Tribal Corps Climate Bond

Grant Program

FINAL Grant Guidelines

Funded by Proposition 4: Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024

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I. Technical Assistance and Program Support

The California Conservation Corps (CCC) is committed to supporting Tribal applicants throughout the grant lifecycle. To promote equal access and successful project delivery, the CCC offers individualized technical assistance, plain-language guidance, individual proposal feedback, technical assistance workshops, and virtual office hours during the application period. Technical assistance does not end once awards are announced; the CCC will continue to provide dedicated support to tribes throughout project implementation, invoicing, and reporting.

Grant Program Workshop: Please RSVP via email to TribalCorps@ccc.ca.gov.

- Webinar Workshops: November 9th at 2:00 PM & November 12th at 6:00 PM
- Virtual Office Hours: Upon Request

Proposal Support

To assist applicants in ensuring Proposals meet eligibility and documentation requirements prior to the submission deadline, the CCC Grants & Local Assistance Unit has program staff available at TribalCorps@ccc.ca.gov to provide individual proposal feedback, technical assistance workshops, and hands-on assistance navigating state application portals up until close of business (5:00 PM) **December 21, 2026**. Applicants are invited to submit their proposed scope of work with a request for eligibility review and feedback to TribalCorps@ccc.ca.gov. Please allow 3 to 5 business days from receipt of the submission for a response.

Requests for proposal feedback received after TBD will not be reviewed, but technical assistance needed to complete and submit Proposals will still be provided on an ongoing basis until the submission deadline.

Proposal Submission Instructions

All information contained in a Proposal is confidential until grant awards are announced (at which time they become subject to public inspection under the California Public Records Act). However, pursuant to California Government Code (GC) section 7927.000, records of Native American graves, cemeteries, sacred places, and features or cultural items are exempt from public disclosure under the California Public Records Act (CPRA). Therefore, the CCC requests that Proposals do not include any specific information about the location of culturally significant Tribal resources. Tribes shall retain sole ownership, copyright, and control over all Tribal data, stories, photographs, and cultural information submitted as a part of the proposal.

Complete Proposals with all requested documentation listed in these Guidelines must be submitted to the CCC via our electronic application system by Date TBD. If a mail application is required, please reach out to TribalCorps@ccc.ca.gov.

For additional resources and program support, please contact the CCC at:

Email: TribalCorps@ccc.ca.gov

Website: https://ccc.ca.gov/about-us/

II. Overview

Introduction

The Climate Bond, Proposition 4: the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Senate Bill (SB) 867), was approved by the voters in November 2024. It added Division 50 (Commencing with § 80000) to the Public Resources Code (PRC). Pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 91545 of Chapter 3, the California Conservation Corps (CCC) is announcing the availability of $1,493,000 in grant funding for the 2026/2027 fiscal year dedicated specifically to eligible California Native American tribes. These funds support demonstrated jobs projects, including:

- Projects to mitigate unemployment and assist the State with the implementation of critical natural resources, transportation, energy, and housing infrastructure to promote climate resilience.
- Projects to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and rehabilitate following natural disasters, declared emergencies, or climate-related impacts to communities.

PRC § 91545(c) defines "eligible workforce organizations" to include nonprofits, local agencies, and joint powers authorities that have programs that provide park and conservation employment training. Therefore, to be an eligible grantee, an applicant must operate an existing youth/young adult workforce development program or Tribal Corps that is either: (1) Established as a non-profit entity as defined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) (this includes non-federally and federally recognized tribes utilizing an eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit workforce structure to administer the project); and/or, (2) operated by a federally recognized tribe that has entered into a joint power authority agreement with the CCC (pursuant to Government Code sections 6500 et. seq.).

> *NOTE: A template Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) is attached as Appendix H. The template JPA contains all the terms and conditions the CCC deems necessary to meet the PRC, § 91545(c) requirements. However, applying tribes may submit a modified JPA template for the CCC review or technical assistance input.*

Under Proposition 4 – Climate Bond (PRC § 91545), $50,000,000 was authorized statewide for climate workforce projects. For the 2026/2027 fiscal year, $1,493,000 has been allocated specifically for eligible California Native American tribes. Availability of Grant Funds are subject to the passage of the California State Budget and budget authorization by the Department of Finance.

For the full bond language, please visit the Climate Bond California Legislative Information website.

Priorities of the Climate Bond

The priority of the Climate Bond is to fund Proposals that confront climate change, protect California communities and nature from its impacts, and improve the lives of Californians.

Specific priorities for this grant program include projects designed to provide educational and career pathways for young adults while working on Natural Resource Projects, as defined in Appendix F, that do one or more of the following:

- Improve climate resiliency by preparing, preventing, responding to, and rehabilitating communities after natural disasters, declared emergencies, or climate-related impacts;
- Promote watershed restoration, protection of ecosystems, habitat restoration, forest health/resilience, sustainably managed landscapes, and other conservation outcomes; and
- Expand and/or improve transportation, energy, and housing infrastructure.
- Produce the greatest public benefit (community partnerships and/or leveraging private, federal, or local funding is encouraged but not required).

Grant Funds Available

The CCC is authorized to administer $1,493,000 in Grant Funds to eligible applicants for the 26/27 FY.

- All Proposals will be reviewed by the Proposal Review Committee on a competitive basis and scored based on the specific objectives for Proposition 4 – Climate Bond and funding priorities outlined in these Guidelines.
- A tribe may submit multiple Proposals in which they are the only entity receiving the funds and/or responsible for the project; additionally, a tribe may be a collaborator on joint Proposals with another tribe or multiple tribes.
- There is no minimum Proposal amount. The maximum Proposal amount is **$490,000.**

Calendar of Key Dates (proposed dates subject to change)

Date	Milestone / Deadline
April 30, 2026	Consultation letter and draft Guidelines released to tribes.
July 10, 2026	Final date to submit to the CCC feedback on Guidelines.
September 3, 2026	Release of Draft Guidelines & summary of changes from prior consultation feedback
October 14, 2026	Last Day to submit feedback on Draft Guidelines.
October 26, 2026	Date CCC to upload guideline FAQs. Technical assistance needed to complete and submit Proposals will be provided on an ongoing basis until the submission deadline.

Date	Milestone / Deadline
November 2, 2026	Release of Final Guidelines and grant solicitations
November 9th at 2:00 PM and November 12th at 6:00 PM	Technical Workshop Sessions
December 21, 2026	Final date to request eligibility screening
January 22, 2027	Proposals due.
April 1, 2027	Final awards announced.
February 15, 2029	All project work completed and Grant Funds fully expended
March 15, 2029	Final date to submit a reimbursement request.

III. Program Requirements

Applicant Eligibility

California Native American tribes, that at the time of their grant application operate an existing youth/young adult workforce development program or Tribal Corps program (hereinafter “Tribal Corps”), are eligible to receive Grant Funds under this program if their tribe has/is either:

1. Established as non-profit entities as defined by the IRS (including state-listed non-federally or federally recognized tribes utilizing an eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit workforce structure); and/or,
2. Operated by federally recognized tribe (including through existing tribal government departments, tribal enterprises, or tribally chartered entities) that has entered into a joint power authority agreement (JPA) with the CCC (pursuant to Government Code sections 6500 et sq.) to satisfy state statutory pass-through requirements.

Additionally, the Tribal Corps should be organized in a manner that best serves tribal youth/young adults and community needs.

- **Statutory Required Performance Timeline:** All project activities must conclude, and all grant funds must be fully expended, by February 15, 2029**.**
- **Grant Issuance Expectations:** To assist tribes in maximizing their active multi-year project performance period, following Final Award announcement, the CCC will prioritize the timely execution of Grant Agreements.

Tribal Control Over Program Design

While programs are encouraged and points are awarded for applicants that are structured in the form of a Corps-based model of supervised work crews without prior employment or educational background requirements, tribes have full discretion to design and adapt their program crew structures, recruitment criteria, and seasonal operations to align with their local governance, cultural priorities, and ancestral stewardship frameworks. The guidelines prioritize tribally led initiatives and recognize that natural resource management varies significantly by region, ancestral homeland, and cultural ecological frameworks. Each tribe is ***encouraged*** to design its Corps program around its own priorities, youth needs, seasonal practices, and governance structures. To support Tribal self-determination to manage and execute projects in accordance with their unique ancestral stewardship needs, the CCC will not impose a 'one-size-fits-all' operational model on program design.

Statutory/General Requirements

All projects funded under this program must comply with Proposition 4 – Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 and all other applicable State laws, including:

- All projects must advance the objectives of the Proposition 4 – Climate Bond grant program and comply with SB 867, including reporting requirements.
- All projects must provide a long-term benefit to the public.
- At least 40% of the total Grant Funds available shall be allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to vulnerable populations or disadvantaged communities. Of this 40%, at least 10% of the total Grant Funds available pursuant to this Bond Act shall be allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to severely disadvantaged communities to comply with Proposition 4 – Climate Bond § 90140 (see Appendix D).
- All projects must comply with any applicable elements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Division 13 (commencing with § 2100) of the Public Resources Code.
- Projects funded pursuant to Chapter 3 of the Bond Act shall be consistent with the policies and guidelines established by the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, and by the Natural Resources Agency and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), if applicable.

- Acknowledgment signage is required under this grant program, when feasible.
- All applicants must obtain three bids for contract work, supplies, and materials which total in cost at or above $20,000 from a single vendor/supplier or submit a CCC 521 Sole/Single Source Justification Form (non-competitive justification form).
    - **Exemptions for California Native American Tribes (AB 2187)**: **Effective January 1, 2027**: Per AB 2187, the three-bid requirement and standard advertising mandates do not apply to contracts that can only be performed by a **federally recognized California Native American tribe**. Tribes may fulfill interagency agreements using subcontracts with wholly owned tribal subdivisions, subsidiaries, or business enterprises, provided they submit a **limited waiver of sovereign immunity** and a **justification of cost** demonstrating market equivalence. Additionally, tribes are exempt from standard restrictions preventing a consulting contractor from bidding on subsequent work if the consulting contract was for **tribal cultural resources purposes**.
    - **Legally mandated/required mitigation** is not an allowable use of Grant Funds.

- Legally mandated/required mitigation is not an allowable use of Grant Funds.
- The applicant is responsible for ensuring the project complies with all applicable current laws and regulations.

Sovereign Immunity and Risk Evaluation

- **No Implied Waiver:** A sovereign immunity waiver is a measure of last resort and will be avoided wherever possible. Standard participation in this program, including the submission of an application, the execution of a JPA, or acceptance of grant funds, does not by itself constitute an implied waiver of tribal sovereign immunity, tribal jurisdiction, or any sovereign rights or defenses of the tribe.
- **Express & Limited Approval:** Any limited waiver of sovereign immunity that may be required under this program must be expressed, limited, and approved directly by the tribe's governing body in accordance with tribal law. If a waiver is requested due to an advance payment, it will be strictly capped at the unreconciled advance amount and automatically terminate once receipts are reconciled.
- **Commitment to Avoidance:** The CCC will avoid seeking sovereign immunity waivers, utilizing them only as a measure of last resort to remain consistent with state-level funding accountability and risk protocols.
- **Risk Triggers:** A limited waiver of sovereign immunity is not universally required to execute a JPA. Instead, a waiver will only be requested as part of the Grant Agreement if a project meets one or more of the following risk triggers:

1. The tribe requests advance payments (in which case the immunity waiver will be capped at the amount of the advance and extinguished upon the reconciliation of the advance payments).
2. The project scope involves high-risk activities (such as cultural or prescribed fire operations where the potential for damages may extend beyond the amount of the grant and/or tribal boundaries)
    - High-risk activities like prescribed or cultural burning, the State will consider and prioritize insurance, indemnification, and project-specific risk protections before asking a Tribe for a waiver.
3. The applicant has a documented history of poor fiscal accountability with prior state grants.

- **Narrow Scope of Required Waivers:** For projects triggering a waiver requirement based on the criteria above, the waiver will be narrowly tailored and limited commensurate with the nature of the specific project. Any such waiver is and will be strictly limited to disputes arising directly from the enforcement of the grant agreement itself and does not extend to any other tribal assets, lands, or sovereign operations.

Environmental Review

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a law that requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. CEQA is triggered when a public agency directly undertakes, funds, or approves a “project” as defined by CEQA Statute and Guidelines.

Evidence of compliance with CEQA or an established exemption from such compliance must be submitted with the Proposal. Additionally, if the project is located on federal land or is receiving federal funds, documentation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance must be submitted with the Proposal. See Appendix E for more information.

For an otherwise eligible project that requires a Categorical Exemption or Negative Declaration filing and that is under exclusive Tribal or federal jurisdiction the CCC will serve as the CEQA Lead Agency if no other state or local public agency is available to do so.

Land Tenure

The State requires grantee site control and Land Tenure compliance before a project can start (i.e., verification of land ownership and authorization to work on the specified land) including the assurance that the project and/or property will be maintained and operated as intended for a specified period according to General Obligation Bond law.

For projects occurring on trust land, allotments, ancestral territories, partner lands, or lands subject to tribal access (particularly forest health and fire prevention projects utilizing the PRC § 4799.05 CEQA exemption on ancestral or federal lands) the CCC will offer maximum flexibility. For example, where formal deeds are not held by the tribe,

the CCC will consider alternative documentation (such as tribal stewardship agreements Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs), or written partner permissions) in lieu of traditional standard fee-title ownership documentation.

The Land Tenure required for projects funded under this program is:

- 10 years for grant amounts up to and including $100,000;
- 20 years for grant amounts greater than $100,000 but up to and including $1,000,000; and,
- 25 years for grant amounts over $1,000,000.

*Note: Flexible land tenure rules apply to cultural stewardship and traditional practices on ancestral territories, trust lands, allotments, or partner lands, even when the Tribe does not hold standard fee-titl*e ownership.

The 10-, 20-, or 25-year operations and maintenance requirement begins upon completion of the project.

A signed Site Control/Land Tenure Letter is required.

Eligible Proposals

§ 91545 of Chapter 3: Wildfire and Forest Resilience of the Climate Bond states that Grant Funds are available for projects that include either of the following:

- Projects to mitigate unemployment and assist the State with the implementation of critical natural resources, transportation, energy, and housing infrastructure to promote climate resilience.
- Projects to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and rehabilitate following natural disasters, declared emergencies, or climate-related impacts to communities.

Proposals must be for individual projects that are to be implemented by tribes with an existing youth/young adult workforce development program or Tribal Corps. In an effort to combat unemployment, Proposals should, when possible, incorporate career pathways and/or industry-recognized training for Corpsmembers/Participants, as defined in Appendix F, as components of Natural Resource Project implementation.

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects include but are not limited to:

Wildfire and Forest Resilience

- Restore and/or promote forest health
    - Post-fire rehabilitation, soil stabilization, and erosion control
    - Reforestation, planting, and cone and seed collection for planting
    - Vegetation management for the purposes of ecological restoration and preservation

    - Planting seedlings and seeding on deforested land
    - Improving forest stand conditions through the removal or treatment with lasting effect of diseased, dead, and dying trees
    - Removal and eradication of invasive species
    - Forest thinning to improve forest health
- Reduce hazardous fuels and decrease the risk of fire
    - Removing dead and dying trees to reduce wildfire intensity and rate of spread
    - Fuel reduction in critical locations to reduce wildfire intensity and rate of spread
    - Creation of fuel breaks in strategic locations, as identified in CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, or similar strategic planning documents
    - Removing ladder fuels to reduce the risk of crown fires
    - Elective tree removal (thinning) to improve forest health to withstand wildfire
- Tree mortality and tree felling
    - Felling dead or dying trees for the purpose of wildfire resilience, ecological restoration, or public safety
- Urban and Community Greening and Forestry
    - Increase urban tree canopy cover including new tree planting (in cities, communities, school yards, roadsides, etc.)
    - Increase of green space in developed areas (e.g., parks, gardens, greenways/greenbelts), including green roofs, rain gardens, and bioswales
    - Creation of defensible space in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
    - Fire Road Treatment of priority roads that function as priority evacuation routes
    - Removing asphalt to restore natural areas

Wetlands and Watershed Restoration

- Restoration and re-establishment of coastal wetlands to restore natural barriers to address sea-level rise
    - Vegetation management and invasive species removal
    - Native planting
    - Tidal flow restoration
    - Stormwater management
    - Erosion control
    - Riparian restoration
    - Instream condition improvement

- Wetland and watershed restoration to help manage stormwater runoff, improve water quality, and restore habitat
    - Vegetation management and invasive species removal
    - Native planting and reintroducing native trees, shrubs, and grasses
    - Hydrologic flow restoration to direct water back to the wetland
    - Installation of erosion and flood control measures, including planting native woody vegetation for stream bank stabilization and riprap along levees for long-term stabilization
    - Riparian restoration
    - Sediment management
    - Instream condition improvement, including urban streams
    - Mountain meadow wetlands restoration through conifer encroachment removal

Cultural Resource Protection

Eligible projects under this category explicitly include tribal-led practices and conservation training such as:

- Cultural burning preparation and support (including cultural stewardship training and authorized cultural burns).
- Tribal monitoring and crew training on how to handle unexpected cultural or historical discoveries.
- Native plant, seed collection, and first foods restoration.
- Traditional gathering area restoration and enhancement.
- Tribal access and ingress/egress improvements on public and partner lands.
- Climate resilience work and youth training connected to cultural stewardship on ancestral territories.

These activities are fully eligible on ancestral territories, trust lands, allotments, and partner lands, even when the tribe does not hold standard fee-title land ownership (see Section III: Land Tenure for flexible site-control agreements).

Emergency/Disasters

Projects to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and rehabilitate following natural disasters, declared emergencies, or climate-related impacts to communities including but not limited to:

- Wildfire
    - Creation of fuel breaks and shaded fuel brakes
    - Prescribed burns
    - Trail/fire road treatment for safer ingress and egress of evacuating residents and responding emergency personnel

    - Post-fire rehabilitation, soil stabilization, and erosion control
    - Reforestation
- Flooding
    - Stormwater capture system installation
    - Increasing permeable surfaces
    - Instream, riparian, floodplain, or wetland habitat condition improvement
- Extreme Heat/Drought
    - Drought-tolerant landscape installation
    - Urban greening
    - Shaded structure installations in parks and transportation stops

Transportation

- Construction, repair, or improvement of pedestrian or bicycle facilities to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation including but not limited to sidewalks, trail pathways, crosswalks, bike lanes, multi-use paths, protected cycle tracks, and bike racks and lockers
- Community electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure

Energy

- Energy efficiency upgrades to Critical Community Infrastructure, as defined in Appendix F, including installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, solar panel and emergency back-up battery installation, insulation, central heating and cooling system upgrades, lighting upgrades, and window replacement

Housing Infrastructure

Climate resiliency upgrades to Critical Community Infrastructure, including but not limited to the following areas:

- Flooding
    - Construction of stormwater management systems to control and/or treat urban rainwater runoff to reduce flooding, prevent erosion, and protect water quality (e.g., rain garden, bioswale, retention basins, etc.)
    - Increase permeable surfaces to help manage stormwater runoff (e.g., asphalt removal and installation of permeable pavements)
- Extreme Heat
    - Building or retrofitting community cooling or air relief centers
    - Weatherization
- Drought

    - Removing grass lawns and/or turf and installing native and drought-tolerant vegetation
    - Installing water-saving irrigation on public lands
- Energy
    - Corpsmember/Participant training and installation of energy efficiency and renewable energy infrastructure
        - Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure
        - Solar panels
        - Lighting retrofit
- Outdoor Access and Recreation
    - Construction or restoration of park infrastructure and features especially in park-poor neighborhoods including:
        - Making Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements
        - Community gardens
        - Playgrounds
        - Educational or interpretive signage
        - Corpsmember/Participant-led outdoor education as a component of a natural resource implementation project

Ineligible Projects

Projects not eligible for Climate Bond funds include:

- Acquisitions and Facility Development projects.
- Projects that do not have a long-term benefit of more than 10 years and/or are not a capital project as defined by State General Obligation Bond (GO Bond) law. This includes but is not limited to:
    - Legally mandated or mitigation projects
    - Routine maintenance or landscaping
    - Community outreach
    - Standalone education and/or training curriculum projects
    - Standalone planning, design, or organizational capacity-building projects

Overview of Grant Process

1. The applicant submits their Proposal.
2. Proposals are screened for eligibility.
3. Proposals are reviewed and scored by the Review Committee.
4. Recommended Proposals are submitted to and reviewed by the Executive Award Panel.

5. Once a Proposal is selected and awarded, the CCC will initiate the grant agreement process with the Grantee. This process will include:
    a. Finalizing the agreed upon scope of work, estimated budget, and any outstanding documents as outlined in Proposal.
    b. Conducting a one-on-one technical advising workshop to go over the Grant Procedures Manual and discuss project and grant administration requirements.
    c. Drafting Grant Agreement.
6. The CCC will sign and send a fully executed grant agreement to the Grantee. The Grantee can start incurring expenses on the first day of the Project Performance Period.
7. Advance requests and reimbursement payment requests can be submitted.
8. Quarterly check-ins are done on an ongoing basis until project completion and final payment has been processed.
9. The Grantee completes the project. A Project Completion Report is submitted.

IV. Application Process & Instructions

Application Documents

The required information and documents below must be submitted by January 22, 2026.

The Climate Bond Tribal Corps Grant Program Application can be accessed online via Submittable. If a Portable Document Format (PDF) or paper application is preferred, please contact TribalCorps@ccc.ca.gov.

Application forms are available in the Grant Application Forms and Documents folder on Dropbox or upon email request to TribalCorps@ccc.ca.gov.

Avoid using "N/A" by stating clearly why a question or section does not apply to the project.

1. Applicant Information, including the tribe's name, address, and contact information for the designated representative.
    - Applicant's documentation of eligibility
        - Non-profit status (including 501(c)(3) documentation for non-federally and federally recognized tribes administering the project through an eligible nonprofit structure); or,
        - Operated by a federally recognized tribe that has signed the template Joint Power Authority Agreement attached as Appendix G or submitted a modified version for CCC consideration.
    - Applicant existing workforce development program or Tribal Corps Program Information
        - Describe your existing youth/young adult workforce development program or Tribal Corps program. This includes but is not limited to:
            - Program structure (e.g., is your program structured in the form of supervised work crews or individual workforce development projects)
            - Participant Eligibility criteria (i.e., age, experience, education, or other eligibility criteria required for enrollment)
        - Project Partner Plans (if applicable)
    - Organization or tribe's name
    - Partner Representative's name, title, and contact information
2. Project Information
    - Project Title
    - Project Start Date
    - Project End Date
3. Project Funding
    - Amount of Grant Funds requested

- Any matching or leveraged funds including the funding source, amount, and planned use for the funds. *Please note: Matching funds are not required to receive grant funding.* A high-level list of budget categories and amounts
- Estimated Budget: Provide an estimated budget reflecting all costs associated with the project. Identify costs to be funded by the grant and costs covered by other funding sources. The cost of project elements funded by the Program should not be split between the grant and other funding sources (see Appendix B for more information on Eligible Costs and Appendix C for a sample template).
- Budget Narrative supporting the Estimated Budget.
    - The narrative must provide a full explanation of all proposed costs. Calculations must be specific and should be presented in a way that clearly shows how a cost was estimated. This includes but is not limited to:
        - Explaining the purpose of the cost(s) and underlying item(s),
        - Justification for the cost(s) and item(s), and
        - The basis of the calculations used to arrive at your estimate.

      See Appendix B for more information on Eligible Costs.
    - Organize the narrative in the order of the Estimated Budget, including category headers and line items.
    - Administrative, project planning, grant management, fiscal, and technical consulting costs are eligible for funding All costs must be able to stand up to an independent audit. Records, methodologies, source documentation, and other relevant materials are to be kept with the project files and submitted to the CCC or an Independent Auditor for review upon request.
- Indirect Cost Rate the tribe will be using and any necessary supporting documentation (i.e. NICRA, State Grant Agreement, or other documentation).
    - Proposition 4 – Climate Bond § 90133 allows applicants to request one of the following indirect cost rates:
        - The applicant's federal negotiated indirect cost rate, pursuant to its Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA).
        - The 15% de minimis indirect cost rate specified in Part 200 of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
        - A rate negotiated by the applicant with another state agency within the last five years.

      Notes: 1. If the applicant does not have an existing state rate, a rate proposed by the applicant. 2. The Indirect Cost Rate cannot be applied to vehicles and equipment over $20,000.00.
- If the budget includes contract work, equipment, supplies, or materials which total in cost at or above $20,000 from a single vendor/supplier, upload the quote/estimate(s) used to prepare the budget.

- The CCC encourages applicants to be thorough when including eligible costs/categories in a project's estimated budget and budget narrative. Per Department of Finance (DOF), any costs/cost categories NOT included in the budget estimate will not be eligible for reimbursement unless an approved budget change has been implemented in advance.

4. Project Scope
    - Project Category(ies)
    - Expected Project Deliverables: Deliverables should be the specific, measurable, and verifiable outputs that will be produced and delivered at the end of the project (e.g., 20 acres treated for fuel load reduction, 30 native trees planted, etc.)
    - Estimated Project Timeline: The project timeline should be a high-level projected schedule for all major tasks detailed in the Proposal. Dates can be estimates but should be based on actual projections based on the program's project calendar and Project Partner's plans. If permits, special licenses, or other approval items are needed to initiate the project, please clearly detail what they are, and the steps needed to obtain them.
5. Proposal Summary
    - Describe your project and the work activities that this grant will be funding.
    - Explain how your project accomplishes and/or meets one or more of the Climate Bond priorities below:
        - Leverage private, federal, or local funding or produce the greatest public benefit;
        - Improve climate resiliency aimed at preparing, preventing, responding to, and rehabilitating communities after natural disasters, declared emergencies, or climate-related impacts;
        - Promote watershed restoration, protection of ecosystems, habitat restoration, forest health/resilience, sustainably managed landscapes, and other conservation outcomes; and/or
        - Expand and/or improve transportation, energy, and housing infrastructure.

      Include whether the project will protect people and/or nature from climate impacts, such as extreme heat, wildfire, flooding, drought, and/or sea level rise, and if so, explain how.

      Please use headings for each objective and be as detailed and thorough as possible.
    - Describe the current status of the project and describe how the completion of the project addresses a critical statewide need and will provide a direct and meaningful long-term public benefit.

Note: If the project you are requesting Grant Funds for is part of an overall, larger project, please delineate clearly between the benefits of the proposed project and the benefits of the overall project.

- If Incidental Maintenance, as defined in Appendix F, activities are included in the project activities, describe how these activities are related to the project and required for the completion of the project.
- Describe how the project demonstrably and measurably creates career pathways for Corpsmembers/Participants and/or provides unique opportunities for workforce development, education, and training including industry-recognized training. Do not include training activities that all Corpsmembers/ Participants experience as part of your general program.
- Describe how the project is consistent with a Tribal Integrated Resources Management Plan (IRMP), a Climate Adaptation Plan, or a regional document like a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).
- Is the project supported by Tribal Council (Resolutions), meaningful partnerships with other agencies, or Non-Governmental Organizations that respect Tribal lead-agency status?

  If so, provide documented support.
- Does your project provide direct and meaningful benefits to a disadvantaged community or communities (DAC(s)), a severely disadvantaged community or communities (SDAC(s)), or Vulnerable Population(s)? See Appendix D for more information.

  If so, describe how the project itself will provide direct and meaningful benefits to DACs, SDACs, or vulnerable population(s). Please provide all pertinent information for the review team to evaluate qualification, including your source for determining that the population is DAC, SDAC, or vulnerable.

  Note: While the applicant's location and its Corpsmembers'/Participants' residency does not preclude a project from meeting the DAC, SDAC, or vulnerable population requirement, those factors cannot by themselves qualify the project as serving a DAC, SDAC, or vulnerable population.
- Will the proposed project reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and/or sequester carbon? If so:
  - How does this proposed project reduce GHG and/or sequester carbon?
  - Do you have a way to measure GHG emission reduction/carbon sequestration after the completion of the proposed project? If yes, provide the steps you will take to measure GHG emission reduction/carbon sequestration after the completion of the project.
- If the project includes tree or vegetation removal, please describe the:

- Method(s) of disposal of trees or vegetation removed (e.g., chip and broadcast; collect, bag, and dispose of off-site; pile for later burning; etc.).
- For invasive vegetation removal, plan for controlling or eradicating invasive vegetation for long-term control.

- If the Proposal includes the purchase of equipment, please explain how the brand, model, and maintenance plan of all purchased equipment will produce an expected useful life of at least 2 years.

6. Project Site Information
   - Name of the Property/Landowner and the type of entity they are:
     - Federal
     - State
     - Local
     - Tribal
     - Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
     - Private
   - Project Site Address(es)
   - Project Coordinates for all worksites. If there are multiple sites, number each site and provide coordinates for each location. For example, Site 1: 38.56669, -121.47768, Site 2: 38.54697, -121.46874, etc.
   - At least one Project Area Map – that clearly indicates:
     - The entire project area boundary as a polygon
     - Each worksite as a polygon labeled with the:
       - Site's clear and unique name (i.e. Site 1, Site 2, etc.)
       - Activities taking place within the worksite
       - Size of the worksite in acres

     Topographical features and other notable landmarks should be clearly marked to allow easy identification

     Special exemption for Culturally Sensitive Sites: To protect confidential Tribal knowledge, applicants are advised against submitting precise coordinates or highly detailed maps/site records for sacred, ceremonial, traditional gathering, or otherwise culturally sensitive areas as well as sites containing protected Traditional Ecological knowledge (TEK). For these areas, generalized coordinates, buffered maps, or regional-level indicators are fully acceptable and will not negatively impact the Proposal scoring. Tribes have discretion over the release or publication of public-facing grant materials and may withhold sacred site, cultural resource, gathering area, or traditional knowledge information from public record requests.

Projects on Private Property: Maps must also include the Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) for each property included in the project area. Maps should be accompanied by written confirmation from the landowner or Project Partner stating that they have obtained landowner permission to work on the property or will obtain permission before field work begins. Email confirmation from the landowner or Project Partner is acceptable.

- If the Project Partner does not own the land, and/or if the property is subject to any land use agreement, operations and management agreement, easement, or other Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), please explain/describe.
- Site control and Land Tenure requirements
    - What is the strategy for long-term maintenance of the project?
    - Who will perform long-term maintenance?
    - How will ongoing maintenance be funded beyond the Project Performance Period (as applicable)?
    - Signed Site Control/Land Tenure Letter. Letter Templates can be found in the Grant Application Forms and Documents folder on Dropbox or requested via email at TribalCorps@ccc.ca.gov.
- For project sites or surrounding areas that have been worked by the tribe in the last 5 years, please describe the funding source and project activities performed, and provide a separate map that indicates the sites previously worked in relation to the proposed project's location.
- For Wildfire and Forest Resilience projects, is your project located in a very high or high fire hazard area? If the project is in one of these areas, specific documentation is required to support the Proposal. Utilize the tools below and submit a copy of a map showing that the project location is within an eligible fire hazard area.
    - For projects in a State Responsibility Area (SRA) or Local Responsibility Area (LRA): Climate Vulnerability Map on the Vulnerable Communities Platform
        - Click on the magnifying glass on the upper right side of the map.
        - Search for the project site's location and hit Enter.
        - At the top of the map, under "Choose a Hazard to View Present Vulnerability", select "Wildfire". Areas in red are considered a "Very High Fire Hazard Zone". Orange areas are a "High Fire Hazard Zone".
    - For projects in a Federal Responsibility Area (FRA): U.S. Forest Service's Wildfire Risk to Communities Wildfire Hazard Potential Map
        - Click on the magnifying glass on the right side of the map and about halfway down.
        - Search for the project site's location and hit Enter. Areas in red are considered to have a "Very High" potential for wildfire. Orange areas have a high potential for wildfire.

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Documentation: Evidence of compliance with or exemption from CEQA or a detailed summary describing the status of CEQA must be submitted with the Proposal. Projects may not begin, nor may any Grant Funds be expended, until CEQA compliance is documented and received and the close of the period for administrative challenge under CEQA, if applicable.

  See Appendix E for detailed information and instructions on how to comply with CEQA and limited suspensions of CEQA compliance.

  In certain circumstances, the CCC *may* be able to act as Lead Agency for CEQA if all NEPA documents are completed and a Categorical Exclusion was determined. Please contact TribalCorps@ccc.ca.gov for more information.

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documentation (if applicable): If the project is located on federal land or is receiving federal funds, documentation of NEPA compliance must be submitted with the Proposal (this is ***in addition to*** CEQA documentation). Request the NEPA environmental review and decision document from the implementing agency.

- Project Photos: Include at least three "before" photos of the project location. These photos should be clear and relevant photos of the site as it currently exists and be able to represent the progress of the project through completion. Note the proposed activities of the sites photographed and the GPS location and directional view of each photo to refer to for the "after" photos required for the Completion Report.

  See Appendix A for a full list of required application and project administration forms and documents.

7. Supplemental Organizational/Fiscal Capacity Questionnaire

   - Describe the applicant's experience in completing this type of project.
   - Is the expertise needed for this project readily available within the organization? If not, how will the relevant expertise be acquired?
   - Identify and describe steps to be taken and the work to be completed within the first year following the award of Grant Funds.
   - Explain methods for estimating costs and in what way the project is cost-effective.
   - Describe how your project will ensure that projects billed against Grant Funds will be tracked, recorded and kept separate from other funding sources.
   - Describe the applicant's fiscal capacity to carry out the proposed project. If upfront cash flow poses a challenge, please indicate if your tribe requires an advance payment (up to 25%) to cover essential start-up expenses (such as purchase of project required vehicles and equipment, safety gear, or crew trainings, etc.)

- If the applicant has had a grant terminated by a state agency in the past year, please describe the reason for termination and steps taken to resolve the issues that led to the termination.

V. Evaluation Process

Scoring Criteria

The scoring matrix below has been designed to meet State Equity Standards, preventing resource-constrained tribal communities and smaller administrative teams from losing points due to a lack of professional grant writers. Proposals will be evaluated based on the project's core impact, cultural relevance, and community equity rather than professional formatting or complex administrative capacity.

1. **Project Impact: 0-25 points**

   The Proposal demonstrates how the project advances Climate Bond priorities for climate resilience and natural resource management on Tribal lands, lands within ancestral territories, or lands that provide a direct and meaningful benefit to Tribal communities and/or their partners. Points are awarded based on the alignment with Climate Bond priorities and critical community-identified or ecological need impact.

   Climate Bond Priorities

   The priority of the Climate Bond is to fund Proposals that confront climate change, protect California communities and nature from its impacts, and improve the lives of Californians. Projects that do one or more of the following:

   - Improve climate resiliency by preparing, preventing, responding to, and rehabilitating communities after natural disasters, declared emergencies, or climate-related impacts;
   - Promote watershed restoration, protection of ecosystems, habitat restoration, forest health/resilience, sustainably managed landscapes, and other conservation outcomes; and/or
   - Expand and/or improve transportation, energy, and housing infrastructure.

2. **Community & Cultural Benefit: 0- 30 points**

   The Proposal provides direct benefits to Tribal members and the broader community.

   - **Workforce & Education (10 points)**: Sustains or expands workforce opportunities by connecting project activities to paid CM positions, career pathways, or post-program job placement for tribal members; provides training in restoration techniques; or supports tribal youth/young adult workforce development efforts.

- **Cultural Benefit (10 points)**: Enhances access to traditional gathering sites, protects first foods/medicines, utilizes Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) by actively involving and compensating traditional knowledge holders and elders, promotes protection of cultural and archaeological sites, or integrates cultural education into the project's scope and builds long-term tribal capacity.
- **Corps/Crew-based Model (10 points):** Program is structured around supervised work crews without prior employment or educational background requirements.

3. **Budget, Implementation Readiness, & Timeline: 0-15 points**
   - **Budget**: The budget is reasonable to implement the project. Proposals will be evaluated on the clarity of the scope, not the complexity of the accounting format.
   - **Shovel-Readiness**: Environmental compliance (CEQA/NEPA) is complete, or a clear path to completion is identified. (Note: Many Tribal projects may qualify for CEQA exemptions for small-scale projects. Technical assistance is available to help navigate compliance expectations to ensure no points are lost).
   - **Feasibility**: The timeline is realistic, and the project can be completed by February 15, 2029.

4. **Climate Hazard Mitigation: 0-10 points**

   The project addresses documented climate risks.

   - **Climate and Fire Risk: (5-points)** Project is located in a High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) as mapped by CAL FIRE or federal agencies, OR the applicant demonstrates high climate/fire risk through documented traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), tribal plans, traditional land use, historical tribal impacts, or local community conditions.
   - **Vulnerable Population: (5-points)** Project is located in a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change, and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts**.** Vulnerability may be demonstrated using the state mapping tools in Appendix D, OR through qualitative evidence provided by the tribe, including documented impacts on tribal elders, low-income households, tribal resources, and community infrastructure**.**

   - Projects that do not fit within state mapping tools parameters are not automatically ineligible for points. Tribes may successfully demonstrate climate risk, vulnerability, and community benefit through qualitative evidence, Tribal internal plans, traditional land use, and documented impacts on members.

5. **Multi-Benefit & Ecological Outcomes: 0-5 points**

   The Proposal demonstrates high value by providing multiple climate and community benefits (e.g., a forest project that also improves downstream water quality). Note: Matching funds are not required and will not impact scoring.

6. **Alignment with Tribal & Regional Planning: 0-5 points**

   The Proposal is consistent with a Tribal Integrated Resources Management Plan (IRMP), a Climate Adaptation Plan, or a regional document like a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

7. **Tribal Sovereignty & Partnerships: 0-5 points**

   The project is tribally led. Points are awarded for documented support from Tribal Council (Resolutions) and meaningful partnerships with other agencies or Non-Governmental Organizations that respect Tribal lead-agency status.

8. **Serves an SDAC Population: 0-5 points**

   While many tribes qualify as a Disadvantaged Community (DAC), this section rewards projects that specifically target the most Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs) and vulnerable Tribal elders, low-income households, or members living in severely distressed areas.

Selection Process

Each Proposal will be evaluated for merit and relevance to this grant program and will be reviewed and scored by the CCC Grants and Certification Unit based on the scoring criteria listed in these Guidelines. In evaluating Proposals, scores will be used to determine initial rankings and facilitate discussions for each Proposal. After the completion of the review of all Proposals, the Unit will submit the list of recommended Proposals to the CCC Executive Team for final review.

Note: To achieve equitable distribution of funds, the CCC may consider additional factors and funding considerations, including but not limited to geographic distribution, organizational capacity, youth/young adult impact, and the likelihood of success of the Proposal.

Appeals Process

An applicant may file an appeal regarding the denial of a submitted Proposal by the CCC Grants and Certification Manager within 30 calendar days of the date of notification of any decision. Written appeals shall be submitted directly to the CCC's Deputy Director of Statewide Programs or designated authority. The Deputy Director

may request additional information. Upon receiving the additional information, a decision will be rendered in 30 calendar days.

If needed, a second level appeal shall be made to the CCC's Director. The second level appeal shall be made within 30 calendar days of the date of the Deputy Director's decision/notification. Upon receiving the second level appeal, the CCC Director shall review all the information submitted. The CCC Director may request additional information. Upon receiving the additional information, the CCC Director shall have 30 calendar days to review and render a decision. The second level appeal shall include a full and complete written statement specifying the grounds of protest and must be based on the process and/or procedures used in the review and recommendation of Proposal for awards. The CCC Director's decision shall be final.

VI. Project and Grant Administration

Approval and Grant Agreement Execution

After grant awards are announced, the CCC will work with awardees to prepare and execute grant agreements. Grant agreements are fully executed when both the Grantee's authorized signatory and the CCC's Deputy Director of Administration have signed the grant agreement. The Grantee may begin incurring expenses on the first day of the Project Performance Period indicated in the executed Grant Agreement.

Concurrently, the CCC will schedule a grant management workshop and send to Grantees a Grant Procedures Manual which details the CCC's grant administration procedures including payment of Grant Funds.

Eligible Costs

Direct project-related costs and indirect/overhead costs that can be directly tied to the project and incurred during the project performance period specified in the grant agreement are eligible for reimbursement. All eligible costs must be supported by appropriate documentation. Costs incurred outside of the project performance period are not eligible for reimbursement. Eligible costs include:

- Direct Project Personnel
- Direct Operating Expenses & Equipment (including Culturally Appropriate Youth Supports, as defined in Appendix F)
- Indirect Costs
- Contingency

See Appendix B for more information on Eligible Costs.

Grant Reimbursement Requests (Invoices)

All eligible reimbursement requests must be paid out by the Grantee to the vendor before the CCC will approve a payment request. All supporting documentation must

demonstrate that the invoiced amounts are for valid expenditures incurred and that the expenditures are consistent with the intended purpose of the grant agreement. Details on how to submit a reimbursement request will be provided in the Grant Procedures Manual.

Reporting Requirements

Reporting for this program is required by legislative mandate. Reporting may include quarterly, annual submissions of project and program data, site visits by the CCC and other stakeholders, or project completion reporting. See Grant Procedures Manual for additional information on reporting requirements.

Reporting requirements will respect Tribal data sovereignty. Grantees will not be required to disclose sensitive cultural information, site locations, ceremonial practices, confidential Tribal knowledge, or proprietary cultural details in any report. Reporting metrics will focus on ecological and workforce outputs (such as acreage treated, native species planted, or youth training hours delivered).

Reporting and program tracking will not require personal, identifiable information about participating youth beyond what is legally required for grant administration. Tribes retain absolute veto power and control over the use, distribution, and publication of any Tribal data, stories, and photographs generated during the project.

Advance Payments

While grants administered by the State of California generally operate on a reimbursement basis, the CCC recognizes that these frameworks can create upfront operational and cash flow barriers. Therefore, pursuant to Government Code (GC) §11019, the 25% advance payment will be approved upon grant agreement execution for tribes indicating initial fiscal constraints (with supporting documentation), rather than requiring extensive case-by-case secondary financial reviews. While grants generally operate on a reimbursement basis, the CCC will offer advance payments up to 25% of the total grant amount under California Government Code §11019 to ease upfront cash flow strains.

VII. Appendices

Appendix A: Required Application and Project Administration Forms/Documents

Appendix B: Eligible Costs

Appendix C: Estimated Budget Template

Appendix D: Disadvantaged, Severely Disadvantaged, and Vulnerable Communities

Appendix E: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Information

Appendix F: Acknowledgment Signage

Appendix G: Definition of Terms

Appendix H: Template Joint Power Agreement

Appendix A: Required Application and Project Administration Forms/Documents

The application for Tribal Corps Climate Bond funding can be found on Submittable.

All required application and project administration forms and documents can be found on Dropbox or by emailing TribalCorps@ccc.ca.gov.

Application Forms & Documents

- FY 25-26 Tribal Corps Climate Bond Guidelines
- Estimated Budget Template
- CCC Form 536 – CEQA Compliance Certification Form
- California Environmental Policy Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption Template
- Site Control/Land Tenure Letter Template
- CCC-Tribal Prop 4 Joint Power Agreement Template

Appendix B: Eligible Costs

Only direct project-related costs and indirect costs that can be directly tied to the implementation of an approved project incurred during the Project Performance Period specified in the Grant Agreement will be eligible for reimbursement. All eligible project costs must be supported by the appropriate documentation and must be able to hold up to a State audit.

- **Direct Project Personnel**: Costs for the services of Grantee's personnel directly engaged in implementation and execution of the project, which may include Corpsmember/Participant labor, project/program managers, Tribal monitors, cultural specialists, other staff directly involved in program administration and/or project coordination and required technical consultants for projects.
    - Costs for the services of Grantee's personnel directly engaged in project execution must be computed according to Grantee's pay or salary scales, and may include benefits such as vacation, sick leave, Social Security contributions, etc., that are customarily charged to the Grantee's various projects.
    - Traditional Knowledge Holders & Elders: Compensation for Tribal elders, cultural practitioners, language keepers, monitors, basketweavers, cultural fire practitioners, and other Tribal knowledge holders who actively train, teach, guide, or monitor Corpsmembers (including training on handling unexpected cultural or historical discoveries) on worksites is fully eligible. These expenses are categorized as eligible personnel or technical consultant costs.
    - Costs charged to the project must be computed on actual time spent on the project and evidenced by time and attendance records describing the work performed on the project as well as payroll records. Overtime costs are allowed under the applicant's established policy provided the regular work time was devoted to the same project.
- **Equipment, Supplies, and Materials**: Costs for equipment, supplies, and materials directly related to the implementation of the project.
    - Purchases of equipment, supplies, and materials must be made for the direct implementation of the project before or during project implementation and not for re-supply of a tribe's stock upon completion of field work.
    - Equipment may be leased, rented, or purchased, whichever is most economical. If equipment is purchased, its residual market value must be returned to the State or deducted from the final payment upon completion of the project. Owned equipment may be charged to the grant in accordance with the Grantee's normal accounting practices. Local prevailing rental rates may be used as a guide. A tracking log

(hourly or daily use or mileage) will be required with the submission of reimbursement requests as source documentation to determine residual market value.

- Costs for fuel and projected maintenance for leased, rented, or owned vehicles may be claimed under the project. A tracking log (hourly or daily use or mileage) will be required as source documentation for the proportional amounts of these costs that can be attributed to the project. The Grant Procedures Manual includes requirements for the tracking log.
- PRC § 90050(b) states, “To the extent practicable, a project funded pursuant to this division shall include signage informing the public that the project received funding from the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024”.

- In addition to signage, the cost of video releases and other communication materials will be considered for reimbursement.

- **Indirect Costs/Overhead**: Reimbursable indirect/overhead expenses, also commonly referred to as “overhead costs”, are the costs of doing business that are not directly related to the implementation of the project to be funded. Examples include but are not limited to administrative staff salaries (accounting, human resources, executive staff), facility expenses (rent, utilities, maintenance), and operational costs (internet, office supplies, phone).

  Certain types of overhead are not allowed, including food and beverage, fundraising, lobbying, and entertainment. Any cost billed as a direct cost may NOT be included in indirect/overhead costs.

  Grantees that wish to charge indirect/overhead must be able to document the appropriateness of the charges. It is the grantees' responsibility to determine this based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

  The Climate Bond § 90133 allows applicants to request one of the following indirect cost rates:

  - The applicant’s federal negotiated indirect cost rate, pursuant to its Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA).
  - The 15% de minimis indirect cost rate specified in Part 200 of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
  - A rate negotiated by the applicant with another state agency within the last five years.
  - If the applicant does not have an existing state rate, a rate proposed by the applicant.

  After the application is reviewed, the applicant may be required to provide additional information depending on the indirect cost rate methodology selected.

When submitting requests for reimbursement, the approved indirect cost rate will be applied to total direct project costs not including vehicles and equipment over $20,000.00. It is the responsibility of the Grantee to maintain appropriate records for all indirect/overhead costs and to be able to provide those records in the event of an audit.

- **Contingency**: Up to 10% of the requested grant amount may be budgeted for unanticipated “contingency” costs. All such costs must be eligible per these Guidelines. Contingency funding is available for use in any of the budget categories. [Note: indirect costs cannot exceed the tribe’s approved rate]. Explanation and approval may be required prior to expenditure of contingency funds.

- **Other Expenditures**: In addition to the major categories of expenditures, funding may be provided for miscellaneous costs necessary for project execution at the State’s discretion. Please contact TribalCorps@ccc.ca.gov to determine if cost not already described above is eligible.

Appendix C: Estimated Budget Template

In preparing an estimated budget for the project, please read the following:

1. Be specific when entering budget line items, including the line item name/description, quantity, unit, and cost per unit.
2. Add/delete elements and funding sources as needed. Be sure all costs are added up correctly.
3. In the template below, the line items listed under the “Direct Project or Program Staff” budget category are examples only. Please add, remove, or edit lines based on the specific grant's budget, and delete any unused examples and lines.

Budget categories and line items below are examples. Edit rows to reflect items applicable to the proposed project and add additional columns if needed. Please email TribalCorps@ccc.ca.gov if you need assistance or would like an Excel version of this template.

Line Items	Total Cost	Unit Price	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Tribal Corps Grant	Other Funding (if applicable)
Direct Project or Program Staff						
Corpsmember Labor						
Project Supervisor						
Project Manager						
Elders/Knowledge Holders						
Equipment, Supplies and Materials						
Indirect/Overhead						
Contingency						
Grand Total						

Appendix D: Disadvantaged, Severely Disadvantaged, and Vulnerable Communities

The Climate Bond encourages applicants to develop projects that serve disadvantaged communities (DACs), severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs), or vulnerable communities. To determine if the project serves a DAC, SDAC, or vulnerable community, the project itself must serve a DAC, SDAC, or vulnerable community or the project site must be located in and/or immediately adjacent to a DAC, SDAC, or vulnerable community. If a project is not located in and/or immediately adjacent to a DAC, SDAC, or vulnerable community specific community vulnerability may be demonstrated through qualitative evidence, including documented impacts on tribal elders, low-income households, tribal resources, and community infrastructure.

While the applicant's location and its Corpsmembers'/Participant's residency does not preclude a project from meeting the DAC, SDAC, or vulnerable population requirement, those factors cannot by themselves qualify the project as serving a DAC, SDAC, or vulnerable population.

Below are tools to identify DACs and vulnerable communities.

Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities

The Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool should be used to identify DACs and SDACs. A DAC is defined as a community with a median household income of less than 80% of the area average or less than 80% of statewide median household income. An SDAC is defined as a community with a median household income of less than 60% of the area average or less than 60% of statewide median household income.

Vulnerable Communities

The following tools, data, and resources attempt to identify both climate hazard exposure and adaptative capacity.

- The Climate Vulnerability Map is an interactive web-based tool that can be used to identify communities most sensitive to the impacts of climate change including extreme heat, flooding, sea level rise, drought, and wildfire. Guidance on the use of the platform is available on the Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP) web page.
- Climate Change & Health Vulnerability Indicators for California (CCHVIz) can be used to better understand the people and places that are more susceptible to adverse health impacts associated with climate change.
- Adapting to Rising Tides Bay Shoreline Flood Explorer can be used to understand what could be at risk to shoreline flooding in the San Francisco Bay Area, including socially vulnerable communities and contaminated sites.
- California Heat Assessment Tool (CHAT) can be used to understand community and public health vulnerability to extreme heat.

The following tools, data, and resources only address climate hazard exposure and *should be used alongside tools and data related to physical (built and environmental), social, political, and/or economic factors that impact a population's adaptive capacity*.

- Cal-Adapt can be used to understand projected climate impacts, including heat, precipitation changes, wildfire, snowpack, and sea level rise.
- Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) Maps can be used to understand fire hazard within Local and State Responsibility Areas.
- Best Available Maps (BAM) can be used to understand flood risk.
- Our Coast, Our Future can be used to understand and visualize sea level rise, coastal erosion and storms, and coastal groundwater impacts.

As stated above, physical (built and environmental), social, political, and/or economic factors contribute to a population's adaptive capacity and thus, vulnerability. *The following tools can be used in combination with climate hazard exposure tools and data to help understand a population's vulnerability*.

- State Parks' Community FactFinder can be used to analyze population demographics and park acres within a half mile of a point you select to help understand park and outdoor access.
- CalEnviroScreen can be used to identify California communities that are most affected by environmental pollution, and where people are often especially vulnerable to pollution's effects.
- California Access and Functional Needs Viewer is designed to assist emergency managers in identifying, locating, and deploying access and functional needs-related assets and resources during all phases of emergencies. This tool can be used to understand and evaluate a project that has an emergency management component.
- Healthy Places Index can be used to help understand community conditions that impact life expectancy.

Appendix E: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Information

Why is CEQA Required?

CEQA is a law that requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. CEQA is triggered when a Public Agency directly undertakes, funds, or approves a "project" as defined by CEQA Statute and Guidelines. All projects funded by this program will trigger CEQA compliance.

Who is responsible for implementing CEQA compliance?

Compliance with, and implementation of, CEQA regulations is the responsibility of the implementing agency for the proposed project, called the Lead Agency. As defined by Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21067, "'Lead Agency' means the Public Agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project which may have a significant effect upon the environment." The Lead Agency for CEQA must be a Public Agency as defined by PRC § 21063, which includes any state agency, board, or commission, any county, city and county, city, regional agency, public district, redevelopment agency, or other political subdivision and cannot be the federal government, a Tribal government, or a non-profit entity.

However, the CCC recognizes that tribes have inherent sovereignty, and that CEQA is generally not applicable to projects taking place on trust, restricted fee, federal, tribal, or ancestral lands that fall under tribal approval. For projects that do involve overlapping federal, state, and tribal jurisdictions, the CCC Grants and Certification Unit will provide direct, hands-on assistance to tribal applicants to identify and navigate a workable streamlined environmental review pathway.

The CCC will review CEQA documentation to ensure it complies with the State law and program policies but does not typically act as Lead Agency for projects carried out by other entities. In limited and special circumstances, the CCC may act as Lead Agency if it is the only public stakeholder involved in the project AND the project meets the definition of a Categorical or Emergency Exemption (see below). If it does not, and if another public stakeholder is not identified, the project will not be approved.

What projects qualify for Categorial Exemptions?

Many projects approved by the CCC qualify for Categorical Exemptions. **Categorical Exemptions do not mean that the project is exempt from CEQA compliance**, but rather that a project falls under a specific type of work that does not require an Initial Study or Environmental Impact Report and therefore substantially reduces the amount of analysis and review required. Projects that fall under a Categorical Exemption must still file a notice to the public, called a Notice of Exemption, stating the project is exempt from full review/analysis. Refer to the CEQA Statute & Guidelines for a list of Categorical Exemptions.

What CEQA documentation is required to submit with the application?

CEQA documentation must include the CEQA document filed with the State Clearinghouse and the CCC's CEQA Compliance Certification Form.

1. CEQA document filed must be one of the following:
    a) A Notice of Exemption (NOE) filed with, and stamped by, the State Clearinghouse. The NOE may also be filed with the County Clerk, if required locally; or
    b) An Initial Study (IS) with a Negative Declaration (Neg Dec) with the response from the State Clearinghouse and a copy of the Notice of Determination (NOD) filed with and stamped by the State Clearinghouse and County Clerk; or
    c) An Initial Study (IS) and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) with the response from the State Clearinghouse and a copy of the Notice of Determination (NOD) filed with and stamped by the State Clearinghouse and County Clerk.

2. CEQA Compliance Certification Form must:
    a) Match the project details in the application, including location and activities.
    b) Must be signed by the Lead Agency.

Limited Suspension of CEQA Review Requirements

The limited suspensions described below apply to CEQA for fuel load reduction/tree morality and tree felling projects. To assist tribal applicants, the CCC will actively highlight and guide tribes in utilizing exemptions under the Governor's Emergency Proclamation and California PRC § 4799.05.

PRC § 4799.05 legally exempts fire-prevention, thinning, and forest health work on federal and ancestral lands from standard environmental reviews when reviewed under NEPA. The CCC will assist tribes in applying these pathways to fast-track qualifying climate resilience projects..

All other project types may be exempt from the CEQA review process through alternative CEQA exemptions, such as those outlined in the CEQA Statute & Guidelines (e.g., Certified State Regulatory Programs under PRC § 15251) or other applicable programs. Please contact TribalCorps@ccc.ca.gov for further information.

If no other exemption options apply, your project must comply with CEQA. Additionally, projects located on federal land or receiving federal funds must also comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Appendix F: Acknowledgement Signage

Acknowledgment signage is required under this grant program, when feasible. Signs eligible for reimbursement must meet the criteria specified below.

State Approval

The Grantee shall submit proposed location(s), number of signs, size of signs, and draft designs for review prior to ordering signs. Signage costs incurred without approval may not be eligible for reimbursement.

Sign Construction

All materials used shall be durable and resistant to the elements and graffiti. The California Department of Parks and Recreation and California Department of Transportation standards can be used as a guide.

Sign Size

There is no minimum or maximum size required, however, all signs must be large enough to maximize durability and visibility.

Language & Logos

All signs shall contain the following:

- Project title and public-friendly description of project
- Reference to the funding source
- Full name and title of Governor
- Full name and title of Natural Resources Secretary
- Full name of California Conservation Corps and logo (email your Program Coordinator for artwork)
- Full name of Tribal Conservation Corps or youth/young adult workforce development program and logo

The sign may also include the names (and/or logos) of other partners, organizations, individuals, and elected representatives.

Sign Example (sample only – exact layout not required)

[Project Title]

This project was funded by the California Natural Resources Agency's Climate Bond program to confront climate change, protect California communities and nature from its impacts, and improve the lives of Californians.

[Insert Name], Governor

[Insert Name], Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

California Conservation Corps

[Name of Tribal Conservation Corps or youth/young adult workforce development program]

[OPTIONAL: Name of Project Partner]

CLIMATE BOND PROP 4 • 2024 GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS CCC EST. 1976

Tribal Corps or youth/young adult workforce development program logo

Optional: Project Partner logo

Appendix G: Definition of Terms

As used in the Guidelines, the following words shall have the following meanings:

1. Act: The term “Act” as used means the appropriation for the Projects funded under the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, SB 867, PRC § 90100.

2. Grant Agreement: The agreement in which the California Conservation Corps (CCC), pursuant to Proposition 4: Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, enters into with the Grantee and agrees to fund the project.

3. California Native American tribe: California Native American tribes are those that are either recognized by the federal government pursuant to the annual list published under the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. Sec. 5131) in the Federal Register or non-federally recognized tribes located in California.

4. Corpsmember: The term “Corpsmember” as used means youth/young adults actively engaged in the Corps Program and participating in conservation projects, educational programs, and workforce development. The term “Corpsmember” does not include any administrative staff or supervisors.

5. Critical Community Infrastructure: The term “Critical Community Infrastructure” means infrastructure that is necessary to providing vital community and individual functions, including, but not limited to, drinking and wastewater infrastructure, emergency shelters, communication and warning systems, evacuation routes, emergency power and public medical facilities, schools, town halls, hospitals, health clinics, community centers, community nonprofit facilities providing essential services, libraries, homeless shelters, senior and youth centers, childcare facilities, food banks, grocery stores, and parks and recreation sites (PRC § 90100).

6. Culturally Appropriate Youth Supports: Services, materials, or financial payments provided directly to or on behalf of Tribal Corps participants to reduce barriers to training, support holistic well-being, and ensure successful program participation. Eligible supports include, but are not limited to, stipends, meals, transportation, work clothing and safety gear, childcare support, case management, mentoring, counseling, and cultural activities to help Native youth.

7. Eligible Workforce Organizations: Pursuant to Public Resources Code, § 91545(c), these are nonprofits, local agencies, and joint powers authorities that have programs that provide natural resource conservation employment training. Therefore, to be an eligible grantee an applicant must operate existing youth/young adult workforce development program and be either: (1) established as non-profit entity as defined by the IRS; and/or, (2) operated by a

federally recognized tribe that has entered into a joint power authority agreement with the CCC **[GC § 6500 compliant]**, **OR** established as an eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit workforce structure (which may be utilized by non-federally and federally recognized tribes)."

8. Grantee: The term “Grantee” as used means the party who enters into a Grant Agreement with the CCC for Project work funded by the Grant Funds.

9. Guidelines: The term “Guidelines” means this Grant Guidelines document, all appendices and addendums thereto.

10. Grant Funds: The term “Grant Funds” means the total funds are available to certified local conservation corps (LCCs) for demonstrated job projects under the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.

11. Incidental maintenance: The term “Incidental Maintenance” as used is non-capital activities that are generally routine – such as weed or litter abatement, minor repairs, or brush clearance – that are necessary to carry out the project but are minor project activities.

12. Land Tenure: The term “Land Tenure” means the ownership of and/or the right to hold property (the project land).

13. Natural Resource Project: The term “Natural Resource Project” is a demonstrated job project implemented by Eligible Workforce Development organizations or Tribal Corps, designed to engage young adults in conserving and enhancing California’s natural and working lands while receiving on-the-job work experience, training, and certifications. It does not include standalone training or planning only projects.

14. Participant: The term “Participant” as used means youth/young adults actively engaged in the workforce development program and participating in conservation projects, educational programs, and workforce development. The term “Participant” does not include any administrative staff or supervisors.

15. Project: The term “Project” as used means the tasks, activities, and/or improvements proposed to be funded by the Grant Funds.

16. Project Partner: The term “Project Partner” refers to a collaborative relationship between two or more entities to develop a Project Proposal and implement a Project.

17. Project Performance Period: The term “Project Performance Period” refers to the days of and between the beginning and end dates of the Grant Agreement. Eligible costs incurred during this period may be reimbursed by Grant Funds.

18. Proposal: The term “Proposal” as used means the complete proposal package including required attachments, and any applicable materials supplied by the Grantee to the CCC prior to approval pursuant to the enabling legislation and/or Grant Guidelines.

19. Public Agency: The term “Public Agency” as used means any State of California department or agency, county, city, public district, or public agency formed under California law.

20. Scope of Work: The term “Scope of Work” as used means specific tasks, goals, deliverables, and responsibilities necessary to complete the project. Including, but not limited to, estimated timeline and budget.

21. State: The term “State” as used means the CCC, the CCC’s authorized representatives, or other political subdivision of the State of California.

22. Tribal Corps: Operation of an existing Tribal Corps that is either: (1) Established as a non-profit entity as defined by the IRS (this includes non-federally and federally recognized tribes utilizing an eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit workforce structure to administer the project); and/or, (2) operated by a federally recognized tribe that has entered into a joint power authority agreement with the CCC (pursuant to Government Code sections 6500 et. seq.).

23. Tribe**:** The term “tribe” as used herein to describe an entity eligible to receive grant funds. Such an entity must operate existing youth/young adult workforce development program or Tribal Corps (as defined above) either: (1) established as non-profit entity as defined by IRS; and/or, (2) operated by a federally recognized tribe that has entered into a joint power authority agreement **[GC § 6500 compliant]**, **OR** a non-federally or federally recognized tribe operating through an eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit structure. NOTE: For the purposes of this grant program, a federally recognized California Native American tribe can meet the Joint Powers Authority condition by executing and submitting with its application the template JPA found at Appendix G.

24. Vulnerable Population: The term “Vulnerable Population” as used means a subgroup population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from the changes.

Appendix H: Template Joint Power Agreement

CCC-TRIBAL PROP 4 JOINT POWER AGREEMENT

This CCC-Tribal Joint Power Agreement (Agreement) is entered into by the California Conservation Corps (CCC), State of California and _____ [enter name of tribe], a federally recognized Native American tribe, acting directly or through its designated tribal department, enterprise, or tribally chartered entity, and with Ancestral Territory in _____ Count[y][ies] in the State of California (Tribe).

WHEREAS, the CCC is statutorily mandated to provide job skills training, educational opportunities and an increasing awareness of the State's natural resources to young adults;

WHEREAS, the CCC is authorized to work on projects in rural and urban areas that, provide a benefit to the public by, among other things, preserving, maintaining and/or enhancing the lands and water of the State of California, directly contributing to the conservation of energy and/or assisting in fire prevention and suppression;

WHEREAS, the CCC is authorized pursuant to the California Public Resources Code §14306 to execute contracts for furnishing the services of the CCC to any federal, state or local public agency; any California Native American tribe; any local or statewide private organization, and any person, firm, partnership, or corporation concerned with the objectives of the CCC program as specified in California Public Resources Code Sections 14000 and 14300;

WHEREAS, the Tribe is concerned with the objectives of the CCC program as specified in California Public Resources Code Sections 14000 and 14300 and can provide opportunities for public service through meaningful and productive work projects;

WHEREAS, the Climate Bond, Proposition 4: the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Senate Bill (SB) 867), was approved by California voters in November 2024 and added Division 50 (Commencing with Section 80000) to the Public Resources Code (PRC);

WHEREAS, PRC Section 91545 of Chapter 3: Wildfire and Forest Resilience authorizes the Legislature to appropriate $50,000,000 to the CCC or certified

community conservation corps, as defined in Section 14507.5, and nonprofit workforce organizations for demonstrated jobs projects as defined therein;

WHEREAS, PRC Section 91545(c) defines “eligible workforce organizations” to include nonprofits, local agencies, and joint powers authorities that have programs that provide park and conservation employment training;

WHEREAS, the Tribe wishes to be eligible for Prop 4 grant funds pursuant to PRC Section 91545;

WHEREAS, each party to this Agreement is duly authorized to enter into this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement find and determine that it would be to their mutual advantage and the public benefit to join together to accomplish the purpose herein, and coordinate their power, authority and expertise to create the necessary documents and conditions for the CCC to use its Corpsmembers and employees to accomplish projects specified and contracted for by the Tribe and agreed to by the CCC and/or for the to pursue, engage in, and/or complete demonstrate job projects consistent with and in furtherance of PRC Section 91545 and any successful grant application the Tribe submits thereunder;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration and recognition of the above, the Tribe and CCC agree as follows:

1. Sovereign Immunity and Consent to Suit

   A. No Implied Waiver (Standard): The parties agree that execution of this Agreement, participation in any grant program hereunder, or acceptance of state funds related thereto, does not by itself constitute an implied waiver of Tribe’s sovereign immunity, jurisdiction, or any other sovereign rights.

   B. Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity (Conditional): If, and only if, the project created pursuant to the Tribal Corps Climate Bond Grant Program Guidelines meets one or more of the risk triggers specified in Section III of the Grant Guidelines (such as the receipt of advance payments), the Tribe agrees to grant a strictly limited waiver of sovereign immunity. This limited waiver:
   - Shall be express, limited, and authorized by a formal resolution of the Tribe's governing body;

- Will be granted solely to the CCC for the narrow purpose of enforcing the terms of the specific Grant Agreement executed pursuant to the Tribal Corps Climate Bond Grant Program Guidelines;
- Will be capped at the maximum dollar amount of the grant funds actually awarded; and
- Will not subject any other tribal assets, lands, or sovereign operations to the jurisdiction of state courts.

C. No Waiver Status: If the aforesaid project does not trigger a waiver under Section III of the Grant Guidelines, Section 1.B of this Agreement is entirely inapplicable and no waiver of sovereign immunity will be required or granted.

2. Right to Terminate: The Tribe maintains an absolute right to terminate this Joint Powers Agreement at any time and without cause;

3. General Agreement: The Parties, and each of them, agree to adhere to the Tribal Corps Climate Bond Grant Program Guidelines issued by the CCC in or about _____, 2026.

4. Miscellaneous:

   A. Subject to the provisions herein, and consistent with the parties' respective jurisdictions, all remedies allowed by law are available to either party for enforcement of this Agreement. Any waiver of rights by either party or any matter relating to this Agreement shall not be deemed to be a waiver unless in writing and approved by both parties and shall not be a waiver to any other provision or matter relating to this Agreement;
   B. If any part of this Agreement is found to be invalid the remainder of the Agreement shall continue in full force and effect;
   C. Neither the CCC nor the Tribe may assign this Agreement or any interest therein without the written consent of the other party;
   D. No amendment or variation of the terms of this Agreement shall be valid unless made in writing, signed by the parties and approved as required. No oral understanding or Agreement not incorporated in the Agreement is binding on any of the parties;
   E. Each Party and its authorized representatives executing this Agreement warrants and represents that it has the full power and authority to execute, deliver and perform the obligations under this Agreement and that each Party's performance hereunder has been duly authorized by all requisite actions on the part of that Party.

Tribe Information:

Tribe Name:	Tribe Department:
Address:	
Contact Person:	Phone:
Email Address:	

SIGNATURES

In Witness Whereof, the parties have agreed to the conditions of this Agreement as of the date shown below.

Tribe Representative Signature:	
Print Name:	**Date:**

CCC District Director/Region Deputy Signature:	
Print Name:	**Date:**

END OF GUIDELINES