

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

Below is a list of funding options for financing green infrastructure projects in the San Diego Region. This information was compiled by the San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative. Contact laura@sdclimatecollaborative.org for more information.

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 1 FUNDING

Several funding sources are going to become available in 2015 that provide significant opportunity for funding green infrastructure projects from Proposition 1 funding. Information on the prop 1 funds most relevant to Green Infrastructure are listed below. Information on all Prop 1 Programs can also be found at: <http://bondaccountability.resources.ca.gov/p1.aspx>

State Coastal Conservancy – Prop 1 Funding

Chapter 6 of Prop 1 allocates \$100.5 million to the Conservancy for competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects, Water Code Section 79731(j). The Conservancy expects to grant approximately \$10 million each year for about ten years.

- RFP expected to be released in July/August 2015.
- The Draft Guidelines can be found at: <http://scc.ca.gov/files/2015/02/SCC-Prop-1-Guidelines-Draft-Feb-2015.pdf>
- Funding purposes include the following:
 - ✓ Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems.
 - ✓ Restore river parkways throughout the state, including but not limited to projects pursuant to the California River Parkways Act of 2004 and urban river greenways
 - ✓ Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.
 - ✓ Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.

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San Diego River Conservancy – Prop 1 Funding

Chapter 6 of Prop 1 allocated \$17 million to the Conservancy for competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects. The Conservancy works along the entire length of the San Diego River as well as all of the contributing area to the San Diego River (its “watershed”) consisting of several streams, reservoirs, wetlands, the estuary and uplands.

- The Draft Guidelines can be found at: <http://sdrc.ca.gov/docs/SDRC-prop-1-guidelines.pdf>
- The Prop 1 Grant Application can be found at: <http://sdrc.ca.gov/docs/SDRC-grant-application.pdf>
- Funding purposes include the following:
 - ✓ Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems
 - ✓ Protect and restore aquatic, wetland and migratory bird ecosystems including fish and wildlife corridors and the acquisition of water rights for instream flow
 - ✓ Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildlife risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities and promote watershed health
 - ✓ Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health, instream flows, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation

Dept of Fish and Wildlife – Watershed Restoration

The CDFW is developing two new grant programs to fund multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects, as outlined in Prop 1. Relevant to San Diego, the Watershed Restoration Grant Program will focus on water quality, river, and watershed protection and restoration projects of statewide importance outside of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This grant program will invest \$285 million in projects over a 10 year period.

- The Draft Project Solicitation and Evaluation Guidelines can be found at: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=94054&inline>
- The first proposal solicitation notice is expected for release in July of 2015. For more information: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants>
- Funding purposes include meeting the broad objectives of the following:
 - ✓ Restoring/protecting coastal wetland habitat;

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- ✓ Modernizing stream crossings, culverts, and bridges; •
 - ✓ Reconnecting historical flood plains
 - ✓ Restoring river channels;
 - ✓ Restoring or enhancing riparian, aquatic, and terrestrial habitat;
 - ✓ Supplying water to wetlands;
 - ✓ Improving local watershed management; and
 - ✓ Removing sediment or trash.
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State Water Resources Control Board – Prop 1 Stormwater Management

Prop 1 allocates \$200 million to the SWRCB for stormwater projects. The draft grant guidelines will be released in April 2016 and RFPs are expected to be solicited in July 2016.

Natural Resources Agency Watershed and Urban River Enhancements

Grant Schedule and guidelines still under development.

California Dept of Water Resources – Integrated regional water management

Prop 1 authorized the appropriation of \$510 million in Integrated Regional Water Management funding for Implementation and Planning efforts to each hydrologic region of the State as identified in the California Water Plan. Of this \$510 million, a portion will be devoted to assisting disadvantaged communities. \$52 million has been allocated to the San Diego funding area.

- To stay up to date on the Prop 1 Grant Program, sign up to receive IRWM emails here: <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/subscribe.cfm>

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GENERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program offers low cost financing for a wide variety of water quality projects including those that address nonpoint source pollution, watershed protection, and municipal wastewater treatment. The program has significant financial assets, and is capable of financing projects from \$1 million to \$100 million. Since 2009, states have been required to spend a portion of CWSRF funds for “green” projects (green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, environmentally innovative activities) – currently 10% of CWSRF funding.

- Applications are submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board.
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/#
 - How to Use CWSRF To Fund Green Infrastructure FACT SHEET:
http://www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/cwsrf/green_if.pdf
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Wells Fargo and National Fish & Wildlife Foundation: Environmental Solutions for Communities grants

This program funds highly-visible projects that link economic development and community wellbeing to the stewardship and health of the environment. Specifically, it supports visible and accessible demonstration projects that showcase innovative, cost-effective and environmentally-friendly approaches to improve environmental conditions within urban communities by ‘greening’ traditional infrastructure and public projects such as storm water management and flood control, public park enhancements, and renovations to public facilities.

- Up to \$100,000 available, but average grant size is \$40,000
 - RFP release for 2016 grant cycle likely to be released in September 2015.
 - Information and application can be found at:
<http://www.nfwf.org/environmentalsolutions/Pages/home.aspx>
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US Dept of Housing and Urban Development – Community Development Block Grant Program

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. Each activity must meet one of the following national objectives for the program: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or

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address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.

- For more information:
http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs
 - Last year, more than \$12 million was awarded to cities in San Diego County through the CDBG
 - To reach the point of contact for the grant program:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/san-diego-ca/>
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Surdna Foundation – Sustainable Environments Program’s Urban Water Management

The Sustainable Environments Program supports innovative stormwater run-off practices that capture and slowly release water into existing drains, pipes and sewers, or reuse rain water where it falls (sometimes called “green infrastructure”) instead of building expensive pipes and sewer tunnels.

- For more information on the grant: <http://www.surdna.org/what-we-fund/sustainable-environments/4-what-we-fund-/what-we-fund-/482-urban-water-management.html>
 - To see more about Surdna’s vision for urban water management:
<http://www.surdna.org/urban.html>
 - Instructions for how to apply: <http://www.surdna.org/grants/how-to-apply.html>
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EPA – Urban Waters Small Grants

The goal of the Urban Waters Small Grants program is to fund research, investigations, experiments, training, surveys, studies, and demonstrations that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities.

- For more information: <http://www2.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants>
 - RFP for the 2016 fiscal year may be released in summer 2015
 - The 2013/2014 year saw \$2.1 million in grants awarded at \$40,000 - \$60,000 each
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CalFire Urban and Community Forestry – Cap-and-Trade Grant Programs

CalFire Urban and Community Forestry offered 5 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) grants last year. The grants supported urban tree planting projects, jurisdiction-wide tree inventory and urban forest mapping, analysis, and long-term management planning, urban wood and biomass utilization projects, projects to assist local entities purchase and improve unused lots, and projects for urban green infrastructure.

- To see last year's RFPs: http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry_grants.php
- For more general information: <http://www.caufc.org/Public%20Policy>
- RFP for the 2016 fiscal year may be released in November 2015
- The 2013/2014 year saw \$17 million in grants awarded through the five programs

Wildlife Conservation Society's Climate Adaptation Fund

Grants are awarded to projects that serve as innovative examples of on-the-ground efforts helping species and the ecosystems on which they depend adapt to changing climatic conditions across the United States. WCS is proud to support these groundbreaking and important projects that serve as models of best practice for future-smart and sustainable investments in restoration, land and water management actions, and science-based adaptation for many years to come.

- For more information: <http://www.wcsnorthamerica.org/ClimateAdaptationFund/tabid/4813/Default.aspx>
- Potential funding source for developing coastal "living shorelines" to address coastal flooding and sea-level rise.
- RFPs for the 2016 year may be released in April 2016