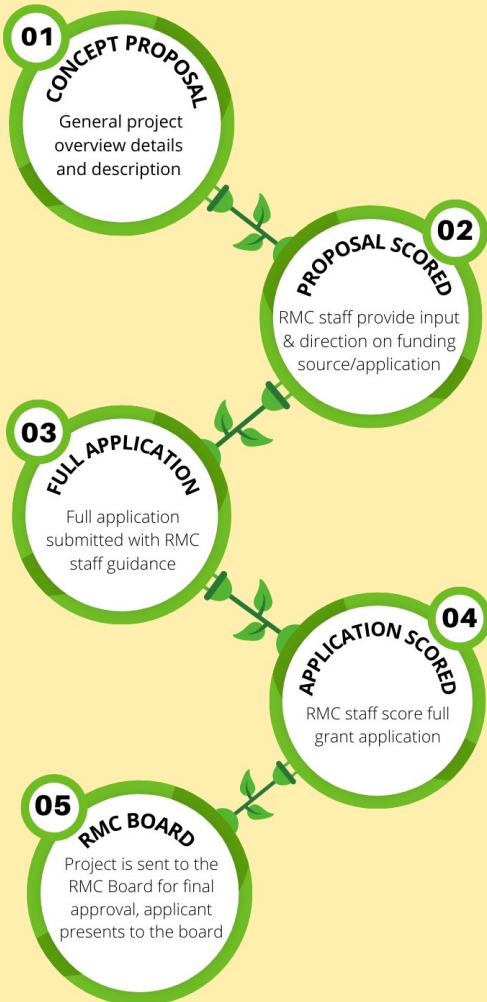
Signature of Authorized Official: _____ Date: _____

Name and Title: _____





NEW CONSOLIDATED GRANT APPLICATION & CONCEPT PROPOSAL PROCESS



Application Submission and Selection

- Full application will be provided upon RMC invitation
- RMC provides technical assistance
- “What to Submit” will be provided
 - Specifics will vary
 - Applicant has 60 days to return full application
- Typically, within 2 weeks RMC vets full application
- May request revisions and resubmissions of full applications

Application Evaluation Criteria

- Applications scored by technical reviewers, RMC or others as appropriate
 - Scoring could include a site visit
- 70% score or better to be considered competitive
 - Competitive applications referred to the RMC Governing Board
- Multi-benefit and Multi-jurisdictional
- Environmental Justice
- Project readiness
- Urban land use
- Recreation
- Stakeholders/partners
- Educational/Interpretive
- Climate sustainability
- Access, Trails/Bikeways
- Water resources and quality
- Habitat protection/restoration
- Cultural or historic resource protection
- Stewardship and management plan
- Workforce development



Thank
you!

