

# Welcome to the Safe, Clean Water Standard Grants Program – Implementation Grant Virtual Workshop

March 11, 2026

**YOUR TAX DOLLARS  
AT WORK**



***We will begin shortly***



# Zoom Webinar Instructions

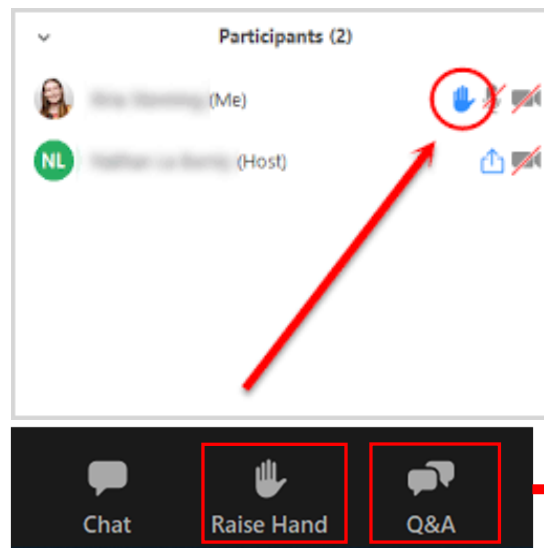
## Join Computer Audio



## If internet unstable, use Phone Audio

- Check your invite/email for call-in number and meeting ID
- Dial call-in number: +1 669 444 9171
- Enter webinar ID: 857 8968 0762

## Ask a Question



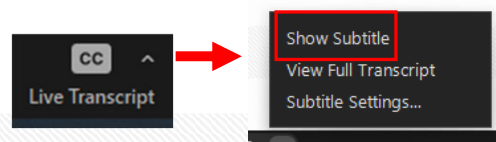
*After we enable your mic, you have to unmute yourself before you verbally ask your question.*

*If only on phone:  
Press \*9 to raise your hand if  
Press \*6 to mute/unmute yourself.*

Question and Answer

Welcome  
Feel free to ask the host and panelists questions

## Enable Closed Captions/ Live Transcript



# YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK



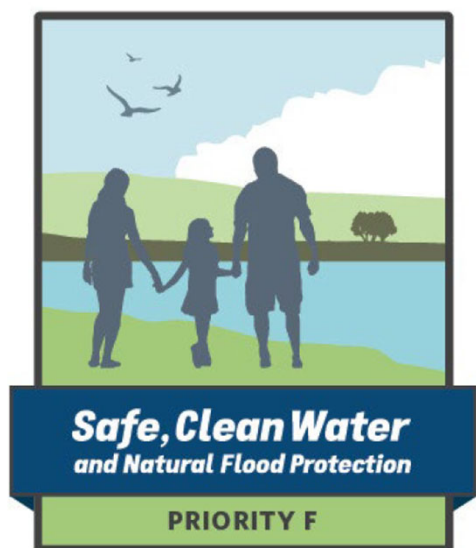
**Safe,  
Clean  
Water**  
*and Natural Flood Protection*

## FY 2026 Standard Grants: Implementation

Virtual Workshop

March 11, 2026

## 2026 STANDARD GRANT GUIDELINES



Download the presentation and 2026 Standard Grant Guidelines.

[valleywater.org/grant-resources](http://valleywater.org/grant-resources)

# Agenda

- Valley Water's Mission and the Safe, Clean Water Program
- Redesigned Standard Grants Program Overview
- Standard Grants - Implementation
- Maximizing Your Standard Grant Application: Tips on creating your task, schedule, and budget
- Questions and Answers



# Valley Water Mission

---

- Provide Silicon Valley with safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy.



# Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program

---



2020

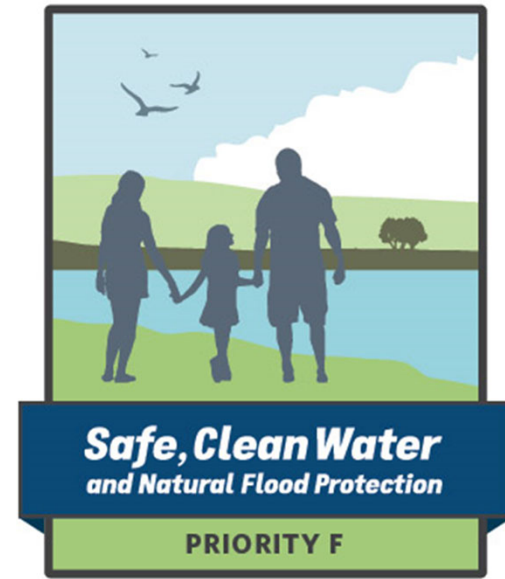
Measure S was renewed by voters and provides approximately \$47 million annually for local projects supporting safe, clean water, flood protection, and environmental stewardship

## Project F9:

### Grants and Partnerships for Safe, Clean Water, Flood Protection and Environmental Stewardship

Four funding opportunities:

- Standard Grants
- Mini-grants
- Water Bottle Refill Stations
- Partnerships



**YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK**



# Grant Opportunity Summary

	Standard Grants – Implementation Category	Mini-Grants	Refill Station Grants
<b>Grant Amount</b>	Up to \$500,000 per project, \$1.87 million available this year	Up to \$10,000 per project, \$100,000 available each year	\$5,000 per station, \$100,000 available each year
<b>Agreement Term</b>	Five years	Two years	One year
<b>Payment</b>	Reimbursement based	50% upfront and remainder upon completion	50% upfront and remainder upon completion
<b>Application Period</b>	February 23 – April 24, 2026	Year round on a rolling basis	Year round on a rolling basis

# Redesigned Standard Grants Program

## What's new/different?



Four grant categories: Education, Planning, Stewardship, and Implementation



Insurance for grant project is now an eligible cost.



Reduced match requirements.



Streamlined the application and agreement process.



Full funding if awarded



Streamlined invoicing process and budget template.

## Grant Cycle Key Application Dates and Deadlines

ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE
Applications open	February 23, 2026
Virtual Informational Workshop	March 11, 2026 at 1 PM
<b>Online grant applications due</b>	<b>April 24, 2026, 11:59 PM (PT)</b>
Applications review period	April 27, 2026 – May 15, 2026
Present evaluated proposals to Board of Directors	June 2026
Issue notices of awards	July 2026
CEO executes grant agreements	August – December 2026

Note: The above dates may be subject to change.

*Standard Grant Guidelines. Section 7,  
Page 7*



# **IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS**

# IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS OVERVIEW



**Eligible projects:** Shovel-ready construction or large-scale capital projects that advance Safe, Clean Water Program priorities in Santa Clara County



**Grant request range:** Up to \$500,000 per project

**Agreement period:** 5 years

**Matching funds of 15% of the total project cost are required**

**Projects must have completed CEQA compliance prior to applying**

## Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Public agencies such as local cities, towns, and county agencies
- Open space, resource conservation, and special districts
- Eligible applicants may seek grant funding for more than one project
- *Non-governmental organizations may partner with a public agency, but the public agency must be the primary grant applicant*



*Standard Grant Guidelines, Section 4.3, Page 4*

## What Types of Projects are Funded?

- Creak and stream restoration
- Water conservation or recycled water infrastructure
- Creating or enhancing wetland, riparian, and tidal marsh habitats
- Protecting species of special status
- Improving fish passage and habitat
- Removing non-native, invasive plant species and planting native species



*Standard Grant Guidelines. Section 4.4, Page 5*

## Example of a grant with Implementation components:

**Grantee:** Midpeninsula Open Space District  
**Project title:** Hendrys Creek Restoration Project

Grant activities include:

- Removed stream impediments like sediment and culverts
- Restoring landforms to prevent future erosion
- Installing native plants along creek banks



## Ineligible Projects & Activities

- Incomplete CEQA compliance at the time of application
- Contain advocacy or political components
- Inaccessible or require a fee for public participation
- Mitigation projects
- Activities designed to meet regulatory or permit obligations
- Operations and maintenance of existing mitigation or enhancement projects, or the applicant's general ongoing and day-to-day operations



*For more details on ineligible projects per grant type, please refer to the 2026 Standard Grant Guidelines.*

## Application Minimum Requirements

- Online application can be viewed and accessed on our grants management portal called **Fluxx** ([valleywater.fluxx.io](http://valleywater.fluxx.io))
- Signed IRS W-9 tax form
- Audited financial statements
- Organizational budget
- Signed resolution
- Documentation of accounting system (fiscal transactions, audit trails, accounting data)
- Resumes of key staff
- Project budget spreadsheet
- Location map and site photos
- CEQA compliance documents
- Permission letters, lease agreements, access permits
- (Optional) Letters of support



*For the full list of requirements per grant type, please refer to the 2026 Standard Grant Guidelines.*

## Resolution Requirement

- Identifies the authorized signatory (i.e., the individual authorized to sign and submit the grant application)
- Contains approval from your organization's governing body to submit the application and receive grant funds if awarded

## Insurance Requirements

- Insurance costs are eligible costs in your grant request, if applicable to your agency.
- Standard insurance requirements must be met during the duration of the grant project.
- Documentation of compliance must be provided before executing the Agreement.

## Environmental Compliance and Permitting

- Projects must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act, a.k.a. CEQA.
- Applicants must have completed CEQA compliance at the time of application.
- Valley Water will serve as a Responsible Agency under CEQA for Implementation Grants and conduct an internal review of each project.

## Environmental Compliance and Permitting (cont'd.)

- Lead Agency: Public agency with primary responsibility for carrying out or approving a project and preparing the CEQA environmental document.
- Responsible Agency: Public agency that carries out or approves a project relying on the Lead Agency's CEQA document.
- CEQA may be considered complete upon filing a Notice of Determination (NOD) or Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Santa Clara County Clerk-Recorder (copies also uploaded to Fluxx)

## Important Things to Note

- Grantee will have five years from agreement execution date to complete project
- Grants are reimbursement-based; plan your budget accordingly.
- Must demonstrate public access and benefit in Santa Clara County.
- Do not begin work on grant funded portion the project prior to the agreement effective date.
- Grants staff will be your main point of contact.

# Grants and Partnerships Program

## Next Steps:

- Read the FY 2026 Standard Grant Guidelines thoroughly.
- Visit our website to register on Fluxx and access the application form.

***Applications are due on April 24 at 11:59 PM (PT).***

## Other resources that can be found on [valleywater.org/grant-resources](https://valleywater.org/grant-resources):

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Award timeline and process
- Grant guidelines
- Fluxx user guide



# Other Valley Water Grant Opportunities

## Mini-Grant Program – up to \$10,000 per project

Funds local community engagement activities/projects that promote safe, clean drinking water; water conservation; flood protection, or environmental stewardship.

[valleywater.org/mini-grant](http://valleywater.org/mini-grant)

## Refill Station Grant Program - \$5,000 per station

Funds the purchase, installation and maintenance of water bottle refill stations throughout Santa Clara County.

[valleywater.org/refillstation](http://valleywater.org/refillstation)



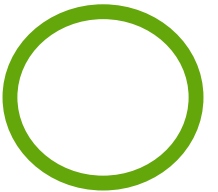
Questions?





# Maximizing Your Standard Grant Application

*Tips on creating a strong project  
scope, schedule, and budget*



# Getting Started: Fluxx Registration

1 Register on Fluxx

2 Identify authorized signatory

3 Work on signed resolution



# Application Best Practices

---

- Read the guidelines carefully, reach out to Grants staff for questions
- Read each question thoroughly
- Notice the color-coded texts:
  - Red: required uploads
  - Purple: help texts
- Be as specific and detailed as you can
- Hit “save”
- Ensure project ties into the mission and program priorities

# Overview of the Fluxx Application



- Organization information and required documents (resolution, W-9, audited financials)
- Project Information
  - Summary
  - Project site location
  - Benefits (mission and community served)
- Scope (actions, deliverables, schedule, long term maintenance and management)
- Project Budget (submitted as an attachment)
- Project Readiness (Key staff resumes, financial statements, permitting, CEQA compliance documents)

# Overview of the Scope, Schedule, and Budget



## SCOPE

- Highlights the project's purpose
- Identifies the key tasks.
- Lists out key deliverables and impacts.



## SCHEDULE

- Outlines milestones and deadlines for each phase
- Realistic
- Aligns with grant agreement timeline



## BUDGET

- Summary of major expense categories and funding sources.
- Includes monetary and in-kind contributions.

# Crafting a Scope: Task Framework



**Tasks will be organized into this scope framework:**

**1. Planning/Design**

**2. Implementation**

**3. Post-implementation, Monitoring and Maintenance**

**4. Project Administration**

# Crafting a Scope: Actions and Deliverables



## **Actions**

Specific steps you will take to complete the task.

*What you will do and how*

## **Deliverables**

Clear and measurable outcomes you expect to produce from your actions.

# Anatomy of a Task for Implementation Grants (with examples)

	Action	Deliverables
1 Planning/Design	<i>Finalize engineering designs and conduct biological surveys.</i>	<i>Design plans/drawings, pre-development site photos, survey results</i>
2 Implementation	<i>Stabilize stream banks and remove invasive species. Plant native riparian vegetation.</i>	<i>Before and after photos, number of plants removed and installed.</i>
3 Post-Implementation, Monitoring, Maintenance	<i>Conduct invasive species follow-up treatment and adaptive maintenance.</i>	<i>Photos, plant data, treatment logs.</i>
4 Project Administration	<i>Grant management, reporting.</i>	<i>Final project fact sheet and regulatory compliance documentation.</i>

# Creating Your Schedule



*Note: Agreement start dates may vary, with an estimated start date around December 2026.*

Task	Start Date	End Date
Planning and Design	MM/DD/YYYY	MM/DD/YYYY
Implementation	MM/DD/YYYY	MM/DD/YYYY
Post-implementation, Monitoring, Maintenance	MM/DD/YYYY	MM/DD/YYYY
Evaluation and Closeout	MM/DD/YYYY	MM/DD/YYYY

# Budget

- Uploaded as an attachment using a template
- Includes matching funds
  - 15% matching fund requirement
  - Must not include other Valley Water resources, such as grants, volunteer programs, contracts, etc.
  - In-kind volunteer hours, staff hours, monetary or in-kind contributions

# Budget Template



**Required:** Please upload your project budget (please note you will not be able to submit until you have uploaded the documents). [Click here to download the required budget template:](#)

Project Budget





# Budget Template

Supplies & Services						
Expense	Task 1 Planning and Design	Task 2 Implementation	Task 3 Post- Implementation, Monitoring, and Maintenance	Task 4 Project Administration	Sub-total	Notes
Ecologist Subcontractor		\$7,500.00			\$7,500.00	
Plants (trees, bushes, flowers) - Sample Nursery		\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00	
T-shirts for volunteers		\$500.00			\$500.00	
Vehicle mileage for organization van (federal mileage rate = .70 per mile) = 250 miles		\$250.00	\$250.00		\$500.00	
Insurance	\$5,000.00				\$5,000.00	

- List out materials costs, contractor or consultant costs, and insurance (optional) here.

# Budget Template

Other Funding Sources*			
Funding Source (Include description)	Status	Type	Amount
Project Manager (Grantee contribution)	Secured	Monetary	2500.00
Administrative Assistant (Grantee contribution)	Secured	Monetary	1000.00
Student Intern (Grantee Contribution)	Secured	Monetary	2000.00
CalFire Grant Funding	Secured	Monetary	25000.00
Volunteers (approx. 2) @ 33.46/hour - 8 hours each	Pending	In-Kind	353.60

- List out costs that you or your partner organizations will be paying for. Also list out any additional grant funding from other agencies you received, and in-kind donations such as volunteer hours, materials that were donated.
- Lumpsum line item amounts. No need to divide each cost by task.
- These funding sources will count towards your 15% match.

# Budget

## Ineligible Costs

- Pre-award expenses
- Land acquisitions
- Work being supported by other Valley Water funds and/or programs
- Indirect project costs, such as, but not limited to:
  - Operational costs such as office rent, utilities, equipment, taxes, etc.
  - Construction equipment
  - Professional development



*Ineligible costs will not be reimbursed.  
For full list of ineligible costs, please  
refer to the 2026 Standard Grant  
Guidelines.*



Questions?

# Contact Us

Calendly  
meeting:



(408) 630-2080



[grants@valleywater.org](mailto:grants@valleywater.org)



[valleywater.org/grants](http://valleywater.org/grants)

FY 2026 Standard Grant  
Implementation Virtual Workshop  
Feedback Survey



*Scan QR code to take  
survey*



# Feedback Survey

<https://forms.office.com/q/sh8PY91yzk>

# YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK



**Safe,  
Clean  
Water**  
*and Natural Flood Protection*

Thank you for coming