

2019 NOXIOUS WEED GRANT PROGRAM

Request for Grant Applications

Released: March 1, 2019

Applications Due: April 5, 2019 by 5:00 p.m. PDT
No late submissions accepted.



California Department of Food and Agriculture
Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services
Integrated Pest Control Branch
2800 Gateway Oaks
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 262-1102
davis.tran@cdfa.ca.gov

About the Program

Purpose

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) 2019 Noxious Weed Grant Program (NWGP) will award grants to eligible applicants within the State of California for the implementation of strategic weed control projects that protect agriculture, biodiversity, water resources, fire safety and/or climate resiliency.

Funding and Duration

Senate Bill 840 (Chapter 29, Statutes of 2018) appropriated \$2 million dollars from the General Fund (GF) for Noxious Weed Management.

CDFA will fund a maximum grant award of \$60,000 per project and up to 3 projects per entity. An award maximum amount has been included to ensure encumbrance of funds in a variety of high-quality projects that will result in quantifiable accomplishments.

The maximum project term is twenty-one (21) months and grant funds cannot be expended before July 1, 2019, or after March 31, 2021. CDFA may offer an award different than the amount requested.

Eligibility and Exclusions

To be eligible, applicants must be a County Agricultural Commissioner or other County Government office. Resource Conservation Districts currently part of a California Weed Management Area (WMA) group may apply as a lead agency with proof of participation in the WMA (such as WMA meeting minutes). The project site must be located within the state of California. Applications must reflect work pertaining to implementation of controlling invasive weed populations and/or mapping of invasive weed populations. Applicants are encouraged to identify collaboration among organizations through a Weed Management Area or similar partnership. Matching funds are not required, but strongly encouraged. See [Matching Funds](#) for more details.

1) Implementation Projects

Goal: To implement strategic weed control that protects agriculture, biodiversity, water resources, fire safety and/or climate resiliency. For example, potential benefits may include:

- Protecting agricultural resources by increasing cropland, rangeland or timberland productivity
- Reducing risk and costs of catastrophic wildfire by removing highly flammable ladder fuels
- Protecting water resources by reducing groundwater use, erosion or obstruction of waterways
- Protecting wildlife and associated native habitats
- Protecting native plants
- Providing climate resiliency
- Decreasing the costs of roadside, park and waterway maintenance
- Protecting the aesthetic and recreational values of public open spaces

Projects must be strategic, addressing high-priority weed populations that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Populations identified in a regional strategic plan

- Populations of regionally rare weeds
- Outlier populations of weeds targeted for regional containment
- Populations threatening high-value assets

Application must:

- Describe how the project benefits agriculture, biodiversity, water resources, fire safety and/or climate resiliency
- Describe how the project is strategic per the four criteria above
- Provide project maps (ideally using Calflora - <https://www.calflora.org/>)
- Describe weed removal methods to be used and how they fit into an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach
- Describe expected results and the monitoring approach that will be used to track actual results

2. Mapping Projects

Goal: To map key weed species and prioritize populations for future control work.

Application must:

- Describe weed species and areas to be mapped and why they were selected
- Describe how mapping will be performed (technique, timing, etc.)
- Describe whether you will need training on posting data to Calflora
- Describe how the mapping will inform strategic prioritization (per the factors listed above) toward future control work

Timeline

2019 NWGP Timeline	
Invitation to submit Grant Applications	March 1, 2019
Conference Call	March 7, 2019
Grant Applications Due	April 5, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. PDT
Review Process	April 8 – 26, 2019
Announce and Award Funding	April 30, 2019
Grants Awarded	May 2019
Final Date to Complete Field Work	March 31, 2021
Final Report and Invoice Due	April 30, 2021

Requirements and Limitations

Program Requirements

The 2019 NWGP will support implementation of weed control and weed mapping projects in California that result in permanent, annual, and measurable work product (map or plan) and/or weed reductions. All projects that receive funding are required to have measurable results.

Grant recipients will be required to submit semi-annual reports to CDFA explaining in detail the project's progress. In addition to the report, work must be documented in CalFlora (<https://www.calflora.org>) including assessment records and mapped populations if applicable. In addition, grant recipients will be required to coordinate at least one WMA meeting per year with local stakeholders and update the WMA's website (can use Cal-IPC's page for the WMA if desired).

Final project reports are required 30 days after project completion, no later than April 30, 2021. Final project reports should include detailed information on project results and include photos of field work showing progress (action photos and before/after photos).

California Environmental Quality Act and Permits

CDFA's intent is to fund projects that demonstrate "readiness." Project readiness will be evaluated based on evidence that applicants are ready to start project implementation. Evidence includes, but is not limited to, a list of permits already obtained, and details of the process required to obtain remaining permits clearly outlined in the Project Narrative.

Activities funded under the Program must be in compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other environmental permitting requirements. Applications for activities subject to CEQA and/or NEPA must identify the lead agency or agencies and provide documentation evidencing that the agency or agencies have accepted the lead agency role. The project applicant is responsible for project compliance. Environmental compliance should encompass the entire project and not a particular portion or phase (no partial compliance).

If awarded, grant recipients are expected to demonstrate compliance with CEQA and all applicable permitting within six (6) months of the execution of the grant agreement.

Project Technology

Projects must use commercially available technologies. *Commercially available technologies* are those having a proven operating history specific to the grant application. Such a system is based on established design and installation procedures and practices. Professional service providers, traders, large construction equipment providers, and labor are familiar with installation procedures and practices.

2019 NWGP grant funds **cannot** be used for pre-commercial or new technology development. *Pre-commercial technologies* are defined as new technologies or enhancements of existing technologies that are not commercially available.

Matching Funds

Grant recipients utilizing matching funds must report any matching funds contributed to the project and ability to commence work while waiting for grant payments in arrears.

Matching funds are a portion of project costs not borne by the NWGP. Matching contributions include allowable costs incurred that are directly related to the implementation of the grant (i.e., supplies and materials, equipment, and contractor/consultant fees, and other associated project costs).

Allowable Costs

Project costs must clearly support the implementation of the weed grant, including, but not limited to:

Personnel Services: Program administration directly related to project implementation (no utility cost or insurance charges). Outreach and Education includes preparing materials or other time spent conducting community outreach on items directly related to project implementation. Survey and Mapping of weed populations and time spent uploading data into CalFlora directly related to the NWGP project.

Supplies: Supplies and materials are items with an acquisition cost less than \$5,000 per unit and have a useful life of less than one (1) year.

Equipment: Equipment is an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property and has a useful life of more than one (1) year, and a purchase cost which equals or exceeds \$5,000 per unit.

Herbicides: Pesticide and adjuvants specifically used in control and eradication work during project implementation.

Contractor/Consultant: Contractor fees are limited to labor to install the project. Consultant fees are for a specific and identifiable service that is directly related to project implementation.

NOTE: Compensation for individual contractor/consultant fees must be reasonable and consistent with fees in the marketplace for the same or similar services.

Travel Costs: Travel costs associated with attendance of local or statewide WMA meetings, in addition to travel necessary to perform required project objectives within the state of California.

Other Costs: Other direct costs and expenses for implementing the project not covered in any of the previous categories such as postage. If rental vehicles are used, grant recipients should utilize the most economical rental vehicle option available. Reimbursement is up to the actual cost. Fuel reimbursement when using a rental vehicle will be at the actual cost for the fuel, and must be supported with receipts

Mileage: Not to exceed the current federal rate (January 1, 2019 rate is \$0.58 per mile). Mileage reimbursement for using a privately-owned vehicle will be at the standard mileage rate established by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in effect at the time of travel. The standard mileage rate in effect at the time of travel can be found on the IRS website. Mileage logs should be utilized to substantiate mileage costs. Note: For rental vehicles, see 'Other Costs'.

Indirect Costs: (also known as "facilities and administrative costs") are costs incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be identified specifically with a particular project, program, or organizational activity. The Recipient can use their negotiated rate, or Indirect Cost Rate that is consistent with their organization's written policy. In the absence of a negotiated rate or written policy, 10% de minimis can apply. Apply this rate for the life of the Agreement.

Unallowable Costs

The following costs are *not* allowed:

- Costs incurred outside of the grant term.
- Costs covered by another State or Federal grant program.
- Pre-development costs, including, but not limited to: permits, project designs, and any other activities that contributed to a project's readiness.
- Costs associated with environmental review required for project permits, including preparation of Environmental Impact Reports.
- Expenditures for purchasing or leasing land or buildings.
- Costs of food or rent incurred during community outreach.
- Costs associated with mitigation of potential adverse impacts (i.e., California Government Code Section 16428.86(a)).

How to Apply

Applicants are required to download, complete and submit the NWGP application using the required template. Applications must be submitted electronically via email to Davis.Tran@cdfa.ca.gov by 5:00 p.m. PDT on April 5, 2019.

Attachment 1: Project Narrative Template

The Project Narrative should detail the history and background of the weed control project, the specific type of control to be used in the proposal, mapping, outreach, weed species and location(s). For joint projects the plan for the entire project must be included.

Attachment 2: Budget Worksheet Template

Applicants must provide a clear accounting of personnel and operating costs, work hours, equipment and travel associated with all activities necessary to complete the project. Applicants must identify 2019 NWGP funds requested and the source and amount of matching funds if applicable.

CDFA will reply with an email confirmation when applications are received. If you do not receive confirmation within two (2) business days of your submission, contact the CDFA Integrated Pest Control Branch at (916) 262-1102.

Review and Notification

Review Process

Projects will be selected for award on a first-come-first-served basis, so long as the application meets the minimum criteria set forth below. CDFA will conduct the following review during the grant application process:

1. All applications are subject to an administrative review to determine whether application requirements were met.
2. Additional considerations may be given for the projects ability to meet identified goals.

Disqualifications

During the administrative review, the following will result in the automatic disqualification of a grant application:

- One or more unanswered questions necessary for the administrative review
- Missing, blank, unreadable, or corrupt content
- Unusable or unreadable attachments
- Requests for more than the maximum award amount

APPEAL RIGHTS: Any disqualification taken by the Plant Health Pest Prevention, Integrated Control Branch during the administrative review for the preceding reasons may be appealed to CDFA's Office of Hearings and Appeals Office within 10 days of receiving a notice of disqualification from CDFA. The appeal must be in writing and signed by the responsible party name on the grant application or his/her authorized agent. It must state the grounds for the appeal and include any supporting documents and a copy of the decision being challenged. The submissions must be sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or emailed to CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov. If submissions are not received within the time frame provided above, the appeal will be denied.