**SF Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund**

**Competitive Grant Program Announcement, EPA Region 9**

**February 2012**

Funding is now available from U.S. EPA Region 9 through the SF Bay Water Quality Improvement Funds. Since 2008, EPA has awarded over $22 million through ten grants supporting 38 projects, match and leveraging over $40 million, and involving 53 partners to protect and restore SF Bay and its watershed. The following briefly describes two available solicitations for this SF Bay competitive grant program.

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|  | **RFIP (FY 2011)** | **RFIP (FY 2012)** |
| **Funding Opportunity #** | EPA-R9-WTR3-12-001 | EPA-R9-WTR3-12-002 |
| **Available Funds** | $1,000,000 | up to $5,847,000 |
| **Funding Range for Projects** | $200,000 to $1,000,000 | $500,000 to $2,000,000 |
| **Match (statutory authority)** | 25% | 50% |
| **Evaluation Criteria** **- Initial Proposals (100 pts)** | Scope/Approach (45 pts)Environmental Results (45 pts)Budget Summary (10 pts) | Scope/Approach (45 pts)Environmental Results (45 pts)Budget Summary (10 pts) |
| **Evaluation Criteria** **- Full Proposals (100 pts)** | Partnerships/Leveraging (40 pts)Budget Detail (40 pts)Programmatic Capability and Past Performance (20 pts) | Partnerships (35 pts)Budget Detail (45 pts)Programmatic Capability and Past Performance (20 pts) |

**Common RFIP Elements**

* Uses a 2-step process to simplify application procedures and improve proposal quality.
	+ 4-page initial proposals due March 16, 2012.
	+ Applicants with the highest ranking initial proposals will be invited to submit full proposals within 30 days of EPA’s notification.
	+ Emphasis on wetlands and restoration of impaired waters – but other project types are clearly encouraged.
	+ Invites projects encouraging innovation, cost-effectiveness, leveraging of additional resources and fostering widespread implementation.
	+ Planning projects are welcomed, but to be competitive they need to demonstrate a high likelihood of being implemented and describe the expected water quality results.
* Eligibility
	+ Projects must protect water quality in the SF Bay and its watersheds (9 Bay Area Counties).
	+ Broad range of entities including government agencies, NGOs, universities, etc.
* Anticipated environmental results must be quantified.
* Proposals must demonstrate consistency with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership’s Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.
* Projects are encouraged to be based on existing analysis and plans (e.g., TMDLs and watershed plans) because they are more likely to be successful and better investments.
* Review and Selection Process
	+ Initial Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by an EPA Review Committee. High ranking initial proposals will be invited to submit full proposals.
	+ Full Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by the Review Committee. Funding recommendations based on the full proposal scores will be provided to EPA’s Region 9 Water Division Director.
	+ Final funding decisions will be made by EPA’s Region 9 Water Division Director, in consultation with the Regional Administrator, and can consider geographic distribution, diversity of projects and availability of funds.
	+ Grant awards are expected to be made by August 2012.

**For More Information**

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/watershed/sfbaywqfund/index.html>

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