

**BUREAU OF  
RECLAMATION**  
*Managing Water in the West*  
and  
**FISH AND  
WILDLIFE SERVICE**  
*Pacific Southwest Region*

**Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-MP-16-0004**

**Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act  
Habitat Restoration Program**

**Fiscal Year 2017**



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region**  
<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/>



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Pacific Southwest Region**  
<http://www.fws.gov/cno/>

**May 2016**

**Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act  
Habitat Restoration Program**

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**Department of the Interior:**

**Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825**

**OVERVIEW**

Agency Names:	Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Sacramento, California
Funding Opportunity Title:	Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) and Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program (HRP)
Announcement Type:	Initial announcement
Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) No.:	<b>BOR-MP-16-0004</b>
Application Due Date:	Applications due <b>September 30, 2016, 3:00 p.m.</b> Pacific Standard Time (PST). This announcement may apply to more than one fiscal years' funding.
Applicant and Project Eligibility:	As described in Sections III.A, III.D, and V.D.
Program Authority:	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. Section 661 et seq, of 1956; Reclamation Manual at 255 DM 14; the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, 16 U.S.C 742(a-j); and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992, Public Law No. 102-575, Title XXXIV, Section 3406(b)(1)
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number	15.512 (Bureau of Reclamation, HRP) 15.648 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, HRP) 15.564 (Bureau of Reclamation, CVPCP)
Cost Share:	No cost sharing requirement, but level of partnering is considered during application evaluation. See section IV.C.16 (10) Partners, and section V.D.10, Program Scoring Criteria, Criterion #10 - Partners
Estimated number of agreements to be awarded	7 to 10. Funding may range from \$25,000 to \$1,000,000 on individually-approved projects.
Total amount of funding available:	Estimated \$2,100,000.00 per fiscal year.

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## APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

While it is in the applicant's best interest to read this Funding Opportunity Announcement in its entirety, the following table contains a summary of the information that is required to be submitted as an application. It is in the applicant's best interest to check each box to make certain they have submitted every required form and completely followed the required format. **Failure to submit all forms and follow the format may render the application ineligible.**

REQUIRED CONTENT	REQUIRED FORM OR FORMAT		CHECK BOX WHEN COMPLETED (for Applicant use only)
Technical Proposal Submission Guidelines	Sec. IV.C	Written proposal that addresses the required format and the "Relationship of the Proposal to the Program Scoring Criteria." <b>To be included within the 18-page limit.</b> (See Section IV.C.)	
Budget Narrative	Sec. IV.D.2	Budget Narrative with description in sufficient detail of how each budget item relates to the proposed project activity, and provides clear rationale/breakdown for the amount of each budget item. An award will not be made to any applicant who fails to provide budget narrative information, separate from the Budget Table. <b>To be included within the 18-page limit.</b>	
Budget Table	Sec. IV.D.2	Budget Table using Attachment C as a template. The activity budget should include sufficient <b>detailed</b> information to enable Reclamation and the Service to evaluate the reasonableness of the budgeted amount. <b>To be included within the 18-page limit.</b>	
Federal Forms	Sec. IV.E	Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Standard Form (SF) 424*, Application for Federal Assistance; SF-424A Budget Information (Non-Construction Programs); and SF-424-B Assurances. <b>Not included within the 18-page limit.</b>	
Landowner/ Access Approval	Sec. V.D	Evidence of landowner support. See section V.D, "Project Eligibility" for more information. <b>Not included within the 18-page limit.</b>	
*FORMS MAY BE DOWNLOADED FROM <a href="http://WWW.GRANTS.GOV">WWW.GRANTS.GOV</a> UNDER THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY <b>BOR-MP-16-0004</b> , <u>FULL ANNOUNCEMENT OR APPLICATION</u>			

## SECTION I – GENERAL INFORMATION

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### I.A BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) was developed during the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation process to ensure that the existing operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP), implementation of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), and renewal of CVP water service contracts would not jeopardize listed or proposed species or adversely affect designated or proposed critical habitat. Accordingly, the CVPCP implements actions that will protect, restore, and enhance special-status species (excluding fish) and their habitats affected by the CVP, with a special emphasis on federally listed species. The CVPIA Habitat Restoration Program (HRP) was established under Title XXXIV, Section 3406 (b) (1) “other” of the CVPIA under the “Fish and Wildlife Restoration Activities” section. The HRP also implements actions to improve conditions for species (excluding fish) impacted by the CVP.

### I.B PROGRAM AUTHORITY

This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) is issued in accordance with the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. Section 661 *et seq.*, of 1956; Reclamation Manual at 255 DM 14; the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, 16 U.S.C 742(a-j); and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992, Public Law No. 102-575, Title XXXIV, Section 3406(b)(1).

### I.C PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the CVPCP and HRP are: (1) protect and restore native habitats impacted by the CVP, and (2) stabilize and improve populations of native species impacted by the CVP. Open announcement of financial assistance opportunities through the CVPCP and HRP would facilitate meeting these objectives.

### I.D OBJECTIVE OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

The objective of this competitive announcement is to ensure compliance with competition requirements related to Federal financial agreements, and to ensure public participation in the CVPCP and HRP. As a point of clarification, when applying for financial assistance under the CVPCP and HRP, the applicant is applying to **both** programs. After it is decided which of the proposed projects are to be selected for award, the Program Managers will determine which projects will be funded by which program. **Please note: This FOA may apply to multiple fiscal years’ funding. That is, applications received through this announcement may be awarded with future fiscal years’ funds.**

### I.E PROJECT ACTIVITIES CATEGORIES

#### DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITY CATEGORIES

The CVPCP and HRP fund a variety of actions that improve conditions for species and habitats impacted by the CVP, excluding those for fish, recognizing that a balanced set of actions is needed to meet the program objectives. The CVPCP and HRP have, however, placed emphasis on certain kinds of activities considered more critical to species’ protection and recovery than others. A list of

recent projects previously funded by the programs can be found on the programs' website: [www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp). Land protection, habitat restoration, research, and captive propagation and/or reintroduction projects will be funded, with land protection projects receiving the highest priority for funding.

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

## **SECTION II – AWARD INFORMATION**

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### **II.A PROJECT FUNDING LIMITATIONS**

The number of agreements awarded and amount of funding available to the CVPCP/HRP for projects is dependent on annual appropriations and the number of successful applications. The total amount of funding available for projects through the combined programs per fiscal year is estimated at \$2,100,000. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife (Service) financial assistance awards may range from \$25,000 to \$1,000,000 for individually approved projects.

### **II.B RECLAMATION and SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES**

If substantial involvement between Reclamation/Service and the Recipient is anticipated during the performance of a project, the anticipated award instrument would be a cooperative agreement. In support of such an agreement, Reclamation/Service would provide the following:

Reclamation/Service shall collaborate and participate with the Recipient in the management of the project and closely oversee the Recipient's activities to ensure that the program objectives are being achieved as per the cooperative agreement. This oversight shall include review, input, and approval at key interim stages of the project as identified in the Recipient's application.

If substantial involvement is not anticipated on the part of Reclamation/Service, the financial assistance instrument will be a grant agreement. Reclamation/Service retains the rights to make awards using either grants or cooperative agreements.

**The project must demonstrate allowable public benefit for financial assistance agreements.**

## **II.C AWARD DATE**

Applicants should be notified no later than March 2017 on whether or not their application(s) was selected for funding. It is anticipated that fiscal year 2017 awards will be made by **September 2017**.

## **SECTION III – ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

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### **III.A ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

Applicants eligible under this FOA include State or local government agencies, private non-profit or profit organizations, individuals, and educational institutions. Federal agencies are eligible to receive CVPCP/HRP funds, but are not eligible to submit an application under this FOA. Interested Federal agencies should contact the Program Managers about how to apply for funding, such as through an interagency or intraagency agreement.

### **III.B COST SHARE GUIDELINES**

The CVPCP/HRP have no cost sharing requirement, but partnering (i.e., cost sharing provided by contributing entities, through cash or in-kind services, toward the cost of the proposed project) is highly encouraged and the level of partnering is considered during application evaluation. Refer to the description of the “Partners” criterion in section IV.C.16(10), “Relationship of the Proposal to the Program Scoring Criteria,” and the scoring guidelines in Section V.D., “Explanation of the Proposal Evaluation and Ranking Process,” Criterion #10, “Partners,” for more information.

#### **(1) Cost Share Regulations**

All cost-share contributions must meet the criteria established in the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) administrative and cost principles circulars that apply to the applicant. These circulars are available at <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars>>.

#### **(2) In-Kind Contributions**

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

**III.C APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING:** Refer to Sections V.B. and V.C.

### **III.D METHODS FOR EVALUATING AND SCORING APPLICATIONS:**

All applications are reviewed and ranked by the CVPCP & HRP Technical Team, comprised of State and Federal agency biologists and Program Managers whose technical expertise spans the range of topics included in the FOA. The Technical Team evaluates and provides qualitative and unambiguous ratings of each application by utilizing scoring criteria described in sections IV.C and V.D to evaluate applications, and makes recommendations on which applications should be selected for funding.

The scoring criteria presented in this FOA are implemented in the context of general considerations of

the CVPCP/HRP Technical Team and Program Managers, who can influence final decisions regarding funding. These considerations include, but are not limited to:

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

### **III.E OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

#### **III.E.1 SF-424 and Assurances**

The applicant must submit these required forms in accordance with the requirements stated in Section IV.E of this FOA.

#### **III.E.2 Project and Budget Proposals**

The applicant must submit a project budget table and narrative in accordance with the requirements stated in Section IV.D of this FOA.

#### **III.EF.3 Proposed Project Location**

The CVPCP and HRP have established a Priority Project Area map that delineates the specific area of California within which projects will be considered through this application. Applications for projects will not be considered that fall outside the boundaries of the program project area unless a clear CVP "nexus" (relationship or connection) is demonstrated (see Section V.D.1, CVP Nexus, for additional information). The Priority Project Area map can be viewed by visiting <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/map/index.html>.

#### **III.E.4 Other Regulations**

Recipients of CVPCP or HRP funds must adhere to Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and codes, as applicable, and must obtain all required approvals and permits for approved projects. Recipients must also coordinate and obtain approvals from site owners and operators. See Section VII.E for additional information regarding environmental and regulatory compliance and approvals.

#### **III.E.5 Species Reporting**

Recipients of CVPCP or HRP funds are urged to submit sightings of Federal or State-listed endangered or threatened species or other special status species that are encountered in the process of fulfilling their

financial assistance award agreement to the State of California's Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). The documentation of occurrences of species in the CNDDDB is important for the conservation and recovery of the species.

### III.E.6 Post funding site access.

For all funded projects, there is an expectation that a representative of the CVPCP and/or HRP be provided access to the project site, either directly or through the award recipient, in order to monitor compliance with the terms of the award agreement, the presence of species of interest, ecological responses to the project action, etc.

## SECTION IV – APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

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### IV.A AGENCY CONTACT

**IV.A.1** Interested organizations or individuals with questions pertaining to this FOA may submit their questions, via email or letter, to Reclamation's Grants Management Specialist:

**E-mail:** [tebrown@usbr.gov](mailto:tebrown@usbr.gov)

**Mail:**

Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region  
**Attn: Teresa E. Brown, MP-3839**  
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1815  
Sacramento CA 95825-1898

**IV.A.2** Applicants are encouraged to contact the CVPCP and HRP Program Managers if they have questions about how to submit an application. The contact information for the CVPCP and HRP is:

**RECLAMATION:**

Mr. Dan Strait/MP-152  
CVPCP and HRP Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento CA 95825-1898  
(916) 978-5052  
Email: [dstrait@usbr.gov](mailto:dstrait@usbr.gov)

**SERVICE:**

Ms. Caroline Prose  
HRP Manager  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento CA 95825-1846  
(916) 414-6575  
Email: [caroline\\_prose@fws.gov](mailto:caroline_prose@fws.gov)

**IV.A.3** Interested organizations or individuals having difficulties accessing forms/electronic addresses, or questions pertaining to the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, may contact Teresa E. Brown via email at [tebrown@usbr.gov](mailto:tebrown@usbr.gov)

## IV.B INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

**IV.B.1** The application submission deadline is **September 30, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. Applications received after this date and time will not be considered for award.** The application should be either (1) submitted electronically through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov); or (2) mailed to include three paper copies and one electronic copy on a CD or thumb drive; or (3) hand-delivered to include three paper copies and one electronic copy on a CD or thumb drive to **Teresa E. Brown, MP-3839**, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1815, Sacramento, CA 95825-1898. See Section IV for instructions on application submission. See section IV.B.1 for more information. In order to safeguard the security of electronic information, [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) utilizes E-Authentication, the Federal program that ensures secure transactions. If you are filing electronically on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), you may submit your application any time after you receive your E-Authentication credentials. Applicants also need to be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM) before being able to submit an application through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). See <https://www.statebuy.state.gov/fa/Pages/GrantsFAQ.aspx> for more information. Additionally, personalized support is also available through the grants.gov Contact Center at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

### **Applications shall be submitted to the following person and address:**

Bureau of Reclamation

**Attn: Teresa E. Brown, MP-3839**

2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1815

Sacramento CA 95825-1898

Applications should be in Microsoft Word format in accordance with the instructions in this section. Maps, site photos, aerial or satellite imagery, figures, etc., should be submitted in color with the original and the copies. Applicants are not limited to one application submission; any number may be submitted by each applicant. Detailed instructions for each required element of an application are set forth immediately below.

### **Important Details to Remember:**

- Reclamation's Grants Management Specialist and/or the CVPCP/HRP Program Managers determine whether or not an application merits evaluation, scoring, and ranking under the guidelines put forth in this FOA. Eligibility of the application is determined by considering several factors. Please see section V.D "Explanation of the Proposal Evaluation and Ranking Process," for information on application eligibility.
- Federal agencies are not eligible to apply through this application. Federal agencies interested in applying for CVPCP/HRP funding should refer to Section III.A "Eligible Applicants."
- The CVPCP/HRP cannot fund any project that would be used to fulfill a mitigation requirement.
- Technical proposals for land protection, habitat restoration, research conducted in the field, and captive propagation and/or reintroduction projects, must identify the parcels on which the project activity would take place. Applications must include written evidence of landowner support, such as a letter or copy of an email message from the landowner, in which the landowner states their support for the project and their willingness to allow award recipients to access their lands to

conduct project activities. In addition, for land protection proposals, applicants must identify any known encumbrances or restrictions on the parcel to be acquired such as existing access easements, severed mineral rights, restrictive covenants, etc. More information about identifying restrictions is found in section V.A.1 Land Protection Priority Actions.

- So as to maximize benefits to CVP-impacted species, proposed habitat restoration and captive propagation and/or reintroduction projects occurring on lands permanently protected for conservation will receive priority consideration for selection. While it is not required that such projects occur on protected lands, proposals for projects not occurring on protected lands should describe how habitats and species will be conserved and protected long-term without formal protection in place. Proposals that do not adequately describe that may receive fewer scoring points, and likely a lower ranking, in the project evaluation and selection process.
- The application package contains a project Technical Proposal that is limited to a maximum of 18 pages in length. The 18 page limit includes the cover page, project description, budget narrative, budget table, and other information necessary to evaluate the proposed project. The following are not included within the 18-page limit: Maps, figures, photographs, Literature Cited, SF-424s, curriculum vitae, landowner letters or emails of support, and any other information such as appendices.
- Federally endangered and threatened species that have been impacted by the CVP have been rated by the CVPCP/HRP as “Low,” “Medium,” “High,” or “Very High,” and these priority ratings help determine selection of applications for funding. The Priority Species rating is based on two factors: (a) the recovery priority assigned to the species by the Service, and (b) the extent to which that species is impacted, either directly or indirectly, by the CVP. Both present day and historical impacts are considered. Future impacts are considered as best as can be predicted given present day trends and plans. A “Very High” rating means that the recovery priority for the species is rated high with an imminent threat of extinction and CVP actions contributed significantly to the species decline, either directly or indirectly. A “High” rating means that the recovery priority for the species is high, and CVP actions contributed significantly to the species decline, either directly or indirectly. In order for a project to be eligible for funding, at least one High or Very High rated species must benefit from the project unless otherwise specified in a program Priority Action (Section V). Unless otherwise specified, technical proposals that focus only on species with a “Low” or “Medium” rating will not be eligible for funding. A spreadsheet showing the CVP Priority Species, their ratings and other criteria may be found at: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html>
- Once an application is submitted, the submission is final. Post-submission revisions will not be accepted, i.e., such as if an error is found by the applicant.

Applications selected for funding may be reviewed by a Reclamation Cost Analyst. Applicants should be prepared to provide written documentation to support the basis of all project costs in accordance with 2 CFR 200. **When preparing project budget estimates, applicants may include as part of their project budget as much as 10% for labor cost to prepare this budget documentation.**

Applications must be submitted as a complete package. Materials arriving separately will not be included in the application package for consideration and may result in the application being rejected or not funded. Mailing materials, package, or packing envelopes containing the application must reference FOA number **BOR-MP-16-0004**. **Faxed and emailed copies of applications will not be accepted.**

**Do not include** company literature/brochure with your application. All pertinent information must be included in your application in accordance with the formats described below.

#### **IV.C TECHNICAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND FORMAT**

Because each technical proposal is scored for Technical Merit, it is highly recommended that applicants adhere very closely to the following submission guidelines:

- Technical proposals must have a page number on every page.
- The technical proposal is to be limited to a maximum of 18 pages in length. This 18 page total includes the cover page, project description, budget narrative, and budget table. Maps, figures, photographs, Literature Cited, SF-424s, curriculum vitae, landowner letters or emails of support, and any other information such as appendices should be included at the end of the proposal, outside of the 18 pages.
- Margins should be 1 inch on each side, top and bottom.
- Font type and size should be Times New Roman 12 pt.
- There should be 1.5 spaces between lines.

Applicants should submit well-described and technically accurate proposals organized to address the following required information for each section in the order indicated below:

**IV.C.1 Cover Page:** Include the name of the applicant, organization name, title of proposed project, and date.

**IV.C.2 Title of Proposed Project:** State the title of the proposed project.

**IV.C.3 Abstract:** Submit a brief abstract in standard abstract format (i.e., no more than one page).

**IV.C.4 Technical Proposal Category:** List the category of the project activity, e.g., Land Protection, Habitat Restoration, Research, or Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction. Only one category should be listed for each proposal.

**IV.C.5 Project Objective(s):** Clearly state the objective(s) that the proposed project would achieve when fully implemented. Objectives are typically clearly defined targets, actions, or tasks that an applicant intends to accomplish through a project, as opposed to more general results or achievements that describe an overall goal. **Do not include detailed species benefits information in this section.** Detailed information on species benefits from the project should be addressed under IV.C.16, "Relationship of the Proposal to the Program Scoring Criteria."

**IV.C.6 Proposal Proponent:** Provide the name, address, phone number, fax number, and email address of the main/primary technical point of contact.

**IV.C.7 Location of Proposed Project, Maps/Figures, and Photographs (as applicable):**

- For land protection and habitat restoration projects, include the location and size of the project

area in acres, as well as longitude and latitude information.

- All project applications must include a clear, detailed, full-page color map indicating local reference points, a scale bar, and the location of the proposed project within the CVPCP and HRP project area boundary (see website for CVPCP and HRP Project Area Map at [www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/map/index.html](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/map/index.html)).
- Clearly labeled species observation locations from surveys, if any.
- Clearly labeled species sampling/survey locations, if proposed.
- Photographs of the project site.
- Photos, maps, and figures should be included at the end of the proposal after the 18-page limit i.e., along with any appendices.

**IV.C.8 Amount of Funding Request:** Specify the amount of funds requested from the CVPCP/HRP.

**IV.C.9 Total Proposed Project Cost:** Specify the total estimated cost of the project including in-kind and cost-share contributions.

**IV.C.10 Proposed Activities:** For the action being proposed for funding, provide a detailed description and clear tasks to be accomplished including, but not limited to, the following:

- Relevant background information about the project.
- **For Land Protection and Habitat Restoration technical proposals only:** State the type(s) of habitat (i.e., riparian woodland, upland, vernal pools, etc.) and the number of acres of each of these habitat types that would be protected or restored if funded.
- **For Habitat Restoration technical proposals only:** Describe the intended procedures and restoration design. For example, describe any manipulation of the ground, the plant species to be planted, location to be planted (including showing locations on a map), density of plantings, the source where plants would be obtained, plans for irrigation if needed, etc.
- **For Habitat Restoration technical proposals only:** Provide enough information about potential effects from the proposed project, so that the environmental impact analysis can be facilitated and the compliance requirements can be satisfied. The proposal should have enough detail to assess whether proposed goals can be achieved. Examples of questions for habitat restoration that may need to be answered are: What are the dimensions of the area to be disturbed? Where would fill be obtained? Where would soil be dumped? Would dirt be moved to a relatively undisturbed area? Where would new plants be planted and what type(s) of existing habitat would be impacted? What avoidance measures would be employed, if needed (e.g. timing of activities to avoid bird nesting seasons)? Provide written descriptions, maps, and figures as necessary.
- **For Research technical proposals only:** Discuss and provide citations for any previous efforts and pre-existing data related to the proposed project.
- **For Research technical proposals only:** Discuss and clearly describe field techniques, study design, type of data collection, survey methodology and statistical methods, type of analysis being conducted, etc.
- If the project requires more than 1 year of work, the applicant should state this; list tasks for each phase; and separate tasks by each year.

- Answer the question: Why is this project needed?

**IV.C.11 Proposed Project Timeline:** Include milestones and the final completion date for each objective. Note: No project may be funded that extends beyond 5 years.

**IV.C.12 Monitoring and Management:** This criterion applies to Land Protection and Habitat Restoration projects only, unless required under another specific Priority Action. Long-term management and maintenance of protected and restored lands are critical for a project to achieve its full intended benefits to CVP impacted species. Proposals for land protection and habitat restoration should state how the protected and/or restored habitats would be monitored and managed in the future in order to achieve the benefits to the CVP impacted species and habitats described in the proposal. Examples of land management activities that should be discussed include grazing management; management of recreation and other human uses; invasive species and other potential pests; management of federally listed species habitats; and development and management of water. Recipients must submit a plan for monitoring and managing the proposed project area for all Habitat Restoration and conservation easement Land Protection projects prior to close of financial assistance award agreements, and fee title Land Protection projects prior to close of title and award agreements. **Applications submitted without reference to, or a description of, a Monitoring and Management Plan will not be considered for funding.**

**IV.C.13 Measuring Results:** (Does not apply to Land Protection projects.) Describe how project performance would be measured when assessing the progress made towards achieving predetermined performance goals. Examples of project performance that could be measured include: qualitative improvements in habitat conditions from pre- to post-restoration, quantitative changes in acres of each habitat type from pre- to post-restoration, number of individuals successfully propagated during captive breeding, statistical analysis of research results, etc.

**V.C.14 Department of Interior Landscape Conservation Cooperative:** All applicants are requested to address how their proposed project would contribute to the goals and objectives of the Department of Interior's (DOI) California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC), the foundation of DOI's climate change strategy. The LCC informs resource management decisions to address landscape- scale stressors affecting wildlife populations including habitat fragmentation, genetic isolation, the spread of invasive species, and water scarcity – all of which are accelerated by climate change. Information on the LCC can be found at the following website: <http://www.californialcc.org/>.

**IV.C.15 Résumé or Curriculum Vitae:** Provide a résumé or curriculum vitae for each person who would be significantly involved in the proposed project. This is not included as part of the 18-page technical proposal limit, and should be included after the proposal, i.e., with any appendices.

**IV.C.16 Relationship of the Proposal to the Program Scoring Criteria:** Each eligible application will be evaluated, scored, and ranked by the CVPCP/HRP Technical Team using Program Scoring Criteria. Section V.C lists these criteria and shows the range of points available for each criterion. All applicable criteria must be addressed by the applicant. Described below are those criteria which the applicant must address where applicable according to the category of technical proposal being submitted (Land Protection, Habitat Restoration, Research, or Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction), and suggestions on how to address them. **Each applicant is strongly encouraged to provide as much information as possible for each applicable criterion for each technical proposal, since awarding of funds is strongly tied to ranking scores.** More detailed guidelines for each scoring

criterion are described in Section V.D., “Explanation of the Proposal Evaluation and Ranking Process” and applicants are strongly encouraged to read this section in order to fully understand how each of the

criteria are scored. The information below is only a brief description of the information needed for each criterion.

- (1) **CVP Nexus**: Indicate the proposed project’s relationship to the CVP. Proposals must adequately define this relationship to be considered for evaluation. Priority will be given to applications for projects that are located within a CVP service area, consolidated place of use, and/or area receiving CVP water. See section V.D.1 for more information.
- (2) **Program Priority Action**: Per the Program Priority Actions specified in this FOA , proposals must state the Priority Action and its corresponding number under the project category (Land Protection, Habitat Restoration, Research, or Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction) that the proposal is being submitted. Only one Priority Action should be named for each proposal. **The Program Priority Actions are fully described in Section V.A of this FOA. Do not include any other wording in this section other than to identify the specific Priority Action.** See section V.D.2 for more information.
- (3) **Federally Listed Species Benefits (includes species proposed for listing)**: The proposal must indicate in as much detail as possible how the project would benefit federally Endangered or Threatened species, excluding fish, including species Proposed for listing, and which species would benefit. Define and document existing baseline conditions related to federally listed and proposed species, and cite all documented references of species occurrences (i.e., results of species’ surveys at the project area; reports in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) that document the presence of a species at or near the proposed project site; written statements by recognized species experts or others having personal knowledge that a species is present at the proposed site). Provide a table listing these species and their status. **Applicants should use the species table example in Attachment A as a template.** Also describe whether the proposed action would address U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species’ recovery plan tasks, which recovery plan tasks are addressed, and state whether designated “critical habitat” includes the project area. It is highly encouraged that species surveys be conducted at the project site prior to submitting an application. See section V.D.3 for more information.
- (4) **State Listed Species Benefits**: The proposal must indicate how State Endangered, Threatened, and Fully Protected species, excluding fish, may benefit from the proposed project. Apply the same provisions as indicated for Federal species benefits and include the information in a species table. **Applicants should use the species table example in Attachment A as a template.** Also, see section V.D.4 for more information.
- (5) **Benefits to Special Status Designated Species that are not Federal or State Listed or Proposed for Listing**: The proposal must describe how other imperiled CVP impacted species, excluding fish that are not listed, or proposed for Federal or State listing, may benefit from the proposed project. These species must be different than those listed under the Federal and State Endangered or Threatened species categories. Apply the same provisions as indicated for Federal and State species benefits and include in a species table. **Applicants should use the Species Table example in Attachment A as a template.** Federal or State species that are not listed or proposed for listing include Federal Candidate Species, State Species of Special Concern, and plant species designated as Rare by the California Native Plant Society. See section V.D.5 for more information.

- (6) **Habitat/Biodiversity: For Protection and Habitat Restoration proposals only.** The proposal must describe vegetation types and species diversity within the project area, how the project would help maintain or benefit these components, and the importance of the habitat. Describe the before and after habitat conditions that are projected if the project is implemented, and the types of habitat(s) to be benefitted by the project. Habitat conditions should be described as they pertain to Federal and State listed species, as well as to other special status species. Identify the special status species associated with the habitats to be benefitted from the project, and describe in detail how the species will benefit. Indicate locations of documented species occurrences on the project location map, especially verified Federal and State listed species occurrences and/or habitats. Include references to biological surveys that can verify these conditions and occurrences if available. See section V.D.6 for more information.
- (7) **Cumulative Benefit:** The proposal must indicate how project would contribute to past or on-going activities related to the same species or habitats, including past CVPCP/HRP-funded projects. See section V.D.7 for more information.
- (8) **Long-term Benefit:** The proposal must address how the project benefits might persist or increase over time, i.e., describe future benefits to species and habitats that are expected to result from the proposed project. See section V.D.8 for more information.
- (9) **Project Site Connectivity: For Land Protection and Habitat Restoration proposals only.** The proposal must describe how the project site is located in relation to other protected or restored areas. See section V.D.9 for more information. A map showing the proposed project site(s) location and its relationship to other protected or restored sites, either adjacent to or in the vicinity, is encouraged.
- (10) **Partners:** This criterion gives credit to financial contributions of cash and/or the equivalent in-kind service obtained from one or more sources that would facilitate the completion of the proposed project, expressed as a percentage of the total cost of the project that would offset costs otherwise paid for by the CVPCP/HRP. Information on the amount and nature of each partner contribution must be provided in order for partnering levels to be ascertained and credited. When addressing this criterion, the proposal must include a complete description of partner contributions that is consistent with the content of the Budget Narrative, Budget Table, and SF-424 forms. To get credit for a partner contribution the applicant must adhere to the following guidelines and parameters:
- Provide the name of each partner (other than the CVPCP/HRP) contributing cash or in-kind contributions toward the total cost of the project and describe the extent of the applicant's discussions with, and financial commitment from, the partners described in the proposal. For example, in order to receive scoring points under this criterion, it is not adequate to merely name as a partner "a State grant program." It is not expected that all partner contributions be committed at the time of the submission of the application, but the CVPCP/HRP Technical Team evaluating the proposal needs to know that the named partnership contribution is real.
  - Provide a description of how each partner contribution has a direct link to the current project being proposed.
  - Provide evidence that the partnership contribution is genuinely and wholly committed by substantiating the contribution through a letter or email message of confirmation from the partnering entity(ies) named in the proposal, i.e., this means that not only must the funding

partners be named/identified (see above), but the financial commitment must be supported through documentation in the application such that the Technical Team is convinced that the funding partner(s) contribution is real. This is required in order for the applicant to receive credit towards numerical points during the scoring of the "Partners" criterion by the CVPCP/HRP Technical Team. If appropriate documentation is not received with the application, the "Partners" criterion will receive zero (0) points during scoring. The determination of "appropriate" documentation is at the discretion of the CVPCP and HRP Program Managers.

- Provide the amount to be contributed by each of those partners as cash or equivalent dollars, as well as a percentage of the total project cost.
- Equate in-kind services to dollars. If this is not done, those services will not be considered when partnering points are tallied.
- Use the format shown in the template in Attachment C for the Budget Table to indicate partner contributions to the proposed project.

Additionally, please note the following limitations:

- Partners to the project who are not providing a financial contribution to the project, either directly or in-kind, will not be considered in the proposal scoring or project selection.
- Partner cost sharing will only be considered for components of the proposed project.
- Funds expended on the proposed project prior to receiving the CVPCP/HRP financial assistance award will not be considered when awarding points.
- Failure to secure partner funds from sources specified in the proposal may jeopardize the delivery of funds under a CVPCP/HRP financial assistance agreement.

For further guidance regarding how to prepare the Budget Table, Budget Narrative, and forms SF-424A and SF-424B, please see the Budget Proposal Instructions in Section IV.D. Also, see section V.D.10 for more information.

- (11) **Level of CVP Impacts:** The proposal must address to what extent a species or habitat that would benefit from the proposed project has been impacted by the CVP. For example, is the project area within the CVP Consolidated Place of Use? Is it within or outside of a CVP water district? Did the CVP cause significant losses of habitat in the project area? Is the project area on the perimeter of, or wholly within, the CVPCP/HRP Project Area Boundary? See section V.D.11 for more information.
- (12) **Project Urgency:** The proposal must assign a level of urgency, i.e., major, moderate, or minimal, to the project based on the endangerment of a species, the level of threat to a habitat area, and/or the consequence to the species should the project not be carried out. A complete explanation on the rationale for the statement of urgency should be provided. See the CVPCP and HRP website for a list of priority habitat types and species: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html> See section V.D.12 for more information.
- (13) **Technical Merit and Completeness:** The Technical Team will consider numerous elements of technical merit and completeness of the proposal as shown in the bulleted list in section V.D.13. Failure to adhere to these criteria will result in a low score for this criterion.
- (14) **Scientific Merit:** The Technical Team will consider the scientific rigor of proposed research projects, and will also consider outside technical reviewers' evaluations of the proposals. Proposals will be evaluated on several criteria including, but not limited to, the following: its scientific soundness,

appropriateness of methods, cohesiveness of argument, organization and clarity of methods (statistical design and analysis), length relative to information content, etc. See section V.D.14 for more information.

**IV.C.17 Literature Cited:** As applicable, applications should include a Literature Cited section. This should be included at the end of the proposal *after* the 18-page limit, i.e., with any appendices.

## **IV.D BUDGET**

### **IV.D.1 General Requirements**

In addition to the SF-424A and B discussed above, applicants must include a budget table and budget narrative with the estimated costs to conduct the proposed activity. The budget table should include the sources and values of in-kind contributions of goods and services as well as funds provided to complete the activity (i.e. include the total cost of the activity, not only the CVPCP/HRP requested funds). **More information is provided in Section V.D.10 “CRITERION #10 – PARTNERS.” The budget table and budget narrative are to be included in the 18-page limit.**

### **IV.D.2 Budget Table and Narrative Formats**

Applicants must provide a **Budget Table**, to include all of the information requested in the Budget Table template (Attachment C) and a **Budget Narrative** containing a complete description of each cost item in the budget table. The narrative should provide a detailed, clear, consistent, complete, and correct summary of project costs; indicates annual costs by task and funding category; and includes a description of contributions from any cost share partners. The budget should include sufficient **detailed** information to enable the Technical Team to evaluate the reasonableness of the budgeted costs. **The budget narrative must be separate from the budget table.**

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

Listed below are additional instructions for some common budget categories. Not all budgets will have costs in each category. The categories are provided simply as a means to provide instructions regarding the type of information to submit with the budget. If the budget includes expenses in these categories, follow the instructions provided. If the budget includes expenses in the “Other” category, provide information that describes how the budget amount was estimated, the assumptions it is based upon, etc. Multi-year projects are suitable for funding. For multi-year projects, identify separate costs and tasks to be conducted each year. In all cases, sufficient information must be provided to allow a determination that the budget is fair and reasonable for the proposed activity. An award will not be made to any applicant who fails to fully disclose and specify all project costs. Additionally, if more than one project option is proposed (i.e., a basic project and a potentially larger project), each option should have its own budget table, or else the budget table must make clear the costs and tasks for each option.

The basis of all costs in the SF-424 and proposed budget must be documented and defensible in order for the CVPCP/HRP Technical Team to determine fair and reasonable costs, regardless of whether a cost is funded by the CVPCP/HRP or another funding entity. This includes matching or in-kind costs.

If your application is selected for funding, a cost analysis will be conducted on the proposed budget prior to obligation of the award. Budgeted labor costs (labor categories, direct labor rates, hours per labor category) and fringe benefits, material costs by type, sub-recipient costs, travel, and any other direct and indirect costs are subject to evaluation. Recipients may be contacted by a Cost Analyst requesting supporting documentation for the estimated costs in the SF-424 and budget. In preparation for the cost analysis, applicants should be prepared to provide written documentation (i.e. copies of invoices and salary cost breakdowns from prior similar projects) for ANY costs displayed in the SF-424 and the proposal project budget. That requirement may also apply to funds offered as cost-share by the applicant or other partner.

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

For additional information see all applicable Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars related to Federal financial assistance budget and audit requirements, including but not limited to:

2 CFR 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards

OMB Circular A-133 Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations

**IV.D.2.1 Salaries and Wages** – Indicate the project manager and other key personnel by name and title. Other personnel may be indicated by title alone. For all positions, indicate salaries and wages, estimated hours or percent of time, and rate of compensation proposed. The labor rates should identify the direct labor rate separate from the fringe rate or fringe cost for each category. All labor estimates, including any proposed subcontractors, shall be allocated to specific objectives as outlined in the recipient's technical project description.

Clearly identify any proposed salary increases, the effective date, and “rational” justification for any increase.

Generally, salaries of administrative and/or clerical personnel should be included as a portion of your indirect costs. If these salaries can be adequately documented as direct costs, they may be included in this section; however, an explanation should be included in your budget narrative.

Successful applicants will be asked to provide supporting documents for labor costs, such as a standard salary list or some other means from the organization's payroll office to substantiate the labor rates proposed for salaried and temporary personnel. Labor rate should not include fringe.

**IV.D.2.2 Fringe Benefits** – Indicate rates/amounts, (i.e., retirement, vacation, health insurance, overtime, etc.), what costs are included in this category, and the basis of the rate computations. Indicate whether these rates are used for purposes of the proposed project only, or whether they are fixed or provisional rates for billing purposes. Federally-approved rate agreements are acceptable for compliance with this item.

Provide items listed in the fringe benefits calculations and the percentage or amount for each. For example:

<u>Benefit Type</u>	<u>Rate</u>
FICA (Social Security)	6.20%
Medicare	1.60%
Unemployment Insurance	6.20%

Worker's Compensation	1.21%
Medical (part of health)	7.04%
Dental package (part of health)	3.55%
Retirement Contribution	14.45%
Holiday	3.65%
Leave	<u>11.36%</u>
	55.26%

**IV.D.2.3 Travel** – Include the purpose of the trip, destination, number of personnel traveling, length of stay and all travel costs including airfare (basis for rate used), per diem, lodging, and miscellaneous travel expenses. For local travel, include mileage and the rate of compensation. Unless otherwise justified, costs should be based on the federally-approved rate. If not, documentation must be provided showing the basis of the rates (i.e. market research, past performance, past costs, written travel policy procedures).

**IV.D.2.4 Equipment** – Itemize costs of all equipment having a value of over \$500 and include information as to the need for this equipment. Also specify whether rental or purchase. Successful applicants may be asked to provide a written copy of their procurement policy procedures.

How was equipment priced if being purchased for the agreement? What type of research was performed? If equipment is rented, specify the number of hours and the hourly rate. Local rental rates are only accepted for equipment actually rented or leased for the project.

If equipment currently owned by the applicant is proposed for use under the proposed project, and the cost to use that equipment is being included in the budget as in-kind cost share, provide the rates and hours for each piece of equipment owned and budgeted. These should be ownership rates developed by the recipient for each piece of equipment.

If these rates are not available, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineer's recommended equipment rates for the region are acceptable. Blue book, federal emergency management agency (FEMA), and other data bases should not be used. Indicate what type of research was performed.

**IV.D.2.5 Supplies** – Itemize supplies by major category, quantity, and purpose, such as whether the items are needed for office use, research, or construction.

Identify how these costs were estimated (i.e., market research-quotes, past experience-explain how these costs are similar, engineering estimates or other methodology-provide supporting information or documents).

**IV.D.2.6 Contractual** – Identify all work that will be conducted by subrecipients, consultants, or contractors, including a detailed budget estimate of time, rates, supplies, and materials that will be required for the task. If a subrecipient, consultant, or contractor is proposed and approved at the time of award, no other approvals will be required. Any changes or additions will require a request for approval.

**IV.D.2.7 Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs** - Reference all environmental and regulatory costs to be incurred by the award recipient that will not be incurred by Reclamation or the Service (i.e. State and local permits).

**IV.D.2.8 Other** – Any other expenses, such as those for reporting or for the purchase of land not included in the above categories shall be listed in this category, along with a description of the item and what it will be used for.

No profit or fee will be allowed.

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

Contingencies that are allowed in the budget CANNOT be drawn down without prior approval by the Grants Officer.

**IV.D.2.9 Indirect Cost** – Show the proposed rate, cost base, and proposed amount for allowable indirect costs based on the applicable Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circular cost principles for the recipient's organization. It is not acceptable to simply incorporate indirect rates within other direct cost line items.

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

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

If unapproved rates are used, explain why, and include the computational basis for the indirect expense pool and corresponding allocation base for each rate. Information on "preparing and submitting indirect cost proposals" is available from the Department of Interior, the National Business Center, and indirect cost section, at [http://www.doi.gov/ibc/services/Indirect\\_Cost\\_Services/index.cfm](http://www.doi.gov/ibc/services/Indirect_Cost_Services/index.cfm)

**IV.D.2.11 Total Cost** – Indicate the total cost of the proposed project, including the requested amount from the CVPCP/HRP, and the Federal and non-Federal (partner cost-share and in-kind) amounts.

## **IV.E FEDERAL FORMS**

Along with the technical proposal, applicants must submit a fully completed SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance. This form must be signed by a person legally authorized to commit the

organization to performance of the activity and who will be the official administrative point of contact during the application process.

Inclusion of a properly signed and dated SF-424 in the application is a mandatory requirement. Failure to adhere to this requirement will result in the elimination of the application from further consideration. The SF-424 and its related forms may be downloaded from [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) under the Funding Opportunity, Full Announcement or Application.

As part of their SF-424 submission, applicants must complete an SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-construction Programs, and a completed and signed SF-424B – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs. These forms must be signed by a person legally authorized to commit the organization to performance of the activity. Inclusion of a properly signed and dated SF-424B in the application is a mandatory requirement. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in the elimination of the application from further consideration.

The SF-424 is subject to review by the State Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs”. One copy of the SF-424 must be mailed to the State Clearinghouse, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812. The State also accepts fax copies of the SF-424 at (916) 323-3018. Applicants should not send or fax the full application package or any other supplemental information to the State Clearinghouse. Be sure to mark the SF-424 correctly; check the box and indicate the date that the SF-424 was faxed or mailed to the State Clearinghouse on Section 19 of the SF-424.

## **SECTION V – APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION**

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### **V.A CVPCP AND HRP PROGRAM PRIORITY ACTIONS**

The CVPCP and HRP have established Priority Actions related to CVP impacted federally listed species, their habitats, and corresponding geographic areas. They reflect the most current evaluation of species needs and habitat trends, and are complementary to other on-going conservation actions within the Central Valley. They also take into account historical levels of investment by the Programs, as well as future threats to specific ecosystems. Priority Actions have been developed for the following project categories: Land Protection, Habitat Restoration, Research, and Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction. Well-conceived and clearly written technical proposals must address these Priority Actions. Applications submitted under the Research and Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction categories that do not address one of the specific Priority Actions will not be eligible for consideration. The Priority Actions are listed in order of preference within each activity category. The number of points assigned to each Priority Action within each project category during the scoring process is indicated in parentheses with the Priority Action.

#### **V.A.1 Land Protection Priority Actions**

##### Guidelines

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

- Proposals must focus on “High” or “Very High” CVP Priority Species. See section IV.B.I, “Important Details to Remember,” for more information.
- Parcels proposed for fee title acquisition or conservation easements having documented occurrences of CVP impacted federally listed species will likely rank higher than those that do not.

- The parcel(s) to be acquired must be specifically identified by location in the proposal; the willing seller must be identified; and evidence of landowner support for the project must be provided in the application (i.e., letter of support or email message).
- The Program Managers and/or Technical Team have the discretion to consider the overall percentage of the area being proposed for protection supporting habitat for federally listed species in their project selection decisions, i.e., the number of acres of CVP impacted species habitats as a percentage of the total number of acres proposed for protection will be a factor in project selection.
- **Restrictions and covenants. PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR FY 2017:**
  - Applicants must make a good faith effort to employ due diligence in order to identify any restrictive covenants and zoning conditions for properties before submitting proposals for fee title acquisition. This will help eliminate any possible threats to the legal and full ownership of the property on behalf of the new buyer.
  - For grant proposals that involve the purchase of an interest in real property, whether in fee title or conservation easement, the proposal must corroborate that there is evidence of title sufficient to demonstrate that the interest to be purchased will be properly vested in the party purchasing the interest, and discuss that in the proposal. Applicants should refer to the U.S. Department of Justice's (USDOJ) "Title Standards 2001" (March 23, 2001 reprint) for a description of what would be adequate evidence of title to satisfy a grant award. The USDOJ Title Standards 2001 is available online at: <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/enrd/legacy/2011/03/28/2001-title-standards.pdf> Applicants do not need to submit a copy of the title or title insurance with their application.
  - If restrictions are present, applicants must describe why the restrictions would not impair their ability to acquire, protect, and manage the parcels for the benefit of CVP impacted species.
- If species surveys were conducted on, or in the vicinity of, the parcel(s) proposed for funding, name any special status species observed, and provide a map/figure clearly showing the locations of the species occurrences/observations.
- If a protection proposal is selected for award, appraisals of parcels for fee title acquisition or conservation easements must be completed under the supervision of the Department of Interior's (DOI) Office of Valuation Services (OVS) to ensure appraisals meet DOI standards. Appraisals submitted without DOI/OVS review will not be approved. OVS guidelines require the appraisal be done using the U.S. Department of Justice's "Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions" ("Yellow Book Appraisal Standards").
- Program managers are looking for opportunities to acquire lands with water rights that can support water supply for Federal fish and wildlife refuges. Applications for land protection projects that can provide such water may receive additional consideration for funding.

#### Specific Land Protection Priority Actions

1. ***San Joaquin Valley floor non-vernal pool wetland protection***. Protect through fee title or conservation easement, non-vernal pool wetland habitat located on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley, in Merced and Fresno counties, which contributes to the core population areas and habitat linkages for the giant garter snake. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one and two tasks as described in the *Revised Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake* (USFWS 2015). (9 points)
2. ***San Joaquin Valley floor habitat and rangeland protection***. Protect through fee title or conservation easement, alkali sink, alkali scrub, and valley grassland habitat located on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley, including the Panoche Valley and Carrizo Plains, that contributes to the core and satellite population areas and habitat linkages and corridors for San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-

nosed leopard lizard, Tipton kangaroo rat, giant kangaroo rat, Fresno kangaroo rat, Buena Vista Lake ornate shrew, and federally-listed plant species, specifically California jewelflower, palmate-bracted bird's beak, Kern mallow, San Joaquin woolly-threads, Hartweg's golden sunburst, and Bakersfield cactus. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one and two tasks as described in Tables 5 and 7 for the species found in the *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS 1998b). (9 points)

3. ***Permanently protect breeding habitat supporting California tiger salamander in Yolo County.*** Protect through fee title or conservation easement, breeding habitat that supports existing populations of California tiger salamander within designated critical habitat, or is adjacent to other protected occurrences of California tiger salamander in Yolo County. (9 points)
4. ***Permanently protect vernal pool habitat supporting vernal pool tadpole shrimp via land acquisition or conservation easement in Placer County.*** Proposals will be considered that protect existing natural vernal pool landscapes supporting vernal pool tadpole shrimp in Placer County. Proposals under this priority action that protect lands that will complement existing protected lands and contribute to protection of contiguous blocks of habitat will be prioritized. (6 points)
5. ***Serpentine soil and associated habitats supporting endemic species, such as the bay checkerspot butterfly and serpentine plants, in Santa Clara County.*** Proposals will be considered that protect and preserve existing habitat and provide for the protection and management of occupied habitats as well as unoccupied serpentine grasslands that act as corridors or stepping stones between known populations of bay checkerspot butterfly and other listed serpentine species. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one and two tasks for serpentine species found in the Implementation Schedule in the *Recovery Plan for Serpentine Soil Species of the San Francisco Bay Area* (USFWS 1998a). (6 points)
6. ***Permanently protect vernal pool habitat supporting vernal pool fairy shrimp and/or vernal pool tadpole shrimp via land acquisition or conservation easement in Butte County.*** Proposals will be considered that protect existing natural vernal pool complexes within the Northeastern Sacramento Valley vernal pool region described in the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2005) for the vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. Proposals under this priority action that protect lands that complement existing protected lands and contribute to protection of contiguous blocks of habitat will be prioritized. Proposed projects which would also benefit Butte County meadowfoam are of particular interest and will receive additional consideration, however, proposals that would benefit Butte County meadowfoam alone will not be considered for funding. (3 points)
7. ***Permanently protect vernal pool habitat via land acquisition or conservation easement in Stanislaus, Madera, San Joaquin, Merced, Sacramento, or Tehama counties.*** Proposals will be considered that protect existing natural vernal pool complexes supporting listed vernal pool species in Zone 1 and Zone 2 Core Areas in Stanislaus, Madera, San Joaquin, Merced, Sacramento, or Tehama Counties as described in the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2005), especially sites that are known to be inhabited by federally listed species with very limited ranges. Proposals must protect lands that will complement existing protected lands and contribute to protection of contiguous blocks of habitat. Proposals should emphasize implementation of appropriate priority one and two tasks found in the Implementation Schedule of the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2005). (3 points)

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

## **V.A.2 Habitat Restoration Priority Actions**

### **Guidelines**

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

- In order to qualify as a habitat restoration Priority Action, projects proposed for funding must:
  - Pertain to the restoration or enhancement of native plant and animal communities.
  - Pertain to the ecosystem functions and values to which the species targeted in the Priority Actions are adapted.
  - Focus the restoration primarily on CVP impacted species.
- Proposals must focus on “High” or “Very High” CVP Priority Species. See section IV.B.I, “Important Details to Remember,” for more information.
- Proposals that focus on restoration of habitats for a limited number of species of plants or animals (i.e., 1-3 species only) will not be considered under a habitat restoration Priority Action unless the Priority Action is written specifically to benefit those species.
- The parcel(s) to be restored must be specifically identified by location in the proposal; the landowner must be identified; and evidence of landowner support for the project must be provided in the proposal (i.e., copy of a letter of support or email message).
- All proposals should clearly define and establish criteria for project completion and performance, as well as estimate when these completion criteria are expected to be met.
- If species surveys have been conducted in the area of the proposed project, indicate on the project map/figure the locations of any special status species observed.

### **Specific Habitat Restoration Priority Actions**

1. **Restoration or creation of non-vernal pool wetlands and associated water supply, riparian habitat, and associated uplands supporting the giant garter snake within the historic range of this species in Merced, Fresno, and southern Sacramento counties.** Actions must emphasize large-scale habitat connectivity, and address how perennial water would be secured, how water quality would be improved, and how clean water would be provided to existing populations of giant garter snakes. Proposals that focus on riparian corridors must demonstrate that the riparian areas will support giant garter snake dispersal and how the corridors will provide linkage for existing giant garter snake populations. Proposals should emphasize implementation of appropriate priority one and two tasks from the *Revised Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake* (USFWS 2015). (9 points)
2. **San Joaquin Valley ecosystem restoration that results in the following vegetation types: alkali sink, alkali scrub, and valley grassland habitat.** Restoration located in the San Joaquin Valley that contributes to species recovery will be considered. The restoration effort should benefit core and satellite population areas (see *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* [USFWS 1998b]) and emphasize habitat connectivity for the following federally-listed animal and plant species: San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Tipton kangaroo rat, giant kangaroo rat, Buena Vista Lake ornate shrew, California jewelflower, palmate-bracted

bird's beak, Kern mallow, San Joaquin woolly-threads, Hartweg's golden sunburst, or Bakersfield cactus. Areas selected for restoration should demonstrate presence of one or more of the species noted above. Restoration efforts should also benefit habitat linkages and corridors of the listed animal species. Proposals should emphasize priority one and two tasks for these species found in the *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS 1998b). (9 points.)

3. ***Restoration of riverine dunes habitat for Lange's metalmark butterfly and two listed plants at the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge.*** Actions will be considered that 1) raise and out-plant the two listed plants (Antioch Dunes evening primrose and Contra Costa wallflower), and the non-listed Lange's metalmark butterfly host plant (auriculate naked-stemmed buckwheat) and/or 2) remove invasive plants. Proposals should be set in the context of past restoration efforts including, but not limited to, what restoration has been accomplished to date; where restoration has occurred; and what restoration still needs to be accomplished. Proposals should emphasize priority one and two tasks for these species identified in the *Revised Recovery Plan for Three Endangered Species Endemic to Antioch Dunes, California* (USFWS 1984). (6 points)
4. ***Restoration of riparian habitat in the Kern River Valley or Sacramento Valley for the yellow-billed cuckoo.*** Projects will be considered that restore willow and cottonwood riparian forest to support yellow-billed cuckoo nesting and foraging habitat. Restoration efforts must focus on enlarging existing habitat or connecting patches of existing habitat. Creation of riparian habitat within new areas must be at least 25 acres in size to provide suitable breeding and foraging habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo. Projects that additionally benefit other federally listed riparian species are of particular interest. (3 points)
5. ***Other habitat restoration or enhancement that addresses CVPCP/HRP goals of protecting, enhancing, and restoring CVP impacted federally listed species populations and their habitats within the CVPCP/HRP project area map boundary.*** See the CVPCP and HRP website for priority habitat types and species that are targeted for restoration actions: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/species/index.html>. (0 points)

### V.A.3 **Research Priority Actions**

#### Guidelines

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

- Proposals must focus on "High" or "Very High" CVP Priority Species. See section IV.B.I, "Important Details to Remember," for more information.
- This FOA seeks to fund research in which a methodical scientific study is performed on a hypothesis relating to a specific information need concerning one or more federally listed CVP impacted species, experimentation to demonstrate the truth or falseness of the hypothesis, and a conclusion that validates or modifies the hypothesis.
- At a minimum, all proposals submitted under a research Priority Action must adhere to the following:
  - Include a clear and detailed study methodology.
  - Include a clear hypothesis(es) as applicable (see above).
  - Describe how deliverables would increase current and future protection and/or restoration of species or habitats impacted by the CVP (see more details below).

- Describe how the research findings would benefit federally listed species.
- Research must demonstrate an explicit tie to the CVPCP/HRP's intent to fund only research that effectively links results to improved or refined future management, restoration, and land protection decisions for the CVPCP/HRP. **Applicants submitting research proposals must describe how the proposed project would accomplish one or more of the following:**
  - Help determine *which* habitats should be protected and/or restored to most benefit CVPCP/HRP High or Very High priority species/habitats.
  - Help identify specific properties to be protected and/or restored to most benefit CVPCP/HRP High or Very High priority species/habitats (i.e. species surveys).
  - Help determine *how* habitats should be restored to most benefit CVPCP/HRP High or Very High priority species/habitats.
  - Help gauge the biological responses to restoration projects that most benefit CVPCP/HRP High or Very High priority species/habitats.
- Multi-phase projects must detail how adequate data collection would be achieved if successive years are not funded. For projects having multiple phases which depend on future funding for success, the budget should be itemized for each year of research. If selected, multi-phase projects will be considered based on prior performance and funding availability. If permits would be required to undertake the research, proposals must address how those permits are to be obtained.
- All research proposals will be independently evaluated by experts in the scientific community on the various research topics proposed (**see Attachment B, which shows the evaluation form that will be used by the reviewers for each Research proposal**).
- If applicable, describe circumstances of known access vs. unknown access to lands on which the research would be conducted. For example:
  - Describe which lands have access granted and which lands do not.
  - Address how potentially not obtaining access to lands would affect the results of the research.
  - When species surveys are proposed, specify how much (percentage) of the surveys, etc., would be conducted on private lands vs. public lands.
  - The parcel(s) on which research activities would occur must be specifically identified by location in the proposal; the landowner must be identified; and evidence of landowner support for the project must be provided in the application (i.e., a letter of support or email message).
- If any animals would be held live in captivity during the course of the research/study, the applicant must describe in the proposal what would happen to the animals after the study is completed, i.e., be returned to the wild, be kept in captivity, etc. For research on animals, recipients must comply with laws and regulations as stated in Section VII.E of this FOA.

### Specific Research Priority Actions

1. **California tiger salamander genomic research.** Projects will be considered that propose genomic research to address landscape resistance across the Central Distinct Population Segment of the California tiger salamander within the CVPCP/HRP project area map boundary. Projects must be designed to refine existing understanding of population subdivision and the importance of landscape features in facilitating/impeding dispersal. Projects should additionally focus on the movement and distribution of non-native genes to identify regions of greatest invasive gene frequencies and the landscape and habitat features that enhance, and tend to stop, the movements of those genes. If a proposal will need to access multiple lands, then the proposal must include a detailed description of how land access will be sought and contingency plans for inability to access particular parcels. (9 points)

2. ***Summarization of data and subsequent development of a giant garter snake repatriation plan for the San Joaquin Valley.*** Proposals will be considered that summarize existing distribution, abundance, population status, and population genetic data for giant garter snakes in the San Joaquin Valley. The summarized information then must be compiled to develop a comprehensive giant garter snake repatriation plan that addresses 1) restoration needs at existing occupied sites, 2) strategies for finding locations of appropriate donor sites for translocations or captive propagation, (3) prioritization of potential reintroduction sites, and (4) approaches for follow-up monitoring. The final product must include a detailed written report that presents options for proceeding with repatriation and subsequent monitoring. (6 points)
  
3. ***Develop scent-dog survey methodology to determine presence of valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB).*** Proposals will be considered that build on existing research with scent-dogs. Proposals must 1) be designed in order to estimate probability of detection of VELB, 2) be able to distinguish between VELB and the California longhorn beetle, 3) develop a survey protocol that will allow for statistical determination of probability of occupancy, and 4) describe how the final report for the project will relate the new methodology with on-the-ground implementation for prioritization of particular areas within the range of VELB for restoration or protection. (3 points)

#### **V.A.4 Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction**

##### Guidelines

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

- The focus of this category is on projects for which a critical component to the recovery of a federally listed CVP impacted species is the capture, propagation, and reintroduction of the species into its native habitat.
- If any species would be held live in captivity during the course of the research/study, the applicant must describe in the proposal what would happen to the individuals after the study is completed, i.e., be returned to the wild, be kept in captivity, etc. For captive breeding of animals, recipients must comply with laws and regulations as stated in Section VII.E. of this FOA.
- If the proposal includes implementation of reintroductions in addition to a reintroduction plan, then specific reintroduction site(s) must be identified by location in the proposal; the landowner must be identified; and written approval for the reintroduction from the landowner of the proposed reintroduction site(s) must be included with the application (i.e., a letter of support or email message).
- Reintroductions on lands that are protected in perpetuity, and specifically managed for the benefit of the species, will receive priority consideration for funding.
- As a general rule, only reintroductions taking place on protected land will be considered for funding unless a compelling reason exists for reintroductions to occur on unprotected lands.

##### Specific Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction Priority Actions

1. ***Translocations and reintroductions of the bay checkerspot butterfly within its historical range.*** Proposals will be considered that use existing bay checkerspot butterfly populations as the source for establishment of new populations or enhancement of recently established populations within the historical range of the butterfly. Proposals must specifically address how effects to the source population will be minimized while still allowing for a high likelihood of project success. Proposed efforts are expected to continue for up to 4 years in order to allow for increased likelihood

of establishing a new population. Proposals must indicate the number of years, i.e., between 2 and 4, that translocations will occur and why that length of time was selected. (9 points)

2. **Lange's metalmark butterfly captive breeding program for reintroduction at the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge.** Actions would be considered that continue/expand upon the current captive breeding program to raise Lange's metalmark butterflies and release them at the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge. Proposals should clearly define and establish criteria for project completion, and establish a timeline for completion of criteria. They should be set in the context of past captive breeding efforts. Proposals should emphasize implementation of appropriate priority one and two tasks for species found in the *Revised Recovery Plan for Three Endangered Species Endemic to Antioch Dunes, California* (USFWS 1984). (6 points)

## V.B EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria in section V.C, and by the corresponding scoring points assigned to each criterion. The criteria and points will be used by the CVPCP/HRP Technical Team to score the applications received. The following information is provided to assist applicants in preparing a detailed description of the proposed project. Applications should thoroughly address each of the criteria and sub-criteria in the order presented to assist the CVPCP/HRP Technical Team in a complete and accurate evaluation of the application.

## V.C PROGRAM SCORING CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated, scored, and ranked by the CVPCP & HRP Technical Team in accordance with the 14 Program Scoring Criteria listed below. The manner in which the Technical Team scores proposals, based on information provided by the applicants, is fully described in Section V.D. Section IV.C explains how each criterion should be addressed by the applicant.

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

**(2) Program Priority Action:** Point numbers are awarded in accordance with Priority Actions within each project activity category. CVPCP/HRP Priority Actions are fully described in Section V.A.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**(6) Habitats/Biodiversity:  
(for Protection and  
Restoration Proposals)**

- 0 = none
- 1-2 = minimal
- 3-4 = moderate
- 5-6 = major

**(7) Cumulative Benefit:**

- 0 = none
- 1 = minimal
- 2 = moderate
- 3 = major

**(8) Long-term Benefit:**

- 0 = none
- 1 = minimal
- 2 = moderate
- 3 = major

**(9) Project Site  
Protection and  
Restoration proposals)**

- 0 = none
- 1 = minimal
- 2 = moderate
- 3 = major

**(10) Partners:**

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

**(11) Level of CVP Impacts:**

- 0 = none
- 2 = minimal
- 4 = moderate
- 6 = major

**(12) Project Urgency:**

- 0 = none
- 3 = minimal
- 6 = moderate
- 9 = major

**(13) Technical Merit and Completeness of Proposal:**

- 0 = none
- 1-2 = minimal
- 3-4 = moderate
- 5-6 = major

**(14) Scientific Merit:  
(for Research  
proposals)**

- 0 = none
- 1-3 = minimal
- 4-6 = moderate
- 7-9 = major

**V.D EXPLANATION OF THE PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND RANKING PROCESS**

Applications received by the CVPCP and HRP are evaluated for their eligibility to apply for program funds according to the guidelines put forth in this FOA. Eligible applications are placed into the four activity categories described in Section I.E.: Land Protection, Habitat Restoration, Research, or Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction. This section explains the proposal evaluation and ranking process, including the eligibility conditions for an application to be considered for consideration. Applications that do not successfully meet one or more factors listed below under “Project Eligibility” will be deemed ineligible for consideration.

**PROJECT ELIGIBILITY**

Subsequent to an application being considered for evaluation, the Reclamation Grants Management Specialist and/or the CVPCP/HRP Program Managers will determine whether or not the application is eligible for funding. Eligibility of each proposal is determined by considering, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) CVP Priority Species. As indicated in section IV.B.I, eligible proposals will focus on species with a “High” or “Very High” rating; proposals that focus only on species with a “Low” or “Medium” rating will not be eligible for consideration.
- (2) Geographic area. The project area must be located within the CVPCP/HRP Priority Project Area boundary, or otherwise have a clear CVP connection. These factors are used in determining whether the proposed project has a CVP nexus which is necessary for it to meet the intent and authorities of the Programs.
- (3) Conformance with the FOA.
  - Proposals must conform to the goals and objectives of the CVPCP and HRP; successfully address a program Priority Action, and Scoring Criteria; and follow the required format.
  - The CVPCP/HRP cannot fund any project that would be used to fulfill a mitigation requirement.
- (4) Past performance of project applicant. Proposals whose applicants have received a Federal funding award in the past may be considered based on past performance of those applicants. At a minimum, this would include how well the applicant, as a previous award recipient,

complied with submitting invoices, reports, and other requirements in a complete and timely manner; communicated and coordinated on past projects between themselves and the awarding agency; complied with the terms and conditions of the previous grant agreement; and whether the award recipient was responsive to requested information in a timely manner.

- (5) Evidence of willing seller and/or landowner support.
  - Proposals submitted for Land Protection, Habitat Restoration, and Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction projects, and Research projects conducted in the field, must include evidence of willing sellers/landowner support.
  - For Land Protection, the parcel(s) to be acquired must be identified in the proposal, and willing seller(s) of the parcel(s) identified. The fact that a parcel to be acquired has a willing seller(s) must be corroborated through written confirmation submitted with the proposal. The confirmation does not have to be a formal letter, but it does need to be a type of statement that will convince CVPCP/HRP Managers and the Technical Team that the parcel has a willing seller(s). Funds to be awarded through this announcement are for the specific parcel(s) identified in the proposal. No replacement lands will be considered should the land identified in the proposal no longer be available for protection. For a conservation easement, successful applicants must submit a draft conservation easement to the CVPCP and/or HRP Program Manager for review and concurrence prior to completion of the appraisal.
  - For Habitat Restoration, Research, and Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction, the parcels to be restored or selected for research or captive propagation and/or reintroduction must be identified in the proposal, and the willing landowner(s) of the parcel(s) identified. The willing landowner(s) must be corroborated through written confirmation submitted with the proposal.
- (6) Research and Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction proposals. Proposed Research and Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction projects are not eligible for funding if they do not address a specific FOA Priority Action.
- (7) Budget Narrative. Awards will not be made to any applicant who fails to provide Budget Narrative information. The Budget Narrative must be separate from the Budget Table.
- (8) Budget Table and Budget Narrative. An award will not be made to any applicant who fails to fully disclose and specify all project costs. See section IV.D for more information.
- (9) SF-424 Forms. Applications that do not include the required SF-424 documents (Application for Federal Assistance) including the application form, Assurances, and Budget Information, with the submission of their proposal(s) will not be considered for an award. Additionally, as stated in section IV.E, the SF-424 documents must be signed by a person legally authorized to commit the applicant to performance of the proposed activity. Inclusion of a properly signed and dated SF-424 and SF-424B is mandatory. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in the elimination of your proposal from further consideration.
- (10) Monitoring and Management Plans. As described in section IV.C.12, monitoring and management plans must be completed for all Land Protection and Habitat Restoration projects. Plans for fee title land protections must be provided prior to close of title and award agreements. Plans for conservation easements and habitat restoration projects must be provided prior to close of award agreements. Additionally, land protection and habitat restoration proposals submitted without reference to, or a description of, a Monitoring and Management Plan will not be considered for award.

### **V.D.1 CRITERION #1 - CVP NEXUS**

#### **FOR PROTECTION, HABITAT RESTORATION, RESEARCH, AND CAPTIVE PROPAGATION AND/OR REINTRODUCTION PROPOSALS**

This application eligibility factor considers whether a “nexus” exists between the project proposal and the CVP. Generally a nexus is determined based on two factors:

1) Will benefits to a CVP impacted species or habitats occur within a CVP contract service area, or in an area where CVP water is delivered following water transfer of sale? Visit the CVPCP and HRP website to view the Priority Project Area Map:  
<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/>

2) Is there a strong linkage between an impacted habitat and/or species and the CVP?

This factor is especially valuable to Reclamation because it provides a higher level of assurance to CVP contractors that the conservation needs of resources affected by their district are being addressed in proportion to their share in water surcharge contributions, thereby serving to make future formal ESA Section 7 consultations easier for actions needed in their district.

### **V.D.2 CRITERION #2 - PROGRAM PRIORITY ACTION**

#### **FOR PROTECTION, HABITAT RESTORATION, RESEARCH, AND CAPTIVE PROPAGATION AND/OR REINTRODUCTION PROPOSALS**

This criterion addresses a proposal’s relationship to the Priority Actions of the CVPCP/HRP in terms of habitats, species, and priority geographic areas identified and ranked for a given year. Program Managers establish these Priority Actions based in part on past expenditures and existing needs. A proposal that addresses needs within these Priority Actions will be scored accordingly, with proposals addressing higher priority areas, and higher priority species receiving more points than those addressing lower priority areas and species. Priority Actions, and their corresponding pre-assigned number of assigned scoring points, are indicated in Section V.A of this FOA.

### **V.D.3 CRITERION #3 - FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES BENEFITS**

This is the section of the proposal where applicants should provide the main description of the benefits expected to occur to federally listed CVP impacted species resulting from the project, and where applicants should address benefits to species included in their species table. The criterion is used to distinguish between proposed projects that have specific benefits to species (excluding fish) that are currently federally listed, as opposed to proposals with broader ecological benefits. **Under this criterion, species that are designated as “Proposed” for Federal listing are given the same status as those currently listed.** Proposals for which CVP impacted species have been surveyed and documented on the project site are likely to receive a higher score under this criterion than for projects where the presence of those species has not been documented.

#### **FOR PROTECTION PROPOSALS**

This criterion asks the following question: Does the proposed project provide a **major, moderate, or minimal** benefit to federally listed and proposed High or Very High CVP impacted species? Parcels proposed for protection having documented occurrences of federally listed and proposed species will likely score higher than those that do not. Applicants must describe the existing baseline conditions for federally listed species that are known or suspected to inhabit the project area that can be expected to benefit from the protection, and how that baseline is expected to be maintained or improved as a result of the project. **It is insufficient to merely provide a table or list of species that are present in the vicinity of the proposed protected area(s).** Applicants should name the species that are expected to benefit from the

proposed protection, and explain how each species would directly or indirectly benefit.

While considering this criterion, the Programs' Technical Team will consult existing Recovery Plans to determine whether an action within a proposal can be correlated with Recovery Plan tasks. This correlation can be used as a tool for determining the scale of benefit that would result from implementation of the project. Additionally, when determining the appropriate score for a proposed project, reviewers should keep in mind that immediacy of threat to a species, and the degree of urgency associated with a project, is considered under a separate criteria ("Project Urgency").

Examples of **major**, **moderate**, and **minimal** benefits are as follows:

For fee title acquisitions and conservation easements, a **major** benefit to federally listed species would result when the land that would be protected consists of the following attributes: Land is in relatively pristine condition and does not need to be restored (e.g., has not been previously degraded or contaminated by previous land uses and is not dominated by exotic species); land is documented to be utilized by the CVPCP's/ HRP's priority federally listed species or any number of critically endangered species; land is comprised of designated critical habitat; and land is not subject to disturbance from adjacent lands (e.g., noise from developed areas, agricultural activities, etc.). A **moderate** benefit to federally listed species would result when the land that would be acquired consists of the following attributes: Land is not in pristine condition, needs little restoration, and has not been severely degraded; land is utilized by the CVPCP's/HRP's priority federally listed species; land is not comprised of designated critical habitat; and land is subject to minimal to very moderate disturbance from adjacent lands. A **minimal** benefit to federally listed species would result when the land that is protected consists of the following attributes: Land is not pristine and needs moderate to major restoration to address degradation; land is not utilized by the CVPCP's/HRP's priority federally listed species, or species are not known to be present; land is not comprised of designated critical habitat; and land is subject to moderate to high disturbance from adjacent lands.

Considerations will also be given as to how well the proposal addresses the applicable FOA Priority Action and the guidelines for that Priority Action.

### **FOR HABITAT RESTORATION PROPOSALS**

For habitat restoration proposals, a **major** benefit would result when the reviewers determine that the restoration action has the potential to markedly raise the habitat or population baseline for one or more federally listed CVP impacted species. Examples include creating new and substantial areas of giant garter snake or California red-legged frog habitat in areas that will be readily colonized by the species, or restoration of habitats at a site that will connect existing habitats supporting federally listed species. A **moderate** benefit may be a general habitat restoration project that has some real but not significant benefits to listed species due to the scale and size of the restoration component focused on federally listed species. An example might be a project in which new permanent water areas for garter snake are created, but the additional habitat is considered only a moderate increase due to other limiting factors on the project site. A project with **minimal** benefits might be a restoration project where there are only ancillary benefits to one or more federally listed species, but these benefits are not the main intent of the restoration project (i.e., a wetland restoration project in which minimal/marginal garter snake habitat is created while mainly enhancing conditions for waterfowl, or a riparian project where elderberry would be planted in areas and densities where it is unlikely to result in colonization by valley elderberry longhorn beetles). A clear description of the area to be restored, and how success in gaining access would be established, is important in determining benefits to species. Applicants should define the existing baseline conditions for federally listed species that are known or suspected to inhabit the project area that can be expected to benefit from the restoration, and how that baseline is expected to be maintained or improved as a result of the project. **It is insufficient to merely provide a table or list of species that are present in the vicinity of the project area.** Applicants should

name the species that are expected to benefit from the proposed restoration, and explain how each species would directly or indirectly benefit.

Considerations will also be given as to how well the proposal addresses the applicable Priority Action and the guidelines for that Priority Action.

#### **FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

For research proposals, the federally listed species benefits score will be determined by how well the proposed project meets the intent of the applicable Priority Action; how well it meets the guidelines for the Research category; and how greatly the applicable federally listed species would benefit from the project.

#### **FOR CAPTIVE PROPAGATION AND/OR REINTRODUCTION PROPOSALS**

For captive propagation and/or reintroduction proposals, the federally listed species benefits score will be determined by how well the proposed project meets the intent of the applicable Priority Action; how well it meets the guidelines for the Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction category; and how greatly the applicable federally listed species would benefit from the project.

#### **V.D.4 CRITERION #4 - STATE LISTED SPECIES BENEFITS**

##### **FOR PROTECTION, HABITAT RESTORATION, RESEARCH, AND CAPTIVE PROPAGATION AND/OR REINTRODUCTION PROPOSALS**

This criterion is used to distinguish between proposed projects that have benefits to State listed species in addition to any other kind of ecological benefit. Parcels proposed for protection or habitat restoration, which have documented occurrences of State listed species, will likely score higher in this category than those that do not. For information on how proposals will be evaluated under this criterion, see the description under the “Federally Listed Species Benefits” section, since those types of benefits would similarly apply to State listed species benefits.

#### **V.D.5 CRITERION #5 – BENEFITS TO SPECIAL STATUS DESIGNATED SPECIES THAT ARE NOT FEDERAL OR STATE LISTED OR PROPOSED FOR LISTING**

##### **FOR PROTECTION, HABITAT RESTORATION, RESEARCH, AND CAPTIVE PROPAGATION AND/OR REINTRODUCTION PROPOSALS**

This criterion is used to distinguish between proposed projects that have benefits to special status species which have some type of designated status, but are not State or federally listed or proposed for listing. These include Federal Candidate Species, State Species of Special Concern, and plants designated as Rare by the California Native Plant Society. For information on how proposals will be evaluated under this criterion, see the descriptions under the “Federally Listed Species Benefits” section, since those types of benefits would similarly apply to other designated species.

#### **V.D.6 CRITERION #6 - HABITAT/BIODIVERSITY**

##### **FOR PROTECTION AND HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT PROPOSALS ONLY**

This criterion is used to distinguish between proposed projects that have benefits to ecosystems that currently support habitat components that complement each other. These components increase their value in conserving High and Very High Priority species beyond what each habitat would do separately, as opposed to projects that would not have that kind of benefit. For example, a protection project directed at protecting a variety of vegetative cover types would receive a higher score than one that is focused on one in particular.

This criterion is also used to distinguish between projects that have benefits to ecosystems that currently support a large proportion of the native species expected in the habitats to be benefited, particularly in habitats that have greatly declined elsewhere, in addition to other kinds of ecological benefit. It relates to the array of native species on the proposed project site, and is not limited to listed species. It can apply to proposals that would protect a diverse area and/or increase diversity through restoration. **The key question here is: "Would the project benefit or maintain a broad range of native species and habitats, or is it directed at just a few?"** This scoring criterion is not applicable to Research and Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction proposals, since these projects tend to focus on specific habitats related to a particular species.

#### **V.D.7 CRITERION #7 - CUMULATIVE BENEFIT**

For the cumulative benefit criterion to be effectively scored, the proposal must indicate how the proposed project would contribute to past or on-going activities related to the same species or habitats, including past CVPCP/HRP-funded projects.

#### **FOR PROTECTION PROPOSALS**

An example of a **major** benefit would be a land protection project that is part of a larger strategy for a species recovery, such as providing habitat for a species' reintroduction or research, or which contributes to an existing land management plan that is intended to conserve or manage sensitive species habitats. An example of a **moderate** benefit would be one in which changes in land use (e.g. grazing), resulting from the land protection, would provide moderate benefits for listed species. Another might be one in which some modest, but not comprehensive, restoration work occurs over a number of years. A proposal with **minimal** cumulative benefits would be one in which the proposed action is isolated from other conservation activities, such as land protection in which no restoration or research is planned and the property is not located in areas critical to meeting the species needs (i.e., the habitat is used incidentally for foraging).

#### **FOR HABITAT RESTORATION PROPOSALS**

An example of proposed projects with **major** cumulative benefits would be a habitat restoration project that is part of a larger strategy for a species recovery by multiple agencies and other partners, such as providing habitat for a species' reintroduction or research, or which contributes to an existing land management plan that is intended to conserve or manage sensitive species habitats. Prior substantial financial involvement by others working in the same area to benefit the same habitats or species, which the proposed project would further benefit, is another example of a major benefit. An example of a **moderate** benefit might be a fencing project done in conjunction with other land management activities designed to improve conditions for species unless a proposal clearly identified a major benefit through such action. A proposal with **minimal** cumulative benefits would be one in which the proposed action is isolated from other conservation activities, such as a restoration project that is not located in an area critical to meeting the species needs (i.e., habitat used incidentally for foraging).

#### **FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

An example of a project with **major** cumulative benefits would be a study that works in concert with other past and/or on-going research directed at the species which is the focus of the Priority Action. A project providing a moderate to minimal cumulative benefit to a species identified in a Priority Action would be one that is not working in some degree of coordination with other research directed at the species.

#### **FOR CAPTIVE PROPAGATION AND/OR REINTRODUCTION PROPOSALS**

An example of a **major** benefit would be a project where the recipient is working in conjunction with a larger comprehensive effort to provide important benefits to the species specified in the Priority Action which would cause those efforts to be significantly enhanced. A **moderate** benefit would be a project

that works in conjunction with other more moderate (or fewer) ongoing efforts. A **minimal** benefit would result when a project occurs more or less in isolation and would not be complemented by other on-going efforts.

#### **V.D.8 CRITERION #8 - LONG-TERM BENEFIT**

##### **FOR PROTECTION AND HABITAT RESTORATION PROPOSALS**

This criterion is used to distinguish between proposed projects that have benefits to CVP impacted species that are expected to continue in perpetuity, as opposed to projects that address an immediate problem, but the benefits of the project to the conservation of Central Valley ecosystems and native species are not expected to last long-term. This criterion addresses the benefits of the proposed project going forward.

An example of a **major** benefit would be a project in which the property and/or restored habitat would be preserved intact and in perpetuity, and where the protected properties have “potential” for supporting additional species. An example of a **moderate** benefit might be a project in which long-term benefits are uncertain because a property proposed to be protected does not currently support species on site, and the potential for attracting and supporting additional species is questionable, i.e., no confirmed species present and no assurances that they would be there in the future. An example of a **minimal** benefit might be a project in which a property and/or restored habitat may be near, or directly adjacent to, potential negative disturbances such as a proposed future housing development or probable future vineyard planting.

##### **FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

For research proposals, the long-term benefits score will be determined by how well the proposed project contributes to the long-term benefit of the species specified in the applicable Priority Action.

##### **FOR CAPTIVE PROPAGATION AND/OR REINTRODUCTION PROPOSALS**

For proposed captive propagation and/or reintroduction projects, the long-term benefits score will be determined by how well the project contributes to the long-term benefit of the species specified in the applicable Priority Action.

#### **V.D.9 CRITERION #9 - PROJECT SITE CONNECTIVITY**

##### **FOR PROTECTION AND HABITAT RESTORATION PROPOSALS ONLY**

This criterion is used to distinguish between proposed projects that have synergistic benefits because they are in proximity to other permanently protected areas, rather than projects that are isolated and diminished in value because of that isolation. Describe protected areas near the proposed project site. If the project site is not physically connected to a protected area, describe the nearest protected area and its distance. This criterion is related to “Cumulative Benefit” but is specific to a project’s geographic location, and does not consider other collective influences on the project’s overall impact and effectiveness.

A **major** benefit would result when a project is contiguous to other protected lands and would contribute to securing needed corridors or spatial requirements of species. A **moderate** benefit would result when protected properties are nearby, but when combined, the properties do not present a continuous band of protected lands. A **minimal** benefit would result if the project property is mostly isolated from other conserved lands. No scoring points will be awarded under this criterion when the project area is clearly isolated and disconnected by distance from other conserved lands.

## **V.D.10 CRITERION #10 - PARTNERS**

### **FOR PROTECTION, HABITAT RESTORATION, RESEARCH, AND CAPTIVE PROPAGATION AND/OR REINTRODUCTION PROPOSALS**

The intent of this criterion is to determine the extent of the financial contribution that other parties are contributing to the project, versus those who are lending only non-financial support. The information for this criterion should be displayed in the SF-424 and described in the required Budget Narrative as well as shown in a Budget Table in each proposal. For the Budget Table format, applicants should refer to and use the template shown in Appendix C. The Partners criterion gives credit to financial contributions of cash and/or an equivalent in-kind service obtained from one or more sources that facilitate the completion of the proposed project, expressed as a percentage of the total cost of the project, which offsets costs that would otherwise be borne by the CVPCP/HRP. Information on the amount and nature of each partner contribution must be provided in order for partnering levels to be ascertained and credited. Project applicants must incorporate the following in the Budget Table and Budget Narrative of their proposals: (1) the name of each partner contributing cash or in-kind contributions toward the total cost of the project (other than the CVPCP/HRP), (2) the amount to be contributed by each of those partners in dollars, as well as a percentage of the total project cost, and (3) a partner contribution must have a direct link and bring added value to the current project being proposed. Proposals must equate in-kind services to dollars or those services will not be considered when partnering points are tallied. Partner cost sharing will only be considered for scoring under this criterion when the partner funding is applied directly to a component of the proposed project, and where the cost shared funds were not expended prior to receiving the CVPCP/HRP grant award, including past CVPCP/HRP contributions. Failure to secure partner funds from sources specified in the proposal may jeopardize the delivery of funds under a CVPCP/HRP agreement. Please note that monetary partners may include the applicant; if so, please specify those partnering costs in the Budget Table and Budget Narrative.

Critical to the evaluation of the CVPCP/HRP proposal is an adequate identification of committed or potential funding partners. Applicants are expected to name the funding partners and the extent of their discussions with, and financial commitment from, the partners described in the proposal. For example, it is not adequate to merely name as a partner "a State grant program." In the case of other grants being pursued, an applicant should describe at what stage their application is in the award process. Project funding (e.g., other grants) already in hand should be described, including the name of the grant or funding source, any collaborators, and amount, as applicable. It is not expected that all partner contributions be committed at the time of the submission of the application, but the CVPCP/HRP Technical Team evaluating the proposal needs to know that the named partnership contribution is real and the partner(s) has committed to providing the funds if the CVPCP and/or HRP decides to fund the project. Partners to the project who are not providing a financial contribution to the project, either directly or in-kind, are not considered under this criterion. Applicants should disclose if a contribution from the applicant or another funding partner is being claimed as a match for another pending application or awarded grant.

**Project applicants are highly encouraged to seek other sources of funding, along with funding from the CVPCP and/or HRP.**

## **V.D.11 CRITERION #11 - LEVEL OF CVP IMPACTS**

### **FOR PROTECTION, HABITAT RESTORATION, RESEARCH, AND CAPTIVE PROPAGATION AND/OR REINTRODUCTION PROPOSALS**

This criterion measures and assesses to what extent a species or ecosystem has been affected by the CVP. It includes direct, indirect, interdependent, and interrelated effects. Species and habitats more

affected by the CVP than others will be given more points. The criteria works in conjunction with the “Program Priority Actions” section but is ranked separately since Priority Actions are also based on level of past expenditures. The Technical Team will evaluate whether the species/habitats benefited by the proposed project have been identified as **major**, **moderate**, or **minimal** impact as related to construction and operation of the CVP. Projects that would score high for this criterion would be those that include habitat types and their associated species that have been the most directly and significantly impacted by the CVP.

The Technical Team will use historical data as a general guide when evaluating this criterion, but will consider project location (physical connection to CVP facilities and place of use) in relation to the CVP when determining a final scoring. For example, a restoration project on the perimeter of the CVPCP/HRP project area may not get as high a score as one directly adjacent to a CVP facility or within a CVP Service area.

#### **V.D.12 CRITERION #12 - PROJECT URGENCY**

##### **FOR PROTECTION, HABITAT RESTORATION, RESEARCH, AND CAPTIVE PROPAGATION AND/OR REINTRODUCTION PROPOSALS**

The purpose of this criterion is to evaluate and assign a scale of urgency to an action, based on: 1) the level of endangerment of a species addressed in a proposal, and 2) the resulting threat to species should the action not be carried out. During proposal evaluation, the Technical Team will ask the question “How badly do we need to do this project?” in the context of the overall goals of the CVPCP and HRP.

Examples of a proposal receiving a **major** score for urgency might be a land protection project in which the parcel in question supports federally listed, CVP impacted species and is under immediate threat of development; or a proposal in which an action (in any of the categories) addresses the needs of a species threatened with extinction (critically endangered) unless effective recovery actions described in the proposal are not carried out. A **moderate** urgency could occur when the need to recover a species is great, but the proposed project is of a type identified as a medium or low priority recovery action in the Service’s recovery plan for the species. A **minimal** urgency could occur when the threat of development to a proposed property to be protected is low, and/or there are no critically endangered species on the property, and/or when the potential benefits to CVP impacted species from a project are uncertain.

#### **V.D.13 CRITERION #13- TECHNICAL MERIT AND COMPLETENESS OF PROPOSAL**

##### **FOR PROTECTION, HABITAT RESTORATION, RESEARCH, AND CAPTIVE PROPAGATION AND/OR REINTRODUCTION PROPOSALS**

Proposals should be well-described and will be scored for completeness and technical accuracy. The Technical Team’s considerations will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Adherence to the required guidelines and format as outlined in section IV.C
- Use of correct Species Table and Budget Table templates.
- Clear and complete descriptions of methodology for Research proposals.
- Strict adherence to page limit.
- Use of correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Ease of reading, i.e., clear and concise.
- Success in addressing all Scoring Criteria.
- Accuracy and completeness of the Budget Table.
- Provision of clear and concise maps, figures, tables, and photographs.
- Inclusion of how the proposed project would benefit the LCC.

- Correct and complete citations of supporting reports and other documents.
- Establishment of baseline conditions.
- Description and results of biological surveys conducted on proposed habitat restoration lands and land protection properties.
- Incorporation of Literature Cited.
- Inclusion of concise curriculum vitae(s).
- Correct assignment of status of species (i.e., threatened or endangered; Federal or State listed; special status).
- Consistency throughout proposal concerning which species and habitats would benefit.
- Consistency throughout proposal on all costs shown (SF-424, Budget Table; Budget Narrative; CVPCP/HRP Funding Request; Total Proposed Project Cost).
- Definitions of scientific terms and acronyms not familiar to a lay person.
- Clear and concise timeline for proposed tasks.

#### **V.D.14 CRITERION #14 – SCIENTIFIC MERIT**

##### **FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

This criterion considers the scientific rigor of the proposed project. The proposal will be evaluated on several criteria including, but not limited to, the following: its scientific soundness, appropriateness of methods, cohesiveness of argument, organization and clarity of methods (statistical design and analysis), length relative to information content, etc. The methodology must be clearly and completely described. In addition to being reviewed and ranked by the CVPCP & HRP Technical Team, research proposals will be forwarded to scientific experts in the field of research pertinent to the species and/or habitats central to the proposal so that the proposal can be reviewed for technical accuracy. Research applications will be more favorably scored and ranked if they successfully consider and incorporate as necessary, the various topics shown in the list of questions provided to the technical reviewers in Attachment B, "Evaluation Form for Technical Review of Research Proposals Received for the Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Habitat Restoration Program."

A **major** score will be awarded to concise proposals with exceptional scientific soundness and clearly described and appropriate methods. A **moderate** score will be assigned to proposals with minor methodological flaws or lack of clarity, but it is scientifically sound. A **minimal** score will be assigned to proposals with significant methodological flaws, flawed reasoning, and/or extensive lack of clarity.

##### **V.D.15 TOTAL POINTS**

Technical Team members evaluate the technical proposals and assign points for each Scoring Criteria. The Scoring Criteria differ somewhat in the Land Protection, Habitat Restoration, Research, and Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction categories. (The Scientific Merit criterion applies to Research proposals only; Habitat/Biodiversity and Connectivity criteria apply to Land Protection and Habitat Restoration proposals only.) As a result, a maximum of 63 points is possible for Land Protection; 63 points for Habitat Restoration; 63 points for Research; and 54 points for Captive Propagation and/or Reintroduction. Averages of team members' scores are calculated for each proposal, and a percentage of the total number of points available is calculated for each proposal based on the total number points available in each project category. Proposals are then ranked in order from highest to lowest total average score, regardless of project category. These rankings are the primary factor in project selection, but are not the only measures used to select proposals. Proposals are also evaluated in the context of general considerations as they pertain to CVPCP/HRP goals and priorities as described in Section III.D.

## **SECTION VI – AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

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### **VI.A AWARD NOTICES**

Successful applicants will receive a notice of award of a Grant or Cooperative Agreement document by electronic mail, signed by the Grants Management Specialist, notifying the applicant of the project award by May 2017. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified by mail. Notification is sent to the applicant official who signed the SF-424.

Successful applicants will be notified as soon as possible upon selection. However, note that contracting and environmental compliance requirements can take a substantial amount of time to be completed. **Applicants should not expect to begin project work before the beginning of Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2017).**

### **VI.B AWARD DOCUMENT**

If your organization is awarded an agreement through this FOA, applicable portions of the proposal may be included in the resulting agreement.

### **VI.C REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND DISTRIBUTION**

If your organization is awarded an agreement as a result of this FOA, you will be required to submit the following types of reports during the term of the agreement.

#### **VI.C.1 Financial Reports**

- SF-425, Financial Status Report, (available at <http://www.usbr.gov/mso/aamd/doing-business-financial-assistance.html>)

#### **VI.C.2 Program Performance Reports**

- Quarterly or Semi-Annual Performance Progress Reports
- Annual Reports
- Draft (Final) Report
- Final Report

#### **VI.C.3 Significant Developments Reports**

During the term of the agreement, the Recipient must immediately notify the Programs if any of the following conditions occur:

- a) Problems, delays, or adverse conditions which will impair the Recipient's ability to meet the terms and conditions of the agreement;
- b) Favorable developments which will enable the Recipient to complete the scope of work under budget and/or under an accelerated schedule.

This notification is to include information on the actions taken or contemplated to resolve problems, delays, or adverse conditions, and any assistance needed from Reclamation/Service to help resolve the problem.

#### **VI.C.4 Data Reports**

For recipients subject to the administrative standards set forth in 2 CFR 200, the following provision, as implemented by 2 CFR 200.59, shall apply:

The Federal Government has the right to:

- (1) Obtain, reproduce, publish or otherwise use the data first produced under an award; and
- (2) Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for Federal purposes.

#### **Geospatial Information System Data Report**

For any funded project which involves GIS, all raw data, and the analytical tools to help process the raw data, must be sent to the CVPCP and HRP Program Managers at the completion of all project activities. To ensure the accuracy and data integrity of project results, it is requested that award recipients provide spatial information (boundaries, study areas, parcels, point locations, etc.) in the form of an ESRI shape file with projection. The preferred projection is UTM, Zone (appropriate zone), NAD83; the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office (SFWO) standard. Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) compliant metadata must accompany each file. For additional information regarding metadata standards refer to <http://www.fgdc.gov>.

The shape files may be copied to a DVD and mailed to:

#### **RECLAMATION:**

Mr. Dan Strait/MP-152  
CVPCP and HRP Manager  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento CA 95825-1898  
(916) 978-5052  
Email: [dstrait@usbr.gov](mailto:dstrait@usbr.gov)

#### **SERVICE:**

Ms. Caroline Prose  
HRP Manager  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento CA 95825-1846  
(916) 414-6575  
Email: [caroline\\_prose@fws.gov](mailto:caroline_prose@fws.gov)

If a shape file with metadata cannot be provided, please feel free to contact the Program Managers listed above.

#### **VI.C.5 Published Reports**

Where data warrant, results from research projects should be published and a copy submitted to the CVPCP and HRP Managers. Award recipients are encouraged to submit their accomplishments and findings for publication.

### **SECTION VII – OTHER INFORMATION**

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#### **VII.A STANDARD TERMS & CONDITIONS**

If you are awarded a Grant or Cooperative Agreement as a result of this Request for Funding Opportunity, General and Special Provisions will be included in the agreement at time of award. The provisions are available at <http://www.usbr.gov/mso/aamd/doing-business-financial-assistance.html>.

## VII.B FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

All applications may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The FOIA (5 U.S.C.A. §552) generally provides that any person has a right, enforceable in court, to obtain access to Federal agency records, except to the extent that such records (or portions of them) are protected from public disclosure by one of nine exemptions or by one of three special law enforcement record exclusions. Proprietary information should be marked "Confidential" to assist in alerting the Federal agency to information that may be protected from disclosure.

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

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

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

## VII.E ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

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

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

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

The CWA establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the

United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. Under the CWA, the Environmental Protection Agency has implemented pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry. They have also set water quality standards for all contaminants in surface waters.

Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966 requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment. The NHPA requires consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, and could require consultation with potentially affected Tribes.

For research on and captive breeding of animals, recipients must comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-544), as amended, (7 U.S.C. §§ 2131 et seq.) (animal acquisition, transport, care, handling, and use in projects), and implementing regulations, 9 CFR Parts 1, 2, and 3; Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1361 et seq.) (taking possession, transport, purchase, sale, export or import of wildlife and plants); the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 4701 et seq.) (ensure preventive measures are taken or that probable harm of using species is minimal if there is an escape or release); and all other applicable statutes pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by Federal financial assistance.

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

## **SECTION VIII – LITERATURE CITED**

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Griggs, F. Thomas. 1976. "Life history strategies of the genus *Orcuttia* (Gramineae)." *Vernal Pools: Their Ecology and Conservation. Institute of Ecology Publication 9* (1976): 57-63.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1984. Revised Recovery Plan for Three Endangered Species Endemic to Antioch Dunes, California. Approved March 21, 1980, and Revised April 25, 1984. Portland, Oregon.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1998. Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California. Portland, Oregon. 319 pp.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1999. Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake. Portland, Oregon. ix + 192 pp.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2005. Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon. Portland, Oregon. xxvi + 606 pp.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2012. Giant Garter Snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation. Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Field Office, Sacramento, California. June.

## **SECTION IX – ATTACHMENTS (see next three pages)**

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## ATTACHMENT A

Example of Species Table – This table should be used as a template by applicants for the Federal, State, and Other Designated Species criteria.

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

<sup>a</sup>E = federally listed as endangered, T= federally listed as threatened, P=federally proposed for listing

<sup>b</sup>E = state listed as endangered, R = state listed as rare, T = state listed as threatened, C = state listed as candidate

<sup>c</sup>C = federally listed as candidate, CSC = California species of special concern, FP = California fully protected species

<sup>d</sup>This list should be on the *actual property/parcel* that is being proposed for protection and/or restoration, not just the general geographic area.

## ATTACHMENT B

### EVALUATION FORM FOR TECHNICAL REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR THE CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM

I. Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

II. Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_

III. Name of Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Date of Review: \_\_\_\_\_

V. Questions to Answer: (please check the “N/A”, “Yes”, or “No” box for each question)

LIST OF QUESTIONS TO ANSWER	N/A	Yes	No (Describe in Comments)
1. Are the study's objectives and hypotheses clear and sufficiently detailed?			
2. Is the literature cited by the researcher relevant and extensive enough to support research objectives, hypotheses, assumptions, research methodologies, and planned analyses?			
3. Is the conceptual framework, including the study design and analyses, adequately developed, well- integrated, well-reasoned, and appropriate to the aims of the project?			
4. Are the field and/or laboratory techniques and methods identified in the proposal acceptable and in- keeping with current standards?			
5. Is the proposed execution of methods satisfactory? For example, if the study utilizes samples or transects, are the number, location, and size sufficient and is the frequency/duration/seasonal timing of sampling			
6. Are proposed statistical analyses in-keeping with current standards?			
7. Is the project original and innovative? (i.e., does the project avoid duplication, employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for			
8. Do the personnel involved in the research/study have sufficient qualifications (academic and field experience) to carry out the work?			
9. Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project?			
10. Is there evidence of institutional support?			
11. Do the proposed study schedule and budget seem reasonable?			
12. Do you recommend that this project be funded?			

**VI. Comments:** Briefly summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal, and suggest any improvements that should be made in order to recommend this study for funding. Discuss any problem areas, alternatives to be considered, and/or adequacy in fulfilling study objectives per the proposed schedule and budget. If you answer “No” to any of the questions, please describe why.

## ATTACHMENT C

### Sample Budget Table

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

<sup>1</sup>The name of each partner (excluding the CVPCP/HRP) contributing cash or in-kind contributions toward the total cost of the project must be shown.

<sup>2</sup>The amount of cash or in-kind contributions from each partner (excluding the CVPCP/HRP) must be shown in dollars as well as the percentage of the total project cost.

**Sources of Funding**

Recipient

Cash: \$55,575

In-Kind Services: \$11,000

Partner(s) Partner Name

Cash: \$183,975

In-Kind Services: \$0

CVPCP/HRP: \$366,484

Total Activity Funding: \$617,034