

Funding Opportunities through Supplemental Environmental Projects

On 3 February 2009, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) Policy to allow a discharger to satisfy part of a monetary assessment imposed in an administrative civil liability (ACL) order by completing or funding one or more SEPs. This fact sheet addresses two approaches for funding opportunities from SEPs that are available within the Central Valley Region: Central Valley Water Board's administered SEPs and Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment (Rose Foundation), a third party administrator for the Central Valley Water Board.

The Central Valley Water Board's Supplemental Environmental Projects

SEPs Categories:

SEPs are projects that enhance the beneficial uses of the waters of the state, provide a benefit to the public at large and that, at the times they are included in the resolution of an ACL action, are not otherwise required of the discharger. There are two ways that SEPs are facilitated:

1. SEPs performed by the discharger; and
2. SEPs performed by third-parties paid by the discharger (e.g. Rose Foundation or other party).

Allowable Projects:

All SEPs approved by the Central Valley Water Board must, at a minimum, satisfy the SEP Policy's general qualification criteria. To view the SEP Policy, go to: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/enforcement/sep_policy_2009.pdf. The SEP shall directly benefit or study groundwater or surface water quality or quantity, and the beneficial uses of water of the State. Examples include but are not limited to:

- monitoring programs;
- studies or investigations (e.g., pollutant impact characterization, pollutant source identification, etc.);
- water or soil treatment;
- habitat restoration or enhancement;
- pollution prevention or reduction;
- wetland, stream, or other waterbody protection, restoration or creation;
- conservation easements;
- stream augmentation;
- reclamation;
- water assessment (e.g., citizen monitoring, coordination and facilitation);
- watershed management facilitation services;
- compliance training, compliance education, and the development of educational materials;
- enforcement projects, such as training for environmental compliance and enforcement personnel; and
- non-point source program implementation.

Applicant Eligibility:

Any public or private entity may submit a proposal to the State Water Board or to a Regional Water Board for SEP funds. The SEP Policy allows up to 50% of a settlement to be used towards a SEP. Ultimately, it is up to the respective discharger whether to enter into a settlement agreement that includes a SEP, and which SEP to fund.

Project Coverage:

The SEP Policy describes the nexus of the SEP to be between the nature or location of the violation(s) and the nature and location of the proposed SEP.

How to Apply and Learn More:

The Central Valley Water Board requires a submitted proposal for consideration of SEPs. Direction for the development of the proposal can be found in the SEP Policy. All proposing projects go through a staff review and a 30 day public comment period before formally accepted for inclusion on the SEP list. To view the current SEP list or to obtain further information on the SEP Policy and other matters related to SEPs go to: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/enforcement/index.shtml.

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Supplemental Environmental Projects Administered by the Rose Foundation

SEPs Categories:

Rose Foundation is a third-party, administering SEPs for the Central Valley Water Board through their Central Valley Disadvantaged Community Water Quality Grants Program. This working relationship was developed through the Central Valley Water Board's adoption of Resolution R5-2014-0040, on 28 March 2014 and includes Rose Foundation's original proposal:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/r5-2014-0040_res.pdf.

Allowable Projects:

Rose Foundation's allowable projects support and adhere to the SEP Policy's general qualification criteria. Eligible projects include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Water Quality Monitoring Programs
- Well Rehabilitation or Replacement
- Watershed Assessment Programs
- Wetland, Waterbody, or Riparian Habitat Conservation or Protection Programs
- Pollution Prevention Projects
- Public Awareness Projects

Applicant Eligibility:

- Must be a non-profit organization or a sponsor that agrees to assume full programmatic and legal responsibility for the project.
- The project must be designed to benefit groundwater or surface water quality and be within the boundaries of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- The project must be tailored to benefit disadvantaged communities (DACs). Locally-based projects that not only benefit DACs, but actively involve DACs in project activities and improve public health are encouraged.

Project Coverage:

Rose Foundation follows the SEP Policy's project coverage. While the goal is to support projects with a close geographic nexus to the violation(s), projects in the same overall watershed as where the violation(s) occurred may be eligible.

How to Apply and Learn More:

Rose Foundation's Central Valley Disadvantaged Community Water Quality Grants Program accepts letters of inquiry yearly by **August 1 (date subject to change)**. Projects approved by the Rose Foundation will then be considered by the Central Valley Water Board for inclusion on its SEP list. For the most current information on how to apply and when letters of inquiry are due, go to:

<http://rosefdn.org/centralvalley>.

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