

Water Leaders:

Project Evaluation Questions

I. GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. How does this Project, Program, or Study meet the goals of the Safe, Clean Water Program?
2. Does this Project, Program, or Study benefit one or more Disadvantaged Communities?
3. How does this Project, Program, or Study prioritize Nature-Based Solutions?
4. How will this Project fund operations and maintenance costs?
5. How have community members been engaged to confirm that this Project, Program, or Study is beneficial to them?
6. How does this Project, Program, or Study address the potential for displacement of community members? How does this Project, Program or Study interact with the unhoused population of the community?
7. Does this Project, Program, or Study affect existing or potential housing stock?
8. How many union jobs will be this Project, Program, or Study create?
9. How will jobs/working hours for this Project, Program, or Study be quantified?
10. How will the hiring process for this Project, Program, or Study ensure that workforce goals are met?
11. How many jobs created by this Project, Program, or Study will be short-term (construction) and how many will be long-term (maintenance/monitoring)?
12. What will community members say about this Project, Program, or Study 50-100 years from now?

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II. BENEFITS TO DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES (DACs)

Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities are not explicitly listed in the Scoring Criteria. In addition to qualitative evaluation, project proponents should be able to answer how they plan to quantify and track anticipated Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities.

Disadvantaged Community is a Census Block Group that has an annual household median income of less than eighty percent (80%) of the Statewide annual median household income (as defined in the Water Code Section 79505.5).

Disadvantaged Community Benefit is a Water Quality Benefit, Water Supply Benefit, and/or Community Investment Benefit located in a Disadvantaged Community or providing benefits directly to a Disadvantaged Community population.

I. Project Location Benefits

1. How does this Project, Program, or Study quantify benefits to a Disadvantaged Community?
2. How does this Project, Program, or Study directly impact environmental and public health conditions within a Disadvantaged Community?
3. Is this Project or Program sited within a Disadvantaged Community?
4. If this Project or Program is not sited within a Disadvantaged Community, is it located upstream from one?
 - i. Will air or water pollutants in the DAC be reduced by this project? How will estimated toxin reductions be quantified? How will this information be shared?
5. How many members of this Disadvantaged Community will have access to the benefits of this project? What are the access points for members of the community to enter or use the Project?
6. How are you calculating the percentage of Project or Program costs returning to a Disadvantaged Community?

II. Potential Workforce Benefits

1. Does the design, construction, and maintenance of this project employ members of Disadvantaged Communities?
 - i. If so, how many members of Disadvantaged Communities will be employed and for how long?

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- ii. How will the project proponent classify, quantify, and track their employment projections? Will that information be publicly available?

III. **Community Investment Benefits:** See Community Investments section for full list

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III. COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

Community Investment Benefit means a benefit created in conjunction with a Project or Program, such as, but not limited to: improved flood management, flood conveyance, or flood risk mitigation; creation, enhancement, or restoration of parks, habitat, or wetlands; improved public access to waterways; enhanced or new recreational opportunities; and greening of schools. A Community Investment Benefit also includes a benefit to the community derived from a Project or Program that improves public health by reducing heat island effect and increasing shade or planting of trees or other vegetation that increases carbon reduction/sequestration and improves air quality (Section 16.03).

I. Nature-Based Solutions

1. How are nature-based solutions incorporated into the Project? (i.e. increase park/green space, tree canopy cover, improve air quality, etc.)? Does this Project preserve native vegetation and existing open-space or create open green space?
 - i. How does this open space intersect/augment existing open space plans in this community? Where is the nearest park? Will this open space be accessible to the public?
 - ii. At what level does this project restore the area to its natural landscape - partial restoration of a native habitat, or full restoration and expansion of a native landscape?
 - iii. Will plantings be climate-appropriate native species? How will the native vegetation contribute to climate resilience?
 - iv. What square footage will plantings occupy? How many trees will be planted?
 - v. Will your project enhance the soil? How so? Will there be a use of locally generated mulch to retain moisture and enrich nutrients?
 - vi. Are you planning on removing hardscape and installing more permeable surfaces?
 - vii. How will you increase permeability through the implementation of this project? Will new feature(s) improve existing drainage system?
 - viii. Are the new landscape features in your project small-scale elements designed to capture runoff, medium-sized elements to capture runoff and filter pollution, and/or large-scale elements that capture and treat runoff for existing water systems?
 - ix. How will the project impact public health in this community? What are the recreational opportunities?

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- x. How will improvements (for instance, to air quality) be measured and quantified?
 - xi. What are the lifecycle costs of this project in comparison with gray infrastructure?
2. To what extent does the Project, Program or Study reconnect communities with nature?
- a. What benefits will the community have direct access to?
 - b. Are there active (i.e. recreational) benefits available to the public?
 - c. How does this project take advantage of educational opportunities?
 - d. How does this intersect/augment existing sustainability goals/plans in this community?

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IV. PROJECT VIABILITY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

I. Community Support

1. To what extent did community input influence and/or drive development of this Project or Program? How did you inform community members of potential and ongoing projects, the timeline of project(s), facility needs and challenges, possible safety hazards, and/or available programs, services, and funding opportunities?
 - a. How many meetings have been held? How were they advertised? How many attendees? How many will be scheduled?
 - b. How do you determine the right frequency and appropriate time for engagement activities?
 - c. Were meetings primarily informative or collaborative (i.e. presentations vs. charrettes/workshops)?
 - d. In how many formats has community input been solicited (meetings, website, print, etc.)? Where is input publicly available for review?
 - e. How do the engagement methods incorporate accessible language and seek to be inclusive to all members of the community? How do you remove practical, financial, and/or cultural barriers to participation?
 - f. What community-based organizations were involved in your outreach?
 - g. How were local schools and educators involved in project development?
 - h. How do you evaluate and document the outcomes reached by your engagement approaches?
 - i. Based on the feedback you have received, what specific community needs does this project address? How has community input changed the project design and development?
 - j. What are the barriers to incorporating the community in projects?

II. Leveraging Funds

1. What other sources of funding is this Project, Program, or Study seeking?

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2. Is this Project, Program, or Study eligible for additional WHAM funding?

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