Proposal Solicitation Notice
California State Duck Stamp (Stamp Project) Funding
Fiscal Year 2027

Background

The California State Duck Stamp (Stamp Project) was created by legislation in 1971 (Fish and Game Code §3702). The stamp is required when hunting waterfowl and purchased by stamp collectors. All funds generated by the sale of stamps are deposited in the State Duck Stamp Account, administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department). The funds can only be used for projects approved by the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for the purpose of protecting, preserving, restoring, enhancing, and developing migratory waterfowl breeding and wintering habitat, evaluating habitat projects, and conducting waterfowl resource assessments and other waterfowl related research. These funds also may be used to reimburse nonprofit organizations for completed habitat projects.

During winter, wetlands and agricultural habitats in California, especially the Central Valley, support the largest single concentration of waterfowl (currently three to four million) in North America. This concentration represents more than 60 percent of all waterfowl wintering in the Pacific Flyway and more than 20 percent of all waterfowl wintering in North America. These birds are almost entirely dependent on water and habitat provided through human activities due to the significant loss of wetlands in California.

Since 1971, when adult hunters in California were first required to purchase a State Duck Stamp for waterfowl hunting, nearly $22 million has been spent to enhance wetland habitats. These funds, and additional contributions from non-profit conservation groups and federal agencies, have been used to enhance over 50,000 acres of wetland habitat in California on state and federal lands. An additional $5 million raised from the sale of State Duck Stamps has been expended to improve waterfowl habitat in the production areas in Canada that contribute waterfowl to the wintering populations in California.

Objectives

The goals of the Stamp Project, as described in legislation, are to protect, preserve, restore, enhance, and develop migratory waterfowl breeding and wintering habitat, evaluate habitat projects, and conduct waterfowl resource assessments and other waterfowl related research. To achieve these goals the Department has adopted the following four objectives:

1. Identify activities which are needed for the conservation and maintenance of California's waterfowl habitat on public land.

2. Develop and fund project-specific strategies to protect, enhance, maintain or restore significant waterfowl habitat on public land.
3. Develop and fund project-specific strategies to conserve waterfowl populations.
4. Develop, administer, and fund a grants program for waterfowl conservation.

Funding Information

The Stamp Project is funded by State Duck Stamp sales (Fish and Game Code § 3702). Before the Commission may consider any project proposal, the Department shall analyze such project and provide the Commission with recommendations as to the project's feasibility and need (Fish and Game Code § 3703). Two dollars and twenty-five cents ($2.25) of the amount collected by the Department for each state duck stamp sold shall be allocated by the Commission for the purposes of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in those areas of Canada from which come substantial numbers of waterfowl migrating to, or through, California (Fish and Game Code § 3704). Lastly, this program requires a maximum of 6 percent overhead (Fish and Game Code § 3701).

The Stamp Project has up to $2,000,000 that may be allocated for projects on a Fiscal Year (FY) basis (dependent upon Governor's budget).

Eligibility

Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Enhance/restore/maintain wintering or nesting habitat for CA waterfowl species.
- Restoring or creating brood ponds/summer water for CA waterfowl species.
- Enhancing or restoring fall and spring use areas for CA waterfowl species.
- Establishing islands and loafing bars.
- Levee repair, replacement of water control structures, pump repair and installation.
- Fence installation to control and/or manage livestock or wildlife and/or to enhance upland habitat for waterfowl nesting and goose forage.
- Removal of nonnative invasive plant species and restoration (active or passive) of native and other desirable wetland or upland vegetation.
- Research to obtain population parameters of species/subspecies/population.
- Investigations of limited resources for specific species or subspecies such as eelgrass for Black brant.

Solicitation Procedure and Schedule

The Department is soliciting proposals from qualified organizations for FY 2027 for waterfowl and habitat projects using State Duck Stamp funds. In addition to posting this grant/contract Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN), individual members, organizations and or institutions will also be contacted by email announcing the PSN.

Proposals should meet Fish and Game Code § 3702 requirements that include: "…protecting, preserving, restoring, enhancing, and developing migratory waterfowl breeding and wintering habitat, evaluating habitat projects, and conducting waterfowl resource assessments and other waterfowl related research". See scoring criteria below. Proposals that include new construction (rather than rebuilding or replacement) on state lands are considered capital outlay projects and subject to Department of Finance approval.

Up to $2,000,000 of the State Duck Stamp funds may be available for grants or contracts under this PSN. If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact Melanie Weaver, Waterfowl Coordinator, at melanie.weaver@wildlife.ca.gov.

Schedule

Solicitation Released	November 23, 2026
Proposals Due by 5:00 PM (Pacific Daylight Time)	January 22, 2027
Advisory Committee Meeting	TBD February 2027
Internal Review and Recommendation Development	TBD March 2027
Department Recommendation Finalized and Forwarded to Commission	By early-May 2027
Award Notification Distributed	By June 30, 2027

Submission Procedure

To be considered for FY 2027 funding, all applications must be filled out completely and submitted using the provided template. Applications may be submitted by email with the subject line of "**Project/Area Name-Duck Stamp Funding**" to waterfowlmgmt@wildlife.ca.gov. Hard copy applications shall be addressed to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Branch-Waterfowl Unit
ATTN: Duck Stamp Funding Proposal
PO Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

All applications for FY 2027 funding must have a U.S. Postal Service Postmark no later than January 22, 2027. Proposals delivered by any other means (FedEx, UPS., etc.) including hand delivery must be delivered no later than January 22, 2027 at 5:00 p.m.

Review and Scoring Procedure

Administrative Review

An administrative review will determine if the proposal package is complete and meets all the requirements for submission including State Duck Stamp code (§ 3702,3703, 3704). If the proposal does not pass the administrative review, the proposal will not be considered for funding. Items needed to pass administrative review: using application template and is within three-page maximum for habitat projects (includes budget and map), properly completed application, organization eligible per Fish and Game Code § 3702, project intended to directly benefit waterfowl and received by timeline identified.

Advisory Committee Review

The Duck Stamp Advisory Committee, created by the Department and established in Fish and Game Code § 3702.1, will meet and review eligible project proposals and advise the Department to help ensure that the requirements of Fish and Game Code sections § 3702, 3703, and 3704 have been met.

Program and Technical Review

Scoring Process: A minimum of three reviewers associated with the Department will score each proposal submitted based on the criteria identified below. A total of 77 points will be available, but the final score will be based on an average of all individual scores. Applications will be ranked based on the score.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. *Proposal demonstrates the project proponent/organization has the mission to conserve waterfowl, qualifications, experience, and capacity to perform the proposed tasks (including subcontractors).* Maximum 3 pts.
2. *Project description is succinct and includes details necessary to understand.* Maximum 3 pts.
3. *Scientific merit.* Maximum 3 pts
4. *Project budget is appropriate to the work proposed, cost effective, and detailed to describe project costs (hours required for job completion, hourly rates, per unit costs).* Maximum 3 pts.
5. *Does the habitat project create or restore wetlands? Acreage determines points.* Maximum 10 pts.
6. *Does the habitat project enhance existing wetlands (increase carrying capacity or water efficiency)? Acreage determines points.* Maximum 5 pts.
7. *Is the habitat project designed specifically to create/restore/enhance brood/summer water habitat (flooded until mid-July*)? Maximum 8 pts.
8. *Is the habitat project designed specifically to create/restore/enhance molting habitat for waterfowl? (flooded until October)?* Maximum 8 pts.
9. *Is the habitat project designed specifically to create/restore/enhance uplands for nesting waterfowl (statewide for ducks or northeastern California for Canada geese)? Acreage determines points.* Maximum 8 pts.
10. *Was the habitat project coordinated with CDFW or USFWS NWR area staff if work occurs on these lands?* Maximum 3 pts.
11. *Is the project cost shared (in-kind or money) and identified in the budget? Cost share cannot include overhead costs or NAWCA projects.* Maximum 3 pts.
12. *If research/study: Does the project specifically address a Pacific Flyway Management Plan or CDFW or Central Valley/Intermountain West Joint Venture need or priority?* Maximum 3 pts.
13. *Is the project designed (intent/goal) to benefit fall/spring staging waterfowl habitat or nesting waterfowl habitat in northeastern California?* Maximum 8 pts
14. *Is the habitat project area open to public waterfowl hunting opportunities*? Maximum 3 pts.
15. *Does the habitat project utilize solar energy to power lift pumps for water delivery*? Maximum 3 pts.
16. *Did the Department or USFWS NWR identify the project as a priority?* Maximum 3 pts.

Note: For projects with a nesting habitat component in the Central Valley that include seeding of uplands, only native perennial grass and/or forb mix, including species such as creeping wild rye (***Elymus triticoides***), blue wild rye (***Elymus glaucus***), purple needle grass (***Stipa pulchra***), and meadow barley (***Hordeum brachyantherum***), should be considered.

Project Recommendation and Approval

The Wildlife Branch will develop a list of projects recommended for funding and provided to the Department's Executive Team for consideration and forwarding to the Commission as defined in Fish and Game Code §3703. Projects recommended for funding by the Department will be based on rank, feasibility, need, distribution across the state, history of funded projects related to an area or focus, and importance relative to waterfowl issues. The Commission will consider the Department's project recommendations at their June 2027 meeting. Project applicants approved for funding by the Commission will be notified in late June 2027. After Commission approval agreements are prepared with the intent of project start dates to begin by early winter.

If a project is funded, the grantee/contractor must submit additional information before an agreement is prepared and executed. The applicable forms described are for informational purposes only. **Do not submit these forms with your proposal.** Successful applicants are required to complete, sign, and return the forms provided if not already on file. These additional forms include:

- Certification of Nonfederal Contributions: In-kind/Third Party (GMB Form D.)
- Payee Data Record form (STD. 204)
- Federal Taxpayer ID Number
- Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement (STD. 19) (required for grants of $5,000.00 or more per Title 2, California Code of Regulations, Section 8113)
- Drug-Free Workplace Certification (STD. 21)

Agreements are not executed until signed by both the authorized representative of the recipient and Department. Work performed prior to start date of an agreement will not be reimbursed.

NOTE: Grant/Contract recipients will be responsible for all environmental compliance requirements necessary to implement and complete their proposal.