

2.2.3. ACQUISITION-ONLY GRANT PROGRAM

This is a Capital Projects grant program, funded from Categories 3 and 4.

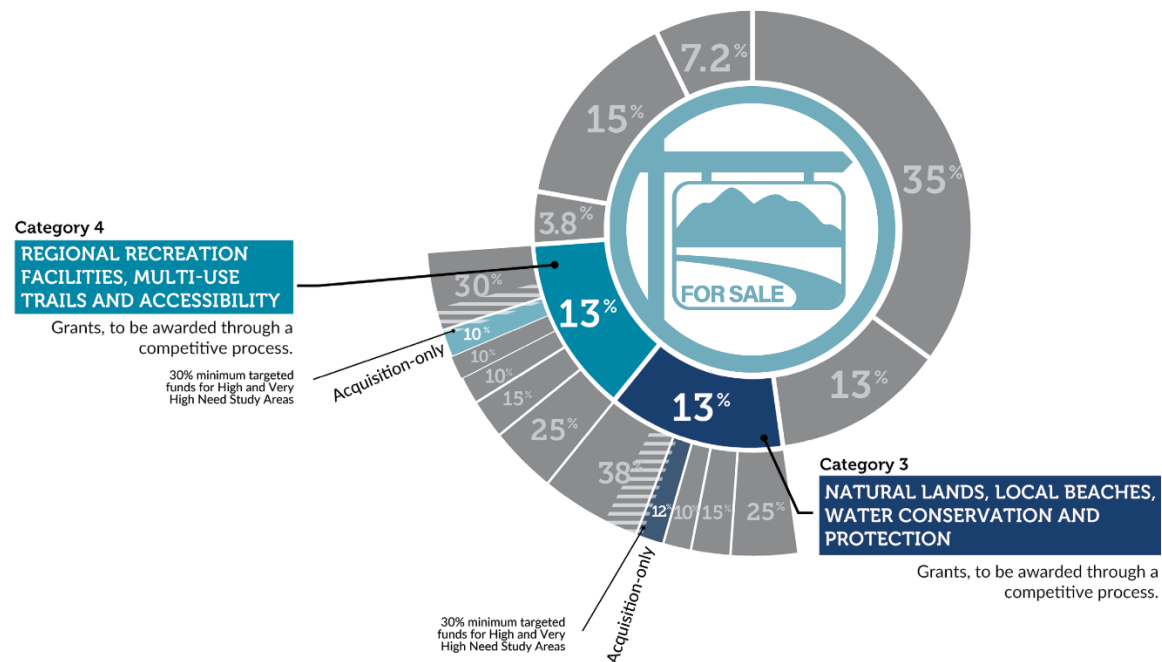
Goals

Acquisition-only grant projects should meet the goals of the Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Competitive Grants Program or the Regional Recreation, Multi-use Trails and Accessibility Competitive Grants Program. Urgent acquisitions in High-Need or Very-High-Need Study Areas and for trails connections and access, wildlife corridors, and critical habitat will be prioritized.

The purpose of this grant is to provide agencies and organizations the opportunity to apply for and receive funding for acquisitions on an annual basis, which is more frequent than the four-year grant cycles for the Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Competitive Grants Program and the Regional Recreation, Multi-use Trails and Accessibility Competitive Grants Program. On years in which these two competitive grant programs are active, applicants with acquisition-only projects may choose to compete in these competitive grant programs in lieu of the Acquisition-only Program.

A minimum of thirty percent of these funds will be awarded to projects strictly located in High-Need or Very-High-Need Study Areas, as defined by the most recent Countywide Neighborhood Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment. For additional information on this target, refer to Section 1.8.

Funding Amount and Cycle Frequency



Annual Allocation:

12% of Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Competitive Grants Program (Category 3) and 10% of Regional Recreation, Multi-use Trails and Accessibility funds (Category 4).



Grant Cycle: The first cycle will occur after resolution of ongoing litigation; thereafter will be annual.

Recipients: at least 30% for projects strictly located in High-Need or Very-High-Need Study Areas.

Amount: The dollar amount of funds available is updated annually based on the revenue received by September 15th of each year, and awarded at intervals as described in the Competitive Grants Calendar (Figure 3-1).

Project Types

All projects are for the acquisition of land for project types included in the Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Program or the Regional Recreation, Multi-Use Trails and Accessibility Program. Please refer to those programs for additional information.

Project Requirements

Applicants must provide proof that the project meets the project eligibility, feasibility, and community engagement requirements listed below.

All projects must include a sign at a prominent location on the project site acknowledging the assistance of RPOSD. The cost of permanent signage development is reimbursable through the grant. RPOSD will provide electronic samples of its graphics for the grantee to use in signage development.

Project Eligibility

Applicants must provide proof that the project meets *all* of the following Project Eligibility requirements to apply for a grant award:

- The project only includes land acquisition.
- There is a willing seller.
- The acquired land will be used for a purpose covered in the Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Competitive Grants Program OR the Regional Recreation, Multi-Use Trails and Accessibility Competitive Grants Program.
- The project's requested grant award size is a minimum of \$50,000 and maximum of \$1,000,000.

Project Feasibility

Applicants must provide proof that the project meets *at least one* requirement in each topic area in order to apply for a grant award:

Land Access/Tenure

- Applicant owns the land in question; or
- Applicant has entered into a lease or other use agreement for the land in question; or
- Applicant has concrete plans as to how access or tenure will be acquired or arranged.



Permitting and CEQA Compliance

- Project is exempt from regulatory permits and CEQA; or
- Any necessary permitting and CEQA documents are completed and certified; or
- Applicant has concrete plans as to how and when permitting and CEQA will be completed.

Adverse Site Conditions

- There are no adverse site conditions that would affect project implementation; or
- Adverse site conditions have been characterized and the applicant has concrete plans for addressing them; or
- Adverse site conditions are known to exist but have not been characterized. Applicant has plans as to how and when these conditions will be addressed, with appropriate budget contingencies in the project budget.

Project Budget and Funding

- Applicant has a detailed budget consistent with the level of planning and design completed to date, as well as a plan for funding to cover the budgeted costs, with appropriate contingencies given the level of planning completed.

Project Schedule

- Applicant has a detailed schedule from grant receipt to project completion that reflects the level of planning, design, permitting and community involvement that will be necessary for the project.

Operations and Maintenance

- The project has an appropriately detailed financial plan for operation and maintenance of the completed project.

Community Engagement

The project must meet the minimum community engagement requirements described in Section 3.3.

Award Size

Requested grant awards must meet the minimum and maximum grant award size requirements.

- Minimum: \$50,000
- Maximum: \$1,000,000

Projects that require funding beyond these Measure A limits may seek to leverage supplemental funding from other sources.

Project Specific Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be scored using the following criteria. Refer to Section 3.4.2 for additional information on evaluation methodology.



Level of Need:

This will consider whether or not a project or program serves or benefits residents of High-Need or Very-High-Need Study Areas or provides services to and/or recruits a majority of its participants from High-Need or Very-High-Need Study Areas.

Regional Benefits

Examples of projects providing regional benefits or serving regional needs include:

- Acquisition of new or additional park acreage or natural resource within the service region;
- Providing trail connectivity, transit connections beyond the local vicinity, trailhead and/or parking improvements, or ADA improvements;
- Involving the collaboration of multiple Study Areas, agencies, or organizations;
- Increasing community value (natural or built) by filling a gap in regional facilities, amenities, or open space.

Social Multi-benefits

Efforts in providing additional benefits besides recreation that relate to social issues include:

- Community Safety, Gang Activity Reduction, and Violence Prevention:
Project includes features that improve safety conditions and visibility through the provision of safe equipment and facilities, and thereby reduce or prevent of gang activity, violence, and crime. Best practices include using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies, such as increasing natural surveillance, reducing isolated spaces, increasing sight lines, and providing adequate lighting. Projects located in areas of high gang activity and violence and incorporate safe design, and/or engage former and current gang members or gang reduction community groups to ensure park safety.
- Anti-displacement Mitigation:
Project includes advance displacement avoidance strategies to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with the project creates a significant increase in the cost of housing. More points will be scored based on how realistic and proactive the strategies are.

Environmental Multi-Benefits

Efforts in providing additional benefits besides recreation that relate to environmental issues include:

- Heat-Island Reductions:
Project includes features that reduce heat-island effects, in ways beyond typical plantings found in park and open space projects. Examples include use of light colored and/or reflective surfaces, planting trees, providing shade, and reducing hardscape.
- Habitat Protection and Biodiversity:
Project includes features that create, preserve, and/or enhance important habitat areas and biodiversity. Examples include preserving critical habitat areas, using native plants that attract pollinators, and creating a diversity of spaces that can be used as habitat for a diversity of animals.



Leveraging of Funds

Measure A encourages projects that leverage public and private funding from several specific types of benefit programs. Submitted budget should indicate secured funding sources and amounts that will be leveraged for the project. Public and private funding sources include, but are not limited to, those address the following:

- Water conservation and supply; water quality improvements; flood risk management;
- Air quality improvements; climate pollution reduction or adaption; carbon sequestration; heat-island reduction; habitat protection and biodiversity;
- Public health;
- Environmental justice.

Connectivity and Accessibility

Projects that provide accessibility, connecting rivers, mountains, and urban areas, especially to county parks, state parks, the national forest, the national recreation area(s), and the national monuments(s), and that link other canyons and regional and local parks through the county are encouraged. Efforts can take the form of new physical connections or improvements to existing ones. Quality of the connection, such as wayfinding, landscaping, and scale, will also be considered when scoring applications.

Timeliness and Urgency

Whether the initiation and completion of the project is needed and timely in that it builds on, complements, or moves toward implementing high priority acquisitions, connections, and/or habitat protection plans, or water conservation or protection improvement will be assessed for the application evaluation process.

