



## Questions about the Letter of Intent

1. Can a lead PI submit more than one LOI? If a lead PI submits a letter as PI, can they be Co-PI on other letters?

Applicants may submit more than one Letter of Intent (LOI), but a maximum of one award will be made to an individual lead PI. PIs may be listed as co-PIs on other awarded projects if the total combined effort is less than or equal to 100% (see page 19 of the Solicitation Notice).

2. Can the PI and Co-PI order and responsibility be changed between the LOI and the final proposal?

Yes, if they are at the same institution and the scope of the project doesn't change dramatically.

3. Do we have to identify the ballpark budget at the time of submitting the LOI?

Yes, we are asking to see ballpark budgets when you submit the LOI. It can be approximate, and you aren't "held" to this number when you submit the full proposal. This helps us get an idea of the total request. Partner entities must indicate on the Letter of Intent if their budget exceeds \$50k or 25% of the total budget.

4. Will Letters of Intent be evaluated, and full proposals invited or is it a two-step application with a LOI and proposal required?

Letters of Intent are required but will not be evaluated; it is a two-step application. Applicants will not receive feedback on their LOI. The main purpose of the LOI is to help us gauge the number of full proposals to expect and to plan the independent peer review process.

5. Are the LOIs going to be available to the public after submission?

LOIs will not be posted online after submission.

6. How much detail is required in the LOI for identifying relevant SAA action areas?

Not much detail (i.e. one to two sentences) is expected given that LOIs are limited to two pages.

## Questions about Eligibility

7. What are the requirements for an out of state university (including international) to be certified as being in good standing and eligible to do business in California?

State Universities including State Universities outside the State of California are eligible based on their public entity status established as a State University public entity.

If the entity is a corporation, the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) determines whether the corporation is in good standing by consulting the Office of the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov). Additional information regarding requirements to be eligible to do business in California may be found at the Business Registration Section of the California Business Navigator at <https://businessportal.ca.gov/registration-permits/register-a-business/>.

8. Can applicants submit more than one proposal in response to this Solicitation?

Yes. Each submitted proposal will be evaluated separately based on its individual merit. However, a lead principal investigator may only receive one award as a principal investigator. A Letter of Intent is required to be submitted for each proposal.

9. Are applicants from Reclamation Districts, water districts, and Non-Governmental Organizations eligible for funding?

Yes. Reclamation Districts, water districts, and Non-Governmental Organizations including nonprofit organizations that are in good standing to do business in California are eligible for funding via Council contracts.

10. Are applicants from Federal Agencies or National Laboratories eligible for funding?

Applicants from Federal Agencies and National Laboratories that are in good standing to do business in California are eligible for funding via Council contracts. However, those applicants are not eligible for funding from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

## Questions about Budget

11. Is there a minimum or maximum limit on the dollar amount a proposal can request from each Program?

The Council has not identified minimum dollar amounts and smaller budget projects are encouraged. Research Awards have a maximum budget of \$700,000 and Integrated Socio-Ecological Systems Awards have a maximum budget of \$1,500,000. However, the USBR funding contribution of up to \$3.5 million will be awarded to projects in the range of \$500,000.

12. If a project/proposal has a partnership between two or more entities, how should they apply?

One partner entity should be the primary applicant and submit a single proposal that details and justifies the budget for all collaborating entities proposed using our budget template. Partner entities (or subcontractors) budgets that exceed \$50k or 25% of the total budget will likely need their own agreement with the Council. Partner entities must indicate on the Letter of Intent if their budget exceeds \$50k or 25% of the total budget.

Subcontracting might still be permissible with an exempt government public entity/auxiliary if the subcontract is justified by explaining how the subcontract is integral to the work being performed under contract with the public entity and necessary to be included as a subcontractor rather than being separately contracted as stand-alone direct agreements with the Council.

13. Are Federal and State match sources permitted?

Yes. We encourage both cost share and match. The Council does not have any restrictions on match funding. We ask that applicants indicate whether they have match sources and if they intend to leverage awarded funds as match.

14. Can a proposal budget include indirect (i.e., overhead) costs including for subcontractors?

Yes. Applicants proposing to include indirect costs must provide documented substantiation to support an approved cost allocation plan or Government entity's federally negotiated rate approved by their cognizant agency. There is no cap but these 'reasonable indirect costs' must be fully documented, justified, and provided to the Council upon request.

Subcontractors are subject to the same requirements as the primary applicant to provide documented substantiation and justification that supports a 'reasonable' indirect cost rate. The cost allocation plan or Government entity's federally negotiated rate information shall be provided to the Council upon request.

Note for government/public entities: Council will only pay overhead charges on the first \$25,000 for each subcontract.

15. How is "overhead" (indirect costs) handled for Universities if PIs are University faculty members, given that these are contract agreements and not grants?

University personnel including PI faculty members are considered direct costs if they are providing personnel hours directly identifiable to the project. Indirect cost rates established for UC campuses are calculated as a percentage of the total Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC).

16. What is the negotiated UC/CSU indirect cost rate?

If the funding source is ultimately the Delta Stewardship Council (State), all University of California entities must use the negotiated indirect rate as indicated on the website: <https://www.ucop.edu/research-policy-analysis-coordination/policies-guidance/indirect-cost-recovery/state-of-california.html>. An appropriate F&A rate agreement must be applied if the award is funded by the United States Bureau of Reclamation. For the purposes of this application, use whichever rate is higher. Depending on the ultimate funding source, the indirect cost rate will be adjusted.

17. Should we include funding to attend stakeholder engagement workshops organized by the Delta Science Program and California Sea Grant in our budget?

Yes, you should include cost of travel and time to prepare for and attend stakeholder engagement and other workshops in your budget. Participation in the stakeholder engagement workshop organized by the Delta Science Program and CA Sea Grant is a required deliverable.

18. Can the budget include graduate student tuition/fee remissions?

If the applicant entity is part of the UC/CSU system, that is allowable.

19. For non-UC universities, can we use the UC rate without needing to provide a detailed justification?

No. You still need to provide a detailed justification for the proposed rate.

20. If we are planning to use these funds to hire postdocs/research staff, or research assistants, would these individuals become employees of the PI institution (e.g. university) or the Council?

Those individuals would be considered employees of the PI's institution and they will be paid through the PI's institution via the agreement with the Council.

21. What is the difference between a co-PI and the primary contractor?

The primary contractor will be the entity entering into an agreement with the Council and will include the PI who is responsible and accountable to provide project management and oversight and ensure the project is completed as expected. A co-PI is a collaborating investigator who may provide support and report to the PI and may be compensated according to the terms of the agreement. A contractor is the entity under a contract agreement with the Council. The primary contractor can have the PI and a co-PI within the agreement.

22. If a PI at a UC would like to have an international collaborator, is there any way to get them money?

If a UC is the primary contractor, there are 3 options, including adding them as a consultant or a subcontractor to the prime contractor agreement:

1. Consultants are defined as independent consultants not employed by the University of proven profession or technical competence who provides primarily professional or technical advice to the University, and the University does not control the manner, means or methods of their performance. Consultants are not involved in the scientific or technical direction of the project as a whole and usually provide only brief/limited advisory or expert services.
2. Subcontractors are defined as an entity other than the University who performs a portion of the scope of work and is responsible for programmatic decision making. There are limitations on subcontracts (see question 12), so a large subcontractor budget would have to have a justification or pursue a contract with the Council directly.
3. The primary contractor (if a UC) may propose to include an International collaborators faculty affiliated with a UC or as a UC student to receive an honorarium or stipend from the prime award.

## Questions about the Project Scope

23. Are projects outside of the Delta/Suisun legal boundaries eligible for funding?

Proposals for projects outside of the Delta or Suisun Marsh will be considered for funding only if the proposal provides clearly articulated and compelling evidence of specific benefits to the Delta and/or a clear link to resource management in the Delta.

24. What are the boundaries of the 'legal Delta'?

The Delta Plan contains a PDF showing the legal boundaries:

<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/delta-plan/figure-1-1-delta-boundaries.pdf>. The legal boundary of only the Delta (Shapefile, KML, or spreadsheet) can be found here:

[\[dwr.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/57b02f8a5e77465f902376dbd9522585\\\_0\]\(https://atlas-dwr.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/57b02f8a5e77465f902376dbd9522585\_0\). You](https://atlas-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

can also use the Social Vulnerability map:

[https://deltascience.shinyapps.io/Delta\\_vulnerability\\_map/](https://deltascience.shinyapps.io/Delta_vulnerability_map/) which contains the legal Delta and Suisun boundaries, counties, watersheds, and cities. This online tool allows you to enter the longitude and latitude of your proposed project and view that location in relation to the legal Delta and Suisun boundaries.

25. What is the relationship between objectives for the Sacramento River Science Partnership and the Delta SAA action areas 4 and 5?

There are five Science Action Agenda (SAA) action areas; each has several priority Management Needs that correspond with Priority Science Actions. The Sacramento River Science Partnership has added 4 science actions to the Solicitation Focus; these all correspond to Management Needs in the SAA. These science actions are denoted by an asterisk; see the Solicitation pages 15, 17-18.

26. Regarding the solicitation focus: Science Action Agenda action area #4, is a list of "managed species" available? How important is it that there be a direct connection to the managed species, or can indirect connections also be studied?

"Managed species" refers to species protected under the California Endangered Species Act and the Federal Endangered Species Act. Proposals should consider both direct and indirect relevance to managed species when describing project relevance to Science Action Agenda area #4.

27. Since part of the funds are federal, is it legal to propose a project involving Cannabis?

Yes, projects involving cannabis can be considered. However, projects involving cannabis will not be funded by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

## Questions about the Application

28. What information is required in the funding application?

All required information is outlined in the Proposal Solicitation Notice (<https://caseagrant.ucsd.edu/sites/default/files/2021%20Science%20PSN%20Nov9.pdf>) and application portal (<https://eseagrant2.ucsd.edu/>).

29. What would the start date for funding be?

The funding start dates are between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 and the maximum end date is February 1, 2024. The agreement term can end sooner if needed.

30. Is it possible to extend the project beyond the expected completion date?

No. Projects funded by the Council must be completed by February 1, 2024.

31. Can more than one person have access to input information for an application?

Yes, more than one person can have access to input information for the application. To do so please send an email to [sgproposal@ucsd.edu](mailto:sgproposal@ucsd.edu) requesting a user be added. It is important that only one person create an application for a project; others can be added on as delegates.

32. Are applicants required to use the Delta Adapts Map Tool to demonstrate how their project will affect specific vulnerable communities?

Applicants are not required, though strongly encouraged, to use the Delta Adapts Map tool. Applicants are required to evaluate and describe whether and how their project will benefit a community that is vulnerable in the context of climate change by demonstrating community need or the potential utility of the project's results. The proposed project's broader impact on vulnerable communities will be rated by independent peer reviewers and will factor into overall project scoring (see table on pages 30-31 of the Solicitation Notice).

33. Is "broader impacts," including effects on vulnerable communities relevant for Research projects? For example, if Research projects do not have obvious relevance to "vulnerable communities" would it be outside the scope of the solicitation? Can you expand a bit and give examples of broader impacts - do we need to have agency managers as co-PIs, for example?

Research projects that do not have direct impacts on vulnerable communities are still within the scope of this solicitation. The evaluation of benefits to vulnerable communities is a component of the scoring criteria "Broader Impacts" for both Research and Integrated Socio-Ecological Systems projects. "Broader impacts" are described separately from benefits to vulnerable communities on page 23 of the Solicitation Notice. Note that the scoring criteria (table on pages 30-31 of the Solicitation Notice) includes broader impacts and benefits to vulnerable communities as a single criterion applicable to both Research and Integrated Socio-ecological Systems award types. See section 8.1.5 in the Solicitation Notice for additional information on broader impacts. It is not required to include agency managers as co-PIs. Some examples of efforts to achieve broader impacts include stakeholder and Community Based Organization engagement, community relationship-building, mentoring opportunities for undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral researchers, science communication, and community science.



34. If a human-subjects research project is proposed by an organization that is unaffiliated with an Institutional Review Board (IRB), is there another method you'd expect to see for expressing the appropriate protections for participants?

For nonexempt research involving human subjects (or exempt research that requires limited IRB review) that takes place at an institution for which an IRB not operated by that institution exercises oversight, the institution should partner with another organization operating an IRB (or an independent or commercial IRB); the institution's reliance on the IRB for its research oversight must be documented. This documentation must include the responsibilities of each entity to ensure compliance with the requirements of the common rule ([83 FR 28497](#)).

35. Is IRB certification required prior to application (if applicable)?

No, but it must be acquired (if applicable) prior to the creation of an agreement.

## Questions about the CDFW Proposition 1 Solicitation

36. What is the difference between the 2021 Delta Science and CDFW Proposition 1 Solicitations?

The Council and CDFW's Proposition 1 Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program are providing concurrent funding opportunities with slightly different timelines, requirements, and focus areas. Both solicitations are seeking proposals that relate to the Action Areas identified in the 2017-2021 Science Action Agenda (<https://scienceactionagenda.deltacouncil.ca.gov/>). Applicants must apply to both solicitations to be considered for both opportunities. CDFW Proposition 1 solicitation is funded by Proposition 1 bond funding and will create grant agreements for their awards, where the Council's solicitation is funded by state and federal funding and will create contract agreements for successful awards. The two Agency Programs will evaluate applications separately during the review process but will coordinate regarding final funding decisions. In the Current and Pending Support section of the application, include whether the applicant intends to apply for both programs (mark as 'pending'). For more information about the CDFW solicitation, visit: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants>.

## Other Questions

### 37. How can I submit my question?

Please send questions related to the Proposal Solicitation Notice to [DeltaScienceSolicitation@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:DeltaScienceSolicitation@deltacouncil.ca.gov). For questions about the eSeaGrant website, please send questions to [sgproposal@ucsd.edu](mailto:sgproposal@ucsd.edu). Questions will also be accepted during 2 optional online webinars and via email **until February 3, 2021**. Check the website for more information: <https://caseagrant.ucsd.edu/grants-and-funding/2021-delta-science-awards>

### 38. How do we obtain prior approval of out-of-state travel?

Out-of-state travel requirements should be clearly identified in the proposed budget and budget justification. If travel (out of State or in State) is to be reimbursable, the proposed budget must clearly justify and specify that the rates of reimbursement for necessary traveling expenses.

If selected for funding, proposed travel expenses will be reviewed and will require separate written authorization by the Council for out of State travel which will be incorporated into the contract agreement as documentation of approval. No travel outside the State of California shall be reimbursed unless prior written authorization is obtained from the agency.

Travel rates are set in accordance with the rates specified by either the [UC's Travel Regulations](#) for UC entities, or for all other entities by the California Human Resources (CalHR) [Travel Reimbursements](#) for similar or exempt employees.

### 39. What is the timeframe for review and decision making on proposals?

LOIs are due (and required) by December 15, 2020. Full proposals are due February 12, 2021. Funding decisions will be announced in May/June 2021.

### 40. What is the historic funding rate and approximate dollar range of proposals that have been funded by this program?

This solicitation (2021 Delta Science) follows the 2019 Delta Science solicitation, which is the only other recent solicitation. Therefore, historic dollar ranges and funding rates may not be very informative for prospective applicants. Please see the Delta Science Program Proposal Solicitations webpage for more information:

<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/delta-science-proposal-solicitations>.

41. What do I need in order to study Delta smelt?

Proposals for Delta smelt projects that include incidental take are unlikely to be considered for funding unless the project team has a current take permit with USFWS; projects involving captively-reared Delta Smelt should demonstrate engagement with the Culture and Supplementation of Smelt (CASS) interagency team. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with existing projects/PIs that already have take coverage.