

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

PROPOSITION 68 GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

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Section 1. Introduction

1.0. *Preamble.* The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) is codified as Division 45 (commencing with Section 80000) and Sections 5096.611 and 75089.5 of the Public Resources Code and Section 79772.5 of the Water Code. Proposition 68 authorizes \$4 billion in general obligation bonds to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's ("Conservancy") Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines ("Guidelines") specifically pertain to grants funded by Proposition 68 and administered by the Conservancy.

Section 80001. (b) It is the intent of the people of California that all of the following shall occur in the implementation of this division:

- (1) The investment of public funds pursuant to this division will result in public benefits that address the most critical statewide needs and priorities for public funding.
- (2) In the appropriation and expenditure of funding authorized by this division, priority will be given to projects that leverage private, federal, or local funding or produce the greatest public benefit.
- (3) To the extent practicable, a project that receives moneys pursuant to this division will include signage informing the public that the project received funds from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018.
- (4) To the extent practicable, when developing program guidelines for urban recreation projects and habitat protection or restoration projects, administering entities are encouraged to give favorable consideration to projects that provide urban recreation and protect or restore natural resources. Additionally, the entities may pool funding for these projects.
- (5) To the extent practicable, a project that receives moneys pursuant to this division will provide workforce education and training, contractor, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities.
- (6) To the extent practicable, priority for funding pursuant to this division will be given to local parks projects that have obtained all required permits and entitlements and a commitment of matching funds, if required.

(7) To the extent practicable, administering entities should measure or require measurement of greenhouse gas emissions reductions and carbon sequestrations associated with projects that receive moneys pursuant to this division.

Chapter 7 of Proposition 68, entitled “California River Recreation, Creek and Waterway Improvements Program,” allocates one hundred sixty-two million dollars (\$162,000,000) for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek. Thirty-seven million, five hundred thousand dollars (\$37,500,000) of the funds available in Chapter 7 is allocated to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) of the funds allocated to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in Chapter 7 shall be available for projects within the San Fernando Valley that protect or enhance the Los Angeles River watershed and its tributaries or headwaters, pursuant to Division 23 (commencing with Section 33000) of the Public Resources Code.

Chapter 8 of Proposition 68, entitled “State Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Authority Funding,” allocates one hundred eighty million dollars (\$180,000,000) to state conservancies for projects according to their governing statutes for their specified purposes. Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) of the funds available in Chapter 8 is allocated to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

1.1. *Presidential Memorandum.* In addition to the purposes defined in Proposition 68, to the extent practicable, as identified in the [Presidential Memorandum--Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Our National Parks, National Forests, and Other Public Lands and Waters](#), dated January 12, 2017, the public agencies that receive funds pursuant to this division will consider a range of actions that include, but are not limited to, the following:

Conducting active outreach to diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations and tribal communities, to increase awareness within those communities and the public generally about specific programs and opportunities.

Mentoring new environmental, outdoor recreation, and conservation leaders to increase diverse representation across these areas.

Creating new partnerships with state, local, tribal, private, and nonprofit organizations to expand access for diverse populations.

Identifying and implementing improvements to existing programs to increase visitation and access by diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations and tribal communities.

Expanding the use of multilingual and culturally appropriate materials in public communications and educational strategies, including through social media strategies, as appropriate, that target diverse populations.

Developing or expanding coordinated efforts to promote youth engagement and empowerment, including fostering new partnerships with diversity-serving and youth-serving organizations, urban areas, and programs.

Identifying possible staff liaisons to diverse populations.

1.2. *Purpose.* These guidelines advise grant applicants with respect to the requirements and expectations of Proposition 68 funds granted by the Conservancy. For administrative and procedural guidance, grant applicants should review the Conservancy's Grant Administration Manual.

1.3. *Definitions.* For purposes of these Guidelines, the following definitions shall apply:

Community access: engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education, or recreational amenities.

Community Conservation Corps: means a nonprofit public benefit corporation formed or operating pursuant to Part 2 (commencing with Section 5110) of Division 2 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code, or an agency operated by a city, county, or city and county, that is certified by the California Conservation Corps as meeting all of criteria identified in Section 14507.5 of the Public Resources Code.

Conservation actions on private lands: projects with willing landowners that involve the adaptive flexible management or protection of natural resources in response to changing conditions and threats to habitat and wildlife. The actions may include the acquisition of conservation interests or fee interests in the land. These projects result in habitat conditions on private lands that, when managed dynamically over time, contribute to the long-term health and resiliency of vital ecosystems and enhance wildlife populations.

Disadvantaged community: a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average.

Feasible: Possible to do easily or conveniently.

Interpretation: includes, but is not limited to, a visitor-serving amenity that enhances the ability to understand and appreciate the significance and value of natural, historical, and cultural resources and that may utilize educational materials in multiple languages, digital information, and the expertise of a naturalist or other skilled specialist.

Preservation: rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration, conservation, development, and reconstruction, or any combination of those activities.

Protection: those actions necessary to prevent harm or damage to persons, property, or natural, cultural, and historic resources, actions to improve access to public open-space areas, or actions to allow the continued use and enjoyment of property or natural, cultural, and historic resources, and includes site monitoring, acquisition, development, restoration, preservation, and interpretation.

Potential: Capable of becoming real, and plausible given regulatory, financial and physical conditions.

Promote: To give publicity to so as to increase public awareness.

Restoration: The improvement of physical structures or facilities and, in the case of natural systems and landscape features, includes, but is not limited to, projects for the control of erosion, stormwater capture and storage or to otherwise reduce stormwater pollution, the control and elimination of invasive species, the planting of native species, the removal of waste and debris, prescribed burning, fuel hazard reduction, fencing out threats to existing or restored natural resources, road elimination, improving instream, riparian, or managed wetland habitat conditions, and other plant and wildlife habitat improvement to increase the natural system value of the property or coastal or ocean resource. Restoration also includes activities described in subdivision (b) of Section 79737 of the Water Code. Restoration projects shall include the planning, monitoring, and reporting necessary to ensure successful implementation of the project objectives.

Severely disadvantaged community: A community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average.

Watershed Health: A condition achieved when a watershed's ecological systems are properly functioning, and the watershed is resilient to, and recovers rapidly from, risks such as wildfire, climate change impacts, and loss of biological integrity.

Section 2. Eligibility and Priorities

2.0. *Eligible Grantees.* Applicants eligible to apply for Proposition 68 grant funding from the Conservancy include public agencies such as districts, joint powers authorities, cities, and counties, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian tribes, and state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List.

2.1. *General Eligibility Requirements.* To be eligible for Proposition 68 grant funding, all projects must:

- Meet the required application and project selection criteria detailed in the subsequent sections;
- Be within the [Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone](#);
- Comply with the [Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Work Program](#);
- Comply with the [Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan](#);
- Comply with [San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan](#);
- Meet one or more of the purposes of Proposition 68;
- Comply with the objectives and priorities of the Conservancy identified in section 2.2;
- Contribute to the State’s goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent the Conservancy’s Climate Change Policy and Program; and
- Comply with the General Obligation Bond Law, commencing with Government Code Section 16720.

2.2. *Strategic Objectives.* The Conservancy's [strategic objectives](#) continue to be guided by the goal of an interlinking network of parks, trails, and open space for public use and wildlife habitat, ensuring future open space and recreational lands in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The goals and objectives were initially set in the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan and the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Master Plan. They have been updated through a strategic planning process which included substantial public input. Updated work programs, developed with many public hearings throughout the region, provide additional guidance for implementation. The Conservancy’s strategic objectives include:

Implement the Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Plan

- Complete fee and less than fee acquisition program
- Cooperate with National Park Service (NPS) and State Parks in implementing the Joint Efficiencies MOU
- Cooperate with NPS management plan for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) and Santa Monica Mountains Zones
- Continue to maximize acquisition dollars by leveraging funds where appropriate

Implement the Rim of the Valley Trails Corridor Master Plan

- Complete land acquisition recommendations of the Plan
- Complete trails and trail amenities recommended by the Plan
- Cooperate with private sector in providing recreational opportunities
- Continue to maximize acquisition dollars by leveraging funds where appropriate

Implement the Los Angeles County River Master Plan

- Create fifty-one miles of continuous river parkway and greenbelt
- Develop recreation, park, trail and habitat restoration opportunities
- Increase community involvement
- Cooperate with local government and nonprofit partners and maximize acquisition dollars by leveraging funds where appropriate

Implement the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers Watershed and Open Space Plan

- Restore balance between natural and human systems in the watersheds
- Land: Create, expand, and improve public open space and recreation for all communities, connect open space with a network of trails
- Water: Maintain and improve flood protection, establish riverfront greenways to cleanse water, improve quality of surface water and ground water
- Planning: Coordinate watershed planning across jurisdictions and boundaries, encourage multi-objective planning and projects, use science as a basis for planning

Further Cooperation with Local Governments in the Region to Secure Open Space and Parkland

- Strengthen partnership agreements with local governments and establish new joint powers entities throughout the region where appropriate
- Ensure that Conservancy land acquisition expertise is made available where needed
- Reduce state work load by utilizing local agency agreements and state and local partnerships wherever possible
- Develop comprehensive plan for areas not covered by initial Conservancy Comprehensive Plan and incorporate and link those areas to protect species and ecosystems

Expand Efforts to Integrate Nature into the Urban Environment

- Acquire or create parkland in urban areas that lack open space or natural parks
- Link and integrate new natural parks into existing park system—literally via transportation and physical linkages, thematically via programs and events
- Develop joint powers authorities with local government entities and urban interests
- Maximize funding opportunities through partnerships

Expand Education, Public Access, and Resource Stewardship Components in a Manner That Best Serves the Public, Protects Habitat, and Provides Recreational Opportunities

- Expand local government, school district, and nonprofit ventures to provide increased educational and access opportunities
- Link key habitat areas strategically to protect species and ecosystems through acquisition and cooperation with other resource management agencies
- Increase resource stewardship and educational/interpretative capabilities within the Zone
- Create comprehensive, regional, and integrated trails plan
- Develop long term capital improvement and maintenance plans

2.3. *Common Ground.* All projects must be consistent with the [San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watershed and Open Space Plan](#) (Common Ground Plan) as adopted by the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Accordingly, eligible projects must be compliant with one or more of the following guiding principles of Common Ground:

Land: Grow a Greener Southern California

- Create, Expand, and Improve Public Open Space Throughout the Region
- Improve Access to Open Space and Recreation for All Communities
- Improve Habitat Quality, Quantity, and Connectivity
- Connect Open Space with a Network of Trails
- Promote Stewardship of the Landscape
- Encourage Sustainable Growth to Balance Environmental, Social, and Economic Benefits

Water: Enhance Waters and Waterways

- Maintain and Improve Flood Protection
- Establish Riverfront Greenways to Cleanse Water, Hold Floodwaters and Extend Open Space
- Improve Quality of Surface Water and Groundwater
- Improve Flood Safety Through Restoration of River and Creek Ecosystems
- Optimize Water Resources to Reduce Dependence on Imported Water

Planning: Plan Together to Make it Happen

- Coordinate Watershed Planning Across Jurisdictions and Boundaries
- Encourage Multi-Objective Planning and Projects
- Use Science as a Basis for Planning
- Involve the Public Through Education and Outreach Programs
- Utilize the Plan in an On-Going Management Process

2.4. *Disadvantaged Community Investment and Co-Benefits.* The Conservancy will allocate at least 20 percent of the funds available for projects serving severely disadvantaged communities, pursuant to section 8008(a)(1) of Proposition 68. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide information regarding this qualification.

People who live in disadvantaged communities face health disparities due to poor air quality, exposure to harmful pollution, and lack of public amenities and services. The Conservancy is committed to immediate investment in such areas to mitigate the disproportionate negative impacts felt in low-income and highly polluted areas. In addition to the required investment in defined disadvantaged communities, applicants are encouraged to submit projects that are identified as high or very high need in the Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment or are located in or adjacent to a disadvantaged community as defined by [CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool](#).

Applicants are also encouraged to describe non-climate related co-benefits, such as job creation, youth employment and job training, recreation, public health benefits, or programs

that engage local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation, particularly as it relates to long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.

2.5. *Climate Change*. Concurrently with these efforts, the State is tackling the unprecedented set of challenges posed by climate change. The task is large but not insurmountable; the State has taken a leadership role with the passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32), Executive Order B-30-15, Safeguarding California – California’s Climate Adaptation Strategy (Safeguarding California), the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan) and the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP). **The Conservancy’s Guidelines and project scoring criteria are designed to fund projects that help achieve the State’s foremost goals of outdoor access and reaching the State’s greenhouse gas reduction targets in compliance with these guiding documents.**

Natural resource protection is identified as a critical component of the State’s ability to adapt to climate change and growing population demands, as well as meet its short and long-term greenhouse gas reduction goals as articulated in the [Global Climate Change Solutions Act of 2006 \(AB 32\)](#). AB 32 declares global warming a serious threat to the environment of California and requires California to reduce its total greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels to 1990 levels by 2020. With the passage of the AB 32, the State of California demonstrated early leadership in the challenging task of tackling global climate change.

[Executive Order B-30-15](#) (April 2015) established a new interim statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 is established in order to ensure California meets its target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 and provided directions to State agencies including:

State agencies shall take climate change into account in their planning and investment decisions, and employ full life-cycle cost accounting to evaluate and compare infrastructure investments and alternatives.

State agencies' planning and investment shall be guided by the following principles:

Priority should be given to actions that both build climate preparedness and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

Where possible, flexible and adaptive approaches should be taken to prepare for uncertain climate impacts;

Actions should protect the state's most vulnerable populations; and

Natural infrastructure solutions should be prioritized.

In addition to climate change mitigation and water conservation, the Governor's Executive Order B-30-15 specifically directs the California Natural Resources Agency to update and implement the State's Climate Adaptation Plan, [Safeguarding California](#), which highlights many of the cross-sectoral opportunities and benefits of reducing climate risks through natural resource protection. The update to Safeguarding is focused on six Comprehensive State Adaptation Strategies:

Consider climate change in all core functions of government.

Partner with California's most vulnerable populations to increase equity and resilience through investments, planning, research, and education.

Support continued climate research and data tools.

Identify significant and sustainable funding sources for investments that reduce climate risks, harm to people, and disaster spending.

Prioritize natural infrastructure solutions, actions that both build climate preparedness and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and projects that produce multiple benefits.

Promote collaborative adaptation processes with local and regional government partners.

Investment in natural resource preservation in the near term will accomplish many of the goals discussed in *Safeguarding California*. Protected open spaces contribute to the emergency management readiness of the state by acting as buffers for storm, flood, and fire impacts to developed communities. *Safeguarding California* also emphasizes the need to support climate research and data tools to inform policy and risk reduction activities, and prioritize climate risk communication, education, and outreach.

As the Air Resources Board's [California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan](#) emphasizes, climate change can be a great unifier. It gives us the opportunity to focus on doing more with less; to work across programmatic, policy and political boundaries; and to figure out ways to achieve various goals more quickly and more effectively. The Scoping Plan identifies the Natural and Working Lands (NWL) sector as a key contributor to achieving the state's 2030 GHG emission reduction goals through carbon sequestration and avoidance, and specifically targets a reduction of 15-20 million metric tons by 2030. The Scoping plan identifies the following framework for policy and programs related to land protection, carbon sequestration and innovative biomass utilization:

Protect land from conversion to more intensified uses by increasing conservation opportunities and pursuing local planning processes, and urban and infrastructure development patterns that avoid greenfield development. The latter is being done in coordination with transportation and infrastructure climate policy, as described in prior sections of this Proposed Plan.

Enhance the resilience of and potential for carbon sequestration on those lands through management and restoration, and reduce GHG and black carbon emissions from wildfire and management activities. This includes expansion and management of green space in urban areas.

Innovate biomass utilization such that harvested wood and excess agricultural and forest biomass can be used to advance statewide objectives for renewable energy and fuels, wood product manufacturing, agricultural markets, and soil health, resulting in avoided GHG emissions relative to traditional utilization pathways. Associated activities should increase the resilience of rural communities and economies.

The Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) developed the [Planning and Investing for a Resilient California: A Guidebook for State Agencies](#) prepared by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to provide state agencies with guidance on how to integrate climate change into planning and investment with the following strategies:

Identify how climate change could affect a project or plan by identifying impacts or concern and assessing the scale, scope and context of climate disruption.

Conduct an analysis of climate risks by selecting climate change scenarios for analysis and selecting an analytical approach.

Make a climate-informed decision by evaluating alternative or designs and applying resilient decision principles.

Track and monitor progress by evaluating and adjusting metrics.

These mandates, along with other policies and plans, require that the Conservancy fund projects which synergistically address climate change, while addressing the needs of California's most vulnerable populations and natural resources.

Natural spaces become long-term venues for on-going research, data collection, and monitoring of current and future climate conditions, while protecting precious biodiversity and public amenities. Urban green spaces decrease electricity consumption by reducing the heat island effect, sequester carbon, conserve water, and encourage non-motorized transportation. In addition, parks and open spaces improve public health and boost the resilience of communities by providing respite from urban environments, enhancing air and water quality, and promoting low-cost recreation for communities of all socio-economic levels.

The natural resources sector presents tremendous opportunities, because investment in open space and urban greening can yield outdoor access, water quality and quantity benefits, while

mitigating climate change and achieving co-benefits such as job creation, investment in disadvantaged communities, and improving public health and recreation opportunities.

In February 2015, the Conservancy adopted a Climate Change Policy and Program to guide the Conservancy in implementing the State's Climate change goals. The Conservancy will award projects in accordance with the Conservancy's Climate Change Policy and Program which will be updated regularly. The Conservancy prioritizes these projects that produce multiple benefits; capturing these efficiencies allows the Conservancy to leverage Proposition 68 funding to its fullest extent.

Section 3. Eligible Project Categories

3.0. *Eligible Project Categories.* The Guidelines identify general project categories that may be eligible for funding. All eligible projects must meet the eligibility requirements in order to be considered for funding. Applicants are encouraged to work with Conservancy staff if a project does not fall within one of these categories, to determine if it may be otherwise eligible.

3.1. *Resource Protection and Restoration Projects.* Projects which facilitate the protection and restoration of wildlife, habitat, and historical/archaeological resources, including habitat restoration projects in urban or rural areas.

3.2. *Vegetation Management and Fire Safety Projects.* Projects which facilitate fire safety and any required or recommended fuel modification zones.

3.3 *Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects.* Projects which provide for enhanced visitation, urban accessibility and safety to open space, parks and greenspace (including signage, restrooms, parking, trail building or repairs, etc . . .). This includes new projects to implement statutory requirements to provide better accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

3.4. *Community Access, Education and Interpretation Projects.* Projects which are required to achieve or expand the outreach mission of the Conservancy, and provide interpretive programs and materials to substantially enhance knowledge, appreciation, and enjoyment of the natural environment, open space, parklands and rivers. There is no minimum grant size but the maximum grant award is \$100,000. If funding is available, the Conservancy will award these grants every year. Project examples include:

Natural Science and/or Education programs

Educational programs that provide access and education to low-income students to develop critical thinking skills and to inspire natural resource stewardship. The curriculum may feed into workforce development.

A training program or similar that focuses on developing, organizing and advocacy skills, civic engagement, and local community action regarding natural resources.

Training that focuses on environmental justice, air quality, water quality testing and monitoring, rivers and streams, outdoor exploration, field trips, advocacy training, and exposure to outdoor careers.

Water-focused education and training and trips throughout California to allow students to explore and learn about California's sources of water and meet with elected leaders, utility staff, and tribal leaders to develop a sense of water stewardship.

Training that focuses on how Los Angeles accesses water to be provided in multiple languages.

Transportation

Trips that provide an introduction to nature, physical exercise and healthy lifestyles through mountain bike rides in public open spaces.

Programs that provide bus transportation and a naturalist to facilitate a trip and provide resources interpretation to visitors who do not have the ability to visit a park.

Shuttle service to provide access to the trails.

Workforce/ Career pathways

Youth leadership programs that provide training that leads directly to job opportunities in the parks through both community organizations and partner park agencies.

Programs that provide job training and employment pathways for young adults and connects youth with park-based job training and employment. Graduates of this program may use the skills and experience gained to launch academic and professional careers in outdoor education and land management.

Physical activity

Programs that provides ongoing outdoor recreation, education and environmental stewardship programs on public land at no cost to disadvantaged youth.

Interpretation

Language services to allow access and provide multi-lingual and multi-ability signage at trailheads and on trails.

Section 4. Grant Application Process

4.0. *Grant Cycle.* The Conservancy operates on a 3-month (quarterly) grant cycle. Final due dates for each round are February 28th, May 31st, August 31st, and November 30th. Grants will be recommended to the Board by the end of each quarter. The Conservancy accepts grant applications at any time within the grant cycle, but may not award grant funds for an application unless the Conservancy has been appropriated with sufficient unencumbered grant funds for the application in question. The Conservancy does not anticipate funding for a particular fiscal year and will proceed with consideration of grant applications only after the Governor has signed the budget for the fiscal year in question. The Legislature appropriates funds from bond acts on an annual basis; a legislative appropriation for projects is generally valid for a five-year period.

4.1. *Technical Assistance.* Pursuant to Section 8008(b)(1) of Proposition 68, up to 10 percent of the funds may be allocated for technical assistance to disadvantaged communities. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Technical Assistance Program (TAP) supports local communities with direct application assistance with the goal of facilitating access to the Conservancy's funding programs. TAP creates a more equitable playing field by helping under-resourced applicants access Conservancy funds.

TAP program goals include:

Direct Assistance - Increase the number of successful applications from disadvantaged and low-income communities to Conservancy programs by providing direct assistance in preparing applications and quantifying greenhouse gas reductions.

Integrating Conservancy Programs - Align technical assistance efforts to facilitate an understanding of the full suite of programs available under the Conservancy umbrella, and provide the services necessary to create multi-faceted projects that integrate more than one Conservancy program.

The TAP program will be available annually, and will include outreach and programs to provide application assistance to eligible applicants, enabling them to positively impact their communities.

4.2. *Submission of Application.* As the initial, formal step in the Conservancy grant application process, the applicant shall submit an original and one copy of a fully completed grant application form to:

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265

In lieu of hard copies, applications may be submitted via electronic mail in PDF format addressed to grants@smmc.ca.gov, provided that a fully executed original is mailed or delivered to the above address.

All applicants must have a contact e-mail address that is regularly monitored. Primary communication regarding the status of an application will be via electronic mail. If an applicant does not have any access to email or is unable to use email due to a disability, the applicant should notify the Conservancy in order to develop an alternative communication protocol.

4.3. *Contents of Application.* The grant application must include the following:

- 1) A completed grant application form;
- 2) A completed grantee data form;
- 3) A completed payee data record (STD. 204);
- 4) A detailed scope of work, including a list of specific tasks, a detailed budget, and a timeline for project implementation (including a completion date for each task);
- 5) Any preliminary project plans as required;
- 6) A detailed description of the need and urgency for the grant;
- 7) A detailed description of how the project will provide multi-benefit ecosystem, water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and public benefits;
- 8) A detailed description of how the project achieves one or more of the purposes of Proposition 68.
- 9) A detailed description of how the project helps meet the State's greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets, including a quantification of the metric tons of CO₂ or CO₂e removed or avoided, and an explanation of the methodology used to quantify this figure;
- 10) A detailed description of how the project promote and implements other relevant regional and state plans and policies;
- 11) Indicate whether the project will have matching funds from private, local, or federal sources, and if so, to what extent;
- 12) Indicate whether the project will benefit a disadvantaged community;
- 13) Indicate whether the project will use the services of local or state conservation corps;

- 14) A detailed description of any new or innovative technology or practices that will be applied to the project; and
- 15) A detailed method for monitoring and reporting on the progress and effectiveness of the project during and after project implementation.
- 16) A description of how project is consistent with the Common Ground Plan.
- 17) A description of how the scope of work will further the Conservancy's strategic objectives.
- 18) A description of how scope of work will protect or enhance and urban creek (if applicable).

4.4. *California Conservation Corps.* Section 80016 of the Public Resources Code States that, to the extent feasible, a project whose application includes the use of services of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) or certified community conservation corps, as defined in Section 14507.5, shall be given preference for receipt of a grant under this division." The Conservancy encourages the use of Conservation corps whenever feasible when implementing restoration and ecosystem protection projects. To receive maximum additional points and preference, applicants should consult with the CCC and may use the Conservancy's proposition 1 process to engage CCC consultation on the Conservancy's website or the CCC's [website](#). This information will be available on the Conservancy's website and can be updated upon CCC's request.

4.5. *Review and Evaluation.* For those grant applications that are deemed complete after the initial review, legal review, policy review, and review of all application materials, the grant applications will then be evaluated and scored by professionals in the fields relevant to the proposed projects. Additional reviewers may be required if there is a large discrepancy in the individual scores of the proposed project. The final score of each grant application will be the average of the individual scores given by each reviewer to the grant application.

Section 5. Application Evaluation

5.0. *Application Review.* Conservancy staff will evaluate the applications based on the project's relative significance and how well it meets the Selection Criteria stated below. Applicants may be contacted to provide additional information during the review process. Conservancy staff may seek assistance in evaluating the proposals from individuals and/or technical experts with pertinent expertise from other governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and other entities.

5.1. *Resource Protection and Restoration Projects.* Projects which facilitate the protection and restoration of wildlife, habitat, and historical/archaeological resources, including habitat restoration projects in urban or rural areas.

Summary Resource Protection and Restoration Rating		Rating
Prioritization Value		15-18*
Category Value		100-126
Implementation Value		16
Climate Change Value		15
Additional Consideration		25
Total Resource Protection and Restoration Rating		171-200*
Matching Funds Weighting		
	Score to be weighted proportionally to the amount of secured cash match, up to 200% or double.	
Minimum Score Required for Consideration		119-140*
*	Only as Applicable	

Detailed rating qualifications are available in the appendix.

5.2. *Vegetation Management and Fire Safety Projects.* Projects which facilitate fire safety and any required or recommended fuel modification zones.

Summary Vegetation Management Rating		Rating
Prioritization Value		9-12
Category Value		35
Implementation Value		15
Climate Change Value		13
Additional Consideration		15
Total Vegetation Management Rating		87-90*
Matching Funds Weighting		
	Score to be weighted proportionally to the amount of secured cash match, up to 200% or double.	
Minimum Score Required for Consideration		60-63*
*	Only as Applicable	

Detailed rating qualifications are available in the appendix.

5.3 *Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects.* Projects which provide for enhanced visitation, urban accessibility and safety to open space, parks and greenspace (including signage, restrooms, parking, trail building or repairs, etc . . .). This includes new projects to implement statutory requirements to provide better accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Summary Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects Rating		Rating
Prioritization Value		15-21*
Category Value		46-70*
Implementation Value		16
Climate Change Value		13
Additional Consideration		25
Total Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects Rating		115-145*
Matching Funds Weighting		
Score to be weighted proportionally to the amount of secured cash match, up to 200% or double.		
Minimum Score Required for Consideration		80-101*
* Only as Applicable		

Detailed rating qualifications are available in the appendix.

5.4. *Community Access, Education and Interpretation Projects.* Projects which are required to achieve or expand the outreach mission of the Conservancy, and provide interpretive programs and materials to substantially enhance knowledge, appreciation, and enjoyment of the natural environment, open space, parklands and rivers.

In addition to the ratings below, projects will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Achieve one or more of the identified community access priorities;
- Fills a documented and clearly defined need;
- Project description is clear and concise;
- All other project funding is available; and
- Project is ready to proceed in a timely manner.

Summary Community Access, Education and Interpretation Projects Rating		Rating
Prioritization Value		12-15*
Category Value		39
Implementation Value		12
Climate Change Value		2
Additional Consideration		20
Total Community Access, Education and Interpretation Projects Rating		74-77
Matching Funds Weighting		
Score to be weighted proportionally to the amount of secured cash match, up to 200% or double.		

Minimum Score Required for Consideration		51-53*
*	Only as Applicable	

Detailed rating qualifications are available in the appendix.

5.5. *Climate Change Value.* Projects that conserve water and produce verifiable and quantifiable greenhouse gas reductions not only help achieve the state’s foremost goals, but will deliver tangible co-benefits to the communities in which the projects are built are eligible for additional consideration. As described in Section 2.5, the Conservancy is to consider climate change when evaluating projects in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the impacts of climate change on the state’s natural resources. Therefore, all project applicants are required to demonstrate if and how their project yields measurable greenhouse gas reductions.

The principal goal of this Section is to ensure that the Conservancy funds the development and implementation of projects that lead to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) in a manner consistent with the State Planning Priorities, AB 32, and other state and local Plans. It is meant to support strategic investment in natural resources projects that help cities address sprawl, incentivize urban infill, and create livable, walkable, healthy communities.

A non-exhaustive list of projects that demonstrate a quantifiable impact on greenhouse gas emissions can be found below. Projects should present innovative activities that reduce GHG emissions, and that are capable of replication in other project sites. Project applicants are encouraged to bring additional project ideas to Conservancy staff.

- Strategic acquisitions to avoid conversion of open space and limit sprawl, reducing the impacts of development and vehicle miles travelled;
- Urban park or greenway projects with a water focus that are co-located with other public amenities to promote infill development by providing open space and public recreation;
- Multiple benefit projects that incorporate green infrastructure or water recycling and filtration techniques to produce verifiable water and energy savings;
- Projects that protect, enhance, or restore water resources including wetlands and urban riparian areas;
- Projects that enhance above and below ground carbon storage through planting trees and other vegetation;
- Projects that mitigate heat island effect and improve air quality through tree planting in urban areas dominated by hardscape;
- Project components that demonstrate a reduction in baseline greenhouse gas emissions through other innovative techniques or project designs, such as diverting organic material from landfills, or installing renewable energy technology at a project site.

Applicants may include the cost of implementing such technologies or techniques in their grant applications. This requirement applies to all projects receiving funding pursuant to these Guidelines.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate greenhouse gas emission reductions that are real, permanent, quantifiable, verifiable, and enforceable. Quantification of greenhouse gas reductions must be done according to the best economic and scientific information available at the time of estimation. Applicants have the burden of measuring and demonstrating emissions reductions, however the Conservancy may assist applicants in selecting tools or methodologies for evaluating carbon benefits. In reviewing a project's climate change impact, the Conservancy may rely on the Air Resources Board or other qualified professional.

Section 6. Additional Information

6.0. *Ongoing Monitoring.* If selected, Grantees may be required to re-evaluate or update quantification metrics as the project reaches various milestones and/or as additional information or technology becomes available. If, during this process, a project is not successful in meeting its greenhouse gas reduction targets, the Conservancy reserves the right to work with Grantees to modify the project, if such modifications are within the scope of the Grant Agreement. If the Grantee is unable or unwilling to make such modifications in a time period established by the Conservancy, the Conservancy may withdraw funding. If necessary project modifications do not fall within the scope of the grant, the Conservancy will reevaluate the project type and methodology to ensure that future similar projects will be successful.

6.1. *Eligible Costs.* Proposition 68 grant funding may only be expended on eligible costs, pursuant to statute. Eligible costs are those which further the Purposes of Proposition 68, in compliance with the Conservancy's Grant Administration Manual and the General Obligation Bond Law.

Pursuant to section 8008(c)(1), up to 5 percent of funds the funds awarded may be allocated for community access costs that include, but are not limited to, transportation, physical activity programming, resource interpretation, multilingual translation, natural science, workforce development and career pathways, education, and communication related to water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and other outdoor pursuits. The Conservancy is committed to using the maximum (5%) allocation for community access projects. In addition to the community access project type category, the Conservancy encourages community engagement and participation in all projects. Therefore, such expenses are considered eligible costs as part of any awarded grant (up to 5 percent).

6.2. *Advance Payments.* Pursuant to Section 80030 of Proposition 68, for grants awarded for projects that serve a disadvantaged community, the Conservancy may provide advanced

payments in the amount of 25 percent of the grant award to the recipient to initiate the project in a timely manner.

Additional requirements for the recipient of the grant regarding the use of the advanced payments:

Grantee must segregate advanced funds in its accounting records; individual accounts are to be kept to separate and track each project's phases. Interest earnings shall be allocated to each project's advanced funds. Should Grantee elect to segregate the funds with a separate bank account, banking costs in excess of interest earnings are an eligible grant expense.

Net Interest earnings on Grant Funds must be used on the Project, or returned to the Conservancy.

If funds are advanced and not expended, the unused portion of the funds shall be returned to the Conservancy within 60 days of completion of the Project or the end of the project performance period as shown on the signature page, whichever is earlier.

The Grantee will provide a detailed budget, work plan and detailed site plan to Conservancy for review and approval. The Grantee should also include a revised quarterly payment schedule at this time, identifying any anticipated advances.

Prior to requesting an advance, Conservancy requires a copy of contracts for construction and/or materials (and other) vendors specifying projected payment schedules. Request for advances should be correlated with these contract schedules.

In addition to the above, requests for advances must include all documentation generally required for reimbursements, with the exception of a canceled check or warrant number.

Conservancy will issue the next advance only after receipt of evidence that the prior advance was disbursed. Evidence of disbursement can include a copy of the canceled check or warrant issued; or in lieu of a canceled check or warrant, copies of "paid" invoices from the contractors/vendors to which the advance was made.

Section 7. Appendix

7.0 *Project Rating Details.*

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy		
Resource Protection and Restoration		
Project Evaluation Criteria		
Prioritization Value		Rating
PV1	Project achieves 80001(b)(3)(4) by providing urban recreation and protecting or restoring natural resources.	3
PV2	Project achieves 80001(b)(6) by having already obtained all required permits and entitlements.	3
PV3	Project achieves 80001(b)(9) - advances solutions to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with the project is an increase in the cost of housing.	3
PV4	Project achieves three or more actions listed in 80001(b)(8)(A through G).	3
PV5	Project achieves more than one of the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.	3
PV6	Project achieves more than one of Common Ground guiding principles.*	3
Total Prioritization Value		15-18*
Category Value		Rating
C1	The project will provide benefits to multiple values including water, recreation, habitat, and interpretation of natural resources.	2-4
C2	The site lies wholly within a large block of undisturbed core habitat.	4
C3	At least one fourth of the site is located within a designated ecologically sensitive watershed or significant ecological area.	2-4
C4	The site contains largely undisturbed communities with species diversity.	2-3
C5	Project will benefit specially protected species pursuant to the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.	4
C6	The site has documented use by State or federally-listed animal species.	4
C7	The site contains a State or federally-listed plant species.	4
C8	The site has documented use by an animal species that is a candidate for State or federal listing.	3
C9	The site contains a plant species that is a candidate for State or federal listing.	3
C10	The site contains a plant community that is rare or unusual in the region.	2
C11	The site contains 10% or greater cover of full canopy forest and/or oak woodland.	2-4

C12	The site contains high quality fresh water habitat and/or a perennial natural water source.	4
C13	The site contains 10% or greater cover of riparian habitat.	2-4
C14	The site contains an area of riparian or wetland habitat that integrates with upland habitat.	1-4
C15	The site supports substantial upland vegetative cover in a predominately natural watershed.	3
C16	The site contains a registered archaeological or historic resource of national or statewide significance.	4
C17	The site is directly adjacent to a known historic or archaeologically significant site, and may be reasonably expected to have significant resources but is presently not surveyed.	2
C18	The project results in new public access to a natural resource with high interpretive and/or educational value, or enhances existing access.	4
C19	The project contains a link in a local trail system.	1-4
C20	The project provides a high quality access point for nearby open space, parkland, regional multi-modal trails, or water-based recreation, including suitable area for parking and restrooms.	3
C21	The project protects critical viewshed within a major trail corridor.	3
C22	The project alleviates stress on other overburdened recreational resources within a 0.5 mile radius.	2
C23	Project results in additional uses for users of a wide range of ability levels.	2-4
C24	The project contains multi-modal accommodations that will benefit hikers, cyclists and equestrians.	2-3
C25	The project is designed to accommodate the needs of users from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds.	3
C26	The site contains unique scenic elements: e.g. waterfalls; spectacular wildflower displays; geologic formations; vistas of scenic grandeur.	3
C27	The project provides a new vista point or overlook for a significant scenic viewshed.	2
C28	The site contains a suitable area for a recreational facility—, campground, picnic area, or interpretive center; with existing road access.	2-4
C29	The site is easily accessible from urban communities and contains suitable areas for parking and restrooms.	4

C30	The site contributes to an existing or proposed corridor or greenway.	2-4
C31	The site contains substantial-sized or representative sample of a native plant community surrounded by dense urban development.	3
C32	The majority of the site is part of a watershed draining directly into an ecologically sensitive protected area.	4
C33	The site directly abuts and increases the ecosystem function of a protected habitat area.	3
C34	The site directly contributes to the connection of two habitat areas by serving as a habitat linkage or movement corridor for wildlife.	2-4
C35	The site provides a location for an environmentally-significant riparian or wetland restoration project.	1-3
C36	The site contains potential for restoration of natural vegetation.	1-3
C37	The habitat is partially degraded but conditions are suitable for natural regeneration or restoration.	1
C38	The site is available under extraordinary bargain or opportunity sale conditions.	4
C39	Current appraisal has been done or is under review by Department of General Services.	1
C40	The owner of the site is a known willing seller.	1
Total Category Value		100-126
Implementation Value		Rating
I1	Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.	3
I2	Applicant has financial and technical capacity to perform project.	3
I3	Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope.	3
I4	The project is a partnership between two or more organizations and each organization has committed to contributing toward project implementation.	2
I5	Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.	2
I6	Applicant, or project partner, has 1+ years experience operating projects of similar size and scope.	1
I7	Applicant has identified maintenance funding for at least 2 years after completion.	1
I8	Project has approval from all landowners to complete the project, or Applicant is the landowner.	1
Total Implementation Value		16

Climate Change Value		Rating
CC1	The project acquires, preserves, or restores natural areas at risk of development and quantifiably avoids emissions associated with development.	3
CC2	The project contributes to tree canopy cover and/or greenways in urban areas to mitigate heat island effects and promote public health and recreation.	3
CC3	The project acquires and/or maintains wildlife corridors and linkages to provide connections between areas of undeveloped lands, particularly significant public lands and key habitat ecosystems.	2
CC4	The project develops or maintains multi-use trails that connect communities, provides access to public resources and reduces vehicle miles traveled.	2
CC5	The project engages local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.	2
CC6	The project implments water saving techniques that utilize nature-based solutions like wetlands, rain gardens, swales, berms, curb cuts with parkway basins, infiltration trenches, vegetation, tree planting, stream daylighting/restoration, and floodplain reclamation.	3
Total Climate Change Value		15
Additional Consideration		Rating
AC1	The site is subject to an imminent threat that would preclude future implementation value.	5
AC2	Project utilizes a local job training entity for a portion of the work.	5
AC3	Project is within 0.25 miles of public transportation.	5
AC4	Project serves a disadvantaged community.	5
AC5	Project serves a severely disadvantaged community.	5
Total Additional Consideration		25
Summary Resource Protection and Restoration Rating		Rating
Prioritization Value		15-18*
Category Value		100-126
Implementation Value		16
Climate Change Value		15
Additional Consideration		25
Total Resource Protection and Restoration Rating		171-200*

Matching Funds Weighting		
	Score to be weighted proportionally to the amount of secured cash match, up to 200% or double.	
Minimum Score Required for Consideration		119-140*
*	Only as Applicable	

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy		
Vegetation Management		
Project Evaluation Criteria		
Prioritization Value		Rating
PV1	Project achieves 80001(b)(3)(4) by providing urban recreation and protecting or restoring natural resources.	3
PV2	Project achieves 80001(b)(5) by providing workforce education and training, contractor, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities.	3
PV3	Project achieves more than one of the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.	3
PV4	Project achieves more than one of Common Ground guiding principles.*	3
Total Prioritization Value		9-12*
Category Value		Rating
CV1	The project implements public safety practices by reducing wildfire risk.	4
CV2	The project implements fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health.	4
CV3	The project substantially restores a site by removal of exotic species to reduce wildfire risk and promote watershed health.	4
CV4	The project substantially restores a site by reestablishment of native species to reduce wildfire risk and promote watershed health.	4
CV5	The project would improve or support regeneration of important native vegetative cover on slopes near a stream or river, which if substantially disturbed may contribute to flood, erosion, creek sedimentation, or reduced groundwater recharge.	3
CV6	The project will provide benefits to multiple resource areas including water, recreation, habitat, and interpretation of natural resources.	3
CV7	Completion of the project would assist a government agency in fulfilling a water resources protection or master land protection plan.	2
CV8	The project employs new or innovative technology or practices.	5
CV9	The project adds visitor-serving amenities, accessibility, and public safety improvements to public parkland with multiple ecosystem benefits.	2
CV10	Project will benefit specially protected species pursuant to the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.	4
Total Category Value		35
Implementation Value		Rating
I1	Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.	3

I2	Applicant has financial capacity to perform project on a reimbursable basis.	3
I3	Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope.	3
I4	The project is a partnership between two or more organizations and each organization has committed to contributing toward project implementation.	2
I5	Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.	2
I6	Applicant, or project partner, has 1+ years experience operating projects of similar size and scope.	1
I7	Project has approval from all landowners to complete the project, or Applicant is the landowner.	1
Total Implementation Value		15
Climate Change Value		Rating
CC1	The project demonstrates a reduction in baseline greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration or other innovative techniques or project designs, such as diverting organic material from landfills.	3
CC2	The project implements water saving technologies and techniques to yield quantifiable water and energy savings. Such techniques may include the use of drought-efficient landscaping, including climate resilient and native landscaping whenever possible, stormwater filtration, impervious surfaces, green roofs and other forms of water capture and storage.	3
CC3	The project contributes to tree canopy cover and/or greenways in urban areas to mitigate heat island effects and promote public health and recreation.	3
CC4	The project develops or maintains multi-use trails that connect communities, provides access to public resources and reduces vehicle miles traveled.	2
CC5	The project engages local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.	2
CC6	The project implments water saving techniques that utilize nature-based solutions like wetlands, rain gardens, swales, berms, curb cuts with parkway basins, infiltration trenches, vegetation, tree planting, stream daylighting/restoration, and floodplain reclamation.	3
Total Climate Change Value		13
Additional Consideration		Rating
AC1	Project utilizes a local job training entity for a portion of the work.	5
AC2	Project serves a disadvantaged community.	5
AC3	Project serves a severely disadvantaged community.	5

Total Additional Consideration		15
Summary Vegetation Management Rating		Rating
Prioritization Value		9-12
Category Value		35
Implementation Value		15
Climate Change Value		13
Additional Consideration		15
Total Vegetation Management Rating		87-90*
Matching Funds Weighting		
	Score to be weighted proportionally to the amount of secured cash match, up to 200% or double.	
Minimum Score Required for Consideration		60-63*
*	Only as Applicable	

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy		
Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects		
Project Evaluation Criteria		
Prioritization Value		Rating
PV1	Project achieves 80001(b)(3)(4) by providing urban recreation and protecting or restoring natural resources.	3
PV2	Project achieves 80001(b)(5) by providing workforce education and training, contractor, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities.	3
PV3	Project achieves 80001(b)(6) by having already obtained all required permits and entitlements.	1-3
PV4	Project achieves 80001(b)(9) - advances solutions to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with the project is an increase in the cost of housing.*	3
PV5	Project achieves three or more actions listed in 80001(b)(8)(A through G).	3
PV6	Project achieves more than one of the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.	3
PV7	Project achieves more than one of Common Ground guiding principles.*	3
Total Prioritization Value		15-21*
Category Value		Rating
CV1	The project will provide benefits to multiple values including water, recreation, habitat, and interpretation of natural resources.	2-4
CV2	The project implements a major component of an existing relevant plan related to a major recreational facility, regional ecosystem restoration, or master land protection plan.	4
CV3	The project provides a plan or feasibility study to advance cooperative watershed health protection activities or recreation goals important to two or more organizations.*	2
CV4	Applicant has a realistic plan for serving disadvantaged communities upon completion of the improvements.	1-3
CV5	The project uses renewable or non-potable water sources of water, such as reclaimed water, captured stormwater, or other method.	1-4
CV6	Project implements Best Management Practices (BMP) to treat stormwater.	1-3

CV7	Project provides safe and reliable drinking water supplies to park and open space visitors.	2
CV8	The project provides a high quality access point for nearby open space, parkland, regional multi-modal trails, or water-based recreation.	1-3
CV9	The project completes a new, significant link in a regional trail system.	2-4
CV10	Project adds new trail or recreational resources not available within a 0.5 mile radius.	4
CV11	The project contains multi-modal accommodations that will benefit hikers, cyclists and equestrians.	2-3
CV12	The project results in new public access to a natural resource with high interpretive and/or educational value, or enhances existing access.	2-4
CV13	The project provides non-personal interpretive elements that will significantly enhance appreciation and enjoyment of a natural resource.	2
CV14	The project creates a new venue, <u>or enhances an existing venue</u> , for education and/or interpretation activities that promote natural resources stewardship.	2-4
CV15	The project alleviates stress on other overburdened recreational resources within a 0.5 mile radius.	2
CV16	The project provides a new vista point or overlook for a significant scenic viewshed.	3
CV17	The project adds visitor-serving amenities, accessibility, and public safety improvements to existing parkland.	3
CV18	Project results in additional uses for users of a wide range of ability levels.	2-4
CV19	The project is designed to accommodate the needs of users from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds.	3
CV20	The project directly abuts and increases the ecosystem function of a protected habitat area including fish and wildlife corridors.	2
CV21	The project includes restoration, protection or enhancements of a native ecosystem appropriate to the site.	2-4
CV22	Project will benefit specially protected species pursuant to the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990.	2
CV23	The project employs new or innovative technology or practices.	1
Total Category Value		46-70*
Implementation Value		Rating

IV1	Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.	3
IV2	Applicant has financial capacity to perform project on a reimbursable basis.	3
IV3	Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope.	3
IV4	The project is a partnership between two or more organizations and each organization has committed to contributing toward project implementation.	2
IV5	Applicant has conducted outreach to the affected communities.	2
IV6	Applicant, or project partner, has 1+ years experience maintaining and operating projects of similar size and scope.	1
IV7	Applicant has identified maintenance funding for at least 2 years after completion.	1
IV8	Project has approval from all landowners to complete the project, or Applicant is the landowner.	1
Total Implementation Value		16
Climate Change Value		Rating
CC1	The project demonstrates a reduction in baseline greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration or other innovative techniques or project designs, such as diverting organic material from landfills.	3
CC2	The project implements water saving technologies and techniques to yield quantifiable water and energy savings. Such techniques may include the use of drought-efficient landscaping, including climate resilient and native landscaping whenever possible, stormwater filtration, impervious surfaces, green roofs and other forms of water capture and storage.	3
CC3	The project contributes to tree canopy cover and/or greenways in urban areas to mitigate heat island effects and promote public health and recreation.	3
CC4	The project develops or maintains multi-use trails that connect communities, provides access to public resources and reduces vehicle miles traveled.	2
CC5	The project engages local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.	2

CC6	The project implments water saving techniques that utilize nature-based solutions like wetlands, rain gardens, swales, berms, curb cuts with parkway basins, infiltration trenches, vegetation, tree planting, stream daylighting/restoration, and floodplain reclamation.	3
Total Climate Change Value		13
Additional Consideration		Rating
AC1	The site is subject to an imminent threat that would preclude future implementation value.	5
AC2	Project utilizes a local job training entity for a portion of the work.	5
AC3	Project is within 0.25 miles of public transportation.	5
AC4	Project serves a disadvantaged community.	5
AC5	Project serves a severely disadvantaged community.	5
Total Additional Consideration		25
Summary Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects Rating		Rating
Prioritization Value		15-21*
Category Value		46-70*
Implementation Value		16
Climate Change Value		13
Additional Consideration		25
Total Visitor Serving Development and Improvement Projects Rating		115-145*
Matching Funds Weighting		
	Score to be weighted proportionally to the amount of secured cash match, up to 200% or double.	
Minimum Score Required for Consideration		80-101*
*	Only as Applicable	

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy		
Community Access, Education and Interpretation Projects		
Project Evaluation Criteria		
Prioritization Value		Rating
PV1	Project achieves 80001(b)(3)(4) by providing urban recreation and protecting or restoring natural resources.	3
PV2	Project achieves 80001(b)(5) by providing workforce education and training, contractor, and job opportunities for disadvantaged communities.	3
PV3	Project achieves three or more actions listed in 80001(b)(8)(A through G).	3
PV4	Project achieves more than one of the Conservancy's Strategic Objectives.	3
PV5	*Project achieves more than one of Common Ground guiding principles.	3
Total Prioritization Value		12-15*
Category Value		Rating
CV1	The project serves communities defined no less than 81% disadvantaged as defined by the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool.	5
CV2	The project will improve or significantly enhance access to open space parkland from a disadvantaged community.	5
CV3	The project is designed to accommodate the needs of users from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds.	4
CV4	The project provides educational and interpretive experiences that will significantly enhance appreciation and enjoyment of a resource.	4
CV5	The project implements a major component of an existing relevant plan related to a major recreational facility, regional ecosystem restoration, or master land protection plan.	1
CV6	The project includes interpretive programming or personal interpretation, and a plan to reach community audiences with meaningful information about a natural resource.	2
CV7	The project includes education programs that provide access and education to low-income student to develop critical thinking skills and to inspire natural resources stewardship	3
CV8	The project includes trips that provide an introduction to nature, physical exercise and healthy lifestyles through natural spaces.	3
CV9	The project includes youth leadership programs that provide training that leads directly to job opportunities in the parks.	2

CV10	The project provides outdoor recreation, education and environmental stewardship programs on public land at no cost to disadvantaged youth.	3
CV11	The project provides non-personal interpretive elements that will significantly enhance appreciation and enjoyment of a natural resource.	2
CV12	The project will provide park information materials and/or educational and interpretive information, appropriate for users from a variety of backgrounds.	3
CV13	The project provides informational materials but to more limited audience.	2
Total Category Value		39
Implementation Value		Rating
IV1	Applicant has proven that implementation of the project is feasible.	3
IV2	Applicant has financial capacity to perform project on a reimbursable basis.	3
IV3	Applicant, or active project partner, has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope.	3
IV4	The project is a partnership between two or more organizations and each organization has committed to contributing toward project implementation.	2
IV5	Applicant, or project partner, has 1+ years experience operating projects of similar size and scope.	1
Total Implementation Value		12
Climate Change Value		Rating
CC1	The project engages local communities through outreach, education, and interpretation regarding long-term stewardship and climate change awareness.	2
Total Climate Change Value		2
Additional Consideration		Rating
AC1	Project utilizes a local job training entity for a portion of the work.	5
AC2	Project is within 0.25 miles of public transportation.	5
AC3	Project serves a disadvantaged community.	5
AC4	Project serves a severely disadvantaged community.	5
Total Additional Consideration		20
Summary Community Access, Education and Interpretation Projects Rating		Rating
Prioritization Value		12-15*

Category Value		39
Implementation Value		12
Climate Change Value		2
Additional Consideration		20
Total Community Access, Education and Interpretation Projects Rating		74-77
Matching Funds Weighting		
	Score to be weighted proportionally to the amount of secured cash match, up to 200% or double.	
Minimum Score Required for Consideration		
		51-53*
*	Only as Applicable	