

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



May 8, 2015

To: Participants of the Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program

Subject: Delta Levee Maintenance Subventions Program Applications for FY 2015-16

The Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program (Subventions Program) is part of FloodSAFE California, an integrated, system-wide initiative for achieving sustainable flood risk management. FloodSAFE California was formulated by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in 2007 and is sustained by funds from *The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006* (Proposition 84) and *Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006* (Proposition 1E) approved by the California voters in November 2006.

Since the inception of FloodSAFE, more than \$70 million has been reimbursed for eligible levee maintenance and rehabilitation work through the Subventions Program. DWR has committed \$12 million for FY 2015-16, which will be disbursed once the final claims are received and reviewed by DWR.

DWR is now accepting applications for the FY 2015-16 Subventions Program from eligible local agencies within the legal Delta. DWR is planning to make \$12 million available from Proposition 1E funds for the FY 2015-16 Subventions Program. Upon receiving the annual levee maintenance applications from the local agencies, DWR will prepare the FY 2015-16 Subventions Program annual expenditure plan and will seek the Central Valley Flood Protection Board's (Board) approval in the fall 2015. Please submit your plan by the application deadline of July 1, 2015, in order to be considered for the FY 2015-16 Subventions Program. Applications may be submitted electronically to meet the deadline; however, a paper copy of the application with original signature(s) must follow by mail.

Please note that all applications must be in compliance with the Subvention Program Guidelines adopted by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board on September 23, 2011. The Guidelines are available on the Subventions Program website: http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/fessro/docs/subventions_guidelines.pdf

The following are among the criteria that need to be satisfied prior to final approval of an application and/or disbursement of State funds (see the Guidelines for comprehensive information):

- All engineering plans submitted to DWR must be approved by the local agency and must be prepared and signed by a Civil Engineer licensed by the California Board of Registration for Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists.

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- Plans shall not call for the use of channel islands or berms with riparian communities as borrow sites for levee repair material unless a mitigation plan is also submitted to DWR.
- Plans shall not result in a net long-term loss of riparian, fisheries, or wildlife habitat.
- The application must state that all habitat and mitigation requirements shall be completed to the satisfaction of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Failure to complete habitat and mitigation requirements as required will result in forfeiture of reimbursement under this Program and may prevent future participation in the program.
- The applicant must ensure that the proposed work is in compliance with CEQA guidelines. The local agency shall be the lead agency for purposes of CEQA. However, both the Board and DWR, as responsible agencies, will review and consider the project's CEQA environmental document(s) prior to providing funding any project that is subject to CEQA. Such approval is fully discretionary and shall constitute a condition precedent to any work for which it is required.
- The applicant must provide information regarding conformance with The Department of Industrial Relations Labor Compliance Program requirements of Propositions 1E (see Attachment A).
- The applicant should acknowledge that reimbursement of automobile mileage that is related to eligible work will follow the prevailing federal standard mileage rate for the cost of operating an automobile.
- A levee maintenance inspection report for the local agency's nonproject levees, prepared in accordance with the reporting guidelines provided in Appendix D of the Guidelines is required for reimbursement of inspection-related expenses.
- In accordance with Water Code Section 9140, if the local agency is responsible for the operation and maintenance of a project levee, or if the local agency operates and maintains a nonproject levee that also benefits land within the boundaries of the area benefited by the project levee, the local agency shall prepare and submit to DWR, on or before September 30th of each year, a report of information for inclusion in periodic flood management reports prepared by DWR relating to the project levee.
- In accordance with Water Code Section 9650, if the local agency receives funding from the State to upgrade a project levee that protects an area in which more than 1,000 people reside, the local agency responsible for the project levee and any city or county, including charter cities or counties, protected by the project levee shall enter into an agreement to adopt a safety plan within two years. The safety plan shall be integrated into any other local agency emergency plan and shall be coordinated with the state emergency plan. The local entity responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project levee shall submit a copy of the safety plan to DWR and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. No advances or reimbursements shall be made by the State for a levee covered by this paragraph until it receives the agreement from all necessary entities.

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Again, please read the Guidelines carefully for comprehensive information regarding the Subventions Program. Submit **one** copy to Mr. Bob Orcutt at CDFW and **two** copies of the application to my attention at DWR to the following addresses:

Send **two** copies of the applications to:

Andrea Lobato, P.E., Manager
Delta Levees Program
Department of Water Resources
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001
Fax: (916) 651-9295

Send **one** copy of the application to:

Bob Orcutt, Supervisor
Delta Levees Program
Department of Fish and Wildlife
2109 Arch Airport Rd.
Stockton, California 95206
Fax: (209) 234-3441

After final Board approval of the expenditure plan, DWR will prepare work agreements for execution by the Board and each participating agency. Timely execution of these funding agreements will help ensure that funding is committed.

Please note that the uncertainties surrounding the State's budget and bond funding may impact the availability of funds. Therefore, the final execution of the agreements may be held by DWR or the Board until commitment of funds is authorized by the State Treasurer's Office and/or Department of Finance. As always, participating agencies must be in compliance with all federal, State, and local laws and regulations in order for the Board and DWR to enter into agreement with the agency and consider reimbursement of the final claims.

As a reminder, final claims for the fiscal year 2014-2015 Subventions Program are due on November 2, 2015. If you have any questions or comments regarding the Delta Levees Maintenance Subventions Program please call me at (916) 651-9295 or Sandra Maxwell of my staff at (916) 651-7009.

Sincerely,

Andrea Lobato, P.E., Manager
Delta Levees Program

cc: (See attached list.)
Mr. Bob Orcutt, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Attachments

X:\Subventions\FY 15-16\Request for Application Letter\05-08-2015 Subventions Request for Applications FY 2015-16.docx