Clean Water Act Section 319 Program

Board of Forestry – Effectiveness Monitoring Committee

May 21, 2015

- Brief Overview of the CWA 319 Program
- Grant Proposal Process
- Scoring Criteria Used to Evaluate Projects
- Monitoring and Reporting Requirements
- 319 Funded Projects and Their Distribution
- Questions and Contacts
Goal of CWA 319

Goal: Improve and maintain water quality by addressing NPS pollution sources

Measure of Success: Waters with improving quality or that now meet state water quality standards → delisting impaired waters

How:

• Staffing support at state and local levels, planning, technical assistance, monitoring, building partnerships.

• Grants to states/tribes for technical and financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, on-the-ground BMPs, and monitoring.
## Organization and Function of 319 Program

### US EPA
Region 9 - Water Division
Nonpoint Source Pollution & Watershed Priorities
- Administers Federal Grant Funding Requirements
- Develops 319 Program Guidelines
- Reviews and Approves Program Plans
- Provides Grant Assistance

### State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Nonpoint Source Unit
- Administers State Grant Funding Requirements
- Develops 319 Grant Proposal Guidelines
- Reviews and Approves Regional Board Program Plans
- Maintains Program Information and Web Content
- Prepares and Reviews Program Reporting

### 9 Regional Water Quality Control Boards
Nonpoint Source / 319
- Administers Project Grant Funding Requirements
- Develops Project Scopes of Work
- Reviews and Approves Invoices
- Provides Technical Assistance
- Determines Regional Program Preferences

### Eligible Agencies
- Local public agencies
- Public agencies
- Public colleges
- 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- Federally recognized Indian tribes
- Federal and state agencies
- Administers Project Subcontractor Agreements
- Implements Project Activities
- Provides Public Outreach and Education
- Submits Monitoring or Reporting Requirements
- If applicable, ensure third party certifications
In general, to be eligible for CWA 319(h) funding, projects must meet the following requirements:

- Address one or more of the NPS Program Preferences...
- Located in a watershed that has a plan or suite of plans that meet the Nine Key Elements of Watershed Plan.
- Provide the minimum match funding of 25 percent of the total project cost (individual septic system upgrades requires a minimum match of 75 percent).
- Located in an area not subject to a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. (Note: Projects are not subject to this requirement if the project activity is specifically excluded/exempted from the requirements of the NPDES permit.)

In addition to being eligible the applicants must work with the appropriate Regional Water Board Grant Contact when developing their proposals.

**Note:** Regional Board Grant contacts identified in the current CWA 319(h) Grant Program Guidelines of the Solicitation Notice.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/grant_program.shtml#ineligible
Eligibility Criteria for 319 Proposals

All Program Preferences are in watersheds with an adopted/nearly adopted TMDL addressing the constituent of concern.

- 3 to 5 watersheds or reaches in each region, based on what scale the TMDL was written for... (Program Preferences for each region are included in the annual Solicitation Guidelines)

- Can demonstrate the key elements of a watershed based plan.

- Project is not required by an enforcement order, civil settlement, or judicial order.

- No projects that are solely education and outreach or planning...However, planning education and outreach can be funded as a necessary part of an implementation project.
Eligibility Criteria for 319 Proposals

Program Preferences are in watersheds with an adopted/nearly adopted TMDL addressing the constituent of concern.

Eligibility Criteria for 319 Proposals

Summary of the nine minimum elements to be included in section 319-funded watershed plans for threatened or impaired waters

a. Identify causes and sources of pollution
b. Estimate pollutant loading into the watershed and the expected load reductions
c. Describe management measures that will achieve load reductions and targeted critical areas
d. Estimate amounts of technical and financial assistance and the relevant authorities needed to implement the plan
e. Develop an information/education component
f. Develop a project schedule
g. Describe the interim, measurable milestones
h. Identify indicators to measure progress
i. Develop a monitoring component
## Grant Proposal Process Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Key Dates*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Boards Submit Program Preferences</td>
<td>First week May, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Preferences (after State Board-EPA Review Preferences)</td>
<td>Monday, May 18, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised General Grant Guidelines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Updated Regional Preference List</td>
<td>Monday, June 1, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Funded project types (Implementation and/or Planning/Assessment)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Recommended funding for each project type.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present General RFP Guidelines including RWQCB NPS Program Preferences to the State Water Resources Control Board for approval</td>
<td>July 2015 State Board meeting (must submit board items 6 week in advance ~mid May)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept Proposal Application and Reviewer questions</td>
<td>Friday, July 24, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept Proposal Review Due Dates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Proposals</td>
<td>Tues, Oct 20, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Planning available on 9/17)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation Proposals</td>
<td>Tues, Oct 20, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Implementation available on 9/19)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept Proposal Selection</td>
<td>Tues, October 27th &amp; Wed, 28th, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Proposals Application Period (~9 weeks)</td>
<td>Monday, Nov 9 – Jan 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Proposals Conference Calls (5 weeks)</td>
<td>Monday Nov 9 – Dec 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Proposals Review (~5 weeks)</td>
<td>Wed, Jan 20 – Thur, Feb 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Project Reviews due:</td>
<td>Tues, Feb 23, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation Projects Reviews due:</td>
<td>Tues, Feb 23, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Proposals Selection at the State Board</td>
<td>Tues, March 1-2, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Full Proposals</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation Full Proposals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Board Executive Director Approves Final Recommended Project Funding</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Key dates subject to change
Scoring Methods for 319 Proposals

Summary of Proposal Scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept-Proposal</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Full Concept Proposal</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Watershed Description</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Consistency with the Concept Proposal and Responses to Reviewer Comments (Two-page limit)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Watershed Approach</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Section A.1. Watershed Description</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Project Description</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Section A.2. Project Description</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Results</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Section A.3. Project Relationship to Existing TMDLs</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Technical Approach</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Section B. Technical Approach</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Project Tracking</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Section C. Monitoring and Assessment of Project Outcomes</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Water Quality Monitoring</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Section D.1 Project Relationship to Existing Watershed Plans</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Experience and Expertise</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Section D.2: Watershed Approach and Stakeholder Involvement</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Readiness to Proceed</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Section D.3 Outreach and Education</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Adaptebility/Transferability</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Section E. Project Team, Administration, and Partners</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Budget</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Section F. Readiness to Proceed</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Section G. Project Financing and Funding Match</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Section H. Adaptebility/Transferability (up to 2 points each)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Section I. Environmental Justice</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>69</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>subtotal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>91</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Changes for 2016 Proposal Solicitation:

- Current Full Proposal elements now part of concept proposal phase
- Revised Full Proposal phase intended to refine scope-of-works, project budgeting, nine key elements of a watershed plan, and readiness timeline.
Scoring Methods for 319 Proposals

Unless otherwise noted, each criterion will be scored on a scale of 0 to 5, 0 to 10, or 0 to 15, with 0 being the "low" and a 5, 10, or 15 being "high". Points are then assigned to the Proposal for each criterion, as indicated in the Full Proposal Scoring Table below. Assign only "whole number values" for your scores and do not use "decimal values".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scoring Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Scoring Rationale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-5 0-10 0-15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Question is fully addressed and supported by logical rationale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 10 15</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Question is fully addressed but partially supported by logical rationale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 7-9 10-14</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Question is partially addressed and partially supported by logical rationale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 4-6 5-9</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Question is partially addressed and not supported by logical rationale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1-3 1-4</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Applicant is not responsive (i.e. the question is not addressed and no rationale is presented).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Multiple reviewers, at least one from USEPA, State Board, and Regional Boards
• All reviewers scores are averaged into a composite score.
• Final composite score basis of final ranking.
• Final selection based on the highest ranked projects that are most likely to execute the grant agreement conditions.
Monitoring and Reporting for 319 Projects

All 319 Grant Projects have some form of Monitoring (Implementation, BMP Effectiveness, Load Reduction)

- If environmental water quality monitoring (chemical, physical, or biological) is undertaken, the Grantee shall prepare, maintain, and implement a Monitoring Plan (MP).

- If an MP is prepared, the Grantee shall also prepare, maintain, and implement a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) in accordance with the State Water Board’s Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program’s (SWAMP) QAPP and data reporting requirements, the SWAMP Quality Assurance Program Plan Guidelines available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/docs/qapp/qaprp082209.pdf, and the USEPA QAPP, EPA AQ/R5, 3/01.

- The Grantee, if applicable, shall upload all water quality data obtained through its implementation of the MP to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN).
All 319 Grant Projects have reporting Requirements

Reporting requirements are articulated in the Grant Agreement under:

- Exhibit A Scope of Work – Work To Be Performed By The Grantee
- Exhibit B Invoicing, Budget Detail, and Reporting Provisions
- Exhibit C General Terms & Conditions
- Exhibit D Special Conditions

CWA 319 Projects and Distribution

Annual Number of CWA 319 Projects and Total Grant Award
*California (1990-2014)*

- **Number of 319 Projects**
- **Total 319 Grant Award**

**Award Year**

- 1990
- 1991
- 1992
- 1993
- 1994
- 1995
- 1996
- 1997
- 1998
- 1999
- 2000
- 2001
- 2002
- 2003
- 2004
- 2005
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013
- 2014

**Number of Projects**

- 0
- 5
- 10
- 15
- 20
- 25
- 30

**Total 319 Grant Award**

- $0
- $2
- $4
- $6
- $8
- $10
- $12
- $14

**$ (million)**
CWA 319 Projects and Distribution

Disclaimer: The spatial data represented here is derived solely from USEPA's Grants and Reporting Tracking System. The State Water Resources Control Board does not guarantee the accuracy and completeness of the Grants and Reporting Tracking System spatial files and feature attribute data.

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA
Questions

Contacts

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Forest Activities Program
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Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) Control Program

GRANTS & FUNDING

The NPS Program administers grant money it receives from United States Environmental Protection Agency through Section 319(h) of the Federal Clean Water Act. These grant funds can be used to implement projects or programs that will help to reduce NPS pollution. Projects that qualify for funding must be conducted within the state’s NPS priority watersheds. Project proposals that address Total Maximum Daily Load implementation and those that address problems in impaired waters are favored in the selection process. There is also a focus on implementing management activities that lead to reduction and/or prevention of pollutants that threaten or impair surface and ground waters.

NPS GRANT PROGRAM

- Overview of NPS Grant Program - provides background information on the CWA 319 grant and what types of projects are eligible.
- Grant Solicitation Notice - this website contains CWA 319(h) program contract schedules and program guidelines.
- NPS Grant Fact Sheet - this document contains brief program description and requirements.
- NPS Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions - this document provides answers to common questions by applicants who are interested in the NPS Grant Program.

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- State Revolving Fund (Expanded Use Projects)
- San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund
- Agricultural Grant Program
- California Clean Beach Initiative

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/319grants.shtml
References

Slide 2

Downloaded May 17, 2015: http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/wacademy/upload/slides-handout-6-14-2012.pdf


Slide 11


Slide 13


Slide 14