



Bonneville Environmental Foundation – Business for Water Stewardship

Water Stewardship Projects
Request for Proposals

Sacramento River and American River Basins, California

November 11, 2020

Overview

The Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) is pleased to solicit proposals for water stewardship projects in California's Sacramento River and American River basins that aim to have a long-term positive impact on freshwater ecosystems and/or water supply for communities and business.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is part of an expansion of BEF's Business for Water Stewardship (BWS), a program that helps businesses advance solutions to improve and sustain the well-being of communities, economies, and rivers. For the past eight years, BWS has helped businesses support over 90 community driven projects that increase flows in rivers and streams, restore important fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality, mitigate the impacts of flooding and a changing climate, and build resiliency for agricultural, industrial, and municipal water users.

BWS anticipates that funding for water stewardship projects in this geography will continue for multiple years. To streamline future proposal solicitations, this RFP offers applicants the opportunity to provide information about both near-term and prospective future projects that may contribute to far-reaching water security and water stewardship outcomes. Prospective Future projects may be in early stages of development but are expected to be implemented within the next 3-10 years (see Informational Request for Prospective Future Projects section below). BEF will be available to assist in the co-development of future projects.

Project proponents are encouraged to provide information describing prospective future projects even if they are not submitting a proposal for funding under this RFP.

Proposal Submittal Instructions

- Proposals should be submitted using the following link: [BEF BWS RFP Sacramento River and American River Basins](#), you will need to create an account with JotForm to do so.
- The RFP will request a budget, please use the following link: [Budget Template](#) and upload it as it's own attachment.
- We recommend that you review the RFP first and draft your responses in a separate document before submitting to the link above.



- If you have issues using the application link, please contact Anne Le (ale@b-e-f.org) to receive a template with submission instructions.
- **All materials are due no later than 5:00 pm PST, December 18, 2020.**

Informational Resources

- Contact Robert Warren (rwarren@b-e-f.org) with any questions regarding this RFP.
- Business for Water Stewardship program information and previously funded projects can be found at <https://businessforwater.org/projects>

Timeline

- Request for Proposal Issued: November 11, 2020
- Proposal Due Date: 5:00 p.m. PST, December 18, 2020
- Proposal Review and Selection: December 19 – February 12, 2021
- Project Announcement: February 2021

Funding Opportunity Details

Through this RFP, BWS will evaluate opportunities to make meaningful investments of up to \$200,000 to support projects that will produce quantifiable water stewardship outcomes. BWS may consider larger investments for projects that promise exceptional water stewardship benefits.

Focal Geography

Proposed water stewardship projects must be located within the Sacramento River basin (including tributaries), upstream of the City of Sacramento; the American River basin (including tributaries), upstream of the City of Sacramento; or Sacramento and American River groundwater basins located in and around the City of Sacramento.

Desired Outcomes

BWS funding supports a diverse array of project types that benefit ecosystems, water quality and quantity, and communities. Typically, BWS seeks projects that allow for a volumetric quantification of water stewardship benefits, measured (or modeled) in either gallons or acre-feet. Depending on the circumstances, BWS may work with partners to develop estimates of the volumetric benefits associated with individual candidate projects. All projects must have a strong link to watershed health, but projects that also deliver co-benefits related to water supply resiliency for human uses (agriculture, municipal, industrial, recreational, etc.) and benefit underserved communities are strongly encouraged.

Eligible Project types

For this opportunity, BWS funding is targeted to support projects that address key surface and groundwater stressors within the Sacramento River basin. Key stressors



include inadequate water supply, impaired water quality, declining habitat and biodiversity, and climate change.

Project proponents are also encouraged to highlight other co-benefits of the proposed project, including but not limited to: carbon sequestration, water-related recreation, equitable access, drinking water, etc.

The following are examples of project categories and types that can be considered under this RFP. This does not constitute an exhaustive list and other project types that address key water-related stressors may also be considered.

- **Actions that restore natural hydrology** including headwater meadow restoration, floodplain reconnection, instream barrier removal, and green infrastructure (e.g. stormwater management)
- **Water transactions** that replenish flow in water depleted streams, support wetland functions (store water, process nutrients, support ecological values), and actions that increase groundwater replenishment
- **Restoration of native vegetation** including tree planting, forest management, riparian restoration, agricultural buffers, and removal of invasive species
- **Water use efficiency** projects including irrigation modernization, urban efficiency and conservation, and water reuse and recycling
- **Groundwater recharge** including projects that enhance wetland habitat, increase infiltration, capture and retain surface runoff and/or facilitate direct aquifer recharge
- **Pollution reduction** projects that use nature-based solutions to improve water quality of agricultural return flows or other rural overland flows by temporarily retaining water or promoting infiltration

Applicant Eligibility

BWS will consider proposals from any individual or organization with the capacity, experience, and track record working in the region to implement voluntary water stewardship projects. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Non-profit organizations that have an active 501(c)3 tax designation
- Irrigation and water conservation districts
- Flood control districts
- Municipal governments and water providers
- Water control districts
- Native American tribes
- Private landowners
- Businesses
- State agencies
- Basin collaboratives



BWS does not support organizations whose policies or actions discriminate on basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or disability.

BWS does not support projects designed to mitigate legal or regulatory compliance obligations or tied to ongoing legal or regulatory action.

Evaluation

Project submissions will be evaluated based on the criteria contained in this RFP.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- have the potential to impact long-term Sacramento Basin Water Security,
- generate some measure or estimate of volumetric benefit that can be reported in acre-feet or gallons,
- have the potential to impact long-term ecological health of the greater watershed or water body and contribute to an existing watershed or water quality improvement plan or initiative,
- demonstrate strong local stakeholder, community, and partner support,
- clearly address limiting factors or stressors in the watershed or basin,
- demonstrate cost-sharing and/or matching funds from public or private sources,
- demonstrate a high level of certainty that all necessary planning and construction steps will be completed within the project timeline,
- will generate lasting benefits for 10+ years or are expected to catalyze or lead to scaled up future benefits,
- have monitoring plans or programs in place to evaluate progress towards desired outcomes and delivery of expected benefits,
- will deliver two or more social / environmental co-benefits, and
- will be implemented by December 2021 with a desired outcome for projects to begin delivering benefits by September 2022.

Through this RFP, BWS desires to fund a diverse array of projects that reflects the broad range of communities, project types, and organizations operating across the Sacramento River and American River basins. This desire will also be considered in final project selection.

Required Proposal Elements

The following elements should be addressed in a proposal. The content should be clear and concise, and applicants should strive for economy of words. Use of (and references to) material from relevant plans or proposals submitted to other funding sources is strongly encouraged. Applicants may provide internet links or include supporting documents as attachments to the proposal.



Project Title

- Provide a project title that is descriptive of the location and proposed action.

Project Sponsor Information

- Identify the organization that is the official proposal sponsor (name, address, phone, website, and EIN).
- Provide the contact information for the person responsible for all project related correspondence (name, phone, email).
- Provide a brief description of your organization, year of establishment, vision and mission, and experience and track record of planning and complete water stewardship projects. Provide internet links to descriptions of past projects if available (200 word limit).
- List all project partner organizations.

Project Information

1. Project summary or abstract
 - Provide a narrative that offers a concise description of the project type, context, approach, specific actions, outputs, and expected outcomes or desired impact (200 word limit).
 - Provide volumetric measure of environmental water benefit if you have a methodology to estimate it (cfs, acre-feet/year, etc.).
2. Timeframe
 - Define the project implementation timeframe. Include the proposed project start-date, key intermediate milestones (e.g. permitting, community engagement, funding, etc.), anticipated date of completion, and the anticipated date that water stewardship benefits will begin to occur (150 word limit).
3. Location
 - All proposals should include a basic Project Map (e.g. Google Earth) and physical location of the project (Lat/Long coordinates). Please include names of streams or watersheds and nearest town and/or county place names.
4. Context
 - Identify any relevant restoration/conservation plans or initiatives to which the project contributes (150 word limit).
 - Identify and describe the environmental and/or social issue(s) the project addresses or solves (250 word limit).
5. Strategy

