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FY2026 Request for Proposals

This document provides the blank questions to aid in developing applications. Feel free to use this to develop your applications. Please submit your application via [JotForm](https://form.jotform.com/233196789449173):

link here

**The deadline for project proposal submissions is 5:00 PM PST, Friday, February 7th, 2025.**

### Contact Information

**Requesting Organization:**

**Name of individual submitting application:**

**Submitters Email:**

**Submitter's Phone Number:**

**Name of project manager (if different from above):**

**Project manager's email:**

**Project managers phone number:**

**Description of requesting organization:**

Briefly describe the organization requesting this funding, their role in administering this project (project manager, implementer etc.), and relevant experience successfully administering similar projects. (250 words or less)

### Project Information

**Total funding requested from the California Fish Passage Forum (Forum) in this proposal:**

**Project Name:**

**Latitude of Project:**

**Longitude of Project:**

**Attach a map of your project location** (high-quality, individual image or PDF files highly preferred (.jpg .png .pdf)

**Project Summary (100 words or less)**

Briefly summarize the project, its location, its primary goals and objectives, and associated ecological benefits (this will be used in outreach and reporting materials).

### Social and Ecological Benefits

**Problem Being Addressed (1500 characters):**

Please describe the project’s overall benefits. Explain how the project restores, enhances or protects anadromous waterways and habitats. Describe how the project restores, enhances, or protects habitat connectivity, habitat-forming processes, or other ecological functions.

**Biological and ecological benefits (1500 characters)**

Describe the problem being addressed by the project and why the project is necessary to address this problem. Note any local or regional plans that point to the need for the project. If this project addresses a new or emerging issue, explain the rationale behind the project approach and methods.

**Enhancement of Fishing Opportunities (1500 characters)**

Would an existing tribal, commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishery be enhanced as a result of the project? If YES, please describe how. If NO, is there a future fishery that could potentially be restored through increased habitat as a result of this project? If so, describe.

**Public Access (1500 characters)**

Describe how the project increases public access. Public access includes visual access as well as physical access. Please describe to what extent your project improves, sustains, or provides public access on an ongoing basis, for cultural purposes, or during special events. Include information about how access is provided to historically marginalized community members.

### Project Performance Metrics

**Attach filled Appendix B-FY26 Project Metrics Summary** (.xlsx or.pdf)

Upload Appendix B-FY26 Project Metrics Summary, provide a brief narrative of your project metrics and any notable metrics not included in the Appendix.

**Description of Metrics (500 characters)**

Provide a brief narrative description of the measurable metrics your project will achieve. Note any metrics that are not included in the Appendix.

### Project Design, Methods, and Monitoring

**If the proposed project addresses a barrier to fish passage, does it have a California Passage Assessment Database (PAD) identification number(s)?**

Yes/No/N/A

**If you answered "yes”, please provide the PAD ID number(s) for any barriers being addressed.**

**Describe the barrier(s) being addressed under "average" conditions.**

Include whether it is a complete, temporal, or partial barrier; how often passage is provided for both adult and juvenile anadromous fish (e.g., meets fish passage criteria for adults 45% of the time and 0% of the time for juveniles), and if the information is available for each barrier addressed. Please specify which species you are referring to when describing barrier status.

**Indicate how you determined that this is a high priority project and/or addresses a high priority barrier(s). (Please check all that apply.)**

Barrier(s) is/are listed in a key restoration plan for the region

Endorsed by an agency

Local knowledge/conversation with local representatives

**Describe how this project and/or barrier was determined a high priority.**

Reference the recovery plans and specific task(s) that name this barrier/project as a high priority, the agency that endorsed this project, and/or the local representative that names this project as a priority.

**Description of DOWNSTREAM barriers**

Provide the location and distance in stream miles of the proposed project to DOWNSTREAM river structures, and whether each structure represents an insignificant, partial, or total barrier to fish passage.

**Description of UPSTREAM barriers**

Provide the location and distance in stream miles of the proposed project to UPSTREAM river structures, and whether each structure represents an insignificant, partial, or total barrier to fish passage.

**Has the owner and/or responsible organization/agency of the barrier(s) proposed for removal and/or remediation been identified, notified, and given permission for this project to proceed as proposed?**

Yes/No

**Description of Ownership**

If YES, please provide the name of the entity that owns/is responsible for the barrier(s). Describe how consent to proceed was obtained/documented, and the responsible party's role (if any) in any monitoring.

**Documentation of consent to proceed may be uploaded here if applicable.**

**Project methods and approach (1500 characters)**

Brief description of the activities or methods used to achieve objectives of the project (1,500 characters or less). List your project objectives. Objectives are meant to be realistic targets or benchmarks that, if achieved, resolve the project need. Objectives are written in an active tense and use action verbs such as construct, survey, train, establish, repair, conduct, provide. Describe what stage of the project Forum funded is needed for, the activities or methods you will use to achieve the stated objectives, and how the methods demonstrate sound design, appropriate procedures, and accepted fish and wildlife conservation or management principles.

**Climate change considerations (1500 characters)**

Describe how the project will perform under climate and change scenarios and how it will contribute to ecological resilience over time. Cite appropriate climate change models, assessments, or scientific studies they have used to develop their project if applicable.

**Monitoring Plan (1500 characters)**

Provide a summary of monitoring and evaluation plan. If available, include information on timeline for monitoring and/or evaluation. Describe your monitoring plan. What metrics or criteria will you use to evaluate the success of your project? How will you monitor for ecological outcomes in the short and long term? How will you modify your project if monitoring shows your outcomes are not being met?

*\*\*For any barrier remediation projects, the Forum recommends, at a minimum, applicants use the California Fish Passage Forum's Fish Passage Barrier Removal Performance Measures and Monitoring Worksheet, and one year minimum pre- and post-project monitoring.*

**Attach a copy of your monitoring and evaluation plan(s) or other documentation.**

**Outreach - describe project outreach and education (1500 characters)**

Describe outreach and education activities associated with this project. Describe any engagement with and involvement of community members (including historically marginalized community members) in planning or implementing the project.

## Alignment with Forum and NFHP Objectives

**Select each anadromous fish species that will benefit from this project (select multiple if applicable)**

Coho Salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch)

Chinook Salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)

Steelhead/rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)

Pacific Lamprey (Entosphenus tridentatus)

Coastal cutthroat trout (Oncorhynchus clarkia clarkia)

Green sturgeon (Acipenser medirostris)

White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)

Eulachon (Thaleichthys pacificus)

Threespine stickleback (Gasterosteus aculeatus)

**Which of the Forum's priority habitats will be enhanced or restored as a result of this project (choose all that apply)**

Spawning Habitat

Rearing Habitat

**California Fish Passage Forum objectives. Please check each objective your project will help to address.**

Objective 1. Remediate barriers to effective fish migration.

Objective 2. Facilitate coordination and communication among agencies, agency staff, and other entities that may propose, review, or promulgate fish passage criterial within California.

Objective 3. Coordinate funding mechanisms to remove fish passage barriers.

Objective 4. Support state and federal permit coordination and streamlining.

Objective 5. Facilitate plans to monitor and evaluate fish passage restoration effectiveness to ensure accountability.

Objective 6. Encourage existing state and national policy and actions that support fish passage improvement in California.

Objective 7. Implement education and outreach activities, targeting both the general public and fish passage practitioners.

**Provide brief explanations of how this project addresses each Forum objective checked in the previous question.**

**Which of the National Fish Habitat Partnership's (NFHP) FY26 National Conservation Strategies will be addressed by this project? (select all that apply)**

Priority 1: Conserve waters and habitats where all processes and functions are operating within their expected range or natural variation.

Priority 2: Conserve hydrologic conditions for fish.

Priority 3: Conserve physical and living habitats and features that support viable and sustainable species and/or populations in impacted or at-risk systems.

Priority 4: Reconnect fragmented fish habitats.

Priority 5: Conserve water quality for fish.

Priority 6: Support the structure and function of fish habitat partnerships (FHPs).

Priority 7: Enhance recreational, commercial, subsistence, and traditional fishing opportunities when conducting projects that conserve fish habitat.

## Project Readiness

**Will the portion of your project that the Forum may fund be completed within two years of funding arrival (keeping in mind funding is based on the Federal budget and will arrive Spring-Summer 2025)?**

Yes/No

**Attach filled Appendix C-FY26 Project Timeline (.xlsx or.pdf)**

**Are all permits in place for this project?**

Yes/No

**Permit Status (250 words)**

List permits needed, their status, and date of expected receipt (status: received, applied for, pending, not yet applied)

The California Fish Passage Forum is committed to reducing barriers to project partners to accelerate habitat connectivity restoration. Accelerated permitting pathways established in advance can simplify the process and reduce time and cost for both regulatory agencies and project proponents while ensuring essential environmental protections and design standards are in place. Sustainable Conservation’s Accelerating Restoration Program acts as a resource to help project partners discover the permitting options for their projects.

Visit <https://acceleratingrestoration.org/> for more information or contact the Forum coordinator to arrange a permitting consultation.

**Would you be interested in information on how to secure project permits, and/or interested in a consultation with the staff at Sustainable Conservation on your options for streamlined permitting?**

Yes/No

## Project Budget

All projects are required to demonstrate 1:1 non-federal to federal match. Match can be in the form of cash and/or in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions may be in the form of time (including volunteer hours), labor, materials, equipment, etc. so long as there are no federal ties to those resources. State agency resources can be used for non-federal match if they are not being charged to another federal grant or being used to match other federal grants. Tribal contributions (cash and in-kind) are considered non-federal. If the project proponent is a tribal organization non-federal match is NOT required, but please still include all match contributions in the budget sheet anyway.

**Attach filled Appendix A-FY26 Project Budget (.xlsx or.pdf)**

**Budget Narrative (pasted from Appendix A) (500 words)**

Describe and justify requested budget items and costs identified on the budget table. Provide sufficient information to show cost effectiveness.

**All budgets must include the following information. Please check each box indicating understanding of this requirement.**

Total cost of project

Total funding being requested from the Forum clearly indicating how/on what Forum funds will be spent.

Total match (cash/in-kind) and resulting deliverables. Please include and differentiate federal and non-federal match and indicate whether those funds are secured and/or pending.

Monitoring/evaluation costs

Accompanying narrative explaining budget categories, amounts listed, what will be accomplished, and what deliverables are expected, etc.

**Total Project Cost**

**Will the project be fully funded if funding currently being requested from the Forum through this RFP is awarded?**

Yes/No

**Do you have 1:1 non-federal matching funds for the funding being requested from the Forum in this proposal? (\*\*If the funding being requested will be going to a tribal organization 1:1 non-federal match is NOT required, and tribal contributions (cash and in-kind) can be considered non-federal match for non-tribal applicants.)**

Yes/No/Still exploring options (explain in budget narrative/ N/A (funding will be going to a tribal organization)

## Project Management

**Technical Expertise of Project sponsor (1500 characters)**

Describe the technical expertise for this project. (include key staff and contracted companies and their qualifications).

**Previous Project Experience (500 words)**

List up to 5 projects completed by the project sponsor or project team.

## Project Management

**List major project partners and their roles. For example, list name of partner organization and their role (funder, technical advisor, landowner, community supporter, etc.).**

Table of project partners and their roles.

## Project Images

Securing high-quality clear images of fish passage projects advances project success in multiple ways, including project permitting, funding, monitoring, reporting, outreach, and generating community support. Examples include upstream or downstream barrier images\*, aerial images, project vicinity images, images of target species around the project site, images of project meetings and partners, and images of previous phases of the project. \*USFWS requires pre-and and implementation photos of each funded project, so upload at least one image of the project area/barrier itself.

**Upload photos of your project in individual high-resolution .jpg, .png, or .pdf files.**

**Preferred Image Credit**

**I give permission for any images I upload to be used in California Fish Passage Forum promotion of fish passage work in California, including but not limited to; the Forum website, printed materials, news articles, posters, etc.**

I give permission/I do not give permission (please email [info@cafishpassageforum.org](mailto:info@cafishpassageforum.org) to discuss your organizations needs)