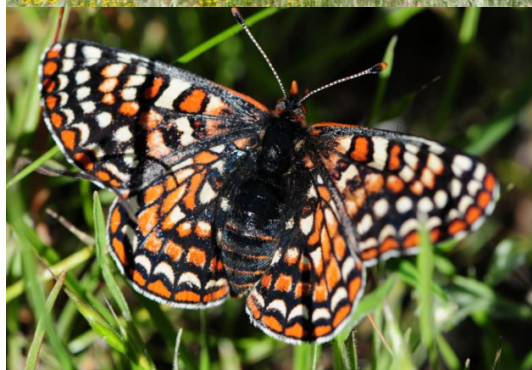




— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Notice of Funding Opportunity No. BOR-CGB-21-F003

Central Valley Project Conservation Program Grants for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Interior Region 10 - California-Great Basin
Sacramento, California**

January 2021

Mission Statement

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Synopsis

Federal Agency Name:	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, California-Great Basin Region
Funding Opportunity Title:	Central Valley Project Conservation Program Grants for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022
Announcement Type:	Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Funding Opportunity Number:	BOR-CGB-21-F003
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:	15.564 (Central Valley Project Conservation Program)
Dates:	Applications due April 19, 2021, 3:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST). This notice applies to more than one fiscal year's funding.
Eligible Applicants:	Any non-federal entity is eligible to apply.
Recipient Cost Share:	No cost sharing requirement, but the level of financial partnering is considered during application evaluation.
Federal Funding Amount:	From \$25,000 to \$1,000,000 per award.
Estimated Number of Agreements to be Awarded:	Approximately 7 to 10, depending on requested funding amounts for selected projects and appropriations.
Estimated Amount of Funding Available for Award:	Estimated \$1,500,000 for each of FY 2021 and FY 2022 for an estimated total of \$3,000,000.

Application Checklist

The following table contains a summary of the information that you are required to submit with the application.

√	What to submit	Required content	Form or format	When to submit
	Application for Federal Assistance	Sec. IV.C	Form SF 424, available at: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html Page 7	*
	Assurances	Sec. IV.C	Form SF 424B or SF 424D, as applicable, available at: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html Page 7	*
	Technical Proposal: • Cover Page • Title of Proposed Project • Abstract • Technical Proposal Category • Project Description • Relationship of the Proposal to the Program Scoring Criteria	Sec. IV.D	Pages 8 through 17	*
	Project Budget Proposal: • Budget Table • Budget Narrative	Sec. IV.D.18 Attachment B	Page 14 Page 36	*
	Program Priority Actions	Sec. V.A.1 through V.A.4	Pages 17 through 25	*
	Species List	Sec. IV.D.15 Attachment A	Page 10 Page 35	*
	Evidence of Landowner Support	Sec. III.B(4)	Page 5	*
	SAM Verification	Sec. VI.D.4	Page 33	**
	ASAP Verification	Sec. VI.D.4	Page 33	**
	Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Sec. VI.D.1(c)(3)	Page 31	**

* Submit with the application by April 19, 2021, 3:00 pm PST.

** To be submitted after application selection and notice of possible award.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ASAP	Automated Standard Application for Payments
CAP	Cost Allocation Plan
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CVP	Central Valley Project
CVPCP	Central Valley Project Conservation Program
CWA	Clean Water Act
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
DOI/AVSO	U.S. Department of the Interior Appraisal and Valuation Services Office
DUNS	Data Universal Number System
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
IBC	Interior Business Center
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NICRA	Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
PST	Pacific Standard Time
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
SAM	System for Award Management
USDOJ	U.S. Department of Justice
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Section I: Notice of Funding Opportunity

Description

I.A Central Valley Project Conservation Program Grants

The Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) was developed by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) during the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation process and resulting November 21, 2000 Biological Opinion. The CVPCP was included with other measures to ensure that the existing operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP), and renewal of CVP water service contracts would not jeopardize listed or proposed species or adversely affect designated or proposed critical habitat. Accordingly, the CVPCP implements actions intended to protect, restore, and enhance special-status species (excluding fish) and their habitats affected by the CVP, with a special emphasis on federally listed species. The main objectives of the CVPCP are to: (1) protect and restore native habitats impacted by the CVP, (2) stabilize and improve populations of native species impacted by the CVP, and (3) assist with the recovery of federal- and state-listed species whose populations have been impacted by the CVP.

The CVPCP funds a variety of actions that improve conditions for species and habitats impacted by the CVP, recognizing that a balanced set of actions is needed to meet program objectives. Emphasis is placed on certain kinds of activities considered critical to species' protection and recovery. Applications for land protection, habitat restoration, research, and captive propagation and/or reintroduction projects will be considered for funding.

- (1) Land Protection: Protection of species or existing habitats impacted by the CVP through the purchase of fee title acquisition, conservation easements, and potentially other forms of protection on lands where threats to these lands are significant. At least 50 percent of CVPCP funds will be targeted towards this category of activity. The CVPCP cannot fund any protection project which would result in mitigation credits for the award recipient or the landowner.
- (2) Habitat Restoration: Restoration of CVP impacted habitats where restoration actions would markedly improve conditions for impacted species. The CVPCP cannot fund any restoration project which would result in mitigation credits for the award recipient or landowner.
- (3) Research: Research addressing status and habitat needs to facilitate listed species recovery.
- (4) Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction: Captive propagation and/or reintroduction of listed species in order to increase numbers of individuals in a population.

I.B Objective of the Notice of Funding Opportunity

The objective of this NOFO is to invite eligible applicants to submit applications for projects that benefit federally listed and other special-status species whose habitats and populations have been impacted by operation of the CVP. An additional objective is to ensure the award selection process is in compliance with competition requirements related to federal financial agreements, and to ensure public participation in the CVPCP.

Under the Federal Code of Regulations (CFR) 2 CFR, awarding agencies are expected to include the following standard language regarding NOFOs and resulting financial assistance agreements:

Notices of Funding Opportunity:

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Federal awarding agency will review and consider applications for funding pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity in accordance with the:

- President's September 2, 2020 memorandum, entitled *Memorandum on Reviewing Funding to State and Local Government Recipients of Federal Funds that Are Permitting Anarchy, Violence, and Destruction in American Cities*;
- *Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping* (E.O. 13950);
- *Executive Order on Protecting American Monuments, Memorials, and Statues and Combating Recent Criminal Violence* (E.O. 13933); and
- Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register's 85 FR 49506 on August 13, 2020, particularly on:
 - Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR part 200.205),
 - Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. No. 115—232) (2 CFR part 200.216),
 - Promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with *Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty* (E.O. 13798) and *Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities* (E.O. 13864) (§§ 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341),
 - Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR part 200.322), and
 - Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).

General Terms and Conditions:

By accepting this agreement the recipient and its executives, as defined in 2 CFR § 170.315, certify that the recipient's policies are in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, especially:

- President’s September 2, 2020 memorandum, entitled *Memorandum on Reviewing Funding to State and Local Government Recipients of Federal Funds that Are Permitting Anarchy, Violence, and Destruction in American Cities*;
- *Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping* (E.O. 13950);
- *Executive Order on Protecting American Monuments, Memorials, and Statues and Combating Recent Criminal Violence* (E.O. 13933); and
- Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register’s 85 FR 49506 on August 13, 2020, particularly on:
 - Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. No. 115—232) (2 CFR part 200.216),
 - Promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with *Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty* (E.O. 13798) and *Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities* (E.O. 13864) (§§ 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341),
 - Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR part 200.322), and

Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).

Note that prior funding opportunity announcements were posted jointly for the CVPCP and the associated Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) Habitat Restoration Program. The NOFOs for the two programs are now separated, and that for the CVPIA Habitat Restoration Program will be posted on Grants.gov at a later date. Applicants who apply under this CVPCP NOFO will be notified by mail when the *CVPLA Habitat Restoration Program Grants for Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022* NOFO has been posted. Persons having questions about the process should contact the CVPCP Manager named in Section VI.D.6.

I.C Program Authorities

This NOFO is issued in accordance with the authority under Public Law 85-624, 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq., as amended, and Section 7(a) Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, (70 Stat 1122; 16 U.S.C. 742f(a)), as limited and delegated by the Secretary of the Interior delegation of authority to the Bureau of Reclamation at 255 DM 1.1B. Specifically, Section 6 F.(2) Fish and Wildlife.

Section II: Award Information

II.A Total Project Funding

The number of financial assistance agreements awarded and amount of funding available is dependent on annual appropriations to the CVPCP and the number of successful applications. The total amount of funding available for projects through the CVPCP per fiscal year is estimated at \$1,500,000 each for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 for an estimated total of \$3,000,000 for awards.

II.B Project Funding Limitations

Reclamation financial assistance may range from \$25,000 to \$1,000,000 for individually approved projects.

II.C Award Date

Reclamation expects to notify potential FY 2021 and 2022 award recipients during June 2021. Notification letters will be sent to unsuccessful applicants during the same time frame. Financial assistance agreements will be awarded to applicants that successfully pass all pre-award reviews and clearances.

Section III: Eligibility Information

III.A Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include State or local government agencies, private non-profit or for-profit organizations, individuals, and educational institutions.

Applications from parties who have received a federal assistance award in the past may be evaluated based on past performance. At a minimum, this would include how well the applicant, as a previous award recipient, complied with requirements for submitting reports and other requirements in a complete and timely manner; communicated and coordinated on past projects between themselves and the awarding agency; complied with the terms and conditions of the previous grant agreement; and whether the award recipient was responsive to requested information in a timely manner.

III.B Eligible Projects

The CVPCP has established a Priority Project Area map that delineates the specific area of California within which projects will be considered through this application. Applications for projects will not be considered that fall outside the boundaries of the program project area unless a clear “nexus” (relationship or connection) to the CVP is demonstrated in the application (see Section IV.D.15, CVP Nexus, for additional information). The Priority Project Area map can be viewed at: <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/map/index.html>.

The Reclamation Grants Officer and CVPCP Managers will determine whether a submitted application and its proposed project are eligible for a financial assistance award. Eligibility is determined by considering, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) CVPCP Priority Species. Eligible applications will focus on species with a “High” or “Very High” rating. Applications that focus only on species with a “Low” or “Medium” rating will not be eligible for consideration unless otherwise specifically called for in a Priority Action. A spreadsheet containing CVPCP priority species designations is available by clicking on the

“Priority Species” link on the CVPCP website at
<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html>.

- (2) Geographic area. The project area must be located within the CVPCP Priority Project Area, or otherwise have a clear connection to CVPCP priorities. These factors are used in determining whether the proposed project has a CVP nexus which is necessary for the project to meet the intent and authorities of the Programs.
- (3) Conformance with the NOFO.
 - Proposals must conform to the goals and objectives of the CVPCP; successfully address a program Priority Action, and Scoring Criteria; and follow the required format.
 - The CVPCP cannot fund any project that would be used to fulfill a mitigation requirement.
- (4) Evidence of willing seller and/or landowner support.
 - Applications submitted for Land Protection, Habitat Restoration, Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction projects, and Research projects to be conducted in the field, should include evidence of willing sellers/landowner support.
 - For Land Protection projects, the parcel(s) to be acquired and the willing seller(s) of the parcel(s) should be identified. The fact that a parcel to be acquired has a willing seller(s) should be supported through written confirmation submitted with the proposal. The confirmation does not have to be a formal letter, but it does need to be a type of statement that will convince those evaluating and selecting applications to award that the parcel has a willing seller(s). Funds to be awarded through this NOFO are for the specific parcel(s) identified in the proposal. No replacement lands will be considered should the land identified in the proposal no longer be available for protection. For a conservation easement, successful applicants must submit a draft conservation easement to the CVPCP Manager for review and concurrence prior to conducting the property appraisal.
 - For Habitat Restoration, Research, and Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction, the parcels to be restored or selected for research or captive propagation and/or reintroduction should be identified in the application, and the willing landowner(s) of the parcel(s) identified. That the landowner(s) is willing to allow project activities to take place on his/her property should be supported through written confirmation submitted with the application.
- (5) Budget Narrative. Financial assistance will not be provided to any applicant who fails to provide a budget narrative. The narrative should be separate from the budget table.
- (6) Budget Table and Budget Narrative. A financial assistance award will not be made to any applicant who fails to fully disclose and specify all project costs. See section IV.D.18 for more information.
- (7) SF-424 Forms. Applications that do not include the required SF-424 documents (Application for Federal Assistance) including the application form, Assurances, and Budget Information, with the submission of their application(s) will not be considered. Additionally, as stated in section IV.C, the SF-424 documents must be signed by a person legally authorized to commit the applicant to performance of the proposed activity. Inclusion of a properly signed and dated SF-424 and SF-424B is mandatory. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in the elimination of your proposal from further consideration.

- (8) Listed Species Benefits. For an application to be eligible, the proposed project must provide significant habitat benefits to at least one CVP-impacted federally listed endangered or threatened species, excluding fish.
- (9) Public Benefit. The proposed project must demonstrate allowable public benefit to be eligible for financial assistance.

III.C Ineligible Projects

Applications for following types of projects are not eligible for a financial assistance award through this NOFO:

- Projects targeted specifically toward benefiting fish.
- Projects which would result in mitigation credits for the award recipient or the landowner.
- The project area falls outside the CVPCP Priority Project Area.
- Projects for which the award recipient is not current on its award reporting and audit requirements for an existing federal award may not be eligible to enter into a new financial assistance agreement.

III.D Length of Projects

The length of projects will vary by award, the length of time generally being as requested in the project schedule in the application and as outlined in the scope of the financial assistance agreement signed by award recipients and Reclamation. The maximum length of award for financial assistance agreements is 5 years from the date of execution of the award.

III.E Cost Sharing Requirement

The CVPCP has no cost-sharing requirement. However, partnering (i.e., cost-sharing provided by contributing entities, through cash or in-kind services, toward the cost of the proposed project) is highly encouraged and the level of partnering, including in-kind contributions, is considered during application evaluation.

In-kind contributions constitute the value of non-cash contributions that benefit a federally assisted project that would otherwise be paid for through the award. These contributions may be in the form of labor, real property, equipment, supplies and other expendable property, as well as the value of goods and services directly benefiting and specifically identifiable to the project or program. The cost or value of in-kind contributions that have been or will be relied upon to satisfy a cost-sharing or matching requirement for another federal financial assistance agreement, a federal procurement contract, or any other award of federal funds may not qualify as a cost-share contribution for CVPCP financial assistance. In other words, the contribution cannot be credited twice.

III.F Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

Reclamation and CVPCP Managers are responsible for assuring that financial assistance award projects are in compliance with all applicable federal laws including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), ESA, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and Clean Water Act (CWA). Award recipients are responsible for assuring that projects are in compliance with all applicable state and local laws.

Section IV: Application and Submission Information

IV.A Access to Application Package

All application materials are available on-line through grants.gov. Refer to NOFO number BOR-CGB-21-F003 when searching grants.gov for required application materials.

IV.B Application Submission

The application submission deadline is April 19, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. Applications received after this date and time will not be considered.

IV.C Instructions for Submission of Project Application

Applications should be either (1) submitted electronically through www.grants.gov; (2) mailed to include three paper copies; or (3) hand-delivered to include three paper copies. In order to safeguard the security of electronic information, www.grants.gov utilizes E-Authentication, the federal program that ensures secure transactions. If you are filing electronically on www.grants.gov, you may submit your application any time after you receive your E-Authentication credentials. Those submitting an application through grants.gov also need to be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM) before being able to submit an application through www.grants.gov. See <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html> for more information. Personalized support is available through the grants.gov Contact Center at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>.

Applicants choosing to submit an application through the mail should submit the full application package to the following person and address:

Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: Teresa Brown
2800 Cottage Way, Room
E-1815 Sacramento, CA
95825-1898 (916) 978-5049

Applicants are not limited to one application submission. Any number of applications may be submitted by each applicant.

Applications selected for funding may be reviewed by an agency Cost Analyst. Applicants should be prepared to provide written documentation of market research conducted to support the basis of all project costs in accordance with 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 200. When preparing project budget estimates, applicants may include as part of their project budget as much as 10 percent for labor cost to collect and prepare the requested cost documentation.

Applications must be submitted as a complete package. Materials arriving separately will not be included in the application package for consideration and may result in the application being considered ineligible. Mailing materials, package, or packing envelopes containing the application should reference NOFO number BOR-CGB-21-F003. Faxed and emailed copies of applications will not be accepted.

Applicants must submit a fully completed and signed SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance. Applications must also include an SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-construction Programs, and a completed and signed SF-424B – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs. The forms must be signed by a person legally authorized to commit the organization to performance of the activity and who will be the official administrative point of contact during the application process. Inclusion of a properly signed and dated SF-424 is a mandatory requirement. Failure to include the form with the application will result in the elimination of the application from further consideration. The SF-424 and its related forms may be downloaded from www.grants.gov.

For applications that include a State and/or local funding contribution, the SF-424 is subject to review by the State Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs”. If so applicable, a copy of the SF-424 should be mailed to the State Clearinghouse, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044. The State also accepts fax copies of the SF-424 at (916) 558-3164. Applicants should not send or fax the full application package or any other supplemental information to the State Clearinghouse. Be sure to mark the SF-424 correctly; check the box and indicate the date that the SF-424 was faxed or mailed to the State Clearinghouse on Section 19 of the SF-424.

IV.D Application Content

The core of the financial assistance award application is the **technical proposal**. Because each proposal is scored for technical merit, it is highly recommended that applicants strictly adhere to the following content guidelines when preparing a proposal:

- Technical proposals should have a page number on every page.
- The technical proposal is limited to a maximum of 18 pages in length. Information to provide as part of the 18 page total includes the cover page, project description, budget narrative, and budget table. Information to provide at the end of the proposal, which is not considered part of the 18 page limit, includes: maps, figures, photographs, literature cited, SF-424s, curriculum vitae, landowner letters or emails of support, and any other information such as appendices.

- Maps, site photos, aerial or satellite imagery, figures, etc., should be submitted in color in all copies of the technical proposal.
- Required paper size is Letter (8.5-inch x 11 inch). Margins should be 1 inch on each side, top and bottom.
- Font type and size should be Times New Roman 12 pt.
- Line spacing should be single spacing.

Applicants should submit well-described and technically accurate proposals organized to address the following required format. The following information should be included in the 18-page limit:

IV.D.1 Cover Page

Include the name of the applicant, organization name, title of proposed project, and date.

IV.D.2 Title of Proposed Project

State the title of the proposed project.

IV.D.3 Abstract

Submit a brief abstract in standard abstract format (i.e. no more than one page).

IV.D.4 Technical Proposal Category

List the category of the project activity, e.g., Land Protection, Habitat Restoration, Research, or Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction. Only one category should be named in the proposal.

IV.D.5 Project Objective(s)

Clearly state the objective(s) the proposed project would achieve. An objective is a specific action item you hope to accomplish with your project. It also spells out the specific results or outcomes you plan to achieve. I.e., “Acquire a conservation easement on 500 acres”, or “Conduct surveys at 25 sites”. **Do not include detailed species benefits information in this section.**

IV.D.6 Proposal Proponent

Provide the name, address, phone number, and email address of the main/primary technical point of contact.

IV.D.7 Location of Proposed Project

- For land protection and habitat restoration projects, include the location and size of the project area in acres, as well as longitude and latitude information.
- All project applications must include a clear, detailed, full-page color map indicating local reference points, a scale bar, and the location of the proposed project or project activities within the CVPCP project area (<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/map/index.html>).
- Include locations of documented species observations from surveys or other knowledge, if any.
- Include species sampling/survey locations, if proposed.

- For land acquisition and habitat restoration projects, and for research and captive propagation and/or reintroduction projects when applicable, include photographs of the project site(s).

IV.D.8 Amount of Funding Request

Specify the amount of funds requested from the CVPCP.

IV.D.9 Total Proposed Project Cost

Specify the total estimated cost of the project including in-kind and cost-share contributions.

IV.D.10 Proposed Activities

For the action being proposed for funding, provide a detailed description of the project activities and of the tasks to be accomplished. If the project requires more than 1 year of work, the applicant should state this; list tasks for each phase; and separate tasks to be completed each year.

IV.D.11 Proposed Project Timeline

Include milestones (markers in a project that signify a change or stage in development) and the final completion date for each objective. Note: No project may be funded that extends beyond 5 years.

IV.D.12 Monitoring and Management

This criterion applies to Land Protection and Habitat Restoration project proposals only, unless specifically required under another category of Priority Action. Proposals should state how the protected or restored habitats would be monitored and managed in the future to achieve the benefits to the CVP impacted species and habitats described in the proposal. Grant recipients must submit a plan for monitoring and managing the project area for all habitat restoration and conservation easement land protection projects prior to close of financial assistance award agreements, and prior to close of purchase for all fee title land acquisition projects.

IV.D.13 Measuring Results

Describe how project performance would be measured when assessing the progress made towards achieving predetermined performance goals. **This criterion does not apply to Land Protection project proposals.**

IV.D.14 Résumé or Curriculum Vitae

Provide a résumé or curriculum vitae for each person who would be significantly involved in the proposed project.

IV.D.15 Relationship of the Proposal to the Program Scoring Criteria

Section V.B lists the program scoring criteria and the range of points available for each scoring criterion. Described below are those criteria which the applicant must address (where applicable) according to the category of technical proposal being submitted, along with suggestions on how to address them. Each applicant is strongly encouraged to provide as much information as possible for each applicable criterion for each technical proposal, since awarding of funds is strongly tied to the scoring criteria.

- (1) **CVP Nexus:** Indicate the proposed project's relationship to the CVP. How has the habitat or species of interest been impacted by delivery of CVP water? Proposals should adequately define this relationship to be considered for evaluation.
- (2) **Program Priority Action:** Per the Program Priority Actions specified in Section V.A., proposals must state the Priority Action and its corresponding number under the project category (Land Protection, Habitat Restoration, Research, or Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction) under which the proposal is to be considered. Only one Priority Action should be named for each proposal. Do not include any other wording in this section other than to identify the specific Priority Action.
- (3) **Federally Listed Species Benefits (includes species proposed for listing):** The proposal should indicate in as much detail as possible how the project would benefit federally endangered or threatened species, including species proposed for listing, and which species would benefit. Describe whether any of the species have been documented on, or in the vicinity of, the project site as indicated by California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) occurrences or other sources. Include species information in a Species Benefits Table (Attachment A).
- (4) **State Listed Species Benefits:** The proposal should indicate how State Endangered, Threatened, and Fully Protected species may benefit from the proposed project. Describe whether any of the species have been documented on, or in the vicinity of, the project site as indicated by CNDDDB occurrences or other sources. Include species information in a Species Benefits Table (Attachment A).
- (5) **Benefits to Special Status Designated Species that are not Federal or State Listed or Proposed for Listing:** The proposal should describe how other imperiled CVP impacted species that are not listed, or proposed for federal or state listing, may benefit from the proposed project. Describe whether any of the species have been documented on, or in the vicinity of, the project site as indicated by CNDDDB occurrences or other sources. Include species information in a Species Benefits Table (Attachment A).
- (6) **Habitat/Biodiversity: This criterion applies to Land Protection and Habitat Restoration project proposals only.** Describe habitat types and species diversity within the project area, how the project would help maintain or benefit native habitat, and the importance of the habitat to the species. Describe the before and after habitat conditions that would be projected if the project is implemented, and the types of habitat(s) to be benefitted by the project.
- (7) **Cumulative Benefit:** Indicate how the project would contribute to conservation efforts being undertaken by other agencies or partners related to the same species or habitats in the region or within the range of the species, including past CVPCP projects.
- (8) **Long-term Benefit:** Address how project benefits might persist or increase over time, i.e., describe future benefits to species and habitats that are expected to result from the proposed project.

- (9) **Project Site Connectivity:** This criterion applies to Land Protection and Habitat Restoration project proposals only. Describe where the project site is located in relation to other protected or restored habitat areas. A map showing the proposed project site location(s) relation to other protected or restored sites, either adjacent-to or in the vicinity, is encouraged. Scoring points under this criterion will be assigned based on whether the project area is adjacent-to, near, or well removed from other protected or restored habitat areas.
- (10) **Partners:** This criterion gives consideration to financial contributions of cash and/or the equivalent in-kind services obtained from one or more sources to facilitate completion of the proposed project. The contribution is expressed as a percentage of the total cost of the project that would offset costs otherwise paid by the CVPCP. Information on the amount and nature of each partner contribution should be provided in order for partnering levels to be ascertained and credited. When addressing this criterion, the proposal should include a complete description of partner contributions consistent with the content of the Budget Narrative, Budget Table, and SF-424 forms. For the purposes of this criterion, the CVPCP is not considered a “partner.” **This criterion does not apply to research project proposals.** To get credit for a partner contribution the applicant should adhere to the following guidelines and parameters:
- Provide the name of each partner contributing cash or in-kind contributions toward the total cost of the project. Describe the extent of the applicant’s discussions with, and financial commitment from, the partners named in the proposal. For example, to receive scoring points under this criterion it is not sufficient to merely name as a partner “a State grant program.” It is not expected that all partner contributions be committed at the time of the submission of the application, but CVPCP Managers need to be assured that the partner contribution is real.
 - Provide a description of how each partner contribution has a direct link to the current project being proposed.
 - Provide evidence that the partnership contribution is genuinely and wholly committed by substantiating the contribution through a letter or email message of confirmation from the partnering entity(ies) named in the proposal. I.e., this means that not only should the funding partners be identified, but the financial commitment should be supported through documentation in the application in order for the application to receive credit under the "Partners" scoring criterion. If appropriate documentation is not included with the application, the "Partners" criterion will receive zero (0) points during scoring. The determination of "appropriate" documentation is at the discretion of the CVPCP Managers.
 - Provide the amount to be contributed by each partner in cash or equivalent dollars, as well as a percentage of the total project cost.
 - Equate in-kind services to dollars. If this is not done, those services will not be considered when partnering points are tallied.
 - Use the format shown in Attachment B, Sample Budget Table, to indicate partner contributions to the proposed project.

Additionally, please note the following limitations:

- Partners to the project who are not providing a financial contribution, either directly or in-kind, will not be considered in the proposal scoring or project selection.
- Partner cost sharing will only be considered for components of the proposed project.

- Funds expended on the proposed project prior to receiving the CVPCP financial assistance award will not be considered when awarding scoring points.
 - Failure to secure partner funds from sources specified in the proposal may jeopardize the delivery of funds under a CVPCP financial assistance agreement.
 - Per 2 CFR 200.306a, regarding federal research proposals, voluntary committed cost sharing is not expected. Therefore, partner cost sharing cannot be used as a selection factor during the review of applications or proposals under the Research category.
- (11) **Level of CVP Impacts:** The proposal should address to what extent a species or habitat that would benefit from the proposed project has been impacted by the CVP.
- (12) **Project Urgency:** The proposal should assign a level of urgency, i.e., major, moderate, or minimal, to the project based on the endangerment of a species, the level of threat to a habitat area, and/or the consequence to the species should the project not be carried out. A complete explanation on the rationale for the statement of urgency should be provided.

IV.D.16 Literature Cited

When applicable, applications should include a Literature Cited section.

IV.D.17 Technical Merit

Technical merit and completeness of the proposal will be evaluated considering the following elements. Failure to adhere to these elements would result in a low technical merit score.

- Adherence to the required guidelines and format as outlined in section IV.D.
- Use of correct Species Table and Budget Table templates (Attachments A and B).
- Clear and complete descriptions of methodology for research proposals.
- Strict adherence to the page limit.
- Use of correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Ease of reading, i.e., clear and concise wording.
- Success in addressing all Scoring Criteria.
- Accuracy and completeness of the Budget Table.
- Inclusion of a thorough Budget Narrative that corresponds with the costs and amounts shown in the Budget Table.
- Provision of clear and concise maps, figures, tables, and photographs.
- Correct and complete citations of supporting reports and other documents.
- Establishment of baseline conditions.
- Incorporation of Literature Cited, if applicable.
- Inclusion of résumé(s) and curriculum vitae(s).
- Correct assignment of species status designations (i.e., threatened or endangered; federal or state listed; special status).
- Consistency throughout the proposal regarding which species and habitats would benefit.
- Consistency throughout the proposal on all costs (SF-424, Budget Table; Budget Narrative; CVPCP Funding Request; Total Proposed Project Cost).
- Definitions of scientific terms and acronyms not familiar to a lay person.
- Clear and concise timeline/milestones for proposed objectives and tasks.

Furthermore, the scientific rigor of proposed research projects will be considered along with outside technical reviewers' evaluations of the proposals.

IV.D.18 Budget Table and Narrative

Applicants must provide a budget table including all of the information requested in the Budget Table template (Attachment B), and a budget narrative containing a complete description of each cost item in the budget table, organized by budget table "Budget Item Description". The narrative should: provide a detailed, clear, consistent, complete, and correct summary of project costs; indicate annual costs for each task; and include a description of contributions from any cost-share partners. The budget narrative should include sufficient detailed information to enable the CVPCP Technical Team to evaluate the reasonableness of the budgeted costs. The budget narrative should be separate from the budget table.

The proposed project budget shall clearly identify all project costs by objectives and the funding source, i.e., Reclamation, applicant, or other funding sources. The budget narrative should provide a discussion of, or explanation for, items included in the budget proposal. For grants to be awarded, details in the budget narrative will be used by a Reclamation Cost Analyst to determine whether costs are allowable, allocable and reasonable. If the narrative does not contain the appropriate amount of detail, this may delay the award.

Listed below are additional instructions for addressing the budget table "Budget Item Descriptions". Proposed project budgets may not have costs in each category. The categories are provided simply as a means to provide direction on the type of information to submit with the budget. If the budget includes expenses in these categories, follow the instructions provided. If the budget includes expenses in the "Other" category, provide information that describes how the budgeted amount was estimated, the assumptions it is based upon, etc. Multi-year projects are suitable for funding. For multi-year projects, identify costs and tasks to be conducted each year. In all cases, sufficient information should be provided to allow a determination that the budget is fair and reasonable for the proposed activity. An award will not be made to any applicant who fails to fully disclose and specify all project costs. Additionally, if more than one project option is proposed (i.e., a basic project and a potentially larger project), the budget table and narrative should make clear the costs and tasks to be completed under the basic and larger project options.

The basis of all costs in the SF-424 and the proposed budget should be documented and defensible in order for the CVPCP Managers and Grants Officers to determine fair and reasonable costs, regardless of whether a cost is funded by the CVPCP or another funding entity. This also applies to matching or in-kind costs.

If your application is selected for funding, a cost analysis will be conducted on the proposed budget prior to obligation of the award. Budgeted labor costs (labor categories, direct labor rates, hours per labor category) and fringe benefits, material costs by type, sub-recipient costs, travel, and any other direct and indirect costs are subject to evaluation. Recipients may be contacted by a Cost Analyst requesting supporting documentation for the estimated costs in the SF-424 and budget. In preparation for the cost analysis, applicants should be prepared to provide evidence of prior experience or market research that was used to develop project cost estimates (i.e. copies of invoices and salary cost breakdowns from prior similar projects) for any costs displayed in the SF-424 and the

proposal project budget. That requirement may also apply to funds offered as cost-share by the applicant or other partner.

For land protection projects, the CVPCP cannot pay for land management endowments.

For additional information, see all applicable circulars related to federal financial assistance budget and audit requirements, including but not limited to 2 CFR 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

Salaries and Wages – Indicate the project manager and other key personnel by name and title. Other personnel may be indicated by title alone. For all positions, indicate salaries and wages, estimated hours or percent of time, and rate of compensation proposed. The labor rates should identify the direct labor rate separate from the fringe rate or fringe cost. All labor estimates, including any proposed subcontractors, should be allocated to specific objectives as outlined in the recipient's technical proposal description.

Clearly identify any expected salary increases over the duration of the project, the effective date, and justification for any increase.

Generally, salaries of administrative and/or clerical personnel should be included as a portion of indirect costs. If these salaries can be adequately documented as direct costs, (directly attributable to a project cost item), they may be included in this section. In order to do so, an explanation must be included in the budget narrative.

Fringe Benefits – Indicate rates/amounts, the costs to be included (i.e., retirement, vacation, health insurance, overtime, etc.), and the basis of the rate computations. Indicate whether these rates are used for purposes of the proposed project only, or whether they are fixed or provisional rates for billing purposes. Federally-approved rate agreements are acceptable as rate computation support.

Travel – Include the purpose of the trip, destination, number of personnel traveling, length of stay and all travel costs including airfare (basis for rate used), per diem, lodging, and miscellaneous travel expenses. Unless otherwise justified, costs should be based on General Services Administration (GSA) mileage and per diem rates. If not, documentation should be provided showing the basis of the rates (i.e. market research, past performance, past costs, written travel policy procedures).

Equipment –Per 2 CFR 200.33, “equipment” is considered to be necessary items purchased for the project that exceeds \$5,000.00 in cost. Items purchased for up to \$5,000.00 are considered to be supplies or materials. Itemize costs of all equipment and include information as to the need for this equipment. Specify whether the equipment is being rented or purchased. Successful applicants may be asked to provide a written copy of their procurement policy procedures.

How was equipment priced if being purchased specifically for the grant? If equipment is to be rented, specify the number of hours and the hourly rate. Local rental rates are only accepted for equipment actually rented or leased for the project. If equipment owned by the applicant is proposed for use and the cost to use that equipment is included in the budget as in-kind cost share,

provide the rates and hours for each piece of equipment owned and budgeted. These should be ownership rates developed by the grant recipient for each piece of equipment.

If these rates are not available, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineer's recommended equipment rates for the region are acceptable. Blue book, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other data bases should not be used. Indicate what type of market research was performed to come up with the estimated cost.

Supplies and Materials – Supplies or materials are necessary items purchased for the project that cost up-to and including \$5,000.00. Items that exceed \$5,000.00 are considered equipment. Itemize supplies and materials by major category, quantity, and purpose, such as whether the items are needed for office use, research, or field use.

Contractual – Identify all work that will be conducted by subrecipients, consultants, or contractors, including a detailed budget estimate of time, rates, supplies, and materials that will be required for the task. If a subrecipient, consultant, or contractor is proposed and approved at the time of award, no other approvals will be required. Any changes or additions will require a request for approval.

Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs - Reference all environmental and regulatory costs to be incurred by the award recipient that will not be incurred by Reclamation (i.e. State and local permits). Reclamation will be responsible for meeting all federal regulatory compliance requirements.

Other – Any other expenses, such as those for reporting or for the purchase of land not included in the above categories shall be listed in this category, along with a description of the item and what it will be used for.

No profit or fee is allowed.

Note: Contingency costs are not allowed unless it can be demonstrated that the costs will be incurred. They cannot be costs that a recipient believes might incur. In order for contingency costs to be allowed, the awardee must demonstrate the probability of incurring these costs, and show that the percentage or cost amount is derived from past performance of similar work. The preferred alternative for covering unanticipated project costs that occur after the financial assistance agreement has been awarded is to seek approval for payment of those costs by the Grants Officer, then modify the grant or cooperative agreement to provide additional funds to cover those costs.

Indirect Cost – Show the proposed rate, cost base, and proposed amount for allowable indirect costs based on the applicable circular cost principles for the recipient's organization. It is not acceptable to simply incorporate indirect rates within other direct cost line items.

Indirect costs that will be incurred during the development or implementation of a project, which will not otherwise be recovered, may be included as part of the applicant's cost share. Indirect costs are those: (1) incurred for a common or joint purpose benefiting more than one cost objective, and (2) not readily assignable to any one cost objective. If the recipient has separate rates for recovery of labor overhead and general and administrative costs, each rate shall be shown. The applicant should

propose rates for evaluation purposes, which will be used as fixed or ceiling rates in any resulting award.

If the recipient of a financial assistance award proposes indirect costs in the budget, upon award they must either supply a copy of a current federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) from DOI's Interior Business Center (IBC) or their Cognizant Government Agency, or obtain an agreement within 1 year of award. If the Recipient does not have a federally approved NICRA, they may use a Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) which is not the same as an indirect cost rate. The Code of Federal Regulations 2 CFR Part 200 allows the use of a CAP in lieu of a NICRA with IBC or a Cognizant Government Agency. A CAP takes the indirect cost pool and divides it amongst the amounts of contracts the Recipient has, allocating all indirect costs over the contracts. A CAP still has to be approved by IBC or their Cognizant Government Agency. If a CAP is used, the recipient must provide a copy of the approval letter. If a project is selected for funding and a NICRA is either not in place or will not be obtained, the recipient will need to charge a flat indirect rate of 10 percent of the modified total direct costs.

If unapproved rates are used, explain why, and include the computational basis for the indirect expense pool and corresponding allocation base for each rate. Information on "preparing and submitting indirect cost proposals" is available from the IBC indirect cost section, at <https://www.doi.gov/ibc/services/finance/indirect-cost-services>.

Total Cost – Indicate the total cost of the proposed project, including the amount requested from the CVPCP, and the federal and non-federal (partner cost-share and in-kind) amounts.

IV.E Funding Restrictions

Applicants that incur costs prior to the signing of the financial assistance agreement may request that pre-award costs be included when calculating the total project cost and the applicant's non-federal cost-share. Pre-award costs proposed for consideration must comply with all applicable requirements under this NOFO.

Section V: Application Review Information

V.A Technical Proposal Evaluation Criteria

The CVPCP has established **Priority Actions** related to CVP impacted federally listed species, their habitats, and corresponding geographic areas. They reflect the most current evaluation of species needs and habitat trends, and are complementary to other on-going conservation actions within the Central Valley. They also take into account historical levels of investment by the CVPCP, as well as future threats to specific ecosystems. Priority Actions have been developed for land protection, habitat restoration, research, and captive propagation and/or reintroduction projects. Well-conceived and clearly written technical proposals must address these Priority Actions. The Priority Actions are listed in order of preference within each activity category. The number of points

assigned to each Priority Action within each project category during the scoring process is indicated in parentheses with the Priority Action.

V.A.1 Land Protection Priority Actions

Applicants should strongly consider and/or incorporate the following guidelines and other information into their land protection proposals:

- Proposals must focus on “High” or “Very High” CVPCP Priority Species, unless otherwise specifically called for in a Priority Action.
- Parcels proposed for fee title acquisition or conservation easements having documented occurrences of CVP impacted federally listed species will likely rank higher than those that do not.
- The parcel(s) to be acquired should be specifically identified by location in the proposal; the willing seller should be identified; and evidence of landowner support for selling the property or conservation easement to be acquired should be provided in the application (i.e., landowner letter or email message expressing support).
- Restrictions and covenants.
 - Applicants should make a good faith effort to identify restrictive covenants and zoning conditions for properties before submitting proposals for fee title acquisition. This will help eliminate any possible threats to the legal and full ownership of the property on behalf of the new buyer.
 - For proposals that involve the purchase of an interest in real property, whether in fee title or conservation easement, the proposal should document that there is evidence of title sufficient to demonstrate that the interest to be purchased will be properly vested in the party purchasing the interest. Applicants should refer to the U.S. Department of Justice’s (USDOJ) “Title Standards 2001” (March 23, 2001 reprint) for a description of what would be adequate evidence of title to satisfy a grant award. The USDOJ Title Standards 2001 is available online at:
<https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/enrd/legacy/2011/03/28/2001-title-standards.pdf>
Applicants do not need to submit a copy of the title or title insurance with their application.
 - If title restrictions are present, applicants should describe why the restrictions would not impair their ability to acquire, protect, and manage the property for the benefit of CVP impacted species.
- If species surveys were conducted on, or in the vicinity of, the property parcel(s) to be acquired, name any special status species observed, and provide a map/figure showing the locations of the species occurrences/observations.
- If a land protection proposal is selected, appraisals of parcels for fee title acquisition or conservation easement must be completed under the supervision of DOI’s Appraisal and Valuation Services Office (AVSO) to ensure appraisals meet DOI requirements. Appraisals submitted without DOI/AVSO review before the appraisal is conducted will not be approved for use. DOI/AVSO guidelines require the appraisal be done using the USDOJ’s “Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions” (“Yellow Book Appraisal Standards”).

Specific Land Protection Priority Actions

1. ***Permanently protect San Joaquin Valley floor and rangeland habitats.*** Protect through fee title or conservation easement, alkali sink, alkali scrub, remnant historical sand dunes, and valley native grassland habitat located on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley, including the Panoche Valley and Carrizo Plains, that contributes to the core and satellite population areas and habitat linkages and corridors for San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Tipton kangaroo rat, giant kangaroo rat, Fresno kangaroo rat, and Buena Vista Lake ornate shrew, and federally-listed plant species, specifically California jewelflower, palmate-bracted bird's beak, Kern mallow, San Joaquin woolly-threads, Hartweg's golden sunburst, and Bakersfield cactus. Protection of habitat for these species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals should emphasize how the proposed project will assist with implementation of high priority recovery tasks as described in the *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 1998] and/or priority actions identified in corresponding 5-year status reviews. (9 points)

2. ***Permanently protect non-vernal pool wetlands and associated water supply, riparian habitat, and associated uplands supporting the giant garter snake within the historical range of this species in Merced, Fresno, and southern Sacramento counties.*** Protection will be through fee title or conservation easement. Actions must emphasize large-scale habitat connectivity and address how perennial water will be secured, how water quality will be improved, and how clean water will be provided to existing populations of giant garter snakes. Protection of habitat for this species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals that focus on riparian corridors must demonstrate that the riparian areas will support giant garter snake dispersal and how the corridors will provide linkage between existing giant garter snake populations. Proposals should emphasize implementation of appropriate priority one and two tasks from the *Revised Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake* (USFWS 2015). Proposals that simultaneously address the breeding habitat needs of the tricolored blackbird are particularly requested. (9 points)

3. ***Permanently protect habitat supporting the California red-legged frog in the Sierra Nevada foothills in El Dorado, Amador, and Calaveras counties.*** Protection through fee title or conservation easement of both aquatic and upland habitat supporting existing populations of California red-legged frog in Sierra Nevada foothill habitats. Protection of habitat for this species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposed lands must be demonstrated as free of bullfrog occurrences. Proposals should also emphasize current and future management plans to maintain aquatic habitat. (6 points)

4. ***Permanently protect breeding habitat supporting the California tiger salamander in Yolo County.*** Protect through fee title or conservation easement, breeding habitat that supports existing populations of California tiger salamander within designated critical habitat, or is adjacent to other protected occurrences of California tiger salamander in Yolo County. Protection of habitat for this species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals should emphasize implementation of appropriate priority one and two tasks found in the implementation schedule of the *Recovery Plan for the Central California Distinct Population Segment of the California Tiger Salamander (Ambystoma californiense)* (USFWS 2017). (6 points)

5. ***Permanently protect vernal pool habitat in Butte, Stanislaus, Madera, San Joaquin, Merced, Sacramento, or Tehama counties.*** Protect through fee title or conservation easement,

existing natural vernal pool complexes supporting listed vernal pool species in Zone 1 and Zone 2 Core Areas in Butte, Stanislaus, Madera, San Joaquin, Merced, Sacramento, or Tehama counties as described in the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2005). Sites that are currently inhabited by federally listed species with very limited ranges are of particular interest. Protection of habitat for these species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals must protect lands that will complement existing protected lands and contribute to protection of contiguous blocks of habitat. Proposals should emphasize implementation of appropriate priority one and two tasks found in the implementation schedule of the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2005). (3 points)

6. ***Permanently protect grassland habitats supporting existing populations of large-flowered fiddleneck in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin counties.*** Previous projects funded through this program have resulted in establishment of new populations of this rare species and have identified habitat types that are the best targets for future conservation and recovery efforts. Proposals will be considered that protect and preserve existing habitat and provide for the protection and management of occupied habitats. Protection of habitat for this species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals should also emphasize current and future vegetation management to reduce invasive plants and benefit the large-flowered fiddleneck as well as how the large-flowered fiddleneck population would be monitored into the future. Proposals should be consistent with priority conservation actions described in the Large-flowered Fiddleneck Recovery Plan and/or large-flowered fiddleneck 5-year status review. (3 points)

7. ***Permanently protect habitat supporting federally listed plants in the Sierra Nevada foothills in Sutter, Yuba, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties.*** Protection through fee title or conservation easement of habitat supporting existing populations of federally listed plants in Sierra Nevada foothill grassland habitats. These lands must contribute to protection of the federally threatened Chinese Camp brodiaea, Ione buckwheat, Ione manzanita, Stebbins' morning glory, Pine Hill flannelbush, Pine Hill ceanothus, Layne's butterweed, El Dorado bedstraw, Red Hills vervain, Mariposa pussypaws, Springville clarkia, Hartweg's golden sunburst, San Joaquin adobe sunburst, and/or Keck's checkermallow. Protection of habitat for these species is a key conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals should include at least one species that is a CVPCP Priority of medium, high, or very high as indicated on the CVPCP, and also emphasize current and future vegetation management to reduce invasive plants and benefit target species. (3 points)

8. ***Permanently protect serpentine soil and associated habitats supporting endemic species, such as the bay checkerspot butterfly and serpentine plants, in Santa Clara County.*** Previous projects funded through this program have showed great success in advancing conservation goals and have resulted in substantial habitat protection and restoration for serpentine species and have also resulted in re-establishing a population of bay checkerspot butterflies on San Bruno Mountain. Proposals will be considered that protect and preserve existing habitat and provide for the protection and management of occupied habitats as well as unoccupied serpentine grasslands that act as corridors or stepping stones between known populations of bay checkerspot butterfly and other listed serpentine species. Protection of habitat for these species is a key

conservation measure necessary to move towards recovery and future delisting. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one and two tasks for serpentine species found in the Implementation Schedule in the *Recovery Plan for Serpentine Soil Species of the San Francisco Bay Area* (USFWS 1998). (3 points)

9. ***Other fee title or conservation easement acquisitions that address CVPCP goals of protecting, enhancing, and restoring CVP impacted federally listed species, their populations, and their habitats within the CVPCP Priority Project Area map boundary.*** See the CVPCP website for priority habitat types and species that are targeted for acquisition actions: <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html>. (0 points)

V.A.2 Habitat Restoration Priority Actions

Applicants should strongly consider and/or incorporate the following guidelines and other information into their habitat restoration proposals:

- For a habitat restoration project to qualify under a Priority Action, projects proposed for funding must:
 - Pertain to the restoration or enhancement of native plant and animal communities.
 - Pertain to the ecosystem functions and values to which the species targeted in the Priority Actions are adapted.
 - Focus the restoration primarily on CVP impacted species.
- Proposals must focus on “High” or “Very High” CVPCP Priority Species, unless otherwise specifically called for in a Priority Action.
- The parcel(s) to be restored should be specifically identified by location in the proposal; the landowner should be identified; and evidence of landowner support for the project should be provided in the proposal (i.e., landowner letter or email message expressing support).
- If species surveys have been conducted in the area of the proposed project, indicate on the project map/figure the locations of any special status species observed.

Specific Habitat Restoration Priority Actions

1. ***Restoration of sand dune habitat in San Joaquin Valley supporting federally listed plants.*** The condition of historical sand dune habitat in the San Joaquin Valley is threatened by encroachment of invasive plants that negatively affect rare and listed plant species. Actions will be considered that provide for restoration, removal of invasive plants, and management on remnant dune habitats in the San Joaquin Valley that support Bakersfield cactus and San Joaquin woolly-threads. Restoration of dune habitat will advance conservation and recovery efforts for these species and can also help in conserving species before there is a need for listing under the federal ESA. Projects that focus on dune systems of greater than 50 acres and additionally address the conservation needs of the San Joaquin Valley giant flower-loving fly are particularly requested. (9 points)

2. ***Restoration or creation of non-vernal pool wetlands and associated water supply, riparian habitat, and associated uplands supporting the giant garter snake within the historical range of this species in Merced, Fresno, and southern Sacramento counties.*** Actions must emphasize large-scale habitat connectivity and address how perennial water will be

consistently secured annually, how water quality will be improved, and how clean water will be provided to existing populations of giant garter snakes. Proposals that focus on riparian corridors must demonstrate that the riparian areas will support giant garter snake dispersal and how the corridors will provide linkage for existing giant garter snake populations. Restoration of non-vernal pool wetland habitat will advance conservation and recovery efforts for the giant garter snake and can also help in conserving species before there is a need for listing under the federal ESA. Proposals should emphasize implementation of appropriate priority one and two tasks from the *Revised Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake* (USFWS 2015). Proposals that simultaneously address the breeding habitat needs of the tricolored blackbird are particularly requested. (9 points)

3. ***San Joaquin Valley ecosystem restoration that results in alkali sink, alkali scrub, and valley native grassland habitat.*** Restoration of alkali sink, alkali scrub, and valley native grassland habitat located in the San Joaquin Valley that contributes to species recovery will be considered. The restoration effort should benefit core and satellite population areas (see *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* [USFWS 1998]) and emphasize habitat connectivity for the following federally-listed animal and plant species: San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Tipton kangaroo rat, giant kangaroo rat, Buena Vista Lake ornate shrew, California jewelflower, palmate-bracted bird's beak, Kern mallow, San Joaquin woolly-threads, Hartweg's golden sunburst, or Bakersfield cactus. Areas selected for restoration should demonstrate presence of one or more of the species noted above. Restoration efforts should also benefit habitat linkages and corridors of the listed animal species. Restoration of San Joaquin Valley floor habitat will advance conservation and recovery efforts for these species. Proposals should emphasize priority one and two tasks for these species found in the *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS 1998) and/or priority actions identified in corresponding 5-year status reviews. (6 points)

4. ***Restoration of riparian habitat and natural river process that support existing occurrences of yellow-billed cuckoo in the Sacramento Valley.*** Actions must emphasize restoration of suitable habitat for yellow-billed cuckoos and the hydrological process that maintain these habitats. Restoration of riparian breeding habitat for yellow-billed cuckoo is important for establishing persistent populations of the species in the Sacramento Valley and helping to achieve conservation and recovery goals. Proposals should also address connectivity among habitat patches in the Sacramento Valley and how the proposed restoration will support extant occurrences and promote connectivity among habitat patches. Proposals that simultaneously address the habitat needs of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle are particularly requested. (3 points)

5. ***Restoration of vernal pool habitat and associated native grasslands in Butte, Stanislaus, Madera, San Joaquin, Merced, Sacramento, or Tehama counties.*** Proposals will be considered that restore existing natural vernal pool complexes and associated native grasslands supporting listed vernal pool species in Zone 1 and Zone 2 Core Areas in Butte, Stanislaus, Madera, San Joaquin, Merced, Sacramento, or Tehama counties as described in the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2005). Proposals must restore lands that will complement existing protected lands and contribute to protection of contiguous blocks of habitat. Restoration of vernal pool habitats will advance conservation and recovery efforts for these species. Proposals should emphasize implementation of appropriate priority one and two tasks found in the Implementation Schedule of the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2005). Proposals that simultaneously address the breeding habitat needs of the tricolored blackbird are particularly requested. (3 points)

6. ***Restoration of serpentine soil and associated habitats supporting endemic species, such as the bay checkerspot butterfly and serpentine plants throughout out their historical range.*** Proposals will be considered that restore suitable habitat and provide for the management of occupied habitats as well as unoccupied serpentine grasslands that act as corridors or stepping stones between known populations of bay checkerspot butterfly and other listed serpentine species. Restoration of serpentine soil habitats will advance conservation and recovery efforts for these species. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one and two tasks for serpentine species found in the Implementation Schedule in the *Recovery Plan for Serpentine Soil Species of the San Francisco Bay Area* (USFWS 1998) and/or priority actions identified in corresponding 5-year status reviews. (3 points)
7. ***Other habitat restoration or enhancement that addresses CVPCP goals of protecting, enhancing, and restoring CVP impacted federally listed species populations and their habitats within the CVPCP project area map boundary.*** See the CVPCP website for priority habitat types and species that are targeted for restoration actions: <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html>. (0 points)

V.A.3 Research Priority Actions

Applicants should strongly consider and/or incorporate the following guidelines and other information into their research proposals:

- Proposals must focus on “High” or “Very High” CVPCP Priority Species, unless otherwise specifically called for in a Priority Action.
- This NOFO seeks to fund research in which a methodical scientific study is performed on a hypothesis relating to a specific information need concerning one or more federally listed CVP impacted species, experimentation to demonstrate the truth or falseness of the hypothesis, and a conclusion that validates or modifies the hypothesis.
- At a minimum, all proposals submitted under a research Priority Action must adhere to the following:
 - Include a clear and detailed study methodology.
 - Include a clear hypothesis(es) as applicable (see above).
 - Describe how deliverables would increase current and future protection and/or restoration of species or habitats impacted by the CVP (see more details below).
 - Describe how the research findings would benefit federally listed species.
- Research should demonstrate an explicit tie to the CVPCP’s intent to fund research that effectively links results to improved or refined future management, restoration, and land protection decisions for the CVPCP. **Applicants submitting research proposals should describe how the proposed project would accomplish one or more of the following:**
 - Help determine *which* habitats should be protected and/or restored to most benefit CVPCP High or Very High priority species/habitats.
 - Help identify specific properties to be protected and/or restored to most benefit CVPCP High or Very High priority species/habitats (i.e. species surveys).
 - Help determine *how* habitats should be restored to most benefit CVPCP High or Very High priority species/habitats.

- Help gauge the biological responses to restoration projects that most benefit CVPCH High or Very High priority species/habitats.
- Multi-phase projects should detail how adequate data collection would be achieved if successive years are not funded. For projects having multiple phases which depend on future funding for success, the budget should be itemized for each year of research. If selected, multi-phase projects will be considered based on prior performance and funding availability. If permits would be required to undertake the research, proposals should address how those permits are to be obtained.
- All research proposals will be independently evaluated by experts in the scientific community on the various research topics proposed.
- If applicable, describe circumstances of known access vs. unknown access to lands on which the research would be conducted. For example:
 - Describe which lands have access granted and which lands do not.
 - Address how potentially not obtaining access to lands would affect the results of the research.
 - When species surveys are proposed, specify how much (percentage) of the surveys, etc., would be conducted on private lands vs. public lands.
 - The parcel(s) on which research activities would occur should be specifically identified by location in the proposal; the landowner should be identified; and evidence of landowner support for the project should be provided in the application (i.e., landowner letter or email message of support).
- If any animals would be held live in captivity during the course of the research/study, the applicant should describe in the proposal what would happen to the animals after the study is completed, i.e., be returned to the wild, be kept in captivity, etc. For research on animals, recipients should comply with laws and regulations as stated in Section VII.D of this NOFO.
- Applicants who are considering submitting a research proposal that does not meet one of the Priority Actions are encouraged to contact the CVPCH Manager before starting their proposal to learn whether the proposed research sufficiently meets program goals and priorities.

Specific Research Priority Actions

1. *Investigations of disease dynamics, population level effects, and potential control strategies in San Joaquin kit fox populations in Bakersfield and surrounding areas.*

Populations of the San Joaquin kit fox in the Bakersfield area (Kern County, California) have become infected, starting in 2013, with the *Sarcoptes scabiei* mite that has been fatal to the kit fox and difficult to treat. The origin and extent of the mite infestation is currently unknown; however, the range of the disease has expanded within the urban kit foxes around the City of Bakersfield within the last year as well as to the southeast in the town of Taft. Additionally, recent reports suggest that the species may also be affected by distemper. For mange, proposals should focus on: 1) how cases of mange can be managed or eliminated; 2) where cases are occurring elsewhere outside of Bakersfield and have not been detected (e.g., camera surveys and fecal assays would noninvasively detect mites); 3) the impact of mange on kit fox populations and reproduction (e.g., population viability analysis explicitly incorporating effects of mange and spatial spread); and 4) development and testing of treatments for control of mange. For distemper, proposal should focus on the extent of known occurrences in kit fox and whether the current reports represent a significant new disease outbreak. Understanding the effects of ongoing disease epidemics on San Joaquin kit fox populations and methods for limiting mortality are critical for all future recovery actions. These

efforts will contribute to ongoing habitat protections by providing methodologies that assist in establishing long-term, sustainable populations of the San Joaquin kit fox. (9 points)

2. ***Other habitat research that addresses CVPCP goals of protecting, enhancing, and restoring CVP impacted federally listed species populations and their habitats within the CVPCP project area map boundary.*** See the CVPCP website for priority habitat types and species that are targeted for restoration actions:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html>. (0 points)

V.A.4 Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction Priority Actions

Applicants should strongly consider and/or incorporate the following guidelines and other information into their captive propagation and/or reintroduction proposals:

- Proposals must focus on “High” or “Very High” CVPCP Priority Species.
- The focus of this category is on projects for which a critical component to the recovery of a federally listed CVP impacted species is the capture, propagation, and reintroduction of the species into its native habitat, particularly as identified in FWS recovery plans for the species.
- If individuals of the species would be held in captivity during the course of the project, the applicant should describe in the proposal what would happen to the individuals after the study is completed, i.e., be returned to the wild, be kept in captivity, etc. For captive breeding of animals, recipients should comply with laws and regulations as stated in Section VI.D.5 of this NOFO.
- If the proposal includes implementation of reintroductions in addition to a reintroduction plan, then specific reintroduction site(s) should be identified by location in the proposal; the landowner should be identified; and written approval for the reintroduction from the landowner of the proposed reintroduction site(s) as well as from the landowner of the species’ donor site should be included with the application (i.e., landowner letter or email message of support).
- The requirements in the prior bullet for the reintroduction area should also be included from the area where the species are collected, if pertinent.
- As a general rule, only reintroductions taking place on permanently protected land will be considered for funding unless a compelling reason exists for reintroductions to occur on unprotected lands.

Specific Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction Priority Actions

Captive propagation and/or reintroduction efforts that address CVPCP goals of protecting, enhancing, and restoring CVP impacted federally listed species populations and their habitats within the CVPCP project area map boundary. See the CVPCP website for priority habitat types and species that are targeted for such actions:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html>. (0 points)

V.B Program Scoring Criteria

Technical proposals will be evaluated, scored, and ranked by the CVPCP Technical Team in accordance with the following Program Scoring Criteria:

(1) **CVP Nexus:** No points given, but the criterion is considered during the proposal evaluation process.

(2) **Program Priority Action:** Points are awarded as specified for each Priority Action within each project activity category.

(3) **Federally Listed Species Benefits** (includes species Proposed for Listing):

- 0 = No benefits to federally listed/proposed species
- 1-2 = Minimal benefits to federally listed/proposed species
- 3-4 = Moderate benefits to federally listed/proposed species
- 5-6 = Major benefits to federally listed/proposed species

(4) **State Listed Species Benefits:**

- 0 = No benefits to State listed species
- 1 = Minimal benefits to State listed species
- 2 = Moderate benefits to State listed species
- 3 = Major benefits to State listed species

(5) **Benefits to Special Status Designated Species that are not Federal or State Listed and not Proposed for Listing:**

- 0 = No benefits to other designated species
- 1 = Minimal benefits to other designated species
- 2 = Moderate benefits to other designated species
- 3 = Major benefits to other designated species

(6) **Habitats/Biodiversity:** (applicable to Land Protection and Habitat Restoration project proposals only)

- 0 = None
- 1-2 = Minimal
- 3-4 = Moderate
- 5-6 = Major

(7) **Cumulative Benefit:**

- 0 = None
- 1 = Minimal
- 2 = Moderate
- 3 = Major

(8) Long-term Benefit:

- 0 = None
- 1 = Minimal
- 2 = Moderate
- 3 = Major

(9) Project Site Connectivity: (Applicable to Land Protection and Habitat Restoration Projects only)

- 0 = Nearest protected habitat is greater than 5 miles away
- 1 = Nearest protected habitat is between 2 and 5 miles away
- 2 = Nearest protected habitat is within 2 miles
- 3 = Protected habitat is adjacent to the project site

(10) Partners:

- 0 = Other partners bear less than 1% of the total project cost
- 1 = Other partners bear 1-10% of the total project cost
- 2 = Other partners bear 11-20% of the total project cost
- 3 = Other partners bear 21-30% of the total project cost
- 4 = Other partners bear 31-40% of the total project cost
- 5 = Other partners bear 41-50% of the total project cost
- 6 = Other partners bear greater than 50% of the total project cost

(11) Level of CVP Impacts:

- 0 = None
- 2 = Minimal
- 4 = Moderate
- 6 = Major

(12) Project Urgency:

- 0 = None
- 3 = Minimal
- 6 = Moderate
- 9 = Major

(13) Technical Merit and Completeness of Proposal:

- 0 = None
- 1-2 = Minimal
- 3-4 = Moderate
- 5-6 = Major

(14) **Scientific Merit:** (Applicable to Research Project Proposals only) :

0 = None

1-3 = Minimal

4-6 = Moderate

7-9 = Major

V.C Review and Selection Process

All applications are evaluated, scored, and ranked by the CVPCP Technical Team, comprised of state and federal agency biologists and program managers whose technical expertise spans the range of topics included in the NOFO. The CVPCP Technical Team evaluates and provides qualitative and unambiguous ratings of each application by utilizing scoring criteria described in Section V.B to evaluate applications, and makes recommendations on which applications should be selected for funding.

Decisions about which applicants will be offered an award, pending appropriations to the programs, will be made by CVPCP managers upon approval by Reclamation management. In addition to application review, scoring, and ranking by the CVPCP Technical Team, other considerations include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Actions funded by the CVPCP are opportunity-driven. Funding decisions are often dependent on the number and scope of applications received in a given year.
- 2) Past performance of an applicant is considered during project selection. Poor performance during implementation of past grants or cooperative agreements will weigh against an applicant's receipt of future funding, and can disqualify an applicant from eligibility for receiving CVPCP funds.
- 3) Project feasibility is considered during application selection. CVPCP Managers determine whether a project would result in real benefits to species in a cost-effective manner before making funding decisions.
- 4) Applications which address targeted Priority Actions (sections V.A.1 through V.A.4) may be more favorably considered than those that do not.

Section VI: Award Administration Information

VI.A Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive a notice of award of a grant or cooperative agreement by electronic mail notifying the applicant that they are being considered for a project award. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by mail. Notification is sent to the applicant official who signed the SF-424.

Successful applicants will be notified as soon as possible upon selection. However, note that Reclamation financial assistance and environmental compliance requirements can take a substantial amount of time to be completed before project work can begin.

VI.B Award Document

If the applicant is awarded a financial assistance agreement, the proposed project and other relevant information from the application will be referenced in the agreement document. The agreement must be signed by a Reclamation Grants Officer before it becomes effective.

VI.C Reporting Requirements and Distribution

If a financial assistance agreement is executed as a result of this NOFO, the applicant will be required to submit the following reports on at least a semi-annual basis during the term of the financial assistance agreement.

VI.C.1 Financial Reports

Federal financial reports shall be submitted by means of the SF-425 and shall be submitted according to the Report Frequency and Distribution schedule outlined in the financial assistance agreement.

VI.C.2 Program Performance Reports

Program Performance Reports shall be submitted according to the Report Frequency and Distribution schedule outlined in the financial assistance agreement, and shall include the following:

- Comparison of actual accomplishments to the milestones established by the agreement for the period. Where the accomplishments of the federal award can be quantified, a computation of the cost (for example, related to units of accomplishment) may be required if that information will be useful. Where performance trend data and analysis would be informative to the federal awarding agency program, the federal awarding agency should include this as a performance reporting requirement:
 - Reasons why established milestones were not met, if applicable
 - Status of milestones from the previous reporting period that were not met, if applicable
 - Whether the project is on schedule and within the original cost estimate
 - Additional pertinent information including, where appropriate, analysis and explanation of cost overruns / high unit costs, or issues related to the status of the project.

VI.D Award Terms and Conditions

The following terms and conditions apply to all Reclamation financial assistance agreements.

VI.D.1 Conflict of Interest

(a) Applicability.

- (1) This section intends to ensure that non-federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to federal financial assistance agreements.
- (2) In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR 200.318 apply.

(b) Requirements.

- (1) Non-federal entities must avoid prohibited conflicts of interest, including any significant financial interests that could cause a reasonable person to question the recipient's ability to provide impartial, technically sound, and objective performance under or with respect to a federal financial assistance agreement.
- (2) In addition to any other prohibitions that may apply with respect to conflicts of interest, no key official of an actual or proposed recipient or subrecipient, who is substantially involved in the proposal or project, may have been a former federal employee who, within the last one (1) year, participated personally and substantially in the evaluation, award, or administration of an award with respect to that recipient or subrecipient or in development of the requirement leading to the notice of funding.
- (3) No actual or prospective recipient or subrecipient may solicit, obtain, or use non-public information regarding the evaluation, award, or administration of an award to that recipient or subrecipient or the development of a federal financial assistance opportunity that may be of competitive interest to that recipient or subrecipient.

(c) Notification.

- (1) Non-federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR 200.112, Conflicts of Interest.
- (2) Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by subrecipients.

- (3) Restrictions on Lobbying. Non-federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under this grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR Part 18 and 31 USC 1352. Upon notification of selection for an award, successful applicants will be asked to submit a Standard Form SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, before the award is granted.
- (4) Review Procedures. The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.
- (5) Enforcement. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR Part 180).

VI.D.2 Data Availability

- (a) Applicability. DOI is committed to basing its decisions on the best available science and providing the American people with enough information to thoughtfully and substantively evaluate the data, methodology, and analysis used by DOI to inform its decisions. Information produced as a result of any grant may be subject to the requirements of the Office of Management and Budget Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (70 FR 2664-2677), and Reclamation Policy CMP P14.
- (b) Use of Data. The regulations at 2 CFR 200.315 apply to data produced under a federal award, including the provision that the Federal Government has the right to obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data produced under a federal award as well as authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for federal purposes.
- (c) Availability of Data. The recipient shall make the data produced under this award and any subaward(s) available to the Government for public release, consistent with applicable law, to allow meaningful third-party evaluation and reproduction of the following:
 - (i) The scientific data relied upon;
 - (ii) The analysis relied upon; and
 - (iii) The methodology, including models, used to gather and analyze data.

VI.D.3 DUNS Requirement

All applicants applying for funding must have a Dun and Bradstreet Universal Data Numbering System (DUNS) number. The DUNS number must be included in the data entry field labeled “Organizational Duns” on the form SF-424. Instructions for obtaining a DUNS number can be found at the following website: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>.

VI.D.4 System for Awards Management (SAM)/Credential Provider Registration

In addition to having a DUNS number, applicants must register with SAM and with a Credential Provider. The website at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html> provides step- by-step instructions for registering in the SAM and for registering with a credential provider. Applicants accepted to receive an award must enroll in the Department of the Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) to receive payment. ASAP is the only allowable method for request and receipt of award payments.

The registration process is a separate process from submitting an application. Applicants are, therefore, encouraged to register early. The registration process can take approximately 2 weeks to be completed. Therefore, registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact your ability to meet required submission deadlines.

VI.D.5 Environmental and Regulatory Compliance

Applicants are required to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal environmental, cultural, and paleontological resource protection laws and regulations. These may include, but are not limited to the: (1) NEPA, including the Council on Environmental Quality and Department of the Interior regulations implementing NEPA; (2) ESA; (3) CWA; (4) NHPA; (5) Laboratory Animal Welfare Act; (6) Marine Mammal Protection Act; (7) and Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act.

Reclamation is the lead federal agency for NEPA compliance. As the lead agency, it is responsible for determining the appropriate level of NEPA compliance, i.e. categorical exclusion or environmental assessment. However, a project proponent (or their contractor) should provide as much of the necessary information and data analyses as possible in order for the agencies to complete NEPA and other regulatory compliance in a timely manner. This information may include specifics about site disturbance, presence of listed species, archeological sites, past or on-going surveys, previously completed NEPA documentation associated with the project, etc. No work on approved projects may begin until all compliance and substantiating documents are completed.

The USFWS is the lead agency for ESA compliance (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.). Under Section 7 of the ESA, the USFWS must utilize its authority to conserve listed species and make sure that project activities do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species.

The CWA establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. Under the CWA, the Environmental Protection Agency has implemented pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry. In addition, California is delegated administrative authority of the CWA, and has set additional standards.

Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966 requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a

reasonable opportunity to comment. The NHPA requires consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, and could require consultation with potentially affected Tribes.

For actions involving animals, recipients must comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-544), as amended, (7 U.S.C. §§ 2131 et seq.) (animal acquisition, transport, care, handling, and use in projects), and implementing regulations, CFR Parts 1, 2, and 3; Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1361 et seq.) (taking possession, transport, purchase, sale, export or import of wildlife and plants); the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 4701 et seq.) (ensure preventive measures are taken or that probable harm of using species is minimal if there is an escape or release); and all other applicable statutes pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by federal financial assistance.

In addition, applicants must obtain all required approvals and permits, and shall coordinate and obtain any approvals required from site owners and operators. Applicants should state in their proposals whether any permits or approvals (e.g., land access) are required, and explain the applicant's plan for obtaining such permits or approvals.

VI.D.6 Agency Contacts

Interested organizations or individuals with questions pertaining to this NOFO, having difficulties accessing forms/electronic addresses, or having questions pertaining to the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, may contact Reclamation's Grants Management Specialist:

Thelma Mosley
Grants Management Specialist
Bureau of Reclamation, MP-3803
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1815
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898
(916) 978-5136
[Email: tmoseley@usbr.gov](mailto:tmoseley@usbr.gov)

Applicants with questions about grant program project selection, program priorities, post-award land management responsibilities, etc., are encouraged to contact the Reclamation CVPCP Manager. The contact information is:

Daniel Strait
CVPCP Manager
Bureau of Reclamation, CGB-152
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 978-5052
[Email: dstrait@usbr.gov](mailto:dstrait@usbr.gov)

Section VII: Literature Cited

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1998. Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California. Portland, Oregon. 319 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1999. Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake. Portland, Oregon. ix + 192 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2005. Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon. Portland, Oregon. xxvi + 606 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2012. Giant Garter Snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation. Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Field Office, Sacramento, California. June.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2017. Recovery Plan for the Central California Distinct Population Segment of the California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California. v + 69pp.

Section VIII: Attachments

See the following pages.

Attachment A: Example Species Benefits Table

This table should be used as a template to indicate benefits from the proposed project to Federal, State, and other designated species.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^a	State Status ^b	Other Designated Species ^c	Species Verified Presence (Y/N) ^d
<u>Plants</u>					
Palmate-bracted bird's beak	<i>Cordylanthus palmatus</i>	E	E		
Hairy orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia pilosa</i>	E	E		
Greene's tuctoria	<i>Tuctoria greenei</i>	E	R		
Hoover's spurge	<i>Chamaesyce hooveri</i>	T			
<u>Invertebrates</u>					
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	E			
Conservancy fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>	E			
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	T			
<u>Reptiles</u>					
Giant garter snake	<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	T	T		
Western pond turtle	<i>Clemmys marmorata</i>			CSC	
<u>Birds</u>					
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Delisted	E		
Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>		T		
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>			FP	
Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>			CSC	
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>			CSC	
Tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>			CSC	

^a E = federally listed as endangered; T= federally listed as threatened; P=federally proposed for listing.

^b E = state listed as endangered; R = state listed as rare; T = state listed as threatened; C = state listed as candidate.

^c = federally listed as candidate; CSC = California species of special concern; FP = California fully protected species.

^d The species should be documented as occurring on the property/parcel being proposed for protection and/or restoration, not just in the general geographic area.

Attachment B: Example Budget Table

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		RECIPIENT FUNDING	OTHER PARTNER FUNDING	RECLAMATION FUNDING	TOTAL COST
	\$/Unit and Unit	Quantity				
1. SALARIES AND WAGES --Position title x hourly wage/salary x est. hours for assisted activity. Describe this information for each position.						
i.e. Project Manager	\$50/hr.	200	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$10,000
2. FRINGE BENEFITS – Explain the type of fringe benefits and how are they applied to various categories of personnel.						
i.e. 20% applies to all personnel	20%		\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
3. TRAVEL—dates; location of travel; method of travel x estimated cost; who will travel						
i.e. mileage	\$0.575/mi	1,000 mi	\$575	\$0	\$0	\$575
4. EQUIPMENT—Leased Equipment use rate + hourly wage/salary x est. hours for assisted activity—Describe equipment to be purchased, unit price, # of units for all equipment to be purchased or leased for assisted activity: Do not list contractor supplied equipment here.						
i.e. Excavator	\$165/hr	76	\$11,000	\$0	\$1,540	\$12,540
5. SUPPLIES/MATERIALS—Describe all major types of supplies/materials, unit price, # of units, etc., to be used on this assisted activity.						
i.e. Water control structures	\$350 ea	10	\$0	\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500
6. CONTRACTUAL/ CONSTRUCTION—Explain any contracts or sub-Agreements that will be awarded, why needed. Explain contractor qualifications and how the contractor will be selected.						
i.e. Engineering Consultant	\$48,000/L.S.	1	\$48,000	\$0	\$48,000	\$96,000
i.e. Furnish and Install 48B50 RCP pipe	\$90/L.F.	2,000	\$0	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$360,000
7. ENVIRONMENTAL and REGULATORY COMPLIANCE COSTS – Reference costs expected to be incurred by the applicant for State and local environmental compliance. Federal complince needs (i.e. NEPA and ESA) will be completed by Reclamation staff.						
None			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
8. OTHER –List any other cost elements necessary for your project.						
Signs	\$475	1	\$0	\$475	\$0	\$475
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS--						\$485,090
9. INDIRECT COSTS - What is the percentage rate% . If you do not have a Federally-approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement or if unapproved rates are used - Explain Why.						
Federal Negotiated Rate =27.2%			\$0	\$0	\$131,944	\$131,944
TOTAL PROJECT/ACTIVITY COSTS			\$66,575	\$183,975	\$366,484	\$617,034