

Finance Chapter Update to the 2015 Regional Flood Management Plan

Upper San Joaquin River

Regional Flood Management Planning



June 2023

Upper San Joaquin River Regional Flood Management Plan



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BCA	Benefit cost analysis
BRIC	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
Cal OES	California Office of Emergency Services
CAPGP	Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program
CDFA	California Department of Food and Agriculture
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CVFPB	Central Valley Flood Protection Board
CVFPP	Central Valley Flood Protection Plan
CVP	Central Valley Project
CVPIA	Central Valley Project Improvement Act
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EHP	environmental and historic preservation
EMPG	Emergency Management Performance Grant
EWP	Emergency Watershed Protection Program
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Flood-MAR	Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge
FMA	Flood Mitigation Assistance
FSRP	Flood System Repair Program
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
IJA	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
IRWM	Integrated Regional Water Management
ISRF	Infrastructure State Revolving Fund
IWCP	Inland Wetlands Conservation Program
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
LMA	Local Maintaining Agency
MID	Merced Irrigation District

NAWCA	North American Wetlands Conservation Act
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Planning
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NFPPP	National Fish Passage Program
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
NOI	Notice of Interest
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
O&M	operations and maintenance
OPR	Governors' Office of Planning and Research
PL	Public Law
RCD	Resource Conservation District
RCIS	Regional Conservation Investment Strategies
RCPP	Regional Conservatio Partnership Program
Reclamation	US Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation
RFMP	Regional Flood Management Plan
SB	Senate Bill
SCADA	supervisory control and data acquisition
SGM	Sustainable Groundwater Management
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SJFPEP	San Joaquin Fish Population Enhancement Program
SPFC	State Plan of Flood Control
STORM	Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation
USACE	US Army Corp of Engineers
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
USJR	Upper San Joaquin River
USRP	Urban Streams Restoration Program

Introduction

This finance chapter update to the 2015 *Upper San Joaquin River Regional Flood Management Plan* (RFMP) (San Joaquin River Flood Control Project Agency 2015) gives an overview of the Upper San Joaquin River (USJR) region's unique financial considerations, provides an updated resource on potential funding sources and strategies, and recommends actions that can strengthen the region's funding potential for needed flood management improvements.

Overview of Financial Considerations for USJR

The USJR region faces a number of challenges and constraints in funding their regional management priorities, which are centered around a limited capacity for local fundraising, and aging and insufficient flood management infrastructure. Despite these challenges, the region has successfully funded several flood management projects in recent years, providing useful case studies for future funding strategies.

Challenges

The USJR region lacks sufficient local funding sources, which has contributed over time to a general underinvestment in the flood management system. Local flood management funding is raised largely through property tax assessments, but because of the composition of the USJR region, the tax base is limited. The region is made up primarily of small, rural communities, including at least 10 disadvantaged communities. The City of Merced, with a population of 83,000, is the only urban area in the region. Any additional tax assessments that require voter approval are likely not feasible or affordable considering the prominence of local disadvantaged communities. The lack of sufficient local funding can also be a hurdle to accessing State and federal funding sources, many of which require a local cost share.

Local funding challenges are exacerbated by the rising costs of permitting, labor and materials for operations and maintenance (O&M). The increased costs of carrying out maintenance activities under wet conditions due to new San Joaquin River Restoration Program flow regimes has also impacted the Lower San Joaquin Levee District. Local agencies are already constrained in their ability to fund flood management infrastructure and have limited O&M budgets to maintain existing facilities.

New permitting requirements have played a major role in increasing O&M costs, and contributed to significant delays in maintenance activities, creating a backlog of deferred maintenance. Local maintaining agencies (LMAs) do not have the funding or staff resources to address the maintenance backlog on top of current maintenance needs. This maintenance

backlog has become a liability issue, as recent flooding events have resulted in lawsuits for flood damages and considerable expense to responsible LMAs.

Funding challenges in the USJR region due to the limited tax base and the rising costs of O&M, labor, and new permitting requirements limit the ability of local agencies to address critical flood management issues. Aging infrastructure, reduced flood bypass conveyance capacity due to extreme subsidence and sedimentation, and deferred maintenance impacts the ability of flood management facilities to function as intended, and all require significant additional investment. As flood risk increases with increasing storm severity, underinvestment in flood management makes the system vulnerable to failure at the cost of human life, homes and business, and other valuable community resources.

In 2015, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) deauthorized 192 miles of State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) levees in the region, making them ineligible for assistance from USACE Public Law (PL) 84-99 disaster assistance and rehabilitation program funding, which could leave the region financially vulnerable if failure occurs. Restoring federal authorization or establishment of dedicated State funding for future emergency assistance for the San Joaquin River Flood Control Project is a top priority for the region.

Success Stories

Despite the USJR region's financial challenges, local agencies have been successful in securing funding for a number of flood projects in recent years, relying heavily on State and federal grants, State direct funding programs, and non-flood related partner agencies. Example flood projects are listed below.

- **Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project**—Merced County secured approximately \$9.7 million from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program and \$10 million from Natural Resources Conservation Service to advance the project to 100% design, secure permits, and acquire necessary lands. Merced County also received \$5 million from the DWR Flood Management, Protection, and Risk Awareness Program for construction.
- **Great Valley Grasslands Floodplain Restoration Project**—American Rivers and California Department of Parks and Recreation's Encroachment Permit 19513 was recently approved by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) to breach an SPFC levee and reconnect the San Joaquin River to its historical floodplain. Construction to begin notching sections of the levees was approved but was delayed due to the recent January storms. The project demonstrates the opportunity provided by strategic breaches of SPFC levees to achieve flood risk reduction, ecosystem, and water supply benefits. The project was developed through multiple phases of California Department of Fish and Wildlife Watershed Restoration Grant Program Proposition 1 grant funding.
- **Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood-MAR) water rights**—Merced Irrigation District (MID) and the Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency have invested

\$800,000 to secure water rights for Flood-MAR projects in the Merced River watershed. Following a collaborative reconnaissance study between DWR and MID to explore the potential for Flood-MAR, DWR coordinated with the State Water Resources Control Board to permit diversion of high flows from Mariposa Creek and store the water in aquifers for later use in irrigation.

- **Flood facilities improvements**—DWR’s Flood System Repair Program (FSRP) has provided critical support in the USJR region, funding an array of flood facilities improvements for the Lower San Joaquin Levee District. These included electrical upgrades, installation of new radial gate motors, and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) improvements.
- **Firebaugh Multi-Benefit Flood Management Project Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Study**—DWR provided direct funding to the City of Firebaugh using Disaster Preparedness and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2006 Proposition 1E funds to determine the feasibility of proposed project elements identified in the 2015 USJR RFMP and to formulate project components that can move toward implementation, including a final levee alignment (City of Firebaugh 2019). The final feasibility study was completed in June 2022.

These success stories and other experiences in the region can provide valuable lessons for local flood agencies and for California policymakers on how to better fund flood management projects in the USJR region in the face of existing financial challenges. Some of these items are highlighted below.

Flood System Repair and Flood Maintenance Assistance Programs

Targeted State funding programs are critical to the region, but also have areas where improvement is needed. Because these programs address some of the specific challenges faced by local agencies, such as funding infrastructure repairs and routine maintenance through the FSRP and Flood Maintenance Assistance Program, and supporting small and disadvantaged communities through the Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program, DWR’s targeted funding programs are critical for funding needed improvements in the USJR region.

Even under these programs, meeting local cost share requirements can be a challenge, particularly in disadvantaged communities. Some of these programs, like the FSRP, provide local agencies favorable State cost shares of up to 95%, but even small local cost shares can present a hurdle to small, disadvantaged communities. Rate specifications for in-kind services to meet the cost share requirement are not always clear to program participants. The State should consider increasing program eligibility requirements to allow for up to a 100% State cost share for qualifying communities, or establish clear guidelines and open communication channels for arranging and approving in-kind services to meet cost share requirements.

Another limitation of these programs is that they apply only to SPFC facilities, meaning that these programs only cover a portion of the region’s total flood management facilities, and many are bond-funded, meaning that funding is periodic and can run out after several years. Continued, stable funding for these programs at the State level is necessary to meet the investment need in the USJR region.

Local agencies in the region have experienced other challenges with these programs that can be improved in future rounds of funding. Past challenges have included requirement to hire DWR-approved vendors, unclear program requirements that can vary from year to year (for example, unclear eligibility for particular expense categories, such as equipment), and funding expiring before the necessary permits could be secured. Continued engagement in regional and State planning efforts can help identify remaining critical funding gaps, such as those for non-SPFC facilities, and areas for needed improvement.

State and Federal Grants

State and federal grants can work in tandem to reduce local cost share requirements. Although some State and federal funding programs provide cost shares up to 90% to 95% (such as Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities [BRIC] and FSRP), standard cost shares are typically much lower, requiring a significant non-State or non-federal contribution.

The Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project is an excellent example of leveraging both State and federal funding sources to reduce the local cost share. The County of Merced was originally awarded \$10 million toward this \$35 million project by the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Regional Conservation Partnership Program; the County was subsequently awarded \$9.7 million by the Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program and \$5 million by the Floodplain Management, Protection, and Risk Awareness Grant Program. Applying for State and federal grant funding is a costly process. DWR should consider providing additional technical support, particularly for small and disadvantaged communities in the USJR region, when applying for State and federal grants.

Management Partnerships

Partnerships around integrated water resources management can provide new funding opportunities. The DWR and MID partnership to explore Flood-MAR feasibility and secure water rights to excess flows on the Merced River is an example of bringing nontraditional flood management partners into the funding equation.

As drought and rainfall events intensify, State agencies are shifting focus to integrated water resources management that considers how to address multiple water management challenges in a more holistic way. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a collaborative effort to implement water management solutions at a regional scale. Flood-MAR presents a unique opportunity to address water supply issues, groundwater overdraft challenges, and flood risk mitigation with a single approach. It can also help address subsidence issues in the region. In turn, it brings new funding partners to the table, including water and irrigation districts, and groundwater sustainability agencies, in addition to traditional flood management agencies. The region should continue to look for opportunities to broaden and deepen collaboration across water sectors. The State has offered several IRWM planning grants to help regions identify and implement regional strategies for water management, which could provide the USJR region with opportunities to further develop Flood-MAR projects.

Multi-Benefit Opportunities

Multi-benefit funding sources add complexity but provide additional opportunities. The State has outlined, in statewide planning and directional documents such as the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) and the Governor’s Water Resilience Portfolio, the need to increase the pace of multi-benefit project implementation. There are numerous State funding programs that support these goals by providing funding for projects that address ecosystem and species health.

The Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project and the Grasslands Floodplain Restoration Implementation Project both included multiple benefits ranging from reducing risk for prime agricultural lands, water quality, soil quality and wildlife habitat benefits. As future projects are developed and scoped, considering multiple benefits will broaden the funding pool. Multi-benefit projects that include complex habitat restoration or other benefit categories can be more costly and time-consuming to implement compared to single-purpose flood control projects but are eligible to receive more State and federal support because of the wide-ranging benefits.

Funding Sources

This section provides a resource to local agencies on new and existing funding sources, with a focus on grant funding. The following sections outline the different types of funding sources available and provide information about some of the grant funding programs that best fit the priority flood management project types in the USJR region. Appendix A provides more detailed information about these grant programs.

Types of Funding

This section focuses on competitive grant funding for improvements to the flood management system in the USJR region. Although grant funding is not the only type of funding available, it is the type of funding that best addresses the USJR region’s critical funding challenges. Local agencies also have more control in seeking out grant funding because they can apply directly for competitive awards, unlike other State and federal funding that is programmed from the top down. Non-competitive grant funding types include direct funding and loans. Each of these funding types and examples are briefly described below.

Direct Funding

Through direct funding programs like FSRP and Flood Maintenance Assistance Program, funding is directed by DWR. Under FSRP for example, LMAs with identified eligible project sites are notified by DWR and invited to submit a letter of intent to participate. DWR implemented the FSRP in 2017 with bond funding and has provided \$80 million to fund repairs primarily in rural areas since then. The Flood Maintenance Assistance Program was implemented in 2018, committing \$8 to \$10 million annually from an increase in baseline funding for operation,

maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and replacement activities in the 2018–2019 State budget. Both programs depend on continued funding availability and will require additional appropriations at the State level. They apply only to SPFC facilities. Local agencies should continue to engage in the regional and statewide flood management planning efforts to stay abreast of these funding programs and coordinate with DWR on what projects in the USJR region best fit DWR’s program goals. Participation in these programs is initiated by the State rather than by the local agency.

Loans

In addition to direct funding and competitive grants, State and federal loan programs are also available. However, because loan programs must be repaid over time, they do not address the region’s fundamental challenge of limited local funding. The Federal Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) revolving loan program and the Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF) both provide financing to public agencies for flood management. The State’s Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank also offers the ISRF loan program for a variety of infrastructure projects. These loan programs are better suited to enterprise special districts that provide fee-based services and can use revenues to repay loans over time.

Emergency Funding

Emergency funding has its own funding streams that come online following a State or federally declared emergency event. These include USACE’s PL 84-99 rehabilitation assistance, FEMA’s Public Assistance Program, and DWR’s Emergency Repair and Rehabilitation Program. All of these programs provide funding post-disaster either directly or through an application process. These funding streams can help restore the flood system to its pre-disaster status, but are not stable or reliable sources of funding, and generally do not fund improvements to the system beyond pre-disaster status. FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is one exception where funding becomes available by state after a federally declared emergency event, but grant funds are intended to support mitigation of future disaster losses broadly, not just repair and rehabilitation of the damaged infrastructure.

Grants

State and federal competitive grant funding programs are the focus of the remainder of this update. As these funds do not require repayment or top-down State programming, they are an important tool for USJR regional agencies to address their challenges around local funding. Grants are generally structured in two ways. They can be planning grants, which cover planning, scoping, studies, and capacity building, or they can be implementation grants, which can be used for land acquisition, design, permitting, and construction. Each type of grant will include details about their respective eligible activities. Many State and federal grants require matching funds. However new grant programs and new stipulations to existing grant programs provide greater cost shares to disadvantaged communities and some are specifically aimed at helping communities provide matching funds for other State and federal grant awards. These funding program elements are discussed in more detail in the sections that follow, and are organized by funding source.

Funding Sources

State and federal grant programs that have the potential to fund USJR region priority projects are presented in the sections that follow, and are organized by funding category, including flood risk reduction grants, ecosystem improvement grants, and other multi-benefit grants.

Flood Risk Reduction

Flood risk reduction grants generally apply to most USJR priority projects but may have the best nexus with projects that reduce risk for urban areas and small communities, including protection of critical infrastructure like roads, water and wastewater treatment plants, and projects that provide regional benefits. Example projects from the list of USJR priorities include:

- Providing 100-year flood protection for the small communities of Franklin-Beachwood, Firebaugh, and Dos Palos, per the 2007 Senate Bill (SB) 5
- Enlarging Chowchilla Canal bypass control structure
- Increasing local storage for flood capacity at Burns Reservoir, Bear Reservoir, Mariposa Reservoir, Owens Reservoir
- Vegetation removal for Madera area levees

Ecosystem Improvement

Ecosystem improvement grants can fund single-purpose projects that benefit natural ecosystems and habitat or can fund multi-benefit project components. Example projects in the USJR region include:

- San Luis National Wildlife Refuge West Bear Creek Project
- Invasive vegetation and monitoring
- Construction of a setback levee to protect the Firebaugh Wastewater Treatment Plant to provide recreational and habitat enhancements

Other Multi-benefits

Other multi-benefit grant programs target groundwater management, agricultural conservation, and integrated water management. These programs could fit USJR priority projects related to:

- Western Madera and Merced County subsidence
- Los Banos Creek storage and recapture
- Other Flood-MAR opportunities

State Funding Sources

The State offers many competitive grant funding programs focused on flood risk reduction, hazard mitigation and resilience, and ecosystem restoration and conservation. State funding streams are variable and depend on influxes from bond funding and periodic budget surpluses, in addition to annual obligations. Important factors and recent trends in State funding programs are described below.

Variable State Funding

State funding for flood management depends on periodic influxes from the annual budget and from general obligation bonds. The State budget has seen landmark surpluses in recent years, with approximately \$28 billion in the enacted 2022–23 budget, and a budget windfall of \$26 billion in 2021–22. The 2021-22 budget dedicated \$15 billion over 4 years to addressing climate change, including flood management and multi-hazard resilience, which funded new grant programs across multiple agencies. The 2022–23 budget added to these investments. However, the State may be facing a budget deficit for the 2023–24 fiscal year, which could cause the administration to rethink recent augmentations that have not yet been spent. The most recent bonds with flood management allocations were Proposition 1 in 2014 (Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure) and Proposition 68 in 2018 (California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate and Coastal Protection). Approximately \$44 million of these bond funds remain unspent, and it is likely that less than that remains uncommitted. The State needs stable and consistent funding sources to make needed flood management investments throughout the state.

Focus on Disadvantaged Communities

In parallel to the emerging focus on environmental justice and racial equity at the federal level, State funding programs also include a significant new focus on disadvantaged communities. Nearly all of the State grant funding programs included in this update are either explicitly focused on disadvantaged communities or incorporate special consideration of disadvantaged communities. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program for example set aside \$15 million out of \$77 million for disadvantaged communities in their latest round of funding. Programs like the Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program and the California Office of Emergency Services' (Cal OES') Prepare California grants are offered exclusively to these communities.

New Funding Programs that Address Critical Gaps

Cal OES and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) have rolled out four new funding programs that target some of the critical funding gaps experienced in the USJR region:

- CalOES' Prepare California Match offers matching funds for the non-federal cost share associated with FEMA BRIC and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) projects in high risk and socially vulnerable communities

- CalOES' Prepare California JumpStart provides competitive grant funding for technical assistance to the same communities, including project scoping
- OPR's Adaptation Planning Grant Program covers the costs of creating funding plans, and the costs of preparing and applying for other State and federal funds for project implementation.
- OPR's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program can be used for implementation and can be used to meet matching requirements associated with other funding sources.

These programs address some of the central challenges in the USJR region associated with limited funding for project scoping and development, grant application costs, and local cost share. The first round of funding for the two Cal OES programs was offered in fall of 2022. The first round of funding for the two OPR programs was offered in spring of 2023. Future rounds of funding are not yet advertised but local agencies should explore taking advantage of these funding programs.

Uncertainty in Longevity of Some Programs

Because State funding programs rely on periodic influxes of funding from general obligation bonds or from the State budget, their funding levels and their longevity into the future are uncertain. Recent water bonds Proposition 68 and Proposition 1 have funded several short-term State grant programs, but as those funds run out, new water bonds, passed by a majority vote in a general election will be required to fund needed flood management investments. The 2022 CVFPP Update (DWR 2022) recommended a new flood-focused general obligation bond in 2022, and two additional bonds in the 2032 election cycle, but no new bonds have yet been passed. Passing any future bonds in the State depends on the political and economic climate at the time. State budgets are also notoriously variable, ranging from billion-dollar surpluses to billion-dollar deficits, making stable long-term investments in flood management challenging. While the State has created several new grant programs to meet some of the specific funding challenges that the USJR region faces, their longevity is uncertain, and they depend on year-to-year financial conditions.

Flood Risk Reduction Grants

In addition to DWR grant programs that focus on flood risk reduction, new Cal OES and OPR grant programs provide funding for applying to State and federal implementation grant programs, and for matching grant funds. Most of these grant programs also have special considerations for disadvantaged communities and can be targeted by local USJR agencies.

Table 1 briefly describes each grant program. More detail about each program, including required cost share and application timing, is in Appendix A.

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Table 1. State Flood Risk Reduction Grant Programs

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description
Prepare California Match	Cal OES	Cal OES offers matching funds for the non-federal cost share for BRIC and FMA project-scoping activities and competitive mitigation projects for high hazard risk and socially vulnerable communities.
Prepare California JumpStart	Cal OES	Prepare California JumpStart provides technical assistance and State funding to eligible socially vulnerable and high hazard risk communities. Eligible activities include capacity building, mitigation and preparedness activities, community outreach/education, response and recovery planning, and project scoping. Each application may be up to \$1 million in State funds, and entities may submit multiple applications.
Adaptation Planning Grant Program	OPR	Eligible planning activities include creating a funding plan, and preparation and completion of other State and federal grant applications for implementation funding. Projects should align with local, regional, and statewide plans.
Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program	OPR	This program makes funding available for regional projects for capacity building, conducting studies, and implementing projects that address various climate risks. Funding may be used as the required match for other funding opportunities.
Central Valley Tributaries Program	DWR	This program will implement flood risk reduction projects with fish and wildlife habitat enhancements in California’s Central Valley. Projects must include a capital asset acquisition or construction component that is not yet initiated. Special consideration will be given to disadvantaged communities. Local cost share is 50%, but may be reduced to 0% depending on the economic status of a community benefitted by a proposed project.
Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program	DWR	The Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program is a cost share local assistance program with primary goal of reducing flood risk for small communities (that is, communities with 200 to 10,000 residents), including legacy and disadvantaged communities, protected by SPFC facilities.
Floodplain Management, Protection, and Risk Awareness Grant Program	DWR	This program supports local agency efforts to prepare for flooding events by providing financial assistance for flood risk reduction activities related to stormwater, mudslide, and other flash flood related protections. This program will incorporate an increased focus on economically disadvantaged community assistance and multi-benefit project features.

BRIC = Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
 Cal OES = California Office of Emergency Services
 FMA = Flood Mitigation Assistance
 OPR = Governors' Office of Planning and Research
 SPFC = State Plan of Flood Control

Ecosystem Improvement Grants

Ecosystem improvement grant programs cover a variety of particular goals, species habitat improvements, fish passage, wetlands restoration, and urban stream renewal. Multi-benefit flood management projects that incorporate ecosystem benefits can take advantage of these funding programs. Table 2 briefly describes State ecosystem improvement grant programs. More detail about each program, including required cost share, and application timing is in Appendix A.

Table 2. State Ecosystem Improvement Grant Programs

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description
California State Duck Stamp Project Proposal Solicitation Notice FY 2023–24	CDFW	Funding is provided for projects that enhance, restore, and maintain habitat for California waterfowl species, including levee repair, replacement of water control structures, pump repair and installation, removal of nonnative invasive plant species and restoration (active or passive) of native and other desirable wetland or upland vegetation.
Environmental Enhancement Fund	CDFW	The objective of this grant program is to support environmental enhancement projects located within or immediately adjacent to waters of the State.
2021 Natural Community Conservation Planning Local Assistance Grant Program	CDFW	CDFW seeks proposals for highest priority projects associated with NCCP implementation. Any project that is additive to any required mitigation and addresses a high-priority task for implementation of the NCCP is eligible for funding.
Resource Conservation District Financial Assistance Program	Department of Conservation	Financial Assistance Program funding will help RCD capacity building. Capacity building is an investment in the effectiveness and future sustainability of an organization.
Urban Streams Restoration Program	DWR	The USRP, established by California Water Code Section 7048, provides technical assistance to restore streams impacted by urban development to a more natural state.

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description
San Joaquin Fish Population Enhancement Program	DWR	The SJFPEP funds projects that improve conditions for the survival of various life stages of salmonids and other native fishes in the lower San Joaquin River watershed.
Ecosystem Restoration and Agricultural Lands	Wildlife Conservation Board	The Ecosystem Restoration and Agricultural Lands program aims to collaborate with the agricultural community to identify and implement projects that provide long-term habitat benefits for wildlife, consistent with landowner objectives, including economic sustainability, and have the potential for replication on a statewide scale.
Climate Adaptation and Resiliency	Wildlife Conservation Board	Program funding is directed toward projects that protect and restore ecosystems on natural and working lands to provide climate change adaptation and resilience for wildlife. The program also helps natural and working lands managers to implement practices that provide climate adaptation and resilience.
Stream Flow Enhancement	Wildlife Conservation Board	Funding priorities for the stream flow enhancement projects include Implementation projects resulting in measurable increases in-stream flow, acquisition projects resulting in permanent or long-term in-stream flow dedications, and projects that are focused on a watershed or regional approach.
Wildlife Corridor and Fish Passage	Wildlife Conservation Board	This program funds projects that construct, repair, modify, or remove transportation infrastructure or water resources infrastructure improving passage for wildlife or fish. Additional consideration is given to projects that restore or enhance wildlife mobility across barriers whose impacts on migration have been increased by drought conditions.
Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program	Wildlife Conservation Board	<p>Eligible projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native fisheries restoration • Restoring wetlands • Restoring coastal, tidal, or freshwater habitat • Restoring other native habitat including coastal scrub oak, grasslands, and threatened and endangered species habitats • Restoring in-stream, including removing fish passage barriers and other obstructions • Other projects that improve the quality of native habitat throughout the State

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description
Inland Wetlands Conservation Program	Wildlife Conservation Board	The IWCP was created to help protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and associated migratory bird habitats.
Regional Conservation Investment Strategies	Wildlife Conservation Board	Provides funding for the development of RCISs. Encourages public agencies to develop regional conservation planning documents using the best available science to identify regional conservation priorities and other actions to help California’s species populations that may be vulnerable or declining by protecting, restoring, creating, and reconnecting their habitats.

CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 IWCP = Inland Wetlands Conservation Program
 NCCP = Natural Community Conservation Planning
 RCD = Resource Conservation District
 RCIS = Regional Conservation Investment Strategies
 SJFPEP = San Joaquin Fish Population Enhancement Program
 USRP = Urban Streams Restoration Program

Other Multi-benefit Grants

Other multi-benefit grant programs have potential to fund particular multi-benefit elements of USJR regional priorities. Projects with benefits related to water quality, groundwater management, and agricultural conservation could take advantage of these funding programs. Table 3 briefly describes these grant opportunities. More detail about each program, including required cost share and application timing, is in Appendix A.

Table 3. Other State Multi-benefit Grant Programs

Fund Name	Funding Agency	Description
Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant	State Water Resources Control Board	The Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant Program awards grants to reduce and mitigate the effects of nonpoint source pollution such as sediment, pesticides, and nutrients to waters of the State. The program primarily funds implementation projects. Eligible activities include reducing sediment and nutrient discharges, dredging contaminated sediment, and habitat restoration such as installation of large woody debris and riparian revegetation, among others.

Fund Name	Funding Agency	Description
Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program	DWR	Subject to regional priorities, projects may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface and underground water storage, including groundwater aquifer recharge projects • Stormwater resource and flood management • Conjunctive use of surface and groundwater storage facilities • Decision support tools to model regional water management strategies to account for climate change and other impacts
Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program	DWR	This grant program offers financial help implementing SGMA projects. Round 2 opens up for medium- and high-priority (including critically overdrafted) basins. One application is allowed per basin. \$15 million (of the total \$77 million) will be available in Round 2 for projects that are within and solely benefit an underrepresented community.
Conservation Agriculture Planning Grants Program	CDFA	CAPGP will fund the development of conservation agriculture plans that help farmers and ranchers identify actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, further environmental stewardship and ensure agricultural food security into the future.

CAPGP = Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program
 CDFA = California Department of Food and Agriculture
 DWR = California Department of Water Resources
 IRWM = Integrated Regional Water Management
 SGM = Sustainable Groundwater Management
 SGMA = Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Federal Funding Sources

There are large amounts of funding available from federal funding programs. Because they are more competitive, their grant application processes can be complex and costly for local agencies to complete. Flood risk reduction grants typically require detailed benefit cost analysis (BCA) according to specific federal guidelines. Recent trends in federal funding include:

- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and BRIC**—The IIJA was signed into law in November of 2021, authorizing \$1.2 trillion, including \$550 billion in new spending for infrastructure investment. With portions of these funds aimed at improving infrastructure resilience, FEMA’s mitigation grant programs including BRIC and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) have seen significant funding increases. BRIC in particular is a new program launched in 2020 to reduce community vulnerability to hazard events that has

seen its funding increase from \$500 million to \$1.16 billion in its first 3 years of implementation.

- **Justice40**—The federal Justice40 initiative, established by President Biden in 2021, sets a goal for the federal government to deliver 40% of the benefits from all federal investments in climate and clean energy, including climate resilience, to disadvantaged communities. Nearly all federal agencies have established guidelines around Justice40 and provide advantages to small and disadvantaged communities that can include technical assistance, greater federal cost shares, lower BCA thresholds, and technical criteria advantages in awarding grants.
- **Nature-based solutions**—Federal agencies, including USACE, FEMA, and others are embracing nature-based solutions for their ability to provide flood protection and increased resilience in a more cost-effective way. Nature-based solutions are defined by FEMA as sustainable planning, design, environmental management and engineering practices that weave natural features or processes into the built environment to promote adaptation and resilience. These solutions are often multi-benefit in nature, providing benefits by reducing flood risk, improving water quality, restoring and protecting wetlands, and adding recreational space. Most federal grant programs provide advantages for projects that incorporate nature-based solutions.

The following sections briefly describe federal grant programs.

Flood Risk Reduction and Ecosystem Improvement

FEMA’s HMGP, BRIC, and FMA programs are the main federal grant programs for flood hazard mitigation. BRIC and FMA are rolled out on an annual basis, with a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) typically circulated in July or August. HMGP grants are offered after a federally declared emergency, though the mitigation project does not need to be directly related to the emergency declaration, by state, with NOFOs circulated periodically. In compliance with Justice40 these FEMA grants allow special provisions for disadvantaged communities, including a lower BCA threshold requirement, a maximum cost share of 90%, and an advantage in the technical award criteria. Local government agencies must have a current FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) to be eligible for these grants. Grants are awarded through state emergency services agencies. Interested applicants submit a Notice of Interest (NOI) to Cal OES when the NOFO is circulated to become eligible to submit a full application. Appendix B provides an overview of these FEMA grant opportunities and outlines the subapplication submittal process through Cal OES.

NRCS grants make up the remainder of the programs highlighted in Table 4. NRCS’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program recently awarded funds to the Black Rascal Creek Flood Protection Project.

Table 4 and BRIC = Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

EMPG = Emergency Management Performance Grant

EWP = Emergency Watershed Protection Program

FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency
 FMA = Flood Mitigation Assistance
 HMGP = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
 NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service
 RCPP = Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Table 5 briefly describe some of the federal grant programs related to flood risk reduction and ecosystem restoration, respectively, that best fit USJR priority actions. More detail about each program, including required cost share, and application timing is in Appendix A.

Table 4. Federal Flood Risk Reduction Grant Programs

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description
BRIC	FEMA	BRIC makes federal funds available to local governments for pre-disaster hazard mitigation, including flood. Infrastructure projects, projects that incorporate nature-based solutions, and projects that benefit disadvantaged and underserved communities are awarded additional points in the technical evaluation criteria. Up to \$50 million per project is available through the national competition.
FMA	FEMA	The FMA program makes federal funds available to local governments to reduce the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program. 75% federal cost shares are typical but 90% for repetitive loss properties and 100% for severe repetitive loss properties is available.
HMGP	FEMA	The HMGP provides funding for local governments to mitigate future disaster losses in their community. Grant funding is available by state after a presidentially declared natural disaster.
Emergency Management Performance Grant Program	FEMA	The EMPG Program provides funding for closing capability gaps emergency preparedness, with priorities including equity, climate resilience, and readiness, in alignment with state and federal hazard and risk planning efforts.
Cooperating Technical Partners Program	FEMA	The CTP Program exists to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of the NFIP. The CTP Program supports efforts to Strengthen National Preparedness and Resilience, one of six main goals of the DHS 2020–2024 DHS Strategic Plan.
Emergency Watershed Protection Program	NRCS	The EWP offers financial and technical assistance to protect infrastructure and land from additional flooding and soil erosion, including removing debris from stream channels, repairing levees and structures, and purchase of floodplain easements.

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description
California Conservation Cooperative Agreements	NRCS	Proposals focusing on the resiliency of California agriculture by addressing climate-smart agriculture through six target resource concerns will be prioritized. The six target resource concerns include plant productivity and forest health, air quality, water quality, water quantity, soil health/soil quality, and wildlife habitat. No matching funds are required.
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	NRCS	The RCPP promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer natural resource solutions on regional or watershed scales. Projects must benefit agricultural or rural communities.

BRIC = Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

EMPG = Emergency Management Performance Grant

EWP = Emergency Watershed Protection Program

FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency

FMA = Flood Mitigation Assistance

HMGP = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service

RCPP = Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Table 5. Federal Ecosystem Improvement Grant Programs

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description
California Wildlife Resource Management	BLM	BLM's California Wildlife Program works with partners and cooperating agencies/governments to protect biodiversity; identify, conserve, and restore priority habitats.
National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management	BLM	The BLM National Aquatic Habitat Management Program conserves and restores riparian, fisheries, and water resources (hereafter referred to as aquatic resources) to provide resource values and ecosystem services necessary to achieve the BLM's multiple use mandate.

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description
Candidate Species Conservation Fund	USFWS	The principal objective of this Candidate Species Conservation funding opportunity is to accomplish conservation tasks for high-priority candidate species (based on our annual Candidate Species Assessments) or other at-risk species in the United States, such that identified threats to the species may be reduced or eliminated. These efforts are based on cooperative relationships with states, non-governmental organizations, private landowners and those interested in habitat restoration or undertaking candidate and at-risk species research, surveys and monitoring, or educational outreach efforts.
National Fish Passage Program	USFWS	The NFPP provides direct technical and financial assistance to partners to provide fish passage and restore aquatic connectivity for the benefit of federal trust resources. The program aims to increase fish populations, improve ecosystem resiliency, and provide quality fishing experiences for the American people. Example project types include culvert replacements, and the installation of fishways.
North American Wetlands Conservation Act, US Standard Grants	USFWS	The US Standard Grants Program is a competitive, matching grant program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the NAWCA. Projects must involve only long-term protection, restoration, enhancement and/or establishment of wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit migratory birds.
North American Wetlands Conservation Act, US Small Grants	USFWS	The US Small Grants Program is a competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the NAWCA. Projects must involve only long-term protection, restoration, enhancement and/or establishment of wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit migratory birds. The program requires a 1:1 non-federal match.

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description
Refuge Enhancement/ Infrastructure Partnerships Initiative	USFWS	The National Infrastructure Partnerships initiative of the USFWS encourages National Wildlife Refuge System field stations to partner with local, regional, and national nonprofit organizations, other land management groups, state and tribal partners, and others to accomplish projects that promote the stewardship of resources of the refuge through habitat maintenance, restoration, and improvement, biological monitoring, or research and support the operation and maintenance of the refuge through constructing, operating, maintaining, or improving the facilities and services of the refuge, among other goals.
Refuge Enhancement/ Infrastructure	USFWS	Successful projects will be related to identified USFWS priorities or infrastructure projects at national wildlife refuges that enhance the visitor experience, promote wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation, provide sustainable wildlife habitat, provide career training and mentoring opportunities, and engage the community in opportunities to participate in wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation on USFWS lands and waters.
Central Valley Project Habitat & Facility Improvements	Reclamation	<p>Relevant purposes of the CVPIA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect, restore, and enhance fish, wildlife, and associated habitats in the Central Valley and Trinity River basins of California • To address impacts of the CVP on fish, wildlife and associated habitats • To improve the operational flexibility of the CVP • To achieve a reasonable balance among competing demands for use of CVP water, including the requirements of fish and wildlife, agricultural, municipal and industrial and power contractors

BLM=Bureau of Land Management
CVP = Central Valley Project
CVPIA = Central Valley Project Improvement Act
NAWCA = North American Wetlands Conservation Act
NFPPP = National Fish Passage Program
Reclamation = US Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation
USFWS = US Fish and Wildlife Service

Recommendations

The USJR region continues to face critical challenges to funding flood management projects as O&M and capital costs increase, and the region is subject to increasing flood risks. The State has started to address some of these challenges, particularly through its funding programs to support grant applications and cover local cost share requirements, but more is needed. Continued coordination and action is needed at the local, State, and federal levels to meet financial challenges in the USJR region. Recommendations for action at the State and local levels include are listed below.

State Actions

- The State should consider modifying grant program eligibility requirements to allow for up to 100% State cost share for qualifying communities. Even small cost shares can present hurdles to small, disadvantaged communities.
- The State should address remaining funding gaps for local communities, including funding for non-SPFC facilities.
- The State should solicit feedback from past FSRP and Flood Maintenance Assistance Program funding recipients to make improvements to existing grant programs. Potential improvements to the programs include improving clarity of program requirements, establishing clear guidelines on valuation of in-kind services toward local cost share requirements, and improving the process of expense approval.
- The State should pursue continued, stable funding to meet the investment need in the USJR region. Direct funding programs like FSRP and Flood Maintenance Assistance Program have been critical to the region, but continued funding of these programs is not guaranteed.
- DWR should consider creating a new grant programs position. A single person that is familiar with the different grant program requirements and can help recipients negotiate the different programs, would be a valuable resource to local agencies.
- DWR should consider providing additional technical support, particularly for small and disadvantaged communities in the USJR region, to apply for State and federal grants. Applying for State and federal grant funding is a costly process.

USJR Regional and Local Actions

- Work with State and federal partners to seek USACE reauthorization for PL 84-99 emergency rehabilitation assistance.
- Continue engagement in regional and State planning efforts to help identify remaining critical funding gaps and align local projects with statewide priorities for direct funding opportunities.

- Continue to look for opportunities to broaden and deepen collaboration across water sectors by actively engaging in IRWM networks and local groundwater sustainability agency efforts.
- Advocate for lower local cost share or in-kind services for grant programs to assist small, rural, and/or disadvantaged communities.
- Advocate for continued funding for DWR’s direct funding programs and new direct funding programs that address underfunded critical needs such as non-SPFC facilities and emergency rehabilitation assistance.
- Work at the local or regional level to prioritize projects for pursuing State and federal grant funding.
- Take advantage of Cal OES Prepare California funding opportunities to support grant application efforts and help meet local cost share requirements.

References

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Appendix A
Detailed Funding Source Descriptions

Detailed Funding Source Descriptions

This appendix provides detailed information about each potential State and federal funding source, including eligible activities, information on cost share requirements, recent or upcoming deadlines, and website information that interested parties can refer to for more information about how to apply.

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Table A-1. Detailed Funding Source Information: All State Grant Programs

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description	Funding Source Category	Cost Share Information	Deadline Information	Website
Prepare California Match	Cal OES	Cal OES offers matching funds for the non-federal cost share for BRIC and FMA project-scoping activities and competitive mitigation projects for high hazard risk and socially vulnerable communities.	Risk Reduction	No matched funding requirement	August, 2023: HMGP subapplication with Prepare California Match due to Cal OES	https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/operations/recovery-directorate/hazard-mitigation/prepare-california/
Prepare California JumpStart	Cal OES	Prepare California JumpStart provides technical assistance and State funding to eligible socially vulnerable and high hazard risk communities. Eligible activities include capacity building, mitigation and preparedness activities, community outreach/education, response and recovery planning, and project scoping. Each application may be up to \$1 million in State funds, and entities may submit multiple applications.	Risk Reduction	No matched funding requirement	Recent application deadline: October 2022	https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/operations/recovery-directorate/hazard-mitigation/prepare-california/
Conservation Agriculture Planning Grants Program	CDFA	CAPGP will fund the development of conservation agriculture plans that help farmers and ranchers identify actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, further environmental stewardship and ensure agricultural food security into the future.	Other Multi-benefit	No matched funding requirement	Recent application deadline: October 23, 2022	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/conservation-agriculture-planning-grants-program-2021/
California State Duck Stamp Project Proposal Solicitation Notice FY 2023–24	CDFW	Funding is provided for projects that enhance, restore, and maintain habitat for California waterfowl species, including levee repair, replacement of water control structures, pump repair and installation, removal of nonnative invasive plant species and restoration (active or passive) of native and other desirable wetland or upland vegetation.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Application deadline: February 2, 2023	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/california-state-duck-stamp-project-proposal-solicitation-notice-fy-2023-24/
Environmental Enhancement Fund	CDFW	The objective of this grant program is to support environmental enhancement projects located within or immediately adjacent to waters of the State.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/copy-of-environmental-enhancement-fund/
2021 Natural Community Conservation Planning Local Assistance Grant Program	CDFW	CDFW seeks proposals for highest priority projects associated with NCCP implementation. Any project that is additive to any required mitigation and addresses a high-priority task for implementation of the NCCP is eligible for funding.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/2021-natural-community-conservation-planning-nccp-local-assistance-grant-program/
Resource Conservation District Financial Assistance Program	Department of Conservation	Financial Assistance Program funding will help RCD capacity building. Capacity building is an investment in the effectiveness and future sustainability of an organization.	Ecosystem Improvement	25% local cost share of which 40% must be in cash	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/rcd-financial-assistance-program/

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description	Funding Source Category	Cost Share Information	Deadline Information	Website
Central Valley Tributaries Program	DWR	This program will implement flood risk reduction projects with fish and wildlife habitat enhancements in California's Central Valley. Projects must include a capital asset acquisition or construction component that is not yet initiated. Special consideration will be given to disadvantaged communities. Local cost share is 50%, but may be reduced to 0% depending on the economic status of a community benefitted by a proposed project.	Risk Reduction	50% maximum local cost share with exceptions	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/central-valley-tributaries/
Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program	DWR	The Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program is a cost share local assistance program with primary goal of reducing flood risk for small communities (that is, communities with 200 to 10,000 residents), including legacy and disadvantaged communities, protected by SPFC facilities.	Risk Reduction	50% local cost share with exceptions	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/small-community-flood-risk-reduction-program/
Floodplain Management, Protection, and Risk Awareness Grant Program	DWR	This program supports local agency efforts to prepare for flooding events by providing financial assistance for flood risk reduction activities related to stormwater, mudslide, and other flash flood related protections. This program will incorporate an increased focus on economically disadvantaged community assistance and multi-benefit project features.	Risk Reduction	25% matched funding requirement with some exceptions	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/floodplain-management-protection-and-risk-awareness-program-2/
Urban Streams Restoration Program	DWR	The USRP, established by California Water Code Section 7048, provides technical assistance to restore streams impacted by urban development to a more natural state.	Ecosystem Improvement	20% local cost share with exceptions. No funding match is required for disadvantaged community applicants	Ongoing	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/urban-streams-restoration-program/
San Joaquin Fish Population Enhancement Program	DWR	The SJFPEP funds projects that improve conditions for the survival of various life stages of salmonids and other native fishes in the lower San Joaquin River watershed.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/san-joaquin-fish-population-enhancement-program/
Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program	DWR	Subject to regional priorities, projects may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface and underground water storage, including groundwater aquifer recharge projects • Stormwater resource and flood management • Conjunctive use of surface and groundwater storage facilities • Decision support tools to model regional water management strategies to account for climate change and other impacts 	Other Multi-benefit	50% local cost share with exceptions	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/proposition-1-round-2-integrated-regional-water-management-irwm-implementation-grant-program/

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description	Funding Source Category	Cost Share Information	Deadline Information	Website
Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program	DWR	This grant program offers financial help implementing SGMA projects. Round 2 opens up for medium- and high-priority (including critically overdrafted) basins. One application is allowed per basin. \$15 million (of the total \$77 million) will be available in Round 2 for projects that are within and solely benefit an underrepresented community.	Other Multi-benefit	25% local cost share with some exceptions. No funding match is required for disadvantaged community applicants	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater
Adaptation Planning Grant Program	OPR	Eligible planning activities include creating a funding plan, and preparation and completion of other State and federal grant applications for implementation funding. Projects should align with local, regional, and statewide plans.	Risk Reduction	No matched funding requirement	Application deadline: March 31, 2023	https://opr.ca.gov/climate/icarp/grants/adaptation-planning-grant.html
Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program	OPR	This program makes funding available for regional projects for capacity building, conducting studies, and implementing projects that address various climate risks. Funding may be used as the required match for other funding opportunities.	Risk Reduction	No matched funding requirement	Application deadline: April 26, 2023	https://opr.ca.gov/climate/icarp/grants/regional-resilience-grant.html
Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant	State Water Resources Control Board	The Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant Program awards grants to reduce and mitigate the effects of nonpoint source pollution such as sediment, pesticides, and nutrients to waters of the State. The program primarily funds implementation projects. Eligible activities include reducing sediment and nutrient discharges, dredging contaminated sediment, and habitat restoration such as installation of large woody debris and riparian revegetation, among others.	Other Multi-benefit	25% local cost share with some exceptions	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/2022-clean-water-act-section-319-nonpoint-source-pollution-grant/
Ecosystem Restoration and Agricultural Lands	Wildlife Conservation Board	The Ecosystem Restoration and Agricultural Lands program aims to collaborate with the agricultural community to identify and implement projects that provide long-term habitat benefits for wildlife, consistent with landowner objectives, including economic sustainability, and have the potential for replication on a statewide scale.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/ecosystem-restoration-and-agricultural-lands/
Climate Adaptation and Resiliency	Wildlife Conservation Board	Program funding is directed toward projects that protect and restore ecosystems on natural and working lands to provide climate change adaptation and resilience for wildlife. The program also helps natural and working lands managers to implement practices that provide climate adaptation and resilience.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Climate-Adaptation

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description	Funding Source Category	Cost Share Information	Deadline Information	Website
Stream Flow Enhancement	Wildlife Conservation Board	Funding priorities for the stream flow enhancement projects include Implementation projects resulting in measurable increases in-stream flow, acquisition projects resulting in permanent or long-term in-stream flow dedications, and projects that are focused on a watershed or regional approach.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/stream-flow-enhancement/
Wildlife Corridor and Fish Passage	Wildlife Conservation Board	This program funds projects that construct, repair, modify, or remove transportation infrastructure or water resources infrastructure improving passage for wildlife or fish. Additional consideration is given to projects that restore or enhance wildlife mobility across barriers whose impacts on migration have been increased by drought conditions.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/wildlife-corridor-and-fish-passage/
Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program	Wildlife Conservation Board	Eligible projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native fisheries restoration • Restoring wetlands • Restoring coastal, tidal, or freshwater habitat • Restoring other native habitat including coastal scrub oak, grasslands, and threatened and endangered species habitats • Restoring in-stream, including removing fish passage barriers and other obstructions • Other projects that improve the quality of native habitat throughout the State 	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://wcb.ca.gov/Grants
Inland Wetlands Conservation Program	Wildlife Conservation Board	The IWCP was created to help protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and associated migratory bird habitats.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Wetlands
Regional Conservation Investment Strategies	Wildlife Conservation Board	Provides funding for the development of RCISs. Encourages public agencies to develop regional conservation planning documents using the best available science to identify regional conservation priorities and other actions to help California's species populations that may be vulnerable or declining by protecting, restoring, creating, and reconnecting their habitats.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/planning/regional-conservation

Cal OES = California Office of Emergency Services
CDFA = California Department of Food and Agriculture
CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife
DWR = California Department of Water Resources

IRWM = Integrated Regional Water Management
 OPR = Governors' Office of Planning and Research
 RCD = Resource Conservation District
 RCIS = Regional Conservation Investment Strategies
 SGM = Sustainable Groundwater Management
 SGMA = Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
 SPFC = State Plan of Flood Control
 USRP = Urban Streams Restoration Program

Table A-2. Detailed Funding Source Information: All Federal Grant Programs

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description	Water Management Category	Cost Share	Deadline	Website
California Wildlife Resource Management	BLM	BLM's California Wildlife Program works with partners and cooperating agencies/governments to protect biodiversity; identify, conserve, and restore priority habitats.	Ecosystem restoration	No matched funding requirement	Recent application deadline: April 1, 2022 Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=337756
National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management	BLM	The BLM National Aquatic Habitat Management Program conserves and restores riparian, fisheries, and water resources (hereafter referred to as aquatic resources) to provide resource values and ecosystem services necessary to achieve the BLM's multiple use mandate. The agency's aquatic resources and issues are diverse and include watersheds; riparian-wetland systems; springs, streams, rivers, and groundwater; ponds and lakes; fisheries; water quality; water rights and uses; and aquatic invasive species.	Ecosystem restoration	No matched funding requirement	Recent application deadline: April 22, 2022 Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=338281
Emergency Management Performance Grant Program	FEMA	The EMPG Program is one of the grant programs that constitute DHS/FEMA's focus on all-hazards emergency preparedness, including the evolving threats and risks associated with climate change. The EMPG Program provides funding for closing capability gaps emergency preparedness, with priorities including equity, climate resilience, and readiness, in alignment with state and federal hazard and risk planning efforts.	Risk reduction	50% or more matched funding requirement	Application deadline: June, 2023	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=339474

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description	Water Management Category	Cost Share	Deadline	Website
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities	FEMA	BRIC makes federal funds available to local governments for pre-disaster hazard mitigation, including flood. Infrastructure projects, projects that incorporate nature-based solutions, and projects that benefit disadvantaged and underserved communities are awarded additional points in the technical evaluation criteria. Up to \$50 million per project is available through the national competition.	Risk reduction	25% non-federal matched funding requirement. Disadvantaged and rural communities eligible for 10% non-federal cost share	Recent Application deadline: January 27, 2023. Must submit NOI to Cal OES	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=343078
Cooperating Technical Partners Program—Region 9	FEMA	The CTP Program exists to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of the NFIP. The CTP Program supports efforts to Strengthen National Preparedness and Resilience, one of six main goals of the DHS 2020–2024 DHS Strategic Plan.	Risk reduction	No matched funding requirement	Application deadline: July, 2023	https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/cooperating-technical-partners/become-partner/apply-grants
Flood Mitigation Assistance	FEMA	The FMA program makes federal funds available to local governments to reduce the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program. 75% federal cost shares are typical but 90% for repetitive loss properties and 100% for severe repetitive loss properties is available.	Risk reduction	25% non-federal matched funding requirement	Recent Application deadline: January 27, 2023 Applicants must submit NOI to Cal OES	https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/floods
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program— <i>refer to State opportunity via Cal OES</i>	FEMA	The HMGP provides funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments so they can rebuild in a way that reduces, or mitigates, future disaster losses in their communities. This grant funding is available after a presidentially declared disaster.	Risk reduction	25% non-federal matched funding requirement	Application deadline: August, 2023. Subapplication due to Cal OES	https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation
Candidate Species Conservation Fund	USFWS	The principal objective of this Candidate Species Conservation funding opportunity is to accomplish conservation tasks for high-priority candidate species (based on our annual Candidate Species Assessments) or other at-risk species in the United States, such that identified threats to the species may be reduced or eliminated. These efforts are based on cooperative relationships with states, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, and those interested in habitat restoration or undertaking candidate and at-risk species research, surveys and monitoring, or educational outreach efforts.	Ecosystem improvement	No matched funding requirement	Recent Application deadline: March 2, 2023	https://fws.gov/service/conservation-planning-assistance-grants

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description	Water Management Category	Cost Share	Deadline	Website
National Fish Passage Program	USFWS	The NFPP provides direct technical and financial assistance to partners to provide fish passage and restore aquatic connectivity for the benefit of federal trust resources. The program aims to increase fish populations, improve ecosystem resiliency, and provide quality fishing experiences for the American people. Example project types include culvert replacements, and the installation of fishways.	Ecosystem improvement	No matched funding requirement	Recent application deadline: February 10, 2023	https://www.fws.gov/page/national-fish-passage-programs-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-2023-funding-opportunity-guidance
North American Wetlands Conservation Act, US Standard Grants	USFWS	The US Standard Grants Program is a competitive, matching grant program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the NAWCA. Projects must involve only long-term protection, restoration, enhancement and/or establishment of wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit migratory birds.	Ecosystem improvement	50% cost sharing	Two funding cycles per year Recent application deadline: February, 2023	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=333250
North American Wetlands Conservation Act, US Small Grants	USFWS	The US Small Grants Program is a competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the NAWCA. Projects must involve only long-term protection, restoration, enhancement and/or establishment of wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit migratory birds. The program requires a 1:1 non-federal match.	Ecosystem improvement	50% matched funding requirement	Recent application deadline: October 13, 2022	https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-us-small
Refuge Enhancement/ Infrastructure Partnerships Initiative	USFWS	The National Infrastructure Partnerships initiative of the USFWS encourages National Wildlife Refuge System field stations to partner with local, regional, and national nonprofit organizations, other land management groups, state and tribal partners, and others to accomplish projects that promote the stewardship of resources of the refuge through habitat maintenance, restoration, and improvement, biological monitoring, or research and support the operation and maintenance of the refuge through constructing, operating, maintaining, or improving the facilities and services of the refuge, among other goals.	Ecosystem improvement	50% matched funding requirement	Recent application deadline: September 15, 2022	https://fundingwizard.arb.ca.gov/web/grant/refuge-enhancementinfrastructure-partnerships-initiative

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description	Water Management Category	Cost Share	Deadline	Website
Refuge Enhancement/ Infrastructure	USFWS	Successful projects will be related to identified USFWS priorities or infrastructure projects at national wildlife refuges that enhance the visitor experience, promote wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation, provide sustainable wildlife habitat, provide career training and mentoring opportunities, and engage the community in opportunities to participate in wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation on USFWS lands and waters.	Ecosystem improvement	50% non-federal matched funding requirement	Recent application deadline: November 23, 2023	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=344640
California Conservation Cooperative Agreements	NRCS	Proposals focusing on the resiliency of California agriculture by addressing climate-smart agriculture through six target resource concerns will be prioritized. The six target resource concerns include plant productivity and forest health, air quality, water quality, water quantity, soil health/soil quality, and wildlife habitat. This prioritization reflects the goals outlined in the NRCS California Strategic Plan.	Risk reduction	No matched funding requirement	Recent application deadline: June 1, 2022	https://fundingwizard.arb.ca.gov/web/grant/2022-california-conservation-cooperative-agreements
Emergency Watershed Protection Program	NRCS	The EWP offers financial and technical assistance to protect infrastructure and land from additional flooding and soil erosion, including removing debris from stream channels, repairing levees and structures, and purchase of floodplain easements.	Risk reduction	Installation/Construction: 25% matched funding requirement Engineering/Technical Assistance: no matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ewp-emergency-watershed-protection
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	NRCS	The RCPP promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address.	Risk reduction	TBD	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/rcpp/

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description	Water Management Category	Cost Share	Deadline	Website
Central Valley Project Habitat & Facility Improvements	Reclamation	<p>Relevant purposes of the CVPIA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect, restore, and enhance fish, wildlife, and associated habitats in the Central Valley and Trinity River basins of California To address impacts of the CVP on fish, wildlife and associated habitats To improve the operational flexibility of the CVP To achieve a reasonable balance among competing demands for use of CVP water, including the requirements of fish and wildlife, agricultural, municipal and industrial and power contractors 	Ecosystem improvement	At least 50% matched funding requirement	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=335537
Prepare California Match	Cal OES	Cal OES offers matching funds for the non-federal cost share for BRIC and FMA project-scoping activities and competitive mitigation projects for high hazard risk and socially vulnerable communities.	Risk Reduction	No matched funding requirement	August, 2023: HMGP subapplication with Prepare California Match due to Cal OES	https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/operations/recovery-directorate/hazard-mitigation/prepare-california/
Prepare California JumpStart	Cal OES	Prepare California JumpStart provides technical assistance and State funding to eligible socially vulnerable and high hazard risk communities. Eligible activities include capacity building, mitigation and preparedness activities, community outreach/education, response and recovery planning, and project scoping. Each application may be up to \$1 million in State funds, and entities may submit multiple applications.	Risk Reduction	No matched funding requirement	Recent application deadline: October, 2022	https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/operations/recovery-directorate/hazard-mitigation/prepare-california/
Conservation Agriculture Planning Grants Program	CDFA	CAPGP will fund the development of conservation agriculture plans that help farmers and ranchers identify actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, further environmental stewardship and ensure agricultural food security into the future.	Other Multi-benefit	No matched funding requirement	Recent application deadline: October 23, 2022	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/conservation-agriculture-planning-grants-program-2021/
California State Duck Stamp Project Proposal Solicitation Notice FY 2023-24	CDFW	Funding is provided for projects that enhance, restore, and maintain habitat for California waterfowl species, including levee repair, replacement of water control structures, pump repair and installation, removal of nonnative invasive plant species and restoration (active or passive) of native and other desirable wetland or upland vegetation.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Application deadline: February 2, 2023	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/california-state-duck-stamp-project-proposal-solicitation-notice-fy-2023-24/

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description	Water Management Category	Cost Share	Deadline	Website
Environmental Enhancement Fund	CDFW	The objective of this grant program is to support environmental enhancement projects located within or immediately adjacent to waters of the State.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/copy-of-environmental-enhancement-fund/
2021 Natural Community Conservation Planning Local Assistance Grant Program	CDFW	CDFW seeks proposals for highest priority projects associated with NCCP implementation. Any project that is additive to any required mitigation and addresses a high-priority task for implementation of the NCCP is eligible for funding.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/2021-natural-community-conservation-planning-nccp-local-assistance-grant-program/
Resource Conservation District Financial Assistance Program	Department of Conservation	Financial Assistance Program funding will help RCD capacity building. Capacity building is an investment in the effectiveness and future sustainability of an organization.	Ecosystem Improvement	25% local cost share of which 40% must be in cash	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/rcd-financial-assistance-program/
Central Valley Tributaries Program	DWR	This program will implement flood risk reduction projects with fish and wildlife habitat enhancements in California's Central Valley. Projects must include a capital asset acquisition or construction component that is not yet initiated. Special consideration will be given to disadvantaged communities. Local cost share is 50%, but may be reduced to 0% depending on the economic status of a community benefitted by a proposed project.	Risk Reduction	50% maximum local cost share with exceptions	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/central-valley-tributaries/
Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program	DWR	The Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program is a cost share local assistance program with primary goal of reducing flood risk for small communities (that is, communities with 200 to 10,000 residents), including legacy and disadvantaged communities, protected by SPFC facilities.	Risk Reduction	50% local cost share with exceptions	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/small-community-flood-risk-reduction-program/
Floodplain Management, Protection, and Risk Awareness Grant Program	DWR	This program supports local agency efforts to prepare for flooding events by providing financial assistance for flood risk reduction activities related to stormwater, mudslide, and other flash flood related protections. This program will incorporate an increased focus on economically disadvantaged community assistance and multi-benefit project features.	Risk Reduction	25% matched funding requirement with some exceptions	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/floodplain-management-protection-and-risk-awareness-program-2/

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description	Water Management Category	Cost Share	Deadline	Website
Urban Streams Restoration Program	DWR	The USRP, established by California Water Code Section 7048, provides technical assistance to restore streams impacted by urban development to a more natural state.	Ecosystem Improvement	20% local cost share with exceptions. No funding match is required for disadvantaged community applicants	Ongoing	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/urban-streams-restoration-program/
San Joaquin Fish Population Enhancement Program	DWR	The SJFPEP funds projects that improve conditions for the survival of various life stages of salmonids and other native fishes in the lower San Joaquin River watershed.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/san-joaquin-fish-population-enhancement-program/
Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program	DWR	Subject to regional priorities, projects may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface and underground water storage, including groundwater aquifer recharge projects • Stormwater resource and flood management • Conjunctive use of surface and groundwater storage facilities • Decision support tools to model regional water management strategies to account for climate change and other impacts 	Other Multi-benefit	50% local cost share with exceptions	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/proposition-1-round-2-integrated-regional-water-management-irwm-implementation-grant-program/
Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program	DWR	This grant program offers financial help implementing SGMA projects. Round 2 opens up for medium- and high-priority (including critically overdrafted) basins. One application is allowed per basin. \$15 million (of the total \$77 million) will be available in Round 2 for projects that are within and solely benefit an underrepresented community.	Other Multi-benefit	25% local cost share with some exceptions. No funding match is required for disadvantaged community applicants	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater
Adaptation Planning Grant Program	OPR	Eligible planning activities include creating a funding plan, and preparation and completion of other State and federal grant applications for implementation funding. Projects should align with local, regional, and statewide plans.	Risk Reduction	No matched funding requirement	Application deadline: March 31, 2023	https://opr.ca.gov/climate/icarp/grants/adaptation-planning-grant.html
Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program	OPR	This program makes funding available for regional projects for capacity building, conducting studies, and implementing projects that address various climate risks. Funding may be used as the required match for other funding opportunities.	Risk Reduction	No matched funding requirement	Application deadline: April 26, 2023	https://opr.ca.gov/climate/icarp/grants/regional-resilience-grant.html

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description	Water Management Category	Cost Share	Deadline	Website
Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant	State Water Resources Control Board	The Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant Program awards grants to reduce and mitigate the effects of nonpoint source pollution such as sediment, pesticides, and nutrients to waters of the State. The program primarily funds implementation projects. Eligible activities include reducing sediment and nutrient discharges, dredging contaminated sediment, and habitat restoration such as installation of large woody debris and riparian revegetation, among others.	Other Multi-benefit	25% local cost share with some exceptions	Future funding rounds subject to available funding	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/2022-clean-water-act-section-319-nonpoint-source-pollution-grant/
Ecosystem Restoration and Agricultural Lands	Wildlife Conservation Board	The Ecosystem Restoration and Agricultural Lands program aims to collaborate with the agricultural community to identify and implement projects that provide long-term habitat benefits for wildlife, consistent with landowner objectives, including economic sustainability, and have the potential for replication on a statewide scale.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/ecosystem-restoration-and-agricultural-lands/
Climate Adaptation and Resiliency	Wildlife Conservation Board	Program funding is directed toward projects that protect and restore ecosystems on natural and working lands to provide climate change adaptation and resilience for wildlife. The program also helps natural and working lands managers to implement practices that provide climate adaptation and resilience.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Climate-Adaptation
Stream Flow Enhancement	Wildlife Conservation Board	Funding priorities for the stream flow enhancement projects include Implementation projects resulting in measurable increases in-stream flow, acquisition projects resulting in permanent or long-term in-stream flow dedications, and projects that are focused on a watershed or regional approach.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/stream-flow-enhancement/
Wildlife Corridor and Fish Passage	Wildlife Conservation Board	This program funds projects that construct, repair, modify, or remove transportation infrastructure or water resources infrastructure improving passage for wildlife or fish. Additional consideration is given to projects that restore or enhance wildlife mobility across barriers whose impacts on migration have been increased by drought conditions.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/wildlife-corridor-and-fish-passage/

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Description	Water Management Category	Cost Share	Deadline	Website
Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program	Wildlife Conservation Board	Eligible projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native fisheries restoration • Restoring wetlands • Restoring coastal, tidal, or freshwater habitat • Restoring other native habitat including coastal scrub oak, grasslands, and threatened and endangered species habitats • Restoring in-stream, including removing fish passage barriers and other obstructions • Other projects that improve the quality of native habitat throughout the State 	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://wcb.ca.gov/Grants
Inland Wetlands Conservation Program	Wildlife Conservation Board	The IWCP was created to help protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and associated migratory bird habitats.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Wetlands
Regional Conservation Investment Strategies	Wildlife Conservation Board	Provides funding for the development of RCISs. Encourages public agencies to develop regional conservation planning documents using the best available science to identify regional conservation priorities and other actions to help California's species populations that may be vulnerable or declining by protecting, restoring, creating, and reconnecting their habitats.	Ecosystem Improvement	No matched funding requirement	Ongoing	https://wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/planning/regional-conservation

BLM = US Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

BRIC = Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

Cal OES = California Office of Emergency Services

CAPGP = Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program

CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife

CVP = Central Valley Project

CVPIA = Central Valley Project Improvement Act

CTP = Cooperating Technical Partners

DHS = Department of Homeland Security

DWR = California Department of Water Resources

EMPG = Emergency Management Performance Grant

FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency

FMA = Flood Mitigation Assistance

HMGP = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

IWCP = Inland Wetlands Conservation Program

NAWCA = North American Wetlands Conservation Act

NCCP = Natural Community Conservation Planning

NFIP = National Flood Insurance Program

NFPP = National Fish Passage Program
NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service
OPR = Governors' Office of Planning and Research
RCD = Resource Conservation District
RCPP = Regional Conservatio Partnership Program
SGM = Sustainable Groundwater Management
SGMA = Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SJFPEP = San Joaquin Fish Population Enhancement Program
SPFC = State Plan of Flood Control
TBD = to be determined
USFWS = US Fish and Wildlife Service

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Appendix B
Federal Emergency
Management Agency
Funding Opportunities Overview

Federal Emergency Management Agency Funding Opportunities Overview

This appendix outlines the components of a typical Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) competitive hazard mitigation grant funding application and the process for applying for FEMA grant funds through California's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). In this grant application process, Cal OES is considered the applicant for FEMA opportunities, and the individual flood management agency seeking funding is the subapplicant. Subapplicants submit application materials to Cal OES via the Engage California Portal, which can be accessed at <https://caloes.my.site.com/s/login/>.

Beginning in 2023, Cal OES is offering a new grant program, Prepare California Match, to cover the non-federal funding requirement for FEMA hazard mitigation grants for disadvantaged communities. The Prepare California grant application process will be integrated into the FEMA grant submittal process through Cal OES. These programs and the process for applying are detailed below.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Grant Application Process

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Each time funding becomes available for a FEMA hazard mitigation competitive grant, a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will first be issued by FEMA and then will be issued by Cal OES. The NOFO will include all the necessary information required from agencies interested in pursuing funding. The NOFO circulated by Cal OES will also outline the process for requesting consideration of a project for Prepare California Match funding. Information typically provided in a NOFO includes the following:

- Program description
 - Funding opportunity title
 - Program category
 - Program objectives and priorities
- Federal award information
 - Available funding
 - Period of performance
 - Funding type
 - Eligibility information

- Eligible applicants
- Application eligibility criteria
- Cost share of match
- Application and submission information
 - Key dates and times
 - How to register and apply
- Application review information
 - Application evaluation criteria
 - Review and selection process
 - Award information
 - Notice of award timing and detail

Project-Scoping Calls

After the NOFO is posted, Cal OES offers project-scoping calls to interested agencies to discuss project eligibility, questions on the subapplication process and related matters. They also offer technical assistance related to benefit-cost analysis (BCA), a required element of the subapplication.

Notice of Interest

FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) programs require submitting a Notice of Interest (NOI) prior to being eligible for subapplication. NOIs are often referred to as pre-applications, and include detailed project information, though not as much documentation as is required in the subapplication. Agencies interested in Prepare California Match grant funding to meet the non-federal match requirement must indicate this in their NOI.

A complete BCA is not required at the point of submitting an NOI, but the subapplicant must consider whether the proposed project area has a documented history of significant hazard impacts, and whether data are available documenting the extent, severity, and current risk of the hazard (that is, flood risk).

The Cal OES Engage Portal is the official interface for submitting NOIs. Information submitted in the NOI includes:

- Subapplicant entity details
- Project/plan information
- Problem statement

- Solution description
- Project benefit information
- Activity costs
- LHMP information

Subapplication Submittal

After the NOI is reviewed and accepted by Cal OES, agencies are invited to submit a full subapplication for their project. The Cal OES Engage Portal is the official interface for submitting subapplications to Cal OES. The full subapplication requires more detailed information and more documentation than the NOI, including a full BCA carried out in the FEMA BCA toolkit. Applicants to the Prepare California Match program must first apply through the Cal OES Engage Portal, and if accepted by Cal OES, the subapplication will be sent to FEMA for review.

Related Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding Programs

Three recurring FEMA grant programs that focus on flood hazard mitigation are the BRIC, FMA, and the HMGP programs. Each of these federal programs can be paired with the Cal OES Prepare California Match program to help meet the non-federal funding match requirement attached to these grants. Each of these programs are detailed below.

Prepare California Match—Cal OES

Cal OES will offer matching funds for the non-federal cost share for the BRIC, FMA, and HMGP project-scoping activities and competitive mitigation projects for high hazard risk and socially vulnerable communities.

Requirements

- No matched funding requirement
- Limited to \$1 million in State funds per application
- Project must be eligible for funding under applicable program (BRIC, FMA, HMGP)
- Eligible subapplicants must be considered socially vulnerable and high hazard risk community according to [Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Assistance Division's Vulnerability Map](#)
- Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved local or tribal hazard mitigation plan to be eligible to apply
 - If eligible subapplicants do not meet the local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP) requirement, the county in which they are located or where the work is located must have a FEMA-approved mitigation plan

- Funding can be used for pre-award costs (including the development of the subapplication) if all procurements adhere to federal policies

Timeframe

Prepare California Match deadlines are synced with FEMA grant application cycles, so application due dates vary by year. Note that applying for Prepare California Match deadlines is integrated into the FEMA grant subapplication process. Refer to Table A-1 for the timeline to submit an HMGP subapplication with a Prepare California Match application.

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities— Federal Emergency Management Agency

Background

BRIC's guiding principles are as follows:

- Support capability and capacity building to identify mitigation actions and implement projects to reduce risks
- Encourage and enable innovation
- Promote partnerships and enable high-impact investments to reduce risk from natural hazards with a focus on critical services and facilities, public infrastructure, public safety, public health, and communities
- Provide an opportunity to reduce future losses and minimize impacts on the Disaster Relief Fund
- Promote equity
- Support the adoption and enforcement of building codes, standards, and policies that take into account future conditions, including the effects of climate change

Requirements

- 25% matched funding requirement or 10% for economically disadvantaged rural communities
 - Cal OES Prepare California Match program eligible to cover this requirement
 - Overmatched projects have higher odds for funding award
- Project must reside in an National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)-participating community (community rating system rating preferred)
- Must reduce risk as a primary benefit
 - Multi-benefit projects prioritized
- One or more nature-based solution must be incorporated

Timeframe

Annual program; application due dates vary by year. Specific dates for the 2023 program cycle are not yet announced.

Flood Mitigation Assistance— Federal Emergency Management Agency

Background

The FMA grant program makes federal funds available to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the NFIP. It recognizes the growing flood hazards associated with climate change and the need for flood hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation, equity, and resilience.

Requirements

- 25% matched funding requirement—cost share is required for all subapplications funded by the FMA program
 - Cal OES Prepare California Match program eligible to cover this requirement
 - Local governments must submit subapplications to their respective state’s application; only states/territories can submit “applications”
- Project must reside in an NFIP-participating community (Community Rating System rating preferred)
- Applicants are required to have a FEMA-approved State or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan

Timeframe

Annual program; application due dates vary by year. Specific dates for the 2023 program cycle are not yet announced.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Background

The HMGP provides funding to State, local, tribal, and territorial governments so they can rebuild in a way that reduces, or mitigates, future disaster losses in their communities. This grant funding is available after a presidentially declared disaster.

Requirements

- ±25% matched funding requirement
 - Cal OES Prepare California Match program eligible to cover this requirement

- FEMA will provide 100% federal funding for applicant and subapplicant management costs

Timeframe

Application due dates vary in accordance with presidentially declared disasters. Table B-1 lists important dates for the upcoming program cycle.

Table B-1. 2023 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Subapplication Submittal Timeline

Deadline	Description
March 31, 2023	HMGP NOI opens
May 10, 2023	HMGP NOIs due to Cal OES
June 2, 2023	HMGP and Prepare California Match subapplications open
August 4, 2023	HMGP and Prepare California Match subapplications due to Cal OES
January 14, 2024	Cal OES submits HMGP and Prepare California selections to FEMA for further review
2024–onward	FEMA awards projects after completing programmatic and Environment and Historic Preservation (EHP) reviews