

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 1, 2026

Interested Parties:

REQUEST FOR POTENTIAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS TO IMPLEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND PROTECTION IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) supports the inclusion of supplemental environmental projects (SEPs) in the settlement of enforcement actions. The Central Coast Water Board reached a tentative settlement with a permittee/discharger and are in the process of identifying potential SEPs to include as part of the settlement. Priority shall be given to SEPs that implement environmental restoration and protection in Santa Barbara County, although other SEP types may be considered. The Central Coast Water Board seeks SEPs that address the factors described below:

FACTORS	
Project Types	Environmental restoration and protection projects such as those that benefit surface or groundwater quality and enhance the condition of the ecosystem; habitat restoration or enhancement; wetland, stream, or other waterbody protection, restoration, or creation; stream flow or water quality augmentation; and non-point source program implementation. Priority may be given to projects that improve or expand the quantity, quality, functions, values, and/or beneficial uses of waterbodies (wetlands, streams, estuaries, etc.) such as projects that implement waterbody establishment, re-establishment, rehabilitation, and/or enhancement; remove barriers to anadromous fish passage and/or enhance fish passage; support special status aquatic species; and/or reconnect floodplains to waterbodies. Other types of projects that are environmentally beneficial and directly benefit groundwater, surface water, or drinking water quality or quantity, and the beneficial uses of waters of the State may be considered for this settlement but will likely not be prioritized.

Geographic Area	Santa Barbara County with high priority areas in the coastal southern Santa Barbara County watersheds (Gaviota to the Santa Barbara County/Ventura County line). Other priority areas include the Santa Ynez, San Antonio, Sisquoc, and Cuyama Valley watersheds.
Conditions	Project proponents will be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits, developing and adhering to a project schedule, conducting necessary technical studies and surveys, developing design plans, obtaining site access, conducting project construction, monitoring project performance, conducting project maintenance, and reporting on project progress and performance.
Project Term	For this settlement, projects must be completed within 5 years. Additional time may be available for monitoring to demonstrate project success. For consideration in future settlements, projects typically must be completed within 3 years.
SEP Amount	Total SEP costs should range from approximately \$100,000 to \$3,000,000.
Benefits to Climate Change Resilience	Projects that build resilience to climate change impacts on ecosystems may be given priority for selection.
Benefits to Underrepresented Communities¹	Projects that provide benefits to underrepresented communities may be given priority for selection.

When evaluating potential SEPs, the Central Coast Water Board may also consider the following additional criteria to maximize project efficiency and success:

- Project readiness to proceed.
- Demonstrated effectiveness of project method.
- Likelihood for success during project term.
- Long-term sustained benefits.
- Leveraging opportunity to contribute to other projects or larger benefits.
- Project administrator's record of successful project completion and technical, managerial, and financial capacity to complete proposed work.
- Settling permittee/discharger's willingness to fund the project.

Please feel free to share this request with other organizations that might be interested in submitting project concepts. **Organizations who have potential SEPs and who would like to submit their project concept to the Central Coast Water Board for consideration should fill out the linked interest form. Submittals will be reviewed beginning on June 12, 2026.** Currently, the Central Coast Water Board is looking for

¹ Underrepresented Communities include, but are not limited to, Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), Economically Distressed Areas (EDAs), Tribes, Environmentally Disadvantaged Communities (EnvDACs), and members of Fringe Communities.

basic information about the SEP concept. If the parties to the settlement are interested in your project, the Central Coast Water Board will contact you for a full project proposal that includes a scope of work, milestones, deadlines, and a budget. Any SEPs not selected for this settlement may be put on a list for consideration in future settlements.

The **Supplemental Environmental Project Interest Form** can be accessed at:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/q/XcfUwFRUun>

If you have questions about this opportunity or need assistance completing the linked interest form, please contact the Central Coast Water Board Enforcement Program at RB3-Enforcement@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Angela V. Schroeter
Assistant Executive Officer