California Ocean Protection Council

Proposition 68, Chapter 9 Grant:
Frequently Asked Questions

Updated July 19, 2022

Eligibility/ Evaluation Criteria

Question	Answer
Do projects need to be located in California?	Yes, all projects need to be in California
Will you consider pilot studies?	Yes
Does the research need to be conducted in partnership with a university or is contracting a consulting company ok? Would one option improve your "score" over the other?	Does not need to be in partnership with a university. There is no preference given, we are more concerned about the strength of the research proposed
Do projects need to be coastal OR San Francisco Bay vs coastal AND San Francisco Bay?	Coastal or San Francisco Bay, does not need to include SF Bay
Will regional or multiple study site proposals be prioritized over site-specific?	No, the only prioritized locations are those within severely disadvantaged communities (SDAC). Use the State Parks Map FactFinder Viewer to determine SDAC locations.
How many lead PIs can be on one project?	No limit.
Update 7/28/22: Would this RFP consider funding projects that are in the end stages of analysis and publications?	Potentially. Reviewers would need to see how the project will answer one of the three priorities in a new and novel way. If the project is complete and only needs a little extra funding to complete it, this would not be a good fit.

Funding

Question	Answer
If OPC has $35M, why is there only $2M available this round? Can we expect larger pots in future years?	This entire pot of money needs to support all the investments for the biodiversity and blue economy priorities for OPC. This $2M only covers 3 priorities from the MPA and Climate Resilience report as a starting point.
What are match requirements?	There are no match requirements, however there are 3 points in the evaluation rubric that consider leveraging matched funding. Applicants could earn 3 additional points in scoring, but this is not required.
Are there restrictions on what can be included in the budget?	Yes, there are things that the State can and cannot pay for. We will walk through those restrictions when projects are approved and awarded.
For the social proposal, is it allowable to include funding for people to participate in interviews, focus groups, etc.?	Yes, this is always best practice and encouraged.
Is there a maximum ask for research projects?	Project range is $250,000- $1,000,000.
Update 7/28/22: If the project will include the development, testing and improvement of a tool can we include prior grants that were used to develop this tool as match?	Can include current or active grants only
Update 7/28/22: What are the rates for indirect costs?	15% is the standard fixed rate for most applicants, however UCs and CSUs can use 25% as the rate for indirect costs
Update 7/28/22: Can funding rewards be split amongst co-PIs?	Yes it can, but for the LOI phase OPC only needs the main applicant's information and the co-PIs can be listed in the Project Description section. If asked to submit a full proposal, applicants can provide more information at that point and at the approval stage.
Update 7/28/22: Can computers and iPads be purchased?	No, they cannot be purchased with Prop 68 funds

Project Priorities

Question	Answer
Can you pay for permitting and design for a coastal wetlands / lagoon restoration project? Can the program potentially pay for implementation for a coastal wetlands / lagoon restoration project?	We will consider planning and implementation projects, but it needs to fulfill the RFP priorities
The first 2 priorities are research oriented - but it is stated that there must be direct management actions. Does that mean that there must be an implementation phase of a research project?	No implementation phase needed. We want management implications that managers could take, connection to management, recommendations or building tools. There should be a connection between the research and management in some way.
How do you see this RFP interfacing with any long- term MPA monitoring efforts moving forward?	These are separate from MPA monitoring efforts, but projects need to include a connection to management actions.
Our project involves trying to restore an endangered marine invertebrate. Would this type of project qualify?	Potentially, it needs to relate to MPA climate resilience and at least one of the priority types listed in the MPA and Climate solicitation.
We are interested in how creek restoration impacts water quality; if creeks feed directly into coastal wetlands, would research on that subject fit?	There needs to be an MPA and climate resiliency nexus. If the project aligns with at least one of the priority types, then it can be submitted for review.
What is meant by social resilience for priority topic 3?	Read the Climate Resilience and MPAs report for more insight into the human dimensions aspect. Currently, there is no OPC definition for "social resilience". Make a justification for what the definition might be and promote it to the OPC review committee.
Will there be future priority buckets added to this?	No, not for this round.

Community Engagement

Question	Answer
Are there maps indicating where disadvantaged populations visit MPAs to identify benefits to disadvantaged groups?	No, we have the [State Parks FactFinder Map](#) which shows locations of severely disadvantaged communities.
How do we identify benefits to disadvantaged groups at MPAs?	That is up to the researchers to define "benefits". If proposing to work with community groups, the project needs to explain methodology for co-development of research.
Coastal communities in CA are mainly at an advantage financially. Shouldn't the focus be on inner city communities affected by marine climate change?	Coastal communities are communities linked to the coast in any way, shape, or form, not necessarily a geographic location.
Aren't regional MPAs and beaches "pop-up" disadvantaged communities? Residents of disadvantaged communities will spend 8 hours at a beach in need of services, so data is needed to determine interface with MPAs.	Coastal access is a good project idea if connected to MPAs and climate resilience and it fulfills at least one of the priority types.
Update 7/28/22: What is the OPC recommendation for stipend method and amount?	Stipends and honoraria are eligible for OPC funding; however, approved use of stipends is dependent on the project. OPC will review any budget requests for stipends and discuss with applicants during the LOI review process.

Miscellaneous

Question	Answer
How will application for Prop68 Chapter 10 RFP affect review of application for this RFP?	Two very different RFPs with no effect on one another. The other Prop 68 Ch.10 team will reach out to those who are better suited for Ch. 9 (this RFP)
Does "completed by" mean construction needs to be completed by then?	Implementation or construction is not the best fit for this RFP; these will be mainly research-based projects. Completion date is the date when all work has ended, and final reports have been received.

Can you please clarify the date ranges for the start of the grant? What is the last date the project could start? Could it start in the summer or fall?	All projects will begin in Spring 2023 after Council approval. Possibly can start later if the project will be done by Summer 2025. More information about specific project completion dates is forthcoming; this FAQ page be updated accordingly. Update 7/28/22: Projects will likely start in April or May of 2023 following Council approval. Projects will run for 2 years or less from the start date. Exact beginning and end dates are dependent upon final paperwork completion.
Should we reference the recent MPA decadal management review (DMR)?	Applicants can, but there is a parallel timeline given the DMR is ongoing yet wrapping up in Spring 2023 after projects have already been submitted. Applicants can reference the MPA long-term monitoring reports already posted online.