

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Butte Creek/Sutter Bypass Weir 1 Improvement Design and Permitting Project

Funding Opportunity Number

F26AS00022

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BASIC INFORMATION

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: F26AS00022

Assistance Listing Number(s): 15.648

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$850,000

Expected Number of Awards: 1

Award Ceiling: \$850,000

Award Floor: \$1

Cost Sharing Required?

No

Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM ET, on the listed application due date.

OMB Control Number: [1018-0100](#)

Have Questions?

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Executive Summary

The Butte Creek Sutter Bypass West Borrow Canal (WBC) Weir #1 is a dilapidated weir structure and is no longer able to be used as a weir for the purposes of diverting and delivering water for agricultural use and to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Sutter National Wildlife Refuge (Sutter NWR). The USFWS seek the design and permitting required for the partial removal of the weir and construction of a rock ramp that will maintain water surface elevations adequate to provide reliable water diversion rates and flows sufficient for fish passage. A feasibility study and report for Weir 1 has already been completed; final design and permitting are the next logical step in addressing the conditions at the weir. The flows required for diversion and passage should be consistent with minimum flow agreement requirements (M&T Ranch Agreement Decree Diversion 50) as well as flows through the fish passage structure at the Giusti Weir, located approximately 3.75 mile upstream. The flows of Butte Creek are diverted past the natural outlet to the Sacramento River (known as the Butte Slough Outfall Gates and under most conditions are directed downstream through the Butte Slough. The Butte Slough is bifurcated at a point just upstream of the State Route 20 bridge crossing, identified as the East-West Diversion Weir. The East-West Diversion splits the flows of Butte Slough to approximately 60% to the East and 40% to the West side borrow canals. Butte Slough above the East-West Diversion Weir is capable of handling a flow of approximately 2,000 cfs within its natural banks (Jones & Stokes 2002).

The mission of the USFWS is “working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people”. Fish and Aquatic Conservation is integral program within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and supports the mission by working with partners to achieve benefits for aquatic species and their habitats. This project helps meet FWS Fish and Aquatic Conservation goals of a program working together to deliver resilient habitats, healthy fish, connected people, and strong partnerships. More information can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/program/fish-and-aquatic-conservation>.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

Unrestricted (i.e., open to any type of entity above), subject to any clarification in text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility"

Additional Information on Eligibility

FWS conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The FWS cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

Cost Sharing Requirement

Cost Sharing Required?

No

GET READY TO APPLY

Required System Registrations

Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration

Before applying, all **applicants** except individuals applying as a natural person **must be registered in SAM.gov**. During the SAM.gov registration the entity will obtain their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

The SAM.gov registration process can take several months. If your organization is not already registered in SAM.gov, begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To register in SAM.gov, go to the [SAM.gov website](#) and use the available resources to complete registration.

- **Financial assistance registrants** must review and certify compliance with the SAM.gov "Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications".
- **Already registered?** You already have a Unique Entity ID. Before applying, check that your "Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications" on SAM.gov is complete. Remember to renew your registration every year to keep it active while you have an award or application in progress. You can update your registration whenever you need, including during renewal.
- **Need help?** For additional information and contact information on the [SAM.gov Help page](#).

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Goals

- Funds under this award will be used to complete permitting and 100% construction-ready designs for the modification of Weir 1 with a rock ramp, including cost estimates. The project entails design for the partial removal of the existing weir and fish ladder structures while the existing crest elevation is maintained. The design will include construction of a passable rock ramp extending downstream of the remaining weir

structures and tie into the downstream channel grade. Designs should include extending the rock ramp laterally to stabilize erosional issues in the stream.

This will include facilitating, planning, and providing notes from meetings with the Technical Advisory Committee, composing of members from United States Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Water Resources and National Marine Fisheries Service.

Developing the final design will entail refining design details, updating and expanding cost estimates for construction, outlining long-term O&M requirements, and potentially also creating a monitoring and/or adaptive management plan to address permitting and program requirements. Additional hydraulic modeling and analysis which support design development for adult and juvenile fish passage criteria and to further assess the potential for any negative impacts may be considered for inclusion in the proposal. Considerations for including other native fishes (i.e., Green Sturgeon, Pacific Lamprey) as targets for setting passage criteria in the design should also be considered.

Program Description

The Red Bluff Fish and Wildlife Office (RBFWO) is soliciting proposals for the completion of 100% design and permitting for a partial weir removal and installation of a rock ramp at Weir 1 on Butte Creek – Sutter Bypass West Borrow Canal. Improving water diversion ability and sport fish passage on Butte Creek in the Central Valley is a regional priority.

Recipients are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America’s 250th birthday (America250). This may include, but is not limited to, projects that recognize and honor the nation’s founding, history, and cultural heritage.

Legislative Authority

Awards are authorized per the Central Valley Project Improvement Act—Fish and Wildlife Restoration Activities (Pub. L. 102-575, §3406(b)(16), 106 Stat. 4714 and 4719).

Type of Award

Projects will be funded through G (Grant).

PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

Application Content and Format

Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following forms with their application as specified below. Instructions for accessing and submitting application forms are provided in the [Submission Instructions](#) section of this document below. For instructions on completing form fields, see the form instructions on the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](#).

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance Note: For applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative’s signature (or electronic	Required from all applicants

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
equivalent) on the Application for Federal Assistance form also represents their certification of the statements in Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying	
SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs	Required for non-construction projects
SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Required if requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds <u>and</u> the applicant has used or plans to use funds other than Federal appropriated funds for lobbying related to the proposed project.
Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award purpose, • Activities to be performed, • Expected deliverables or outcomes, • Intended beneficiaries, Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award)	Required from all applicants
NICRA	Indirect cost details listed below. Required if not using the de minimus rate.
Budget Narrative	Details listed below.
Project Narrative	Details listed below.
Required Statements Document	

Project Narrative

- Overview information:
 - project title,
 - location details,
 - description of entity(ies) undertaking the project,
 - Information on key project personnel, including details on their expertise, skill, or significance to the project.
 - needs statement,
 - description of how project meets the program goals and objectives,
 - activities,
 - timeline,
 - description of stakeholder coordination or involvement
- Monitoring and evaluation information:
 - objectives,

- methods for data collection (performance monitoring, evaluation, and other reporting),
- expected outcomes,
- any expected deliverables beyond required financial and performance reporting
- Other:
 - If cooperative agreement, then description of applicant needs for Federal substantial involvement or technical assistance,
 - any information needed to support environmental compliance review requirements,

Budget Narrative

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions.

Budget items must be:

- Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary
- Compliant with [2 CFR §200 Subpart E](#) cost principles

Indirect Costs: Applicants must indicate in their budget narrative how they will charge indirect costs, including the rate to be applied:

- De Minimis Rate: If eligible, state if your organization is opting to use the de minimis rate of up to 15% of total modified direct costs. Entities that do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) may propose to use the de minimis rate. For more information, refer to [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#).
- Negotiated Rate: State if you will negotiate with your cognizant agency. If your organization has previously negotiated a rate, attach a copy of the most recently negotiated rate agreement (active or expired).

Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures:

If any actual or potential conflict of interest exists related to this project at the time of application, the applicant must provide sufficient information to support a program determination of significance per [2 CFR 1402.112](#). Refer to [2 CFR 200.112](#) Conflict of Interest and [2 CFR 200.113](#).

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:

Applicants must state in their application if the activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel proposed in this application overlap with those in any other Federal proposal or award or not. If no overlap exists, include a statement to that effect. If any overlap exists, provide:

- Activities: Description any overlapping activities.
- Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.
- Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.

- A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.
- Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

Other Required Information

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

Address to Request Application Package

Application package can be accessed through Grant Solutions (grantsolutions.gov).

Submission Dates and Times

Closing Date for Applications: 07/19/2026

Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM ET, on the listed application due date.

Submission Instructions

Apply Through GrantSolutions

To apply through [GrantSolutions](https://grantsolutions.gov), follow these steps:

1. **Register your organization.** Send an e-mail to help@grantsolutions.gov with:
 - Subject: New Organization Request
 - Entity name (organization or individual applying as a natural person)
 - Entity type
 - SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals)
 - Employer Identification Number (individuals, do not include your SSN)
 - Address
 - Contact details (First and last name, e-mail, phone)This information should be the same as entered on the entity's SAM.gov profile.
2. **Assign system user roles.** Follow the [GrantSolutions "Recipient user" registration instructions](#). Submit a separate Recipient User Account Request form for each official to be assigned a system role. At minimum, the Authorizing Official (ADO) and Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD) must be assigned.
3. **Log in.** GrantSolutions requires users to log in through Login.gov. Each user must create a [Login.gov](https://login.gov) account. For instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).
4. **Find and apply to this Funding Opportunity.** After logging in, click on either the "Begin an application" link (first time applicants) or the "Funding Opportunity" link to go to the "Competing Announcements-Application Kits" list screen. Search the list for this Funding Opportunity's title and number. Click on the associated "Apply" link. Follow the prompts from there. Required applications forms are provided with the Funding Opportunity in GrantSolutions unless otherwise indicated on the Required Forms table above.

5. For detailed instructions, see the [GrantSolutions Training Resources web page](#).
6. **Need help?** Find help topics and contact information on the [GrantSolutions Contact Us page](#).

APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Eligibility Review

During the eligibility review, the application is checked for timely submission, completed packages (see [Application Documents](#) above) and alignment with the requirements of this announcement. The Federal agency may remove an application if it does not pass the eligibility review.

FWS conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The Bureau cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program. FWS will remove an application if it does not include: a completed SF-424 and SF-424A forms, a project narrative, and a budget narrative.

If an applicant selected for funding hasn't finished their SAM.gov registration (see [2 CFR 25.200](#) and [2 CFR 25.110](#)) when the federal agency is ready to make an award, we may decide that the applicant is ineligible for the award and choose to grant it to someone else. Please refer [2 CFR 25.205](#) for more information.

Prior to making an award, the DOI checks the anticipated recipient and their key project personnel against the current list of prohibited or restricted persons or entities in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Exclusions database. We are prohibited from making an award if a recipient or any key personnel are found ineligible, prohibited, restricted, or otherwise excluded from receiving or participating in an award, as their ineligibility condition applies to this program.

If removed from consideration for ineligibility, the Federal agency will notify the applicant in writing.

Merit Review

Two Fish and Wildlife Service staff biologists (one from RBFWO and one from Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge – Sutter Wildlife National Refuge) and at least two biologist or engineer external to the Service will review the applications. Applicants selected for funding may require revision based on internal and/or external review comments. The selection recommendation of the review team (both Federal and external reviewers) will be provided to the RBFWO Project Leader, who is the Selection Official. The Selection Official will make the final award decision. All applicants will be notified of the results of the selection process by the Grants/Agreements Assistant.

Review and Selection Process

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

- figures are correct

- estimated costs are necessary and reasonable and clearly linked to project narratives
- avoid obviously unallowable costs
- identify costs requiring prior approval
- ensure indirect cost rates are applied correctly
- confirm cost sharing requirements are reflected in the budget.

This program reviews applications for potential overlap or duplication between the proposed project and any other funded or proposed project. Depending on the circumstances, DOI may choose to not make an award.

Applicants will be rated on a combination of experience level, proposed technical approach, and budget estimates. To be considered for funding, applications must provide information that shows they meet the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate expertise in hydrology and hydrological modeling.
2. Demonstrate expertise in fish passage engineering
3. Demonstrate expertise in aquatic habitat mapping
4. Experience working on anadromous salmonid restoration projects (minimum of 3) in California streams and rivers,
5. One or more of the applicants and/or sub-recipients must be a qualified geomorphologist with experience (10+ years) designing or modifying salmonid fish passage projects
6. Proposal's clearly state goals, objectives, and methods,
7. Economic efficiency, budget is reasonable and provide good value for funds requested, and
8. Demonstrate ability to provide timely updates to the technical advisory committee (TAC), as well as timely and adequate of completion of grant agreement tasks and reporting.
9. Adhering to Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities.

Evaluation Criterion 1 (15 points): Applicants should describe experience applying hydrologic and hydraulic models to large, low-gradient floodplain systems with managed infrastructure (e.g., weirs, bypasses, levees). Proposals should show the ability to simulate a range of flow conditions, evaluate infrastructure performance, and support design decisions for fish passage and water management objectives.

Evaluation Criterion 2 (15 points): Applicants must demonstrate experience in designing, analyzing, and implementing fish passage facilities in highly variable flow systems. Proposals should show the ability to integrate hydraulic design, fish behavior, and site-specific constraints (e.g., weirs, levees, flood bypass operations) to develop effective and resilient passage solutions. Applicants must demonstrate how designs will function across a wide range of hydrologic conditions and meet the needs of target species.

Evaluation Criterion 3 (10 points): Applicants need to describe their experience leading and navigating environmental compliance and permitting projects involving in-channel or flood-control infrastructure in California. Proposals should show the ability to develop a coordinated compliance strategy addressing applicable State and Federal requirements (e.g., NEPA, CEQA,

Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Section 106, and flood-control encroachment approvals), including early agency coordination, and sequencing of approvals.

Evaluation Criterion 4 (10 points): Applicants need to describe their experience leading or playing a key technical role in at least three (3) anadromous salmonid restoration projects in California streams or rivers. Qualifying projects must involve design, analysis, or implementation of actions intended to improve fish passage, habitat quality, or life-cycle connectivity. Preference will be given to projects involving complex hydraulic conditions, floodplain systems, or infrastructure (e.g., weirs, levees, diversion structures), and to those demonstrating successful integration of engineering, biology, and permitting.

Evaluation Criterion 5 (10 points): Applicants and/or sub-recipients must include a qualified geomorphologist with a minimum of ten (10) years of professional experience in fluvial geomorphology, including demonstrated experience designing or modifying salmonid fish passage projects. The geomorphologist must play a substantive role in project development and design. Proposals must describe the individual's qualifications, relevant project experience, and specific responsibilities related to channel form, sediment transport, and stability of proposed fish passage features under variable flow conditions.

Evaluation Criterion 6 (10 points): Proposals must clearly describe project goals, measurable objectives, and a logical sequence of methods that demonstrate how the proposed work will achieve intended fish passage and hydraulic performance outcomes. Goals should reflect the overall purpose of improving salmonid passage and connectivity in the West Borrow Canal. Methods must describe technical approaches in sufficient detail to demonstrate feasibility, including how hydrologic, hydraulic, geomorphic, biological, and engineering considerations will be integrated throughout design development.

Evaluation Criterion 7 (10 points): Project proposals need to show that the proposed budget is reasonable, justified, and aligned with the scope of work and technical complexity of the project. Applicants must provide sufficient detail to show that costs are realistic for the level of effort required to complete fish passage design in a complex flood bypass environment. Proposals should demonstrate cost-effectiveness through efficient use of resources, avoidance of unnecessary effort, and minimization of redundant efforts.

Evaluation Criterion 8 (5 points): Applicants need to show the ability to effectively manage project communication, coordination, and reporting requirements associated with a multi-agency Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), as well as timely completion of all grant agreement tasks and deliverables. Proposals should describe the applicant's approach to maintaining consistent communication with project partners, providing clear and timely technical updates, and ensuring that project milestones, reporting requirements, and deliverables are completed on schedule.

Evaluation Criterion 9 (10 points): Up to 10 points may be awarded based on the extent that the project demonstrably: advances the Trump Administration's priorities, including E.O. 14154: Unleashing American Energy, justifies alignment with priorities and requirements in E.O. 14332: Improving Oversight in Federal Grantmaking; includes primary project elements that develop, demonstrate, and or implement artificial intelligence (AI) technologies that advance the Trump Administration and Department of Interior's priorities for AI, including OMB M-25-21 Accelerating the Use of AI through Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust; S.O. 3444: Leading Interior's Path to Artificial Intelligence Transformation; aligns with Secretary Burgum's

strategic objectives, including those identified in S.O.s 3417: Addressing the National Energy Emergency, 3418 Unleashing American Energy, 3419 Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis; aligns with goals and objectives in the U.S. Department of the Interior FY 2026-2030 Strategic Plan; and supports water management and enhanced operational flexibility in Reclamation States, with priority given to the Colorado River Basin, which is experiencing long-term drought conditions.

Please address only those priorities that are applicable to your project. **All priorities will be given equal consideration.** A project will not necessarily receive more points simply because multiple priorities are addressed. Points will be allocated based on the degree to which the project supports, advances, or otherwise demonstrates an enhancement of one or more of the priorities identified, and whether the connection to the stated priority (or priorities) is (are) well supported.

Risk Review

Prior to making an award, the applicant will be assessed for their level of risk per [2 CFR 200.206](#). This assessment includes the applicant's financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past award performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential for challenges. If an award will be made, special conditions may be applied to the award corresponding to the assessed risk. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$350,000), a review of the applicant's eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records will also be performed per [2 CFR 200.206](#).

Will be completed by program.

AWARD NOTICES

Notices of Federal Award are sent electronically via GrantSolutions or e-mail. These notices outline the terms, conditions, and payment instructions per [2 CFR 200.211](#). The Notice of Federal Award signed by an authorized Grants Officer is the legal instrument obligating financial assistance to a recipient. Any other prior notice is not an authorization to begin work. If the program allows pre-award costs per [2 CFR 200.458](#), beginning performance before receiving a Notice of Federal Award is at the applicant's own risk.

Anticipated Project Start Date: 08/01/2026

Anticipated Project End Date: 12/31/2027

Application reviews will take place following the close of the NOFO and occur over a period of approximately 2 weeks. Federal Project Officer will email unsuccessful applicants via email and/or phone. The successful applicant will be notified via email and/or phone and will work with the Federal Project Officer to provide any additional documents needed to complete the award.

POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Administration and National Policy Requirements

For award administration and national policy requirements, see the [DOI General Terms and Conditions](#). Infrastructure projects require the use of American iron, steel, manufacture products, and construction materials per [2 CFR 184](#).

See the [FWS General Award Terms and Conditions](#) for national policy requirements for FWS awards. Special terms and conditions will be detailed in award notices.

Reporting

The recipient's Notice of Award will detail all reporting requirements, including frequency, due dates, and instructions for requesting extensions. In general, but not limited to, recipients must:

- Submit Federal Financial reports and Program Performance reports.
- Use the [Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\) form](#) for financial reporting,
- Monitor award activities and report on program performance per [2 CFR 200.329](#),
- Promptly notify the awarding program in writing of any issues, delays, or conditions impairing award objectives per [2 CFR 200.329\(e\)](#),
- Disclose any conflicts of interest related to their award that arise during the award period per [2 CFR 1402.112](#),
- Report on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest per [2 CFR 200.330](#), and
- Report all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award per [2 CFR 200.113](#).
- Report any matters related to recipient integrity and performance to SAM.gov per [Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200](#).
- If the Federal share of the award is more than \$100,000 and the recipient makes or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection to the award, disclose those activities using the Disclosure of Lobbying (SF-LLL) form per [43 CFR 18.100](#).
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) and 2 CFR 170 requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation, and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts and consortiums equal to or over \$30,000 to SAM.gov.

Other Information