

## **2026 (G26) Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program Salton Sea Conservation Coalition's Preliminary Application Comments**

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Comments submitted by the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division to individual Grant Applicants should in no way be construed as a guarantee of successful results for the Applicant within the competitive Grants process or a commitment of funding. Additionally, the lack of comments by the OHMVR Division to any specific Applicant does not ensure successful results for the Applicant within the competitive Grant process or a commitment of funding.

Failure by the Applicant to respond to any OHMVR Division comment of their preliminary Application may be cause for eliminating that item from the Applicant's final Application.

All final Applications will be reviewed by the OHMVR Division. The OHMVR Division may, at its sole discretion, decrease the requested amount and eliminate activities pursuant with regulation Section 4970.07.2 (f)(1-5) and for Law Enforcement Projects, regulation Section 4970.15.3(b)(1-5).

If multiple proposed Projects are requesting funding for the same deliverable, and multiple projects are successful, only one project will receive funding for the deliverable.

For proposed Projects requesting Grant funding for snow and/or winter activities. Applicants must ensure the activities and/or Equipment/Heavy Equipment/Trailer requested are not and/or cannot be funded by the Department's Winter Program (commonly referred to as the Snow Grooming Program).

For proposed Projects requesting Grant funding for the maintenance of roads and/or trails, note that only roads and/or trails that allow "green sticker" Off-Highway Vehicles are allowed to receive Grant funding.

Applicants are reminded that no Grant funds and/or match can be expended, or Project activities conducted in any land owned or managed by the Department except as allowed in the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program regulations section 4970.09 (b)(11).

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### **General Evaluation Criteria:**

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## **Restoration: G26-04-53-R01**

### **Project Description – Background**

- No comment.

### **Project Description – Project Description**

- The Project appears to be both Restoration and Restoration Planning. Applicant may divide the proposal into two separate Restoration Projects, if desired. The combined deliverables and total cost must match the original Project.

### **Project Description – List of Project Deliverables**

- #1 – It is unclear what the actual active restoration activities are. Applicant must provide additional details describing the specific active restoration activities proposed for the Project. In addition, Applicant must provide an estimate that reflects the appropriate level of active restoration associated with illegal OHV incursion. Furthermore, Applicant must also separately identify any areas representing anticipated future incursions and provide distinct estimates for each.
- #2 – Applicants must provide the anticipated number of monitoring efforts for each Project Area listed under Section D: “Size of the Specific Project Area(s)...”.
- #4 – Applicants must provide a clear estimate of the mileage, linear feet, or other applicable measurements of fencing and/or barriers required for the Project.
- #5 – The activity listed in this deliverable is not listed in the Project Cost Estimate section. Applicant must clarify how this activity aligns with the corresponding Project Deliverable and associated costs. In addition, Applicant must provide additional details regarding the public outreach or visitor-services activities proposed for the Project.
- #7 – Applicant must spell out the acronym for “AOI.”

### **Project Description – All Others**

- Attachments: Applicant is reminded to include Project-Specific Map(s) with sufficient detail for someone unfamiliar with the area to locate the Project site(s). The map(s) must also include valid GPS coordinates for all Project site locations. Additionally, Applicant may include map keys identifying active restoration areas, fencing/barriers, and other relevant Project features.
- (C) How the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation... – Applicant must provide additional information on how the Project relates to OHV recreation and how OHV recreation specifically caused the damage proposed for restoration.

### **Project Cost Estimate**

- Staff #1 “Project Manager (SSCC)” – Applicant must provide additional information describing the specific duties and activities this position will perform on the Project, including whether the work will occur in the field, in the office, or

both. Applicant must also clarify what is meant by 'provide in-kind volunteer hours as Project Manager,' and specify how the labor rate for this position was determined—whether it reflects actual staff cost or a volunteer rate.

- Staff #2 “Field Lead / Restoration Specialist (SSC)” – It is unclear whether this line item is directly related to the completion of the Project. Applicant must explain how this position’s activities relate to and support the Project, including how they pertain to the illegal OHV incursion. In addition, quantity (QTY) seems excessive. Applicant must further define how the QTY was determined. Furthermore, Applicant must clarify whether the staff listed under this line item are employees of the SSCC or external personnel. If the individuals are not SSCC employees, Applicant must move the line item to Contract Cost category.
- Staff #3 “Finance (SSCC)” – Line item is considered indirect as it does not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must move these line items to the Indirect costs category. In addition, cost seems excessive. Applicant must further define how the cost was determined.
- Staff #4 “Fence maintenance and surveys (UCC)” – Applicant must provide additional information describing the specific duties and activities this staff member will perform on the Project. The current description (monitoring/management) is insufficient. Applicant must also provide a breakdown of staff time for fence maintenance, survey work, monitoring, and management, and explain how each activity supports the Project. In addition, Applicant must clarify whether the staff listed under this line item are employees of the SSCC or external personnel. If the individuals are not SSCC employees, Applicant must move the line item to the Contract Cost category.
- Staff #5 “UC Riverside Extension Staff” – Applicant must explain how the wildlife monitoring conducted by UC Riverside staff differs from the monitoring activities already assigned to other Project staff, and why this additional monitoring effort is necessary for the Project. In addition, the cost appears excessive. Applicant must further define how the line-item cost was determined. Furthermore, Applicant must clarify what “committed in-kind support in support to nonprofit” means. Lastly, Applicant must clarify whether the staff listed under this line item are employees of the SSCC or external personnel. If the individuals are not SSCC employees, Applicant must move the line item to the Contract Cost category.
- Contracts #2 “Boundary Fence Repair” – Applicant must specify how much of the existing fence requires repair, including the approximate mileage or linear footage involved. In addition, Applicant is requesting grant funds for fencing materials under Materials / Supplies #1 “Fencing materials.” Applicant must clarify what is meant by the statement, “materials will be provided by Salton Sea Conservation Coalition,” as this statement is unclear, or whether the materials and supplies are funded by this grant fund. Furthermore, Applicant is reminded that repairing any gates is an ineligible expense for Restoration Projects. Applicant must remove all gate-associated costs. Lastly, Applicant must identify the contractor who will perform the work and explain how the associated cost was determined.
- Contracts #3 “Invasive Species Control Contract” – The method and details for this line item are unclear. Applicant must explain why the quantity shows two (2)

and how much of the project area will be sprayed. In addition, the cost for this line item must also be reduced by 50%, as invasive species can spread in many ways and not just via OHV Recreation activities.

- Materials / Supplies #1 “Fencing Materials” – Repairing and replacing the gates or doors are an ineligible expense for Restoration Projects. Applicant must remove all related language and associated costs for gates from this line item.
- Materials / Supplies #2 “Entrance (door) materials” – Purchasing doors is an ineligible expense for Restoration Projects. Applicant must remove this line item.
- Materials / Supplies #3 “Regulatory/closure signage + posts” – Cost appears excessive. Applicant must clarify how the cost was determined.
- Materials / Supplies #4, 5, & 8 – Applicant must clarify why herbicide material and supplies are needed, as the invasive species control contract is listed under the Contract Cost category.
- Materials / Supplies #6 “Volunteer Event supplies” – Applicant must provide additional details on how the volunteer aligns with the Project in the Project deliverables.
- Materials / Supplies #7 “Vertical mulching” – The cost appears excessive. Applicant must further define how the cost was determined and what items will be included. In addition, Applicant must clarify how the vertical mulching will be part of the Project, as it is not listed within the Application. Applicant must add the activity to the appropriate Project Deliverable. Line item notes refer to stones (barriers), which are duplicative of fencing.
- Equipment Use Expenses #1 & 2 – Applicant must provide additional information on how the Heavy Equipment is used in the Project and how the cost was determined.
- Equipment Use Expenses #3 “Pickup/UTV Rental” – Material(s), supplies, and personnel transportation expenses are reimbursed based on per-mile charge, not exceeding the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage business rate, up to one hundred (100) miles in each direction per day. Applicant must describe in the notes section how costs were determined and change the unit of measurement to “MI”.
- Equipment Use Expenses #4 “Fuel Costs” – Applicant is reminded that Fuel costs may be charged only for Heavy Equipment used on the Project. Applicant must provide additional information explaining how the line item will be used in the Project and how the cost was determined.
- Equipment Purchases #1 “GPS Field Units” – GPS Field Units are not considered Equipment. Applicant must move this line item to the Other Cost category. In addition, Applicant must provide additional information on why these devices are needed for the drones and why drones are needed for the Project. Furthermore, Applicant must clarify whether this activity was already completed under Contract #1 “GIS Survey + Impact Mapping.” Any costs already covered under that contract must be removed.
- Equipment Purchases #2 “Trail Camers” – The line item appears to be an indirect activity as it does not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must explain how this activity directly supports the Project or move the verbiage for this activity and the cost associated with it to the Indirect Cost category.

- Equipment Purchases #3 “Field tool cahche” – Field tools are not considered Equipment. Applicant must move this line item to the Material / Supplies Cost category. In addition, the cost appears excessive. Applicant must provide additional information on how the cost was determined.
- Other #1 “Compliance and Permitting support” – The line item is an indirect activity as it does not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must move the verbiage for this activity and the cost associated with it to the Indirect Cost category. In addition, the cost seems excessive. Applicant must provide additional information on how the cost was determined.
- Other #2 “Outreach printing materials” – Applicant must move this line item to the Materials / Supplies Cost category. In addition, the cost seems excessive. Applicant must provide additional information on how the cost was determined.
- Other #3 “Travel/ lodging” – The line item appears to be an indirect activity as it does not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must explain what the activities are and how this activity directly supports the Project or moves the verbiage for this activity and the cost associated with it to the Indirect Cost category. In addition, the cost seems excessive. Applicant must provide additional information on how the cost was determined. Per diem (Travel) is only allowed when spiking out for Project Deliverable work.
- Other #4 “Admin costs” – Line item is considered an indirect cost as it does not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must move the verbiage for this activity and the cost associated with it to the Indirect Cost category.
- Other #5 “Contingency Costs” – Costs for a contingency reserve or other similar reserve are ineligible. Applicant must remove the line item.
- Indirect Costs #1 “admin overhead” – The cost appears excessive. Applicant must provide additional information on how the cost was determined. In addition, Applicant must clarify which staff positions this cost will be associated with.