

SUGGESTED
PROPOSITION 204
APPLICATION CRITERIA AND OBJECTIVES
FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

1. Qualified Activities.

1.1. All projects must have defined beneficial objective(s). Beneficial objectives for the purposes of funding under this program are those delineated below:

- 1.1.1. Improved water quality
- 1.1.2. Reduced wild land fire hazard, through fuels reduction projects, as well as other innovative methods
- 1.1.3. Improved riparian habitat along streams
- 1.1.4. Reduced erosion
- 1.1.5. Reduced sediment loads in streams
- 1.1.6. Increased water yield
- 1.1.7. Time-shifting of accretion and runoff from spring to summer months, through non-structural methods
- 1.1.8. Increased or improved fisheries habitat
- 1.1.9. Restoration of meadows
- 1.1.10. Restoration of stream banks
- 1.1.11. Lower summer water temperatures in streams (not due to releases from manmade impoundments)
- 1.1.12. Reduced pollutant loads in streams, lakes and reservoirs
- 1.1.13. Restoration of natural stream morphology
- 1.1.14. Restoration of meadow ground water tables

2. Emphasis for funding is being placed on restoring watersheds from the top of the watershed downstream. Program funding may include planning activities contained within a multi-year funding proposal. However, the planning component of the proposed program should not exceed 35% of the total amount of the proposal. Projects will be selected based upon individual merit. Proposals will not be limited to "target watersheds" as previously utilized by the SWRCB for funding consideration for Clean Water Act section 205 (j) AND 319 (h) programs.

3. Excluded Activities

- 3.1. Projects undertaken pursuant to a NPDES permit requirement are not eligible. Underground tank cleanup projects are not eligible. Research projects are not eligible. Projects used for planning or assessment to purchase real estate, easements or to conduct activities required by a NPDES permit are not eligible. Projects which include activities which are conditions of land use permit requirements, commercial timber harvest activity conditions, or transportation construction related conditioned activities are ineligible.
- 3.2. Planning programs are only eligible for funding if they are included as a component of a program within a multi-year funding proposal. However, the planning component of the proposed program should not exceed 35% of the total amount of the proposal.
- 3.3. Programs which do not include a public participation element, a monitoring element, or a reporting element are not eligible.

4. Selection Process

- 4.1. This is the first year that the watershed funding portion of Proposition 204 monies are available. The intention of this program is to rehabilitate and manage watersheds, from the top down, in a comprehensive manner. This rehabilitation and management effort should include a broad range of potential benefits as identified in sections 1.1.1 through 1.1.14 inclusive.
- 4.2. The Resources Agency will provide written comments on all applications submitted for review by the SWRCB. Applicants are encouraged to contact both the staff of the SWRCB, the Regional WQCB, CALFED staff and the staff of the Resources Agency regarding the potential applicability of their program.
- 4.3. Selection will include evaluation of the coordination of the proposed project to other land management and resource agency activities in the watershed. Applicants are encouraged

to include an inter-agency coordination element in their overall program design.

5. Selection Process Steps

5.1. Project proponents are strongly advised to contact the respective staffs of the following agencies (depending upon land use management jurisdiction) as soon as possible and prior to submitting an application. In the case of land management agencies initial contact should be at the local management unit level.

5.1.1. California Resources Agency

5.1.2. State Water Resources Control Board

5.1.3. Regional Water Quality Control Board

5.1.4. CALFED

5.1.5. United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service

5.1.6. United States Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management

5.1.7. Local County Government

5.2. Project applicants submit grant applications to the SWRCB. Applications will be circulated to appropriate agencies for comments by SWRCB.

5.3. The California Resources Agency will review applications and provide written findings to the SWRCB.

5.4. Based upon compliance with sections 1.1.1 through 1.1.14 of this document and comments from reviewing agencies, SWRCB staff will recommend a project eligibility for funding priority list to the SWRCB.

5.5. The SWRCB will consider the recommendations of staff, as well as the comments received from reviewing agencies and then prepares a list of projects selected for funding. The SWRCB list will include the amount funded for each successful applicant as well as the period (one or more years) of funding.

6. Selection Criteria

6.1. The criteria used in the project/program selection process may include, but not be limited to the following:

6.1.1. Those items as identified in sections 1.1.1 through 1.1.14.

6.1.2. The expressed support for the project from local land management agencies.

6.1.3. The relative effectiveness of the proposal to achieve criteria identified in sections 1.1.1 through 1.1.14.

6.1.4. The inclusion in the proposal of a local public participation process. Particular attention will be given to the scope and duration of the process.

6.1.5. The inclusion in the proposal of an ongoing monitoring program. Particular attention will be given to the monitoring program components as directly related to applicable sections 1.1.1 through 1.1.14.

6.1.6. The inclusion in the proposal of a reporting program. Particular attention will be given to a reporting program which includes peer review and incorporation of coordinating agency comments.

6.1.7. Assurances that the program/project will be effectively implemented and will contribute to long-term watershed restoration objectives.

6.1.8. Compatibility with applicable local land use or local resource management plans for the subject area.

6.1.9. The active involvement in the application process and support of the program by the local County Board(s) of Supervisors.

END