

## **Funding Opportunities for Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs)**

The State Water Resources Control Board's Supplemental Environmental Projects Policy allows a settling party to satisfy part of the monetary assessment imposed in an administrative civil liability (ACL) order resulting from a settlement by completing or funding one or more supplemental environmental projects (SEPs). SEPs are projects that enhance the beneficial uses of the waters of the state, provide a benefit to the public at large, and are not otherwise required of the settling party.

The SEP Policy allows up to 50% of an ACL settlement to be used towards a SEP. It is up to the respective settling party whether to enter into a settlement agreement that includes a SEP, and which SEP to fund. There are two categories of SEPs:

1. SEPs performed by the settling party; and
2. SEPs performed by third-parties paid by the settling party (e.g. Rose Foundation or another similar party).

This fact sheet addresses two approaches for funding opportunities for SEPs that are available in the Los Angeles Region: Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Regional Board) administered SEPs, and those administered on behalf of the Regional Board by the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment (Rose Foundation), a non-profit organization which specializes in SEPs benefiting underserved, vulnerable, or otherwise disadvantaged communities.

### **Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Supplemental Environmental Projects**

#### **Eligible SEPs:**

All SEPs approved by the Regional Board must, at a minimum, satisfy the SEP Policy's general qualification criteria. To view the SEP Policy, go to:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/enforcement/docs/seps/20180503\\_sep\\_policy\\_amd.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/docs/seps/20180503_sep_policy_amd.pdf)

The SEP must directly benefit or study groundwater or surface water quality or quantity, and the beneficial uses of waters of the state. Examples include but are not limited to:

- monitoring programs;
- studies or investigations (e.g., pollutant impact characterization, pollutant source identification, etc.);
- water or soil treatment;
- habitat restoration or enhancement;
- pollution prevention or reduction;
- wetland, stream, or other waterbody protection, restoration or creation;
- conservation easements;
- stream augmentation;
- water reclamation;

- water assessment (e.g., citizen monitoring, coordination and facilitation);
- watershed management facilitation services;
- compliance training, compliance education, and the development of educational materials;
- enforcement projects, such as training for environmental compliance and enforcement personnel; and
- non-point source program implementation.

**Applicant Eligibility:**

Any public, private or tribal entity may submit a proposal to the State Water Resources Control Board or to a Regional Water Quality Control Board for SEP funds.

**Project Coverage/Nexus:**

The SEP Policy describes the nexus of the SEP to be between the nature or location of the violation(s) and the nature and location of the proposed SEP.

**How to Apply and Learn More:**

The Regional Board requires submission of a proposal for consideration of SEPs. Direction for the development of the proposal can be found in the SEP Policy. All proposed projects will go through a staff review and a 30-day public comment period before being formally accepted for inclusion on the SEP list.

To view the current SEP list or to obtain further information on the SEP Policy and other matters related to SEPs go to: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/enforcement/index.html#sep](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/enforcement/index.html#sep)

**For more information about Regional Board administered SEPs, please contact:**

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**Supplemental Environmental Projects Administered by the Rose Foundation**

Rose Foundation administers SEPs for the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board through their Los Angeles Region Community Water Justice Grants Program.

**Allowable Projects:**

Rose Foundation’s allowable projects support and adhere to the SEP Policy’s general qualification criteria:

1. The project must be designed to benefit groundwater or surface water quality and be within the boundaries of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.
2. The project must benefit underserved, vulnerable, or otherwise disadvantaged communities (DACs) and should demonstrate a high degree of community support and community involvement.

Eligible projects include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Public health
  - Examples include: providing replacement drinking water; installation of water tanks; water distribution system infrastructure improvements; and focused community outreach regarding drinking water safety.
- Pollution prevention
  - Examples include: practices that reduce the quantity and/or toxicity of pollutants entering a waste stream prior to treatment or disposal; and projects which protect natural resources through conservation or increased efficiency.
- Pollution reduction
  - Examples include: installation of a more effective end-of-process control or treatment technology; stormwater low impact development installation; improved containment; and safer disposal of an existing pollutant source.
- Environmental Restoration and Protection
  - Examples include: water or soil treatment; habitat restoration or enhancement; wetland, stream, or other waterbody protection, restoration, or creation; conservation easements; stream flow or water quality augmentation.
- Assessments and audits
  - Examples include: pollution prevention assessments, environmental quality assessments, compliance audits, or studies and monitoring programs.
- Environmental compliance promotion
  - Examples include: training or technical support to members of the regulated community other than the settling party in order to: identify, achieve, and maintain compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.
- Other Projects
  - Examples include: water quality or drinking water-related educational outreach; and collection system capital improvements.

**Applicant Eligibility:**

Eligible applicants must be a non-profit organization, governmental unit or tribal entity, or have a non-profit sponsor that agrees to assume full programmatic and legal responsibility for the project. Non-profit, governmental or tribal organizations of any size are eligible to apply. Rose Foundation especially encourages small organizations to consider applying, and is dedicated to helping applicants navigate the sometimes-complicated application process.

**Project Coverage/Nexus:**

Rose Foundation follows the SEP Policy's project coverage. While the goal is to support projects with a close geographic nexus to the violation, projects in the same overall watershed as where the violation(s) occurred may be eligible.

**How to Apply and Learn More:**

Rose Foundation's Los Angeles Region Community Water Justice Grants Program conducts an annual application cycle. For the 2019 Project List, proposals ranging from \$10,000 - \$500,000 will be considered. As a general guideline, applicants should not seek funding in excess of 25% of their normal annual budget. Projects seeking to

be approved for the 2019 Project List must submit a Letter of Inquiry via Rose Foundation’s grant application portal by **January 11, 2019**.

Submission of the Letter of Inquiry starts a multi-step application process that provides the applicant with opportunities to fully explain the water quality benefits and community impacts that would result from successfully completing their project, as well as their capacity to complete the project. Projects approved by the Rose Foundation will then be considered by the Los Angeles Regional Water Board for inclusion on its SEP List. Being approved for the SEP List means that the project has been approved for future consideration of funding in relation to a possible future settlement of an enforcement action, but does not guarantee funding in any way.

For more information on how to apply and detailed descriptions of eligibility criteria, please visit: <https://rosefdn.org/grant-seekers/apply-for-a-grant/los-angeles-community-water-justice-grants-program/>

**For more information about Rose Foundation administered SEPs, please contact:**

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